

Voter Newsletter

2019 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Members,

2019 has been an exciting and special year to serve as your Co-President as we celebrate the 100-year anniversary of women's suffrage and of the League of Women Voters Saint Paul (LWVSP)!

Our committees have been very active. Sig Johnson and Heidi Kloepmkin organized 10 voter registration events at local libraries, focusing on areas with lower voter turn out. Dan Krivit, together with committee members and intern Morgan Hess, worked at seven high schools registering over 100 youth voters and implementing and overseeing the Student Leader program. Our Program Committee recently held events on relevant and interesting topics such as money in politics, affordable housing, the cash bail system, and legislative issues and process reform. With all seven St. Paul City Council seats up for election this fall, LWVSP held a total of nine candidate forums and one debate. We were proud to partner with the Saint Paul Neighborhood Network, who records and [posts videos](#) of our events. We had record turnout at our forums with over 800 attendees and over 1700 views of our videos online! In a highly partisan world, League's nonpartisan and fair events provide a safe and welcoming space for people to learn and ask questions.

As I reflect on all that LWVSP board and volunteers have done over the year, I am in awe. Our league is full of hard-working, enthusiastic, and intelligent people who deeply care about educating and engaging voters. I am proud of all that we have accomplished and of the relationships we have strengthened this year with county and local government, other League chapters, the District Councils, FairVote MN, the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center, and the Saint Paul Neighborhood Network - to name just a few.

It has been an honor to serve as your Co-President alongside Amy Mino. I look forward to all that 2020 will bring, including the presidential primary, the census and subsequent redistricting, and our local and federal elections. I hope to see many of you out at our events and encourage you to reach out to me anytime. Thank you for your past generosity, and please continue to give and support the work that you believe in.

Amy Perna, Co-President



LWVSP sponsored a Ward 5 Candidate Forum at Washington Technical Magnet on Thursday, October 10, 2019.

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LWVSP YOUTH VOTE TEAM UPDATE

The LWVSP Youth Vote Team is active with the high school “Student Leader” program this school year. Building on the success and lessons learned from last spring, the LWVSP Youth Vote Team has partnered with Student Leaders at three area high schools with plans to expand into four additional schools this spring. The three high schools with Student Leaders are Johnson High School, Harding High School, and Como Park High School. LWVSP pays \$100 per semester to Student Leaders for specific voter registration work in their high schools. Our LWVSP Youth Vote Team volunteer high school liaisons continue to work with teachers and administrative staff contacts at their respective schools to develop customized work plans for each high school.

The LWVSP Student Leader program is based on the premise that high school students themselves are the best ambassadors to reach their fellow students to encourage civic engagement, voter registration, and actual voting at the polls. The LWVSP Youth Vote Team provides training and other technical assistance to give the high school Student Leaders the tools and confidence they need to advocate for voter registration, often right in the classroom. LWVSP has also sponsored “Tour the Polls” events, voter registration tabling, and “Govy Leaders” training at local high schools.

The LWVSP Youth Vote Team is collaborating with student organizations on college campuses in Saint Paul to assist with voter registration events whenever possible. On National Voter Registration Day (Tuesday, September 24, 2019) LWVSP volunteers assisted college students in registering their peers at Macalester College, St. Catherine’s University, and the University of St. Thomas.

The LWVSP Youth Vote Team is also working to develop a new “Pledge To Vote” system. After completing the Minnesota Office of Secretary of State’s (MN OSS) voter registration application, we use Pledge To Vote cards to gather emails and/or phone numbers to be used for reminders about upcoming elections. The Pledge To Vote card system is entirely voluntary and a person can unsubscribe from our list at any time. The LWVSP Youth Vote Team is working with a team of Metro State University (MSU) students to develop the database and ensure it is secure.

For more information about the LWVSP Youth Vote Team, contact Dan Krivit at 612-616-7739 or Dan.Krivit@outlook.com. We are always looking for more volunteers to help in the Saint Paul schools with Youth Voting events!

JOIN OUR BOOK CLUBS

All members are welcome to attend LWVSP Book Club meetings, even if you haven’t read the book!

The **LWVSP Morning Book Club** meets the second Wednesday of each month at 10:15 am in the 3M Room of the Sun Ray Library, 2109 Wilson Avenue, St. Paul, 55119.

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

In December we will discuss *Miss Burma* by Charmaine Craig.

Wednesday, January 8 at 10:15 a.m.

In January we will discuss *When Republicans Were Progressive* by Dave Durenberger.

The **LWVSP Evening Book Club** meets the first Monday of each month at 6:15 pm at the West 7th Community Center, 265 Oneida Street, St. Paul, 55102.

Monday, December 2 at 6:15 p.m.

In December we will discuss *Cathedral of the Wild: An African Journey Home* by Boyd Varty.

Monday, January 6 at 6:15 p.m.

In January we will discuss *If You Lived Here, You’d be Home By Now* by Christopher Ingerham.

Find us on Twitter @LWVStPaul!

2020 LWVSP PROGRAMMING

The LWVSP Programming Committee has several timely and exciting events planned for 2020. Members should watch their email and the LWVSP event calendar (lwvsp.org/events) for information on January's event, which will contrast caucuses and primaries; a panel on Election Fraud and Cybersecurity in February; and an April debate, co-sponsored by the Macalester College Debate Team, on the National Popular Vote. This last event will use the Intelligence Squared format, with audience participation encouraged before and after arguments are made. Events are free and open to the public and members are encouraged to attend.

“BAIL ME OUT!: UNDERSTANDING BAIL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE”

Did you have a chance to hear the LWVSP presentation “Bail me out! Understanding Bail and Economic Justice” on Wednesday, September 25, 2019? Nearly 40 neighbors, college students, and friends of LWVSP met at the East Side Freedom Library to hear the Honorable Nicole Starr, of the 2nd Judicial District in Ramsey County, and Tonja Honsey, Executive Director of the Minnesota Freedom Fund, discuss the realities and pitfalls of the current cash bail system in Ramsey County.

According to new data from Washington D.C., bail does not increase the number of offenders showing up for court appearances and, while judges assign the amount of bail based on a formula designed to avoid bias, many of the factors such as house ownership and neighborhood crime statistics can perpetuate inequalities. The [Minnesota Freedom Fund](#) solicits donations to pay bail for accused offenders; when that person makes his/her court appearance, the money returns to the organization.

New Member Informational Meeting

New members are encouraged to attend an informational meeting on Saturday, December 7 from 9:30am to 10:30 am at the YWCA (375 Selby Ave, St Paul, 55102). Attendees will have the opportunity to learn and ask questions about the League and are encouraged to attend the December Luncheon, which will immediately follow. [Registration](#) for the luncheon is required.

2019 DECEMBER LUNCHEON

The 2019 LWVSP December Luncheon will be Saturday, December 7 from 11:00am to 1:00pm at Moscow on the Hill (371 Selby Avenue, St. Paul, 55102). New members are especially encouraged to come and get acquainted with others in the League. Registration is \$25 and can be completed online [here](#) or by mailing a check to LWVSP, 75 Fifth St. W., Suite 224, St. Paul, MN 55102.

The featured guest is Dr. Kim Heikkila, who is currently working on an oral history project for the Minnesota Historical Society - "Women and Voting Rights in Minnesota." Dr. Heikkila will speak about her process, what she has learned, and oral history best practices. More information about Dr. Heikkila is available on her website, www.spotlightoralhistory.com.

2019 MEMBER DRIVE UPDATE

Thank you to all members who have already renewed their membership this LWVSP year (July 1 - June 30, 2020). If you haven't yet renewed, you can still do so! Renewing online is easy at www.lwvsp.org, or you can send in a renewal to the office (\$75 individual, \$90 household, \$20 student & limited income): LWVSP, 75 Fifth St. W., Suite 224; St. Paul, MN 55102.

Welcome to our new members who have joined since July 1, 2019:

Maggie Beagan
Debra Costanzo
Karen Dalton
Danica Goshert
Julie Marckel
Cathleen Marquardt
Kate Muras
Beatrice Owen
Mandy Perna
Ellen Rest
Carolyn Silverstein
Patricia Tommet
Jane Ullmann-Bester

LWVMN “FIRST NIGHT” 100TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

LWVSP sponsored a table at the League of Women Voters Minnesota’s fundraising gala, *First Night of the Second Century*. It was lovely and inspiring event that celebrated “Minnesota Firsts” for women. Members who were unable to attend can [browse the event program and a gallery of images](#) from the evening through the LWVMN website, and see the [inaugural program](#) that launched the League of Women Voters Minnesota on October 28-29, 1919.



LWVSP board members past and present attended the LWVMN “First Night” 100th Anniversary Gala on October 26, 2019, at the Union Depot in St. Paul.