

Voter Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Everyone,

I sincerely hope you had wonderful summer. My name is Amy Perna and I am your new Co-President. I was introduced to the LWVSP by Sig Johnson and Mary Vik, who hired me to organize the 2016 fall candidate forums. I've had a great time doing that for the last three years. This year, our Vice President Hayden Kilkenny has stepped up and taken on that role. Thanks Hayden! I have been a LWVSP member for two years and I am very excited to learn the ropes and be your Co-President with Amy Mino.

Over the summer we have been registering voters at community events, planning for fall programming, and organizing candidate forums and Youth Vote activities in high schools. Our new board is energized and full of great ideas. In fact, at our June meeting things got a little rowdy as everyone chimed in with their plans, ideas, and hopes for the coming year! I feel very lucky to work with such a passionate board and I look forward to all that we are going to accomplish this year.

LWVSP has several wonderful events in the works for our membership and the public alike. Please read about some of them in this newsletter and regularly check our calendar at <http://www.lwvsp.org/events>. I sincerely hope that I get the chance to meet many of you out at our events this fall and winter.

This year all seven Saint Paul City Council seats are up for election as well as four Saint Paul School Board seats. We are in the process of finalizing our candidate forums, so please keep an eye out for those upcoming dates. Our forums give voters the chance to ask questions and get to know the people running for office. We hope to see you!

Finally, we have many new members this year and for those of you who are unfamiliar, I encourage you to attend one of our new member meet ups or a Member 101 info session. If you have any questions, want to get more involved, or would like to volunteer for an event please don't hesitate to reach out.

Amy Perna, Co-President



Vicki Barnes and Richard Painter speaking at LWVSP's "Money in Politics" discussion on June 12, 2019, at the Landmark Center.

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LWVSP YOUTH VOTE TEAM UPDATE

The LWVSP Youth Vote Team plans to continue the high school “Student Leader” program into the 2019 - 2020 school year. Building on the success and lessons learned from this past spring, the LWVSP Youth Vote Team hopes to double the number of schools with active Student Leaders. We are already active in Central, Como, Focus Beyond, Harding, and Washington high schools. We hope to be just as active in Johnson and Humboldt in the next couple of months. 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 are reaching out to their teachers and administrator staff contacts at their respective schools and developing 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. Our success from last spring, plus the experience of similar programs around the country, resulted in this conclusion that we need to help empower Student Leaders to be the face of our message. 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.

The LWVSP Youth Vote Team is trying to collaborate with student organizations on college campuses in Saint Paul to assist with voter registration events whenever possible. One such event is at Macalester College on National Voter Registration Day, Tuesday, September 24, 2019. Two shifts of volunteers are needed to assist the Macalester Civic Action program with student voter registration. For more information, or to volunteer to help register students, contact Ryan Perez at Ryan.J.Perez@gmail.com or see the Macalester Civic Action Facebook page.

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 card to gather an email and/or phone number 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 voter registration events!

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, September 11 at 10:15
a.m.

In September we will discuss *Diesel Heart*. The author, Melvin Whitefield Carter Jr, will be making a guest appearance.

Wednesday, October 9 at 10:15 a.m.

In October we will discuss *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* by Matthew Desmond.

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

In November we will discuss *One Person, No Vote: How Voter Suppression is Destroying our Democracy* by Carol Anderson.

Find us on Twitter @LWVStPaul!

2019 ANNUAL MEMBER DRIVE

As we continue our annual membership drive, we are thankful for all of the members of our local league. We couldn't do our work on issues of such vital importance without your assistance. You help us "Make Democracy Work for All." You can renew your annual membership by visiting lvwsp.org/join or mailing your membership renewal to our new address at 75 5th Street West, Suite 224 Saint Paul, MN 55102. Annual dues are \$150 for contributing members, \$90 for households, \$75 for individuals, and \$20 for students or those with limited incomes. Questions? Contact Morgan Croft-Schornak at morgan.croftschornak@gmail.com.

"BAIL ME OUT!: UNDERSTANDING BAIL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE"

On Wednesday, September 25 join LVWSP for a free public forum on excessive bail and how it impacts economically disadvantaged populations. "Bail Me Out: Understanding Bail and Economic Justice" will be held from 6:00 to 7:30 pm at the Eastside Freedom Library (1105 Greenbriar Street, St. Paul, 55106).

Featured speakers include Judge Nicole Starr of Ramsey County's 2nd Judicial District and Tonja Honsey, Executive Director of the Minnesota Freedom Fund.

The event is free and open to the public, and light refreshments will be served. Registration is appreciated but not required. Visit <http://www.lvwsp.org/event-3533336> for additional information or to register.

UPCOMING CANDIDATE FORUMS

Ward 4 Candidate Forum – LVWSP will be partnering with the Union Park District Council, SPNN, and the University of St. Thomas to host a Ward 4 candidate forum on Wednesday, September 11, from 6:00 to 8:30 pm at McNeely Hall (2115 Summit Ave., St. Paul, 55105). Other candidate events are posted at <http://www.lvwsp.org/events>.

MN WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE DAY

On Sunday, September 8, from 12:00 to 5:00 pm, LWVMN will host a celebration at the Minnesota State Capitol marking the 100th anniversary of Minnesota ratifying the 19th amendment, which expanded voting rights for women.

There will be commemorative programming in the Capitol Rotunda, marching bands and a parade, voter registration, food trucks, and family fun.

This event is free and open to the public. For additional information visit <https://www.lwvmm.org/league-calendar>.

LVW TOWN HALL: PEOPLE POWERED MAPS

LWV is inviting all members to participate in an online town hall on Wednesday, September 4, to launch the nationwide People Powered Fair Maps Campaign. The event will begin at 7:00 pm.

In June, the Supreme Court ruled that partisan gerrymandering is a political question because no fair test exists for courts to determine when partisan gerrymandering has gone too far. That means all federal courts will be hands-off, even when redistricting intentionally decreases the voting power of voters based on their political party.

Redistricting has long been a priority issue of the League and a signature part of our Campaign for Making Democracy Work. Members are encouraged to register for this League-wide event at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/9102504223989902859>. A recording of the town hall will be made available for members who are unable to attend on September 4.

LWVMN “FIRST NIGHT” 100TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

LWVMN will be hosting its 100th Anniversary Gala on Saturday, October 26, beginning at 5:00 pm at the historic Union Depot (240 E. Kellogg Blvd, St. Paul, 55101).

The “First Night” celebration will welcome in the first night of the Minnesota League’s second century while also commemorating its first hundred years. Carrie Chapman Catt was in Minnesota on the First Night of the First Century of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota, October 28-29 of 1919. This year’s event will include many women who have been “First” in their fields. The League will also be presenting its vision for the future.

This is literally a once in a century event. Tickets are required and will be available for purchase at <https://www.lwvmn.org/gala>.

