

# Voter Newsletter

## 2019 Annual Meeting

Our 99th annual meeting will be held on May 20, 2019, at the Episcopal Homes Campus in St. Paul (1860 University Avenue W., St. Paul, 55104). There will be a half hour of socializing to start. Then at 6 p.m. enjoy a meal, great conversation and the presentation of annual awards. After dinner, members will weigh in during the election of officers and decide on a program of action for the coming year.

During the meeting, we will also have a **presentation from Toni Newborn**. Toni is the Chief Equity Officer for the City of Saint Paul. She works to ensure that the City provides equity in its workforce, services, and community. She has worked for the City since 2015. During her initial tenure, she served as the Diversity and Consulting Services Manager in the Human Resources Department. Prior to joining the City, Toni was Assistant Director of Civil Rights for the Complaint Division of the Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights which enforces Minneapolis' anti-discrimination laws and policies. During her tenure with the Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights, she also served as a Senior Investigator in the Complaint Investigation Division.

**New League members:** This is a great opportunity to socialize, meet other members, get questions answered and become more involved with events/program planning in the upcoming year.

The active participation of League members in this meeting will help us assure that we are meeting the goals and aspirations of all of our members. We hope that many of you will participate. To register, visit the LWVSP website or click [here](#).

**Find us on Twitter @LWVStPaul!**



*LWV volunteers with "Start by Believing" panel members Jennifer Bjorhus, Nicole Matthews, Sarah Colford, John Choi, and Paul Schnell following the event on January 22, 2019.*

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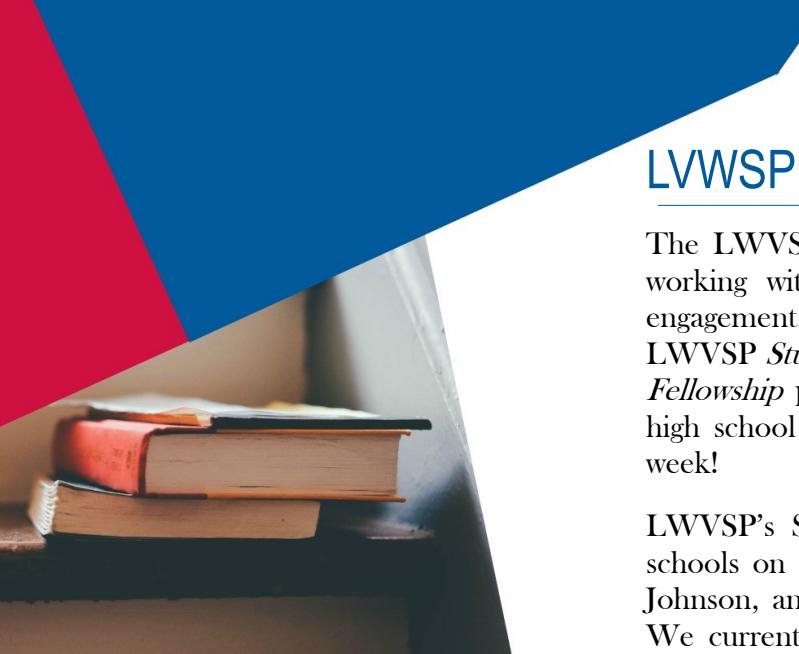
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## LWVSP YOUTH VOTE TEAM

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The LWVSP Youth Vote Team has two new projects focused on working with high school students as leaders in St. Paul voter engagement and voter registration efforts. The first is our own LWVSP *Student Leader* program. The second is LWV Minnesota's *Fellowship* program. So far we are working with 12 highly engaged high school students in four schools in St. Paul and growing every week!

LWVSP's Student Leader program is now focused on four high schools on the short list for Spring 2019: Focus Beyond, Harding, Johnson, and St. Paul Conservatory for Performing Arts (SPCPA). We currently have four student leader candidates in Harding and maybe another two in SPCA. [For an example Student Leader job description, please see our website.](#)

LWV Minnesota's Fellowship program is up and running. Five Central High School student Fellows are active and three Fellows are active at Como High Schools.

To help manage all of the communications and training, LWVSP is looking to retain a college student as our Youth Vote Coordinator. [See the LWVSP Youth Vote Coordinator job posting on our website.](#) If you want to join the LWVSP Youth Vote Team and help work with high school students, contact Dan Krivit (612-616-7739; [Dan.Krivit@Outlook.com](mailto:Dan.Krivit@Outlook.com)) or Amy Mino (612-292-0412; [Amy@MinoFamily.net](mailto:Amy@MinoFamily.net)).

## BEYOND POLARIZATION: BRIDGING THE RED/BLUE DIVIDE IN COMMUNITIES

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Have you ever struggled with having a conversation when you knew the other person had an opposite view from yours? University of Minnesota Professor, Bill Doherty was concerned about what was happening in our political environment. He decided to do something about it. Thus began *Better Angels*, a national organization dedicated to *Depolarizing America*.

LWV Woodbury, Cottage Grove invites League members to an informative member meeting on April 22 at 7:00 p.m. at the Cottage Grove City Hall, 12800 Ravine Parkway S, Cottage Grove. Attending this meeting will show *you* how people with very different political viewpoints can come to understand one another beyond stereotypes and find common ground. You will also learn some skills for talking with loved ones on the other political side.

## 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  
2109 Wilson Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55119

[Wednesday, April 10 at 10:15 a.m.](#)

In April we will discuss *The Death and Life of the Great Lakes* by Dan Egan

[Wednesday, May 8 at 10:15 a.m.](#)

In May, we will discuss *The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion* by Jonathan Haidt.

[Wednesday, June 12 at 10:15 a.m.](#)

In June we will discuss *Reading with Patrick: A Teacher, A Student and a Life-Changing Friendship* by Michelle Kuo.

## “START BY BELIEVING” PANEL

LWVSP’s “Start by Believing” panel was a thought-provoking and interesting event. Special thanks to our speakers who each brought their unique insights to the issue of sexual assault response and prosecution:

**Sarah Colford**, a survivor and Board Member and Moderator for Break the Silence, an organization that works to support survivors of sexual violence by striving to end rape culture and hold perpetrators accountable;

**Jennifer Bjorhus**, an Investigative Reporter for The Star Tribune who authored the “Denied Justice” series examining how Minnesota’s criminal justice system often fails victims of rape and sexual assault;

**Commissioner Paul Schnell** served on the Minnesota Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Board from 2014 to 2017 and is currently the head of Minnesota’s Department of Corrections.

**Nicole Matthews**, an Anishinabe from the White Earth Band of Ojibwe who serves as Executive Director for Minnesota Indian Women’s Sexual Assault Coalition;

**John Choi**, the Ramsey County Attorney whose innovative approach to working collaboratively with advocacy agencies to help victims has transformed the way government intervenes in domestic violence and sex trafficking situations.

Also, a huge thank you to our volunteers and partners in coordinating the event: [League of Women Voters - Dakota County](#) and [Saint Paul Neighborhood Network](#) (SPNN). Video of the event is available on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/myspnn/videos/332364254275995/>.

## IT MATTERS TO YOU: THE CENSUS, REAPPORTIONMENT, AND REDISTRICTING

LWV Woodbury, Cottage Grove invites the public to a free panel discussion about the 2020 census. The event will be held on April 18 at 7:00 pm at Lake Middle School, 3133 Pioneer Drive, Woodbury.

Panelists Andrew Virden, Minnesota Director of Census Operations and Engagement; Tom Gillaspy, Past Minnesota Demographer; and Annastacia Belladonna-Carrera, Executive Director of Common Cause Minnesota will discuss the upcoming census and likely redistricting and how we can ensure it is a process free from partisan overreach.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Thank you to all members who renewed their membership with LWVSP and welcome to our new members who have joined since December 31, 2018:

Katie Craven, Jacqueline Kelly, Elizabeth Newberry, and Sarah Reuter.

Thank you also to those who have made contributions to LWVSP since December 31, 2018:

Dianna Erickson, Mary Palmer, Christine Trost, and Jean West.

## “MONEY IN POLITICS: RESTORING FAIR REPRESENTATION TO THE PEOPLE”

Join us at noon on June 12th at the Landmark Center for “Money in Politics: Restoring Fair Representation to the People.” Featured speakers are Vicki Barnes, Volunteer MN State Coordinator for American Promise and Take Back Our Republic, and Richard Painter, author of “Taxation Only With Representation” and Professor of Law at the University of Minnesota. Learn about recent Supreme Court decisions that have limited our ability to regulate campaign spending and have allowed big moneyed special interest groups to influence our elections and our policies.

This event is free and open to the public.

## LAST CALL FOR LEAGUE PHOTOS AND MEMORABILIA

We are putting together a St. Paul-Ramsey County section of the traveling exhibition on League history being developed by LWV Minnesota. It will debut at the state league convention in April and be on display at Landmark Center in downtown Saint Paul during the month of May. Please let league president, Amy Mino, know if you have materials that could be used in the exhibition ([amy@minofamily.net](mailto:amy@minofamily.net), 612-269-0412). We will collect items from you, if needed, and all items will be returned after the exhibition.

# LWV MINNESOTA CENTENNIAL CONVENTION

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LWV St. Paul is proud to be the hosting League for this year's state convention on Saturday, April 27 and Sunday, April 28, at the Saint Paul Hotel. All convention details and registration can be found [on the LWV Minnesota website](#).

This event is for LWV members who are current on their dues; it is not open to the general public.

The registration fee for this year's 2-day convention programming, with four meals included, is \$225. If you are an LWV St. Paul member who would like to attend the convention, email [office@lwvsp.org](mailto:office@lwvsp.org) to inquire about the St. Paul League helping with the cost of your registration.

LWV St. Paul members are invited to attend three events in addition to the convention meetings:

## **Friday, April 26:**

### **“Votes for Women” – Minnesota State Capitol Tour**

Tours provided at 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm (each tour is 1.5 hours)

In 1919, the US Congress passed the 19th Amendment guaranteeing women the right to vote. Minnesota ratified the amendment in September, and by August of 1920, it was adopted by all the required states. To mark the opening of the LWV Minnesota Centennial Convention, take a special tour that focuses on Minnesota women who played significant roles in securing the right to vote. Learn about the struggles and success stories of Minnesota women who worked to convince elected officials in the State Capitol to grant women the vote. Plus, learn about the first elected women to take office in Minnesota, what role they played in state government, and how women today participate in elected office. Complimentary admission for LWV members. Only 35 spots available for each tour. Register at the [LWV Minnesota website](#).

### **“A Century of Civic Engagement” – Traveling Exhibit Kick-Off**

Reception from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm (with a brief program at 6:00 pm)

Join LWV Minnesota, [LWV St. Paul](#) and Landmark Center to view "[A Century of Civic Engagement](#)," presented in honor of the 100th anniversary of both LWV Minnesota and LWVSP. The reception and the exhibit are free and open to the public. Exhibit will be on display from April 26 to May 28. Opening reception is in Landmark Center's North Gallery (north end of first floor). Light refreshments will be provided.

## **Saturday, April 27:**

### **St. Paul Pub Crawl 7:00 pm (gather at 6:30)**

LWV St. Paul will host a pub crawl. You may wish to grab dinner beforehand, or order food at one of the bars in the crawl.

**Let's set an all-time high for participation at this special Centennial Convention, to share meaningful time together and to help set the future agenda for our 2nd century!**