



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

Voter Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

In the minds of many, a new year starts out on a positive note, bringing renewed efforts to create a better and more just world. At the League of Women Voters of St. Paul, we are no different. 2018 brings a fresh enthusiasm for our voter registration initiatives and our public education efforts.

On January 10th, LWVSP presents a timely forum on human sex trafficking in our community in a partnership with LWV Minneapolis and Saint Paul Neighborhood Network (SPNN). This issue presents itself in the shadows of our communities and is often hidden from view. Amazingly, the Twin Cities is one of the nation's 15 centers for child sex trafficking. Hosting of the Super Bowl in Minneapolis this year has provided a platform for this discussion. Details about the forum are included in this newsletter, and I hope all League members take the time to attend the event or to see it in follow-up. SPNN will be filming the panel discussion for re-broadcast on Channel 19 (St. Paul) and many of the community TV stations in the metro. Join us for the social hour preceding the 6pm panel discussion, 5pm at Lake Monster Brewing (right next to the SPNN studios). Note that you need to register for the forum on our website, as the seating is limited.

I'm also pleased to announce that LWVSP has received a 2018 Youth Voter Registration grant from LWVUS to continue our voter registration and education efforts with high school students and young people. Board Member Judy Screaton is leading this effort with a committee of League members. They are planning outreach to a range of partners from different agencies, so that the outreach programs cover the importance of voting for the full range of candidates on the ballots. For the broadest reach to students in our community, we could use additional volunteers willing to participate in the outreach efforts.

Our voter service efforts will continue in other ways as well. We are engaging our community partners, like the Hallie Q Brown Center, to reach under-represented communities and engage them in voter registration and voter service. There are no local races in the mid-term elections in 2018, and it gives us a great opportunity to focus on voter engagement in the state and national races, ensuring that all members of the community are represented in our voting populations.

I hope you share my optimism about what we can accomplish in 2018, and I invite you to get engaged in our efforts. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us at the League office (office@lwvsp.org), and we'll help you get connected into our work.

With best wishes for our new year,

Amy Mino



*League members with
Former Saint Paul Mayor
George Latimer at the
annual December
Luncheon.*

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PANEL ON ENDING HUMAN & SEX TRAFFICKING THIS WEDNESDAY

Did you know that human trafficking is an issue that affects vulnerable women and men in Minnesota? The Department of Justice has identified the Twin Cities as one of the nation's 15 centers for child sex trafficking. And instances of human and sex trafficking are believed to increase around large events, like the Super Bowl.

We are hosting a panel discussion on Wednesday, January 10 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the SPNN Studios (550 Vandalia Street #170 Saint Paul, MN 55114). **The event is almost filled, so if you haven't yet, we encourage you to R.S.V.P. on Eventbrite.**

This panel discussion will cover the problem of human and sex trafficking and how to stop it. During the panel, participants will learn:

- What constitutes sex trafficking and exploitation
- The extent of the problem in Minnesota
- The populations that are most vulnerable to trafficking
- Risk factors and signs that a teen might be exploited
- Organizations and resources to turn to if you discover someone has been exploited
- Safe Harbor and how the legal system is working to help young victims
- Ways that you can help fight sex and human trafficking now

The speakers on the panel include (full bios are on the Eventbrite page):

- John Choi, Ramsey County Attorney
- Terry Forliti, Executive Director of Breaking Free, Member of the Minnesota Human Trafficking Task Force
- Sergeant Nikkole Peterson - Currently working in the Human Trafficking Unit of the Saint Paul Police Department
- Ed Heisler - Co-Executive Director of Men As Peacemakers
- Lorena Pinto - Director of the PRIDE Program

Join us before the event and grab a drink at **Lake Monster Brewing** (right next to the SPNN studios).

Watch from Home

If you cannot attend this event in person, we hope you will watch the broadcast via streaming on theuptake.org; on SPNN/Channel 19 in Saint Paul; MTN/Channel 16 in Minneapolis; TST/Channel 18 (or Century Link 8418/8918) in North Dakota County; SCC White Bear Lake/Channel 18; Burnsville Community Television (BCTV)/Channel 14; and CTC Roseville and North Suburbs/Channel 15 in Arden Hills, Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Little Canada, Mounds View, New Brighton, North Oaks, Roseville and Saint Anthony.

Submit a Question from Your Home

Use [#EndSexTraffickingLWV](https://www.facebook.com/EndSexTraffickingLWV) on Facebook or Twitter to join the conversation and submit questions to the panel (note: your privacy settings on Facebook must be set to "public" for our team to see any questions posed on Facebook). You can also [post a question on the Facebook event page](#), which will be monitored before and during the event.

JOIN OUR BOOK CLUB

Our book club meets on the second Wednesday of each month. The club always welcomes new visitors, even if they haven't read the book.

Where

3M Room of the Sun Ray Library
2105 Wilson Ave., St. Paul, MN 55119

Wednesday, Jan. 13 at 10:15 a.m.

In January we will discuss *A Fine Mess: A Global Quest for a Simpler, Fairer, and More Efficient Tax System* by T.R. Reid.

Wednesday, Feb. 14 at 10:15 a.m.

In February we will discuss *The Citizens of London: The Americans Who Stood with London in its Darkest, Finest Hour* by Lynne Olson.

Wednesday, Mar. 14 at 10:15 a.m.

In March we will discuss *My Own Words* by Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

We hope you will join us, either solo or with a friend!



League members and friends listen to Former Saint Paul Mayor George Latimer at the December Luncheon.

LWVUS CONVENTION WILL BE IN CHICAGO THIS JUNE

Are you interested in attending the LWVUS Convention in Chicago this summer? The National Convention will be held Thursday, June 28, through Sunday, July 1, at Hilton Chicago. LWVSP has some funds set aside to help with registration, lodging and travel, depending on how many Leaguers might be interested in going.

[Check out LWVUS' convention website for more details about activities and program](#), including the Schedule at a Glance and the Leaders Program Planning Guide.

Convention registration opens in February, and we want to be prepared. Please email our League President, Amy Mino (amy@minofamily.net), if you are interested in going and would like to be considered for convention assistance. There may be possibilities for carpooling if several members would like to travel together.

DECEMBER LUNCHEON FILLED WITH LAUGHS & LEARNING

Former St. Paul Mayor George Latimer was the featured guest at LWVSP's December Lunch, held this year at Moscow on the Hill in the Selby area. The lunch was delightful, and Mayor Latimer regaled League members with stories about St. Paul and a conversation about the challenges of city leadership and the power of the mayor to address issues. There was some good discussion about increasing voter participation in underrepresented areas of St. Paul, and it is clear that LWVSP has been working in the right direction for voter service, with new partnerships in these neighborhoods, but much work is still to be done.

POSITIVE FORUM FEEDBACK

A gentleman recently saw a League member at an area event and had very kind (unsolicited) words to share about our candidate forums. He said that he was at the forum at Hallie Q. Brown and that it was well organized and valuable to him and his wife. They came away from it knowing exactly who to vote for. He shared that it is one thing to read about candidates in the paper and it is another to see them in real life, you get a sense of their intelligence and their commitment. He also said that he hoped our services never get discontinued, and that we are an asset to the community.

Get involved this Spring.

YOUTH VOTER REGISTRATION COMMITTEE & INITIATIVES

Submitted by Judith Screaton

Our Youth Voter Registration Committee met in December to discuss plans for 2018. Our committee's goals include educating and involving youth voters, while conducting online registration whenever possible, as well as engaging our outreach partners as educational civic speakers. If we have enough volunteers, our work will take place in Saint Paul high schools, two-year colleges and technical schools, and union apprenticeship programs.

There were quite a few intriguing ideas for what our program could complete in the new year, including: engaging students to become peer advocates to get each other involved in elections, signing up students to be election judges, developing a student essay contest, developing an internship program, and creating youth media for increased interaction.

We're establishing goals, recruiting people to help out, and assigning jobs that need to be done before the registration drive and on the day of the drive. There's a lot to do and volunteers are needed for a program that is important and fun at the same time. We would love to include more of our members in this committee and as volunteers. **Please email Judith Screaton**

(rjsscreaton@gmail.com) to be notified of future meetings and volunteer opportunities.

SHARE COFFEE WITH OTHER LEAGUE MEMBERS

Submitted by Mary Vik

Beginning in March, 2018, the Membership Committee will offer an opportunity to have coffee with new members once a month through June. We hope these events will welcome people who do not yet belong to the League to stop in and visit with us, as well as, newer members who want to help welcome these visitors and get answers to any lingering questions they may have about the League. We also hope to be occasionally joined by our more veteran members who are former city council members or county commissioners. For the most part the format of these events will be informal and unstructured.

We plan to host these events from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Further details such as location and day of the week are yet to be decided. We encourage you to keep watch on the lwvsp.org website and in the next newsletter for final details. Once the plans are confirmed, we will get this information into local newspapers such as the Highland Villager but you can help by urging friends to attend, or by coming with them!

THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS & DONORS

Thank you to all members who renewed their membership this fall and welcome to our new members: Margaret ("Penny") Chally, Susan Von Mosch, Barbara Murdock and Gail Simmons.

The League has received many donations this fall from members and non-members through the Give to the Max Day Campaign and in the 2017 Annual Appeal. These donations help us carry out League's work - thank you! Donors who have supported LWVSP's work since our League year began on June 1st include:

Marge and Roger Anderson (in memory of Marilyn Lundberg)
Bonnie Benson
Colleen Hartmon Bollom
Dianne Brooke
James Bruener
Barbara Burleigh
Ann Cieslak
Carole Erickson
Claudia Dieter
Joanne Englund
Margaret Gadiant
Susan Gray
Jessica Hackner (in honor of LWVSP member Wendy Jones)
Michael Hartford

Joan Higginbotham
Ruby Hunt
Phyllis Hollihan
Craig Johnson
Sig Johnson
Wendy Jones
Agnes Kranz
Lance LaVine
Mary Lindstrom
Peggy Lynch
Beatrice Magee
Jeanne Matross
Barbara McKernan
Roberta Megard
Amy Mino
Joan and Richard Newmark

Mary Ann Ogden
Patricia Peterson
Diane Power
Kay Raabe
Shirley A. Reider
Deanne Sande
Arline Satrom
Barbara Sellers
Jaclyn Schroeder
David Schultz
Elizabeth Shippee
Peter Thiel and Mary Ellen Skan
Rachel Tranberry
Jean West
Lois Yellowthunder
Mary Vik