



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

MEPH

Minnetonka Eden Prairie Hopkins

www.lwvmeph.org

October 2015

The Voter

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters
Minnetonka / Eden Prairie / Hopkins

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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Protecting Water in Our Neighborhood

A Panel Discussion of Water Issues in Minnetonka, Eden Prairie & Hopkins

9:30 - 11:00 AM, Saturday, October 10, 2015

Council Chambers, Minnetonka City Hall

14600 Minnetonka Blvd, Minnetonka, MN 55345

Free and Open to the Public - Welcome!

Representatives from our three cities, Minnetonka, Eden Prairie and Hopkins, will discuss how each city handles water issues in our neighborhoods. Drinking water sources and testing, stormwater management, development impacts and the protection of our lakes, streams and wetlands are all local concerns.

Sponsored by League of Women Voters Minnetonka/Eden Prairie/Hopkins. www.lwvmeph.org

House District 46A Candidate Meet & Greet

7:00-8:30PM, Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2015

Eisenhower Community Center, 1001 MN Hwy 7, Hopkins, MN 55305

The Hopkins Legislative Action Coalition is the organizer, and LWVMEPH is a partner, in hosting this Meet & Greet event for the special election to the newly vacant House District 46A seat. The candidate is Peggy Flanagan, who is running unopposed. Our objective is to get to know Ms. Flanagan's educational and professional background, and understand where she stands on legislative issues regarding education. We expect to have the sponsoring groups prepare and present 4-5 questions to Ms. Flanagan, and encourage audience members to submit questions to the moderator.

LWV US Constitution Amendment Study

7:00-8:30PM, Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Excelsior-Lake Minnetonka Chamber of Commerce Building

37 Water Street (at 2nd St), Excelsior, MN (Parking 1 block west on West Dr, off 2nd St.)

The LWV US is studying the process of amending the U.S. Constitution. LWV S. Tonka invites us to their Part 1 presentation on this topic. The subject is so large that there will be a Part 2 presentation in November. Our local league consensus response is due Dec. 1st. For a good introduction to the controversy, take a look at the papers linked in the summary below.

Authors hold strong, but very opposite views regarding how an Article V Constitutional Convention would actually be conducted, and what limits, if any, there would be on its ability to offer amendments to the constitution.

In a [University of Florida law review article \(pp.618-621 and pp. 680-690\)](#), Robert G. Natelson, an attorney affiliated with ALEC (American Legislative Exchange Council) believes there is no uncertainty about the rules and procedures governing such a convention. He relies on historical precedent from the years preceding the 1787 convention related to the Articles of Confederation to support his conclusion that the states are in charge of the process from beginning to end.

He is joined in the view that there is no uncertainty about the operations of a Convention by [Milton Eisenhower](#), who was writing in support of a balanced budget amendment in 1985. He calls fears of a “runaway” convention “extreme nonsense,” based on the contention that Congress can regulate the process.

On the other hand, [The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities](#) produced a position paper on Article V Constitutional Conventions in 2014. Their conclusion is that since the convention would write its own rules and set its own agenda, no other body including Congress or the courts would have authority over it.

[Larry Greenlee](#), writing for the John Birch Society in 2013 agrees that there would be no way to control a constitutional convention. He is critical of the Natelson position because it is based on customs and procedures of 200 years ago, and he believes the Declaration of Independence would further support the position that the convention could take whatever steps it wished.

Your input as a League member is very important! Please go to the LWV.org website and take a look at the material. It is at www.lwv.org in the League Management tab, under "Our Work". (<http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/constitutional-amendment-study>) **Next month we will publish the questions** and ask for your responses by mail or email to the questions, and compile them into a response from LWV MEPH. The results will determine LWV's position on the process of amending the U.S. Constitution.

Program Review: LWV Membership meeting 9/12/2015 Speaker: Dr. Marti Erickson

Subject: The Biology of Stress & Brain Development: Implications for Helping Young Children Thrive & Learn

Dr. Erickson stressed that though the dialogue is directed toward 3 & 4 year olds, the emphasis should start prenatal, stressing the role of parents as buffers. Studies also show that out-of-home care doesn't impinge on the parent/child attachment. She reminded us that there is stress in children's lives – the stress hormone cortisol – fright/flight. Chronic stress or too much cortisol for too long affects brain development. There is a gap between knowledge and practice.

She referred us to an article in the metro section of the Star Tribune 9/9/15 page B2. In a new report by the Wilder Foundation, nearly 200,000 Minnesota children under 6 live in counties where poverty and unemployment rates are high, education and health coverage may be inadequate and other risk factors to healthy development are common. The Wilder Foundation is quoted as saying, this report “is really not meant to point fingers. It's meant to start the conversation: OK, what can we learn from this? What counties are doing better, and what can we learn from them?”

I recommend reading page 1 of our September MEPH Voter which covers much of what Dr. Erickson talked about. Dr Erickson and her daughter have a website: momenough.com.

Submitted by Margaret Nelson

LWV CMAL Program: Metropolitan Council Plans for Cities

9:30 AM - 12:30PM, Saturday October 17, 2015

Edina Library, Conference Room (in Edina Senior Center building)

5280 Grandview Square, Edina, MN 55346



In the 2014-15 year, the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL) studied the Metropolitan Council's *Thrive MSP 2040* plan. The Met Council is required to prepare a long-range plan for the Twin Cities region every 10 years. Once the comprehensive plan is adopted, each local government must update its comprehensive plan in accord with the Met Council plan and those of neighboring communities.

This process will begin in 2016, and CMAL's programs for this year will focus on this complex process. Each community must have its plan approved in order to qualify for the many kinds of funds and grants that come to them through the Metropolitan Council. Local plans must address the outcomes embodied in the *Thrive MSP 2040* plan, as well as the four systems and policy plans: Transportation, Water Resources, Regional Parks and Housing. For large cities like Minneapolis the process can be difficult, but it also has significant benefits for the city and the entire metro area.

CMAL plans only three meetings in the coming year, all on Saturday mornings. The planned dates are October 17, January 16 and March 19. Details about specific topics, speakers and locations will be available later, but save the dates for a series of interesting and important meetings about our government.

~ Julia Wallace, LWV Minneapolis

The Sky's the Limit? Money in Minnesota Elections

6:30PM Reception

7:00-9:00PM Program

Tuesday, November 12, 2015

Bloomington Civic Center, 1800 Old Shakopee Rd, Bloomington, MN

Hosted by LWVs Bloomington, MEPH and Edina

Purpose: Our democracy works when voters are given equal opportunity to cast their ballots and access to information to make decisions. Changes at the national and state level in spending limits and the preservation of funders' identities have changed how and by whom voter information is provided. Speakers will cover Minnesota campaign rules, describe impacts of campaign finance changes, speak on the pros and cons of these changes and discuss any further actions that should be taken.

Speakers

--Anthony Sanders, Institute for Justice MN

--Jeremy Schroeder, Common Cause MN

--Peggy Leppik, Minnesota Board of Campaign Finance and Disclosure

Moderator:

--Lori Sturdevant, Star Tribune columnist

LWV MEPH will not have a separate program in November. Please plan to attend this interesting event!

LWV Voter Service Update / Volunteers Sought for Voter Registration

Thank you to all the Voter Service volunteers! Our Voter Service activities to date were Voter Registration at Hopkins High School, a Hopkins Municipal Candidate Forum and a Minnetonka School Board and Referendum Candidate Forum. Still to come are Minnetonka Municipal Candidate Forum on 9/30, Eden Prairie School Board Candidate Fair on 10/1 and Hopkins School Board Candidate Forum on 10/8. We are also trying to schedule a Voter Registration Drive at Eisenhower Community Center for Adult GED and ESL students. Those interested in volunteering, please contact Peggy Kvam.

Summertime and Iron Jawed Angels

In late August ten members and a friend of a member gathered at the home of Arlene Nystuen to watch Iron Jawed Angels, a film about the suffragists who fought so hard in the early 1900s to get the vote for women in the United States. Starring Hilary Swank, the film is an amazing history lesson about that period just before WW I, showing the attitudes toward women in general, the powerlessness of women within a family, and the bravery of those women who refused to accept that women should have no place in governing. Arlene arranged the chairs in a circle, Bev popped a huge bowl of popcorn, and new and past members became acquainted as we talked about the film and expressed amazement at how much has changed and what continues to need changing.

If you have not seen the film, let it be known and we'll arrange another showing this year, maybe on a cold winter night.
Bev Montgomery

MEPH Continues to Grow...

All but two previous members have sent membership checks and we have two new members, Irma Coleman and Sandy Brandt. Welcome, Irma and Sandy! Membership of MEPH now stands at 32. The most effective way for gaining new members is from each member showing their enthusiasm for the work we are doing and letting your friends and neighbors know about it. Tell them about the effective candidate forums this fall and what a public service this is. Make sure they know that our focus is on getting everyone registered to vote by going to high schools and senior residents. Let them know how we support the state and national LWV through membership fees which support lobbying during legislative sessions. Often we need to remind ourselves that the work of the league is important and is honored in the community, state and nation. Spread the word and invite others to join us.

Bev Montgomery

A Good Read

Lori Sturdevant, journalist with the Star Tribune, speaker at our MEPH meetings, and an accomplished author has written a book leaguers will enjoy: Her Honor Rosalie Wahl and the Minnesota Women's Movement. The story traces the life of a remarkable woman who began life on a prairie farm raised by her grandmother, struggled for an education and ultimately became the first woman on the Minnesota Supreme Court. In addition to the life of Rosalie Wahl, the book traces the women's movement in Minnesota and names many of the women who were active in the decades of the 50's and 60's, names which many women will know and for whom some MEPH members campaigned.

Bev Montgomery

Looking Ahead *(Details subject to change. See www.lwvmeph.org for the latest info.)*

We 9/30 7:00pm	Minnetonka City Council Candidate Forum, Mtka Council Chambers, 14600 Mtka Blvd, Mtka 55345
Th 10/1 6:00pm	Eden Prairie School Board Candidate Fair, EP Public Library, 565 Prairie Center Dr, EP, MN 55344
Th 10/8 7:00pm	Hopkins School Board Candidate Forum, Mtka Council Chambers, 14600 Mtka Blvd, Mtka 55345
Sa 10/10 9:30am	LWV MEPH: Neighborhood Water Issues, Mtka Council Chambers, 14600 Mtka Blvd, Mtka 55345
Sa 10/17 9:30am	LWV CMAL: Met Council Plans for Cities, Edina Library, 5280 Grandview Square, Edina, MN 55436
Tu 10/20 7:00pm	HD46A Candidate Meet & Greet, Eisenhower Community Ctr, 1001 MN Hwy 7, Hopkins MN 55305
Tu 10/27 7:00pm	LWV Constitution Amendment Study, Excelsior Chamber of Commerce, 37 Water St, Excelsior, MN
Th 11/12 evening	Money in Elections, Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Rd, Bloomington, MN 55431
Sa 11/14 10:30am	LWV W. Metro: Metro Water Supply; Maple Grove Library, 8001 Main St N, Maple Grove 55369
Th 11/19 4:00pm	LWV MEPH Board Meeting, Barb Link, 8505 Flying Cloud Dr #303, Eden Prairie, MN 55344
Mo 12/14 5:30pm	LWV MEPH Holiday Party, Bev's Party Room, 14601 Atrium Way, Minnetonka, MN 55345
Th 1/7 4:00pm	LWV MEPH Board Meeting, Peggy Kvam, 13012 Jane Ln, Mtka, MN 55343
Sa 1/16 9:30am	LWV MEPH: Watershed Report and Actions, Mtka Council Chambers, 14600 Mtka Blvd, Mtka, MN
Sa 2/13 9:30am	LWV MEPH: tbd topic, Mtka Council Chambers, 14600 Mtka Blvd, Mtka, MN 55345
Th 2/25 4:00pm	LWV MEPH Board Meeting, Irma Coleman, 10928 Abbott Ln, Mtka, MN 55343
March tbd	LWV W. Metro: TBD topic, TBD location
Th 3/24 4:00pm	LWV MEPH Board Meeting, Sheila Goldstein, 3013 Cedar Crossing, Mtka, MN 55305



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