

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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**LWV MEPH March Member Meeting  
 CMAL Study and Consensus: Metropolitan Council Governance  
 Monday, March 4, 2019 3:00 – 5:00 PM  
 Ridgedale Library, Room 275 “Ladyslipper”  
 12601 Ridgedale Dr., Minnetonka, MN 55305**

LWV MEPH members will have a voice in updating LWV’s position on Metropolitan Council Governance by attending our March 4th Consensus meeting. A longer article about this study from CMAL (Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues) was in the February Voter. The study is available to read in advance of the meeting at <https://lwvmn.org/local-leagues/council-metropolitan-area-leagues-cmal>. Study materials can be found mid page under the subtitle *Toolkit for Met Council Governance Consensus Study*.

The Metropolitan Council is currently appointed by the Governor, and has metro-wide responsibilities for long-range planning, land use planning, transportation, parks and open space, wastewater and water, and housing.

The Consensus questions include whether members should be appointed or elected, term length, nominating process, qualifications, and number of members. City mayors and administrators were surveyed for their thoughts on these topics.

Please join LWV MEPH President Peggy Kvam as she leads a discussion on CMAL’s Metropolitan Council Governance study and consensus questions. This meeting replaces our regular March program. It is free and open to the public, but only LWV MEPH members may vote on the consensus questions.

## **Action Team Marches On...to our March Action Team Report!**

Winnie Sipprell, Helen Sears, and Ellen Silva (chair)

A major action team goal is to help all LWV MEPH members be active participants in our democracy. To this end, we've been putting together a simple process for you, the member, to not only take your own action, but when appropriate, to call in support from other chapter members. If you see an issue developing in our community, you will be able to easily reach out to the chapter leadership who will determine if the issue is something that triggers an action alert call to the broader membership. Even if it doesn't, we will provide you with clear guidance on how to take effective action yourself.

- We'll make sure you'll know who to contact.
- We'll provide guidance for what information we need to decide next steps.
- We'll follow specific criteria to determine whether or not an official LWV MEPH Action Alert will be created. For example, is the issue:
  - o Local? (state and national issues go to the larger LWV organization)
  - o Urgent? (do we need to take action right away?)
  - o Consistent with LWV national and state positions?
- If we decide to move forward with an Action Alert, we'll handle pushing the call out to the broader membership.
- If we decide the issue isn't suited to an Action Alert, we'll explain why and what else we might do, such as sharing the information with the chapter but without a call to action, but at the very least we'll be sure you know who and how to contact someone on the issue on your own behalf as a private citizen.

The LWV MEPH board has reviewed our draft process and guidance documents (and the reviews were positive! - ed.), so we hope to get this all finished up at the next board meeting and will bring it to you at the April LWV MEPH meeting on April 13.

### ***What is an action alert, anyway?***

An action alert is an email or phone call telling you about an urgent issue, the LWV position on it, and a request to contact your elected official expressing your concern. It will include information on who to contact and suggest best ways to do so. *It's a way for you to have a powerful and positive impact on our democracy in minutes!*

## **LWV MN Invites You to a Special Centennial Convention April 27-28, 2019. Saint Paul, MN**

Would you like to learn more about League of Women Voters, help set the future agenda for their second century, and meet Leaguers from around the state? If so, the LWV MN Convention 2019 is just what you're looking for!

LWV MEPH is now taking applications for two Delegate spots. Members who are interested in serving on the MEPH Board for the 2019-2020 year will be given priority in making the selection. Please contact Peggy Kvam at [lwwmeph@lwwmn.org](mailto:lwwmeph@lwwmn.org) or 612-414-6154 to apply. Please contact Peggy by

March 4<sup>th</sup>. Convention information is online at <https://lwvmn.org/news-events/convention-2019>. The Convention will be in St. Paul at the St. Paul Hotel.

Schedule:

Friday, April 26 – optional Free events

- Afternoon suffrage tours by MN Historical Society at the State Capitol
- Evening Opening Reception at Landmark Center to kick-off our Centennial Exhibit

Saturday, April 27 8:00AM to 5:00PM

- Keynote speaker Virginia Case, CEO, LWVUS at 9AM
- Training and plenary sessions, including by-law amendments, Program for Action, budget, strategic plan priorities
- Breakfast and lunch will be served
- Optional – LWV St. Paul will host a Pub Crawl with dinner at 6:30PM

Sunday, April 28 8:00AM to 3:00PM

- Centennial toolkit and presentation from MN History Center
- Full plenary, with debate and decisions on Program for Action and the budget
- Breakfast and lunch will be served

Registration is \$225, which LWV MEPH will fund for two voting delegates. Two more delegate spots are available but will not be reimbursed due to our meager treasury balance.

Also, if you would like to host an outstate member with overnight lodging, please contact LWV MN by clicking on the [Convention Lodging Form](#) on the [main convention web page](#).

## **Secretary of State Steve Simon: Investing in Democracy**

**Tuesday, March 19, 2019 6:30 - 8:30 PM**

**Crown of Glory Lutheran Church**

**1141 Cardinal St, Chaska, MN 55318**

Secretary of State Steve Simon will share his 2019 agenda on Investing in Democracy. Simon says, "Investing in Democracy means devoting resources to strengthen Minnesota's nation-leading systems and the Minnesotans who rely on them."

The four key components of the agenda are: increased security; decreased barriers to voter registration; restoration of voting rights for those who were formerly incarcerated; and protecting voter privacy.

This event is hosted by the [League of Women Voters of Eastern Carver County](#). For more information on the event, see <https://www.facebook.com/events/536902220133190/>.



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