



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS
Duluth

Duluth Voter

February 2014

League of Women Voters *Duluth* • 32 East First Street, Duluth, MN 55802 • (218) 724-0132

SAVE THE DATE:

What: LWV Duluth Program for Action!
When: Saturday, February 8, 2014
Where: Tower 87, College of St. Scholastica
When: 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.



Description: It is time once again to review our League Program for Action! The Program Planning process is an important League tool for identifying issues for study, review and update, and/or concurrence. Please join us to review our current Program and identify additional issues that LWV Duluth would like to study.

This is your opportunity to balance the pros and cons, assess possible support, and consider the viability of issues concerning the League. This year we will consider topics of study for our National Policy Program to be voted on at convention this June in Dallas, TX. LWV Duluth's recommendations will be made to LWVUS by March 1, 2014.

Coffee and brunch-type refreshments will be provided. If you have a special treat you would like to share, bring it along.

For additional information please contact Chelsea Helmer at helmerchelsea@gmail.com or Zandy Zwiebel at zzwiebel@gmail.com.

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**Annual Legislative RoundTable Discussion
with the Duluth Delegation**

Date: Sunday, February 16, 2014
Time: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Where: The Munger Inn
7408 Grand Ave.

Reps. Huntley, Simonson, and Murphy confirmed
Senator Reinert confirmed

Iron Range delegation Senator Bakk, Reps. Dill, Metsa, Melin invited

Don't miss your chance to hear our legislators talk about issues that will be coming up in the 2014 session. This discussion gives members an opportunity to get acquainted with legislators and to learn their opinions on issues.

Refreshments will be served!

For more information, please contact Sally Munger, 728-07111

Our Mission

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Officers

President	Nancy Bratrud
Secretary	Jane Gilley
Treasurer	Zandy Zwiebel
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Editor	Julie Seidelmann

Calendar

February

- 2/6 LWV Duluth Board Meeting
- 2/8 Program Planning
- 2/8 Dinner for a Good Cause
- 2/13 "Boom, Bust, Boom" Discussion
- 2/16 Legislative Roundtable
- 2/18 PolyMet Discussion

March

- 3/6 LWV Duluth Board Meeting
- 3/13 LWV Book Club
- 3/13 Bus trip to legislature
- 3/15 Equali-TEA

PolyMet Mine Project Plan Briefing and Discussion
Tuesday, February 18 at 6:30 pm (note date change)
Chester Creek Cafe

Join the Natural Resources committee for dinner and an in-depth briefing and question and answer session on the PolyMet mine plan. We will be joined by Jane Reyer, a long time advocate for Lake Superior, who has worked extensively on mining, mercury, and Great Lakes issues. This will be a great opportunity for those interested in writing a letter to the DNR with comments on the mine plan to get informed. See also page 4 for article on PolyMet Public Comment Period. Contact Julie O'Leary, 724-6806, for more information

President's Letter

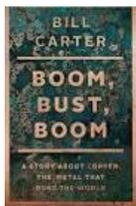
O.K. So it is winter in Duluth and it is a corker of a winter, even as winters in Duluth go. It is easy to lose hope on these dark, cold days. The 10:00 PM news is full of problems here and over there somewhere. When will change come? How can change come? And, not just with the weather. The weather is changing and that is not good! So what can change the change? It all gets so confusing. It just makes me tired to think about it all.

There is one thing. It seems to me that people are beginning to come together in their thinking. And in actions. We need each other these days. Did you notice the beautifully thoughtful, intelligent responses from our community to the threats to our precious fresh water resources. It was the time to speak up. Another good thing, there is a city wide movement to stop the trafficking of our young girls and boys. Kids are not the ones to be put into the correction system, instead they need help to recover from exploitation by adults that should be in jail. Doesn't that make sense? Did you hear that the City Council adopted

a Bill of Rights of the Homeless, the first in the state? They didn't have to do that. A lot of homeless people don't even vote! They don't have an address. The Council must have just done what they think is right. Health care for all is opening up, a bit clumsy, but it is here. That can help keep a family together and prevent years of suffering plus economic hardships and stress. That is a very good thing! CHUM, a Duluth organization of many faiths cooperating, offers help to better the lives of our people when things get tough. They are bringing love and hope to those for whom it has been all too scarce. This, in a world being torn apart by religious conflicts. A lady I met in the hall the other day just smiled and said, "Good morning," and I think she meant it! And it was a good morning after that simple, friendly greeting. Have I gone soft? Or, is Duluth one place where caring and hope are not frozen and iced over even in a hard winter. It helps to think about that right about now.

Nancy Bratrud

Book Discussion of "Boom, Bust, Boom"



Date: Feb. 13
Chester Creek Cafe, lower level
5:30 p.m. Dinner
6:15 p.m. Discussion

LWV Duluth's Natural Resources Committee recently co-sponsored a talk at UMD by Bill Carter, author of "Boom, Bust, Boom: A Story about Copper, the Metal that runs the World." In light of the proposed copper mining in Northeastern Minnesota, several Natural Resources Committee members thought it would be interesting to discuss this book. You do have to have read the book to attend the meeting. Contact Theresa O'Gara at 724-4821 for more information.

League of Women Voters



LWV Duluth
www.lwvduluth.org

LWVMN
www.lwvmn.org

LWVUS
www.lwv.org



Welcome New
LWV Duluth Member!

Barb Akre



Equali-TEA

*You won't want to miss the 6th annual Equal-TEA
at the beautiful Duluth Woman's Club
so please mark your calendars now for Saturday, March 15.*



Two options to register:

Call Sally Munger

218-728-0711 or online at lwvduluth.org

Registration is not considered complete until check is received.

Checks must be received by Wednesday, March 12.

Please mail checks to Sally Munger,

401 Snively Rd., Duluth, MN 55803

FFI call Sally @ [218 728-0711](tel:2187280711)

*Saturday March 15
Duluth Woman's Club
Seatings: 10:00 - 11:30a.m.
and 12:30 - 2:00p.m
Ticket price: \$25
Theme: Downton continued*

A delicious Tea will be served along with a special program, music and wonderful door prizes.

Hats will be available to enhance your fun.

Plan to get a table together and share the fun with friends and family.

FOOD in OUR Schools: LWV Duluth's Local Program Study



"You ARE what you EAT!" We have all heard the saying and today it appears more relevant than ever when it comes to the overall health of our population in the U.S. So...what control do we have over institutional food choices when it comes to our kids?

LWV Duluth is in the process of conducting a local study on *Food in our Schools*. Members and interested citizens are welcome to join in. We are researching the quality, quantity, and sources of food in ISD 709 cafeterias. We'll study access, preparation, distribution, and institutional limitations related to what our children eat.

If interested or to find more information, visit our LWV Duluth website. To complete our survey, click on the posted link, or from any server, go directly to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Q65DTK9>.

For questions or to join our e-mail list call / e-mail Chelsea Helmer at 341-4407 / helmerchelsea@gmail.com or Zandy Zwiebel at 341-6099 / zzwiebel@charter.net.



LWV Duluth "The Sisters" Book Club

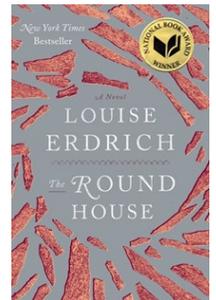
**Date: Thursday, March 13
5:30 p.m. Dinner
6:15 p.m. Discussion
Chester Creek Cafe, lower level**

Book: "The Round House"

Author: Louise Erdrich

Discussion leader: Gay Trachsel

"One Sunday in the spring of 1988, a woman living on a reservation in North Dakota is attacked. The details of the crime are slow to surface as Geraldine Coutts is traumatized and reluctant to relive or reveal what happened, either to the police or to her husband, Brazil, and thirteen-year-old son, Joe." Good Reads



FFI contact Sally Munger at 728-0711

Great Dinner for a Good Cause

East Indian Dinner catered by Koresh Lakhan, **Saturday, February 8**, Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 835 W. College. Seating limited. Reserve by calling Gail at 310-8678 or email at gail4duluth@gmail.com

Proceeds benefit PAVSA's Emergency Fund for Victims of Trafficking.

Save the date---enjoy great food, lively conversation and a chance to support a good cause.

PolyMet Public Comment Period Open through March 13

Duluth turned out for the first public hearing on the proposed PolyMet copper-nickel mine January 16, with an estimated 1,300 people attending the event at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center. About half of those who signed up to speak at the event had the opportunity to do so during the 3 hour hearing (including LWV Duluth members Gay Trachsel and Anita Gille). Comments were also accepted in writing and could be recorded with stenographers on-site for the evening. Citizens in attendance included a wide range of opinions on the project, but most of the oral comments were in opposition. Many citizens expressed concern about the water pollution that will result from the project, projected timeframe for water treatment (hundreds of years), cost of clean-up, and other impacts. Supporters cited the jobs that will be created and expressed support in the ability of state agencies and the mining company to implement the project. Two additional hearings in Aurora and St. Paul will have taken place by the end of January. Twenty six organizations, including LWV Duluth and LWV Minnesota have requested that the comment period be extended to allow the public sufficient time to read and digest the voluminous 2,200 page Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the project. At this time there is no indication of an extension. Comments on the PolyMet mine plan will be accepted until 4:30 PM on Thursday, March 13, 2014. Submit yours!

By e-mail:

NorthMetSDEIS.dnr@state.mn.us

Include your name and legal mailing address with your e-mailed comments

By regular mail:

Lisa Fay, EIS Project Manager
DNR Division of Ecological and Water Resources
Environmental Review Unit
500 Lafayette Road, Box 25
St. Paul, MN 55155-4025



The mine plan, a summary, and more information is available on line and at the Minnesota DNR website: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/environmentalreview/polymet/index.html>

Two copies of the document are also available in the reference section at the downtown branch of the Duluth Public Library and LWV Duluth also has one hard copy of the document - contact Julie O'Leary at joleary@charter.net or 724-6806 if you are interested in using it.

Submitted by Julie O'Leary

See page 2 for information about the rescheduled PolyMet Mine Project Plan Briefing and Discussion

ATTENTION: Duluth/St. Louis County Days at the Capitol

A free round trip to St. Paul, including a reception in the evening with legislators, will be leaving the DECC on Thursday, March 13, 2014 at 9:00 AM, returning about 11:00 PM that evening.

SPACE IS LIMITED. REGISTER NOW. Go to Duluth Chamber website to reserve your seat.

The LWVMN Action Committee will assist us in getting appointments with our legislators and give us directions to additional events we may wish to observe or participate in that day. Meeting and talking with our LWV lobbyists is always informative. Last year we were able to sit in on committee hearings, talk with the Lt. Governor in her office and network with other Duluth people who were advocating for their issues. It is a great learning experience!

If you want to stay overnight, there are blocks of rooms set aside for Duluthians at the Crowne Plaza and the St. Paul Hotels. Note that information on the Chamber website. Some of our members may be interested in joining the JRLC breakfast with legislators on Friday morning, as well.

Let's have a good showing of the LWV Duluth members at the legislature. There are several priority LWVMN issues coming up..voting issues, impartial judiciary, and campaign finance reform plus the bonding priorities for housing and infrastructure that are Duluth issues.

Questions? Contact Nancy Bratrud at 724-3465

LWVUS Agriculture Policy Update

LWV Duluth Members to Review Farm Policy Position in March, 2014

The LWV adopted an "Update" and a limited 2 year study to learn if our 1988 Statement of Position needed to be changed. For those of us who are not engaged in agriculture or what is now referred to as, "agribusiness", all this may seem somewhat removed from what we are interested in and that is simply buying groceries. But family nutrition and food safety are issues we all pay attention to 3 times a day.

The League has had a strong position on agriculture policy and some of that position will remain in place even with this new study. Additional positions may need to be added. Times have changed in food production and marketing. The update study will focus narrowly on:

1. current technology issues in agriculture including genetically modified organisms, herbicides, pesticides, ag water pollution, aquifer depletion, antibiotics in livestock and accurate food labeling
2. current agriculture finance issues including consolidation in agriculture industries, crop subsidies and the federal agricultural regulatory process

CURRENT LWVUS STATEMENT OF POSITION ON AGRICULTURE POLICY

The LWVUS believes that federal agriculture policies should promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers, farms that are economically viable, farm practices that are environmentally sound and increased reliance on the free market to determine prices.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE. Federal policy should encourage a system of sustainable, regenerative agricultural production that moves toward an environmentally sound agricultural sector. This includes promoting stewardship to preserve and protect the country's human and natural agricultural resources.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT. Agricultural research, development and technical assistance should continue to be a major federal function. Resources should be targeted to developing sustainable agricultural practices and addressing the needs of mid-size farms.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES. The LWVUS supports an increasing reliance on the free market to determine the price of agricultural commodities and the production decisions of farmers, in preference to traditional price support mechanisms.

AGRICULTURE AND TRADE. U.S. efforts should be directed toward expanding export markets for our agricultural products while minimizing negative effects on developing nations' economies. Consistent with the League's trade position, multilateral trade negotiations should be used to reduce other countries' barriers and /or subsidies protecting their agricultural products.

FARM CREDIT. Farmers should have access to credit with reasonable terms and conditions. Federally provided farm credit is essential to maintaining the viability of farm operations when the private sector is unable or unwilling to provide the credit farmers need.

Off these policies, the League believes the most essential for the future of agriculture are: encouraging sustainable agriculture, providing research, information and technical assistance to agricultural producers, and increasing reliance on the free market to determine prices.

Past LWV DULUTH president is member of study resource committee.....

A great deal of study material has been prepared for us by the national committee. One of those committee members is Marnie Lonsdale who was LWV Duluth president before moving to Oregon.

To get a start on the extensive study materials, go to **lwvus agriculture update, under member resources**. Select from a wide range of resources, videos and media to learn more about food policy today from many points of view.

Submitted by Nancy Bratrud

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Duluth, MN 55802

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JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS FOR 2013-2014

Your membership is essential to the ongoing work of the League. Renew your membership today or join as a new member and help keep our local League a vital voice in our community.

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

_____ \$100 Sustaining Membership to honor Susan B. Anthony, founder of National Suffrage Woman Association in 1869.

_____ \$25 Student Membership to honor Alice Paul, early 20th Century chief strategist of Suffrage Movement's militant wing.

_____ \$80 Household Membership to honor Elizabeth Cady Stanton who launched Suffrage Movement by organizing Seneca Falls Convention in 1848.

_____ \$10 Limited Income to honor Lucy Burns, co-founder of Congressional Union with Alice Paul.

_____ \$55 Individual Membership to honor Carrie Chapman Catt, founder League of Women Voters 1920.

_____ \$10-\$250 Additional Donation to honor Sojourner Truth, abolitionist, suffragist, author of "Ain't I a Woman" 1851.

Make checks payable to LWV Duluth and mail to:
League of Women Voters Duluth Membership 32 E. First St. Duluth, MN 55802