

Voter Newsletter

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Greetings Members,

Like many of you, LWVSP board members are angered by the horrific circumstances surrounding the death of George Floyd and countless other Black lives. As an organization, we are devoted to empowering voters and defending democracy, and we stand in solidarity with all Black communities. We realize that we must speak out and advocate for anti-racist policies at every opportunity. That is why after George Floyd was killed, we sent a letter to Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman urging transparency in the investigation and swift justice. Shortly after we sent that letter, we were happy to learn that the investigation was transferred to the office of MN Attorney General, Keith Ellison. We know we could do more and that anti-racist work will be ongoing, that is why we are asking you to fill out [this](#) short survey and tell us what you would like to see us working on this year. We look forward to hearing your feedback and ideas.

If you are like many of us, you might be wondering what action you can take right now. Here are a few things you can do:

The LWVMN also has an [Action Alert](#) related to the special legislative session. We encourage you to take action by contacting your legislators and support efforts to reshape policing and public safety.

If you are interested in learning more about anti-racism work, please consider reading Ibram X. Kendi's "How to be an Antiracist" and then sign up to join the LWVMN's Big Read book discussion on August 12th.

Consider purchasing "The Untold History of Women of Color" in the League of Women Voters, by League member, by Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins. This book was recently published and it explores the role of women of color in the League's history and moves their contributions to the center of our 100-year old history.

See [here](#) for a comprehensive list of diversity, equity and

inclusion (DEI) resources from the state office.

Heidi and Amy both attended the 2020 National Convention this year via Zoom. If you are curious about highlights please feel free to read the daily briefing notes on the LWV website. We have a new national President, Dr. Deborah Turner! You can learn more about her [here](#). At the Convention, she stressed that the intergenerational nature of League members is so important and that older and younger folks have much to offer each other and to our work. We couldn't agree with her more!

Annual membership renewals are coming up in August. As a reminder, if you joined after January 31st, 2020 you will not need to renew until next year. Look for that email coming out soon and please promptly renew. Our dues support both the National and State Leagues' work, and we depend on a small portion of these fees to run all of our programs that strengthen our democracy!

Amy Perna & Heidi Kloempken, Co-Presidents

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LWVSP PROGRAM UPDATE

ADJUSTING TO THE COVID-19 WORLD

In this time of a pandemic, how can the League of Women Voters St. Paul reach both our membership and the public with our educational programs? And do it SAFELY?!

These are the questions that the Program Committee is facing. While we are hopeful that we will be able to have events with in-person audiences/participants again, it simply is not a viable option at this time.

Our first attempt to present a virtual program was on June 30th. The program title was “Elections 2020: Protected or Infected?” and was a discussion on how the novel coronavirus impacted the legislative session and the effects that it will have on the two elections this year – the primary election on August 11 and the general election on November 3.

The program was hosted by SPNN and was broadcast live on their station as well as several other neighborhood networks. Additionally, the program could be viewed via Facebook stream. It is available for viewing on YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ssmcZxbRT_g. The link to view the event is also available on our website under “The Voter Blog.” <https://www.lwvsp.org>

We will continue to explore options for future programs, both content and format. Please bear with us as we find our way and learn how to navigate within this environment.

The Program Committee generally meets on the first Tuesday of the month. If you have any questions about the committee, please feel free to contact me.

Looking forward to “seeing” you soon!

Claudia Dieter, Program Committee Chair

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** continues to meet via Zoom on the second Wednesday of each month at 10am (with a break in July).

Over this summer, we are reading *How the South Won the Civil War: Oligarchy, Democracy and the Continuing Fight For the Soul of America*, by historian Heather Cox Richardson. This book will be discussed at our meeting on September 9th.

If you are interested in joining us September 9th please email **Mary Palmer**: mgp2167@gmail.com

The **LWVSP Evening Book Club** meets the first Monday of each month at 6:15 via Zoom

If you are interested in joining us please e-mail **Heidi**: heidi.kloempken@gmail.com

FUN THINGS

Watch: *The Vote: American Experience* <https://www.tpt.org/vote-american-experience/>

Save the Dates: Women’s Equality Day on August 26th!

National Voter Registration Day on September 22nd!

Find us on: **Twitter @LWVStPaul!**

www.facebook.com/LWVSP

VOTER SERVICE UPDATE

As you know, Minnesota has two elections this year, a primary on August 11th and the general on November 3rd. This year we are not publishing a Voter Guide, because the LWVMN has partnered with MPR to expand Vote411.org in Minnesota. All candidates who will appear in the primary were sent an invitation to update their profiles on Vote411. The site will be updated with general election candidates later this summer. Please check it out and share this wonderful resource!

You may also be aware of the recent litigation that LWV Minnesota is involved in regarding the witness requirement for absentee ballots. On June 17th, *League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund, et al. v. Simon* reached an agreement to suspend the state's witness requirement for absentee ballots in the August Primary. This agreement is for folks who are already registered. Those who are not yet registered will still need a witness signature. On August 3rd this rule was also extended to the November 3rd election.

Usually, this time of year we are asking for your help registering voters. Since we are unable to do this in person right now, I am asking for your help promoting the [Vote From Home Campaign](#) and Election Judge recruitment. Right now, the safest way to vote is to request an absentee ballot and vote from home. This will help take the pressure off of poll workers this August and November. We need to promote voting from home while also helping to ensure that all of our polling locations stay open by encouraging folks who are healthy and who feel comfortable doing so, sign up to become [Election Judges](#). It would be incredibly impactful if you could help us promote these two priorities online to your personal networks.

Get a League-branded lawn sign!! The LWVMN will be providing all members a free [lawn sign](#) to remind folks to vote from home. We will be holding a contact-free pick up in the future, stay tuned!

Voter Service has been busy making voting resource packs for high rise apartment buildings, public housing facilities and assisted living facilities. We are working to encourage candidates to update Vote411.org and look forward to our online candidate forums this fall. Please let me know if you would like to join our next **Voter Service meeting on August 11th at 7pm** by emailing Hayden at: hkilkenny@gmail.com.

YOUTH VOTE TEAM UPDATE

If you've turned 18 or will in the near future, and you're not yet registered to vote, or if you're confused about the registration process, these three videos from the League of Women Voters St. Paul (LWVSP) can help. They walk you through registering to vote online, requesting an absentee ballot, and registering to vote on paper.

[Online Voter Registration](#)

[Absentee Ballot Application](#)

[Paper Voter Registration](#)

These videos, posted on YouTube, are designed to be helpful to senior students and other adults who have never registered to vote before or wish to vote by mail. These short videos are especially helpful today given our current COVID-19 distant learning situation where most communications are digital. Also, the State of Minnesota and Ramsey County elections officials are promoting the vote by mail option as the safest means of early voting. Please feel free to promote these videos and circulate the links as you wish! The LWVSP Youth Vote Team works with high school students in St. Paul public schools to help them engage with their peers about voting and other forms of civic engagement such as Census response outreach. As always, the LWV remains strictly non-partisan in all of our outreach and education efforts; our goal is to increase democratic participation.

Dan Krivit, Youth Vote Team Chair

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

We need help publishing this newsletter, **The Voter**. If this sounds interesting, please consider contributing your time and talents to our work. To learn more, contact Co-President Amy Perna at pernal-wvstp@gmail.com.

2020 Member Drive

Thank you to all members who have already renewed their membership this LWVSP year (July 1 – June 30, 2021). Renewal letters will be going out in August, but you don't need to wait for that! 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 January 31, 2020:

Holly Augustinr	Mary Jackson	Donna Rockette
Ruth Erdmann	Marianne Ludwig	Christine Schnieders
Beverly Ferguson	Cindy Nelson	Anne Sexton
Annice Gregerson	Diane J. Peterson	Julie Tietz
Meggie Greivell	Kay Pope	Marion Wittenbreer
Amanda Humpage	Laurie Reed	



RIGHTFULLY HERS **AMERICAN WOMEN AND THE VOTE**

Most Americans consider the ability to vote fundamental to the enjoyment of full citizenship. American women, however, were long denied that right. In 1920, American democracy dramatically expanded when the newly ratified 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibited the states from denying the vote on the basis of sex.

This landmark voting rights victory was made possible by decades of suffragists' persistent political engagement, and yet it is just one critical milestone in women's battle for the vote. In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, *Rightfully Hers: American Women and the Vote*, a special traveling exhibit from the National Archives to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, highlights the relentless struggle of diverse activists throughout U.S. history to secure voting rights for all American women. Explore the history of the ratification of this historic amendment, women's voting rights before and after, and its impact today. The exhibit is presented in part by the women's Suffrage Centennial Commission and the National Archives Foundation through the generous support of Unilever, Pivotal Ventures, Carl M. Freeman Foundation in honor of Virginia Allan Freeman, AARP, and Denise Gwyn Ferguson.

The exhibit will be on display at Landmark Center beginning in August. Due to COVID-19, Landmark Center is only taking appointments for the public to visit, including groups of up to 10. You can schedule an appointment on Landmark Center's website (www.landmarkcenter.org) or by calling Sydney at 651-292-3063.