



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®

# Voter Newsletter

## HELP YOUR NEIGHBORS BECOME EDUCATED AND ACTIVE CITIZENS

### Become a Board Member of the League of Women Voters Saint Paul

The St. Paul LWV is currently recruiting Board members to fill new terms on its Board for the 2018-19 League year (June 1-May 31). Because we are a volunteer-run organization, our board members lead and participate in various committees to plan and coordinate our events and initiatives. Board members are given the flexibility to choose the committees and activities that interest them the most, while also considering what work needs to be done to help the League reach its goals. The upcoming Board term will be an exciting one—not only is the League approaching its 100th year anniversary in 2020 but the St. Paul League will be hosting the LWVMN (State League) convention in 2019. There is no better time to join!

**Qualifications:** We seek individuals (of all genders) from the St. Paul area who are passionate about helping Saint Paul citizens make democracy work. Board members must commit to a one- or two-year term as well as to attending the 2-hour Board meetings held monthly except in July and December. Board members must also commit to working on a particular project (membership, voter service, etc.). The choice usually is negotiable. If you are interested in joining the Board in a well-defined role, we're looking for a Board member to fill the Secretary position for the coming year. This role can be split between two Board members, if desired. Previous Board experience is not required.

If you are interested in learning more, please email [office@lwvsp.org](mailto:office@lwvsp.org) by April 9, 2018. We'd love to hear from you!



*LWVSP members at the  
Capitol rally in February.*

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## RECYCLE SMARTER

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Join us on March 14th to learn how you can protect the environment by becoming a smarter recycler. Our speakers for the event are Rachel Frank, Planning Specialist II with Ramsey County Public Health/Environmental Health, and Jean Buckley, Ramsey County Health Educator.

The event takes place at Mississippi Market (740 E 7th Street, Saint Paul, MN 55106). Feel free to purchase a dinner from the market and bring it in to eat in the meeting room. They have delicious food. The program will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Please park in the farther rows in the parking lot so that regular customers will not be inconvenienced.

## CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION DEBATE

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Join us on March 27 for a debate on the pros and cons of a call for a constitutional convention according to Article V of the U.S. Constitution. The debate will be argued by Teresa S. Collett, Professor of Law at University of Saint Thomas School of Law and Matthew Filner, Professor of Political Science at Metropolitan State University.

The debate will take place at Metropolitan State University from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. [Our website will be updated](#) once a room is confirmed.

## APRIL COFFEE SOCIAL

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Join us for our monthly coffee social; these take place on the first Monday of each month this spring. These informal meetings offer an opportunity for newer members to get answers to any lingering questions about the League and would be a great opportunity to introduce the League to someone who does not yet belong.

The April 2 meeting will be an opportunity to learn about Ramsey County Government. All four of the Commissioners who presently represent St. Paul are up for election and will be on the ballot in November. (This is the topic originally slated for our March social. It was delayed a month by the snowstorm on March 5.)

This meeting will take place in the classroom space at the Mississippi Market, 1500 West Seventh St., St. Paul, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Feel free to buy an item at the market's deli and bring it into the meeting. Beverages will be provided. Guests are asked to park on the street or in the furthest reaches of the market's parking lot.

## JOIN OUR BOOK CLUB

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

In March we will discuss *Last Hope Island: Britain, Occupied Europe, and the Brotherhood that Helped Turn the Tide of War* by Lynne Olson.

Wednesday, Apr. 11 at 10:15 a.m.

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

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

## SAVE THE DATE!

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A discussion on peaceful protest and social movement organizing will take place at Metropolitan State University on April 19, 2018. [Further details will be posted on our website soon.](#)

## THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS & DONORS

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Our thanks to longtime league member Sally Patterson for her 2017 donation, who was missed on our last honor roll of donors in the January newsletter. We also thank Harlan Copeland and members Barb Burleigh, Mary Palmer and new member Missy Thompson, who made recent donations, and the Elwell Miller Fund for its generous donation this January.

Welcome to our new members! Linda Feist, Kathy Guthrie, Angela Pitzer and Missy Thompson.

## VOTER SERVICE UPDATE

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We are working on voter service events, which are in the planning stage. We're partnering with the St. Paul Library to host three Voter Registration/Ice Cream Social events this summer. The first will be at Sunray Library in July, and the others are tentatively at Rice Street and Riverview Libraries. These are all indoor/outdoor events. Volunteers are needed for planning and to be at the events.

Second, we're working to expand outreach by posting voter information in libraries, community centers, schools and colleges for a start. We'll follow up by including public housing, community health clinics, as well as faith and immigrant communities. The Secretary of State (SOS) office is providing colorful posters. Ideas and help on this would be appreciated.

We continue to do registration at St. Paul College, and will expand to include other colleges. The St. Paul High School Program will likely be merged with the SOS program that intends to do mass registrations at school assemblies in May using iPads.

## ATTEND THE LWVUS CONVENTION IN CHICAGO

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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 is open now.** 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.

## ATTEND THE LWV MN CONVENTION IN SAINT CLOUD

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Registration is now open for the State League's convention April 27-28 at Courtyard by Marriot in Saint Cloud. The convention offers opportunities for leadership development and a chance for members of various local LWVs to meet League members from the other parts of the state.

The weekend will begin Friday April 27 in the evening with a welcome social at the hotel. Saturday will start with a buffet breakfast and meeting before breaking out in smaller groups for the remainder of the day. A total of nine sessions will be offered, to choose three from. Advocacy, MLD, and Voter Service board chairs will present and there will also be facilitated local LWV round tables. LWV Minnesota staff will also be available for technical assistance .

**Convention registration is open now.** 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.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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The school shooting tragedy in Florida and the public response through protests and marches had social media afire in February, and our league members were stirred up with questions about how to be involved. Several noted the involvement of the students as a potential turning point in the discussion about gun violence, and how our youth voter registration efforts may offer a way to help them affect change. This discussion also led us to review our public policy positions from the bottom up.

LWVSP does not have a specific policy position on gun control and gun violence. Our policy positions focus on local governance and its issues. However as a local league, we concur with the LWV US' policy positions on both violence prevention and gun control, which are:

- Violence Prevention - Support violence prevention programs in communities.
- Gun Control - Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

## MARCH FOR OUR LIVES

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There are a number of league members who have voiced interest in participating in the March for Our Lives on March 24, 2018. The event begins at 9 a.m., when people start convening on Harriet Island. The student-led march organizers have asked LWV to conduct voter registration before, during and after the rally. If you are interested in being a part of the LWV MN voter registration "mobile" effort, please email Paula Stein Clark at [pjstein@comcast.net](mailto:pjstein@comcast.net) and put "VR on 24th" in the subject header. If you are unable to join the LWV MN group, adults and allies are asked to go directly to the rally at the Capitol (the rally starts at 11 a.m. ) in order to ensure space for youth organizing on Harriet Island. If you would like to

LWV MN also has a position on violence and firearms, which is even more extensive than the national position. So, what does this all mean for us as local members? Basically, it means that we can organize contingents, under the banner of LWVSP, to participate in marches or protest activities, like the gun violence march, as long as it conforms to our organizational policy positions and our local board leadership is informed and approves.

All of [LWV US's public policy positions](#) are available on the LWV website. [Our public policy positions](#) (and links to state and national positions) are also available [on the LWVSP website](#). This is an important section of our website, and I encourage all members to review its contents, and certainly bring questions to the Board regarding this important part of our work.

As a final note, League believes it can best effect change through our core mission of voter registration and participation: registering as many voters as possible and getting them out to vote for their issues and interests. The gun violence issue has momentum now, and it is heartening to see some change being implemented in Florida and being debated closer to home in Minnesota. Our task remains to help voters make their voices heard.

Amy Mino

attend the rally at the Capitol—either to advocate or to register voters in the crowd—we will have a group of League members attending. Keep watch for an email from Amy Mino about where to meet and how you can register voters that day.

Nick Harper, now at LWV MN, has put together [a helpful document about how to represent the League while at these events](#). We encourage all of you to take a moment to read through it in preparation for this, and other, events. We look forward to seeing our members get involved and support this youth movement—please share your pictures after the event!

Another way to get involved that day is [attend the moderator training hosted by LWV MN](#) from 1-4 p.m.