



Voter Newsletter

A NIGHT AT THE MINNESOTA HISTORY CENTER

Join us for September's **New Member Meet-Up**. This is an opportunity to connect with fellow members, learn more, or share, about the League of Women Voters St. Paul, and have a fun night out learning about our community!

What: A Night at the MN History Center - Somalis + Minnesota

Together we will explore this exhibit.

"See this new exhibit on Somali history and culture, developed in partnership with the Minnesota Historical Society and the Somali Museum of Minnesota, which houses a collection of more than 700 pieces and offers a wide range of educational programs about Somali traditional culture at the museum and throughout the region."

Click [here](#) to learn more about this exhibit.

When: September 18th at 6:00pm

Where: Minnesota History Center - 345 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55102 - 3rd Floor Gallery

Find information regarding Directions and Parking [here](#).

Cost: Admission is free! Daily parking is \$6. MN History Center members receive a discounted rate of \$4 when they show their card.

Questions? Contact Morgan Croft-Schornak at morgan.croftschornak@gmail.com.

We hope to see you there!



LWVSP volunteers, Susan, Sandra and Nichole with Secretary of State Steve Simon, registering voters at a recent Saints game.

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SAVE THE DATES FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

These event plans are being finalized. [Check our website](#) for full details as the dates near.

October 27 | Citizenship Tools | Hallie Q. Brown Center

Join Professor Matthew Filner along with some of our elected officials for an explanation of how our government works, how to influence public policy as an “active constituent” and even how to run for office.

November TBD | Foster Care & Adoption | Hallie Q. Brown Center

Did you know that 820 kids are waiting in Minnesota Foster Care for adoptive families right now? Join us during National Adoption Month as Erin Heisler talks about the kids who wait, how to become a foster or adoptive parent and what resources are available to help you.

January TBD | Start By Believing | SPNN Studios

In January, we will host another public broadcast with Attorney General John Choi and community leaders about the “Start By Believing” initiative that has changed the way that sexual assault investigations are handled.

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
2109 Wilson Avenue, Saint Paul,
MN 55119

Wednesday, Sep. 12 at 10:15 a.m.

In September, we will discuss *A Man and His Presidents: The Political Odyssey of William F. Buckley Jr.* by Alvin S. Felzenberg. Instead of the 3M room, we will meet in Rooms A & B.

Wednesday, Oct. 10 at 10:15 a.m.

In October, we will discuss *The Newcomers—Finding Refuge, Friendship, and Hope in an American Classroom* by Helen Thorpe.

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

In November, we will discuss *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson.

Wednesday, Dec. 12 at 10:15 a.m.

In December, we will discuss *Into the Hands of the Soldiers: Freedom and Chaos in Egypt and the Middle East* by David D. Kirkpatrick.



Volunteers Ann Parker and Linda Fiest register voters during National Night Out at Hallie Q. Brown Center.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL & VOTER REGISTRATION EVENTS THIS SUMMER

The ice cream socials in partnership with the St. Paul Libraries were fantastically popular and well attended. They featured a mock election on real voting equipment, as well as voter registration and, of course, treats and live music.

"The actual equipment is so helpful when explaining to people how it (voting) works," wrote the Dayton's Bluff librarian.

"Well this isn't so hard. I think I'll vote," commented one woman at Rice Street to her friend.

Thank you to our volunteers who made these events possible!

VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

The Voter Services Committee is seeking volunteers to assist with several projects this fall focused on the upcoming mid-term election on November 6, 2018. Planning for candidate forums are underway in cooperation with the LWVMN State office. Voter registration (VR) events are scheduled for various municipal libraries (see: the [“The Voter Blog”](#) page of the LWVSP web site for more details). We are especially interested in recruiting additional volunteers for the Rondo Community Library (461 N Dale St.) and the Arlington Hills Library (1200 Payne Ave.). There are no specific dates for these two libraries, so LWV volunteers can sign up with Heidi Kloempken at a time that is convenient within your schedule.

The Youth Vote Team is looking for volunteers to help us reach out to high schools and colleges this fall to register and educate as many students as possible. LWVSP will be working in a number of high schools to help engage students through VR and voter education about the upcoming, November 2018 election. This year, we also hope to follow-up with students via text messages to help remind them about deadlines for early voting and absentee ballots.

For more information, to schedule a VR shift or to sign up to volunteer on any of the Voter Services Committee opportunities, e-mail Heidi Kloempken (heidi.kloempken@gmail.com).

INTEGRATED VOTER ENGAGEMENT TRAINING

In September, League of Women Voters will cover Integrated Voter Engagement—a training that shows participants how to run campaigns that help build a bigger base in ways that empower communities and grows new leaders within the state and local Leagues and will be presented two times next month.

This training is ideal for anyone interacting with new engagers and supporters (Communications staff, Recruitment, etc.), as well as local league leaders who have an interest in learning better ways of engaging/messaging in new communities. This is also great for your executive board members who seek to identify

and recruit strong leaders and the next generation of leaders to your ranks!

September 13 | 12 pm – 1:15 pm [RSVP here](#)

September 18 | 7 pm – 8:15 pm [RSVP here](#)

If you cannot attend, this session will be recorded and available shortly after the final presentation of each topic.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION TRAINING

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) training sessions offered at the 2018 LWVUS Convention provided us with a comprehensive look at each component of DEI, and the value of developing a strong DEI program within the organization.

In addition, knowledgeable women sat on a panel to each share some of their amazing DEI related experiences with us. Dr. Alfreda Brown, VP for Diversity Equity, discussed the need to find ways to come together for the benefit of the whole organization. Sarah Bury, Interim Vice President, LWV Lake Michigan, and Cecile Scoon, First Vice President, LWV Florida, encouraged all League leaders to do more listening and outreach to people of different backgrounds. Cecile Scoon emphasized the need for members to build real relationships *before* attempting to recruit members for the League. "We have to do better," she said.

[Follow up materials from the DEI training are available on the League Management Site here.](#) Additionally, LWVUS has posted the [definitions of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion online](#), as well as our [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion policy](#). For those looking for additional resources and tools, LWVUS has also provided [continued learning and materials here](#).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In June, board members Erin Heisler, Hayden Kilkenny and I attended the LWV US Convention 2018 in Chicago, and what an exciting convention it was! If you haven't yet been to LWVUS' National Convention, we highly recommend it, for both the content about League and its initiatives and priorities and the opportunities for networking with others across the country working with passion on the core issues we care about: active, engaged and educated voters.

There were 762 leagues represented at the convention, representing 49 states plus the District of Columbia. We were among 1,709 voting delegates. Topics included a discussion about Election Day readiness, voting reform priorities, and the Voting Rights Act, at which the Trump administration has been chipping away. There was a lively debate on the Electoral College, which ended with approval to reinforce LWVUS' existing position supporting popular vote of the President and abolition of the Electoral College as a program platform.

There was also a unanimous vote to support women's right to privacy and an approved vote to price carbon emissions in the fight on climate change. A vote to support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment until it is passed approved by acclamation, which was an energizing scene. LWVUS Board President Chris Carson did an amazing job of handling all the opinionated delegates and keeping the agenda moving.

We heard from the new national CEO, Virginia Kase, who at that time hadn't even yet started with LWVUS. Word from the State League is that she has confirmed to keynote at our state convention next April 26-28, so you will get a chance to hear about her first year directing our national league.

"Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion" is a priority for LWVUS and should be for all league chapters. They held "DEI" training sessions to help local leagues activate around this topic. One of the key messages to us was that League has a reputation and our name carries weight. We need to use this stature to connect with people. We should relate directly to people who aren't within traditional League circles and



Erin Heisler and Hayden Kilkenny at the LWV US Convention.

meet them "where they are," listening carefully to the stories they bring to the table. League must bridge gaps in the community and emphasize that we're all in this together, despite our inherent differences.

-Amy Mino

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to our new members since May 1: Cheryl Bailey, Kristine Bolander, Andrea Bond, Gail Lundeen Brand, Jesse Faciana, Pat Gavan-Gordon, Cynthia Hill, Nellie Johnson, Helen Losleben, Ann Love, Melody Luepke, Ann Mulfort, Ann Nelson, Ginny Pidot, Meredith Rambow, Sarah Simma, Susan Suiz, and Dorothy Slegman.

A BIG THANK YOU TO DONORS

Several members have made donations to League with a dues payment: new members Cheryl Bailey, Meredith Rambow and Sarah Simma; returning members Roger and Margie Anderson, Joan and Richard Newmark, Roberta Megard, Amy Mino and Mary Vik; and Lifetime Member, Norma Finnegan.

In addition, we thank **Lifetime Member Mary Lou Grahek** for her recent very generous Leadership Gift to LWV St. Paul!

Find us on Twitter @LWVStPaul!