



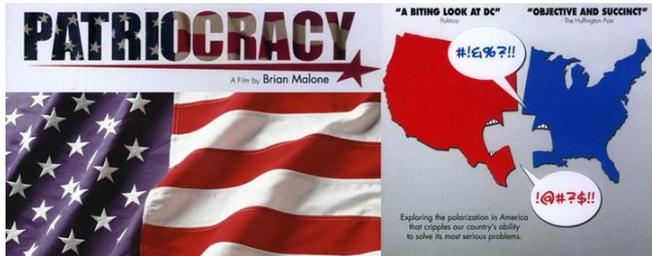
LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS
Duluth

Duluth Voter

October 2012

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

Come to a FREE showing of New Documentary
Patriocracy



Political dysfunction and polarization have brought American politics to historical lows. This election year has seen the poisonous rhetoric reach all-time highs. You are invited to a special screening of *Patriocracy*, a new documentary that drills down to the roots of political polarization and offers sound solutions to move beyond it and to restore civility and functionality to American democracy just when our country needs it most.

Open to the Public
Bring Family and Friends!
No cost to attend
Sponsored by
League of Women Voters Duluth

When: October 29, 2012
Film starts at 6:30 pm
Where: Teatro Zuccone
222 E. Superior St.

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House District 7B Candidate Forum

Tuesday, October 16
Morgan Park Good Fellowship Community Center
1242 88th Ave West
Forum to begin at 7:00pm.

Erik Simonson and Travis Silvers confirmed
Jay Fosle not confirmed as of Voter printing

Contact Gay Trachsel for more information: 728-5478

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

Co-Presidents	
Elizabeth Olson	
Gay Trachsel	
Secretary	Louise Eilert
Treasurer	Zandy Zwiebel
Editor	
Julie Seidelmann	

Calendar

October

- 10/4 LWV Board Meeting
- 10/11 LWV Book Club
- 10/15 New Member Meet and Greet
- 10/16 District 7B Forum
- 10/29 Patriocracy Film

November

- 11/6 Election
- 11/12 Impartial Judiciary Event
- 11/18 Phonathon

Annual Phonathon

When: Sunday, November 18, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Where: Miller Dwan Conference Rooms 2 & 3

What: Make telephone calls to LWV members here and around the state soliciting contributions to the Education Fund. LWV Duluth receives “hard money” for number of calls made. We also receive Education Fund credits depending on how many contributions are received as a result of the calls.

**Fun, easy work with friends!! Refreshments provided.
Please call Rosemary Guttormsson to volunteer. 218-390-8426**

Presidents’ Column

A few years ago I was part of a running group whose motto was “all it takes is all you’ve got”. In the throes of the busiest time for LWV Duluth this phrase has been ringing in my ears. Many League members are giving all they’ve got to ensure candidate forums happen, voters get registered, we kick-off the year with style and Minnesota defeats the voter restriction amendment. There has been a surge of new members willing to work hard to further the mission of the League. Looking back over the last month I am amazed by all that happens by a volunteer run organization.

Yet, this shouldn’t come as a surprise. Members step-up and lead because they believe in the mission of the league. We have something to offer our community that no one else does. This became evident when the County Commissioner Forum was cancelled. Members responded with disappointment not at our need to cancel, but because the League provides the only forums that are civil

and truly non-partisan. We are a voice unlike any other. We are trusted. We lead with integrity.

It is this same solid reputation and trusted standing in our community that makes it imperative for us to lead efforts to defeat the voter restriction amendment. We are a voice that is heard on matters of voting. It is no wonder that on both a national and state level the League has been at the forefront of this issue. We too need to be a strong voice in opposition. Get educated on the harms of the voter restriction amendment. Tell your family, tell your friends, tell your neighbors to vote NO on November 6th. Get involved with the local efforts to defeat the amendment, such as being a speaker on this issue for our League.

All it takes is all you’ve got. Our League and its members have a lot. Let’s give it all we have between now and November. Our democracy depends on it.

Submitted by Liz Olson

WHAT IS THE BEST SYSTEM FOR SELECTING JUDGES?

Could the influence of money corrupt Minnesota's judicial integrity?

Save Monday, November 12, 7:00 PM
Copper Top Church, East Lounge
230 East Skyline Parkway

LWV Duluth with CHUM, and MN Citizens for an Impartial Judiciary will facilitate a thoughtful discussion of this issue and the position the LWVMN adopted in 1998. Be prepared to understand what will be coming up in the next legislative session!

Watch for more in the November Voter.



Duluth LWV co-sponsors press conference and community gathering to discuss the local implications of the proposed voter restriction amendment.

LWV DULUTH MEMBERSHIP NEWS

**MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL UPDATE**

Thank you to all of our members who so promptly returned their membership renewals during September. We value and appreciate your continued support of League through your membership dues.

If you haven't renewed your membership for 2012-13, it's not too late. Please return the membership form on the back of this newsletter along with your check to: Mary Dragich, 1612 E. Skyline Pkwy. Duluth, MN 55805.

Thank you to all.
Your membership makes all that we do possible.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
Meet 'n' Greet for New Members**

October 15, 2012, 5:00-6:15 PM, new League members are invited to gather for wine and appetizers at the LWV Duluth Office, Building for Women, 32 E. First St. (lower level).

Meet and get acquainted with other new LWV members and find out how you can get the most out of your membership in the coming year.

RSVP Gail at 525-0529 or gail4duluth@gmail.com

**"Why I Am a Member of the League"
My League Story: Sarah Fries**

I believe that most people want to do good and generally care about the well being of others; however I also believe that the average person does not always find a venue for voicing her/his opinions and feels frustrated by the political system. As a person who is passionate about rights and equality for all, I was motivated to join the League of Women Voters in order to meet and work with others towards engaging the "average person" in politics, find new ways to reach out to the community and show people that their vote counts and they can make a difference.

**Welcome New
LWV Duluth Members!**



Cheryl Larson
Anita Stech
Elena Bantle
Julie McDonnell
Deb Isabell Nelson

**LWV Duluth Book Club
"The Sisters"**



**Due to the Voter ID event on September 27,
Book Club was changed to:**

Thursday, October 11

Place: Chester Creek Café, lower level

Time: 5:30p.m. - Dinner

6:15 p.m. - Book discussion

Regular meeting date second Thursday of the month.

**Book: "City of Thieves"
By David Benioff**

We welcome and encourage new members! For more information, please call Sally Munger 728-0711



**Tune in
Every other Wednesday
at 8:30 am.**

League of Women Voters Duluth will be on air every other Wednesday for short interviews to promote issues and events!

If you have any topic ideas or questions, contact:

Rosie Loeffler-Kemp @ 218-341-3014/
rosielkemp@gmail.com

League of Women Voters Web Sites



LWV Duluth
www.lwvduluth.org

LWVMN
www.lwvmn.org

LWVUS
www.lwv.org

Harvest Festival September 8, 2012



Though it was a cool and rainy day, League volunteers Gail Schoenfelder, Jane Gilley, Rosemary Guttormsson and Sally Munger had many good conversations with folks who stopped by the LWV Duluth table to discuss Voter ID. Many people were eager to take a "Vote NO" sticker and the Voter ID informational postcards. Also, several asked about where they could get "Vote NO" lawn signs (Labor Temple 2002 London Rd. cost \$10) In addition, six people registered to vote. To avoid any Florida like problems, the voter registration forms were taken to the County Auditor's office promptly on Tuesday morning.

Submitted by Sally Munger

Pride Parade

After receiving a request from Emily Larson, a City Counselor and League member, to participate in the Pride Parade, several League members, our banner, various signs and good walking shoes met in Superior to ask voters to vote NO on the Photo ID Amendment.

We were greeted with many cheers and thumbs up. This was another opportunity to raise our awareness and prove we are not just a group of "old gray-haired women stuck in the last century." (Why does gray hair equal old, out of touch? It should equal wise, experienced and alternative)

Thanks to Emily for inviting us and taking the lead on this endeavor.

Submitted by Gay Traschel

League of Women Voters Duluth Kick-Off

Harbor City International School hosted the official start of the LWV Duluth's "working" year. We had our Kick-Off meeting. When we sat down to plan this event, Maria Isley said, "This should be a free event for all current members and our guests." So, we did just that. We wanted it to be fun and informative. We planned to have food, wine and conversation. Em Westerlund came up with a fun game of matching cards with famous women to get people to mix and talk to people they didn't know. If you followed directions, you could also win a prize. Of course, as typical League of Women Voters, some members don't like to follow directions! However, the prizes were all claimed and there was a lot of mixing and talking.

The school was transformed by Maria's creativity. She prepared all of the food and the presentation rivaled any professional caterer around. It was simple but elegant. We thank her for her generosity for this great evening. Wine was provided by the Board.

Committee chairs interacted with members inviting them to be a part of their activities for the year. If some of you didn't get a chance to sign up for a committee, contact the following:

Joyce Benson—International Relations 727-2026
Sally Munger—Book Club 728-0711
Julie OLeary—Natural Resources 724-6806
Gail Schoenfelder—Membership 525-0529
Rosie Loeffler-Kemp—Education, Citizens in Action-525-6878
Zandy Zwiebel—Program—728-9411
Anita Gille—Voter Services—428-7232

Thanks to all who made this special and thanks to all who came.

KEEP PARTICIPATING!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

All of this was to be followed with a forum with the County Commissioners and their opponents. It had to be cancelled due to a scheduling conflict. This was frustrating but we were able to go with "Plan B" more time to eat, drink and talk.



Program Process on the State Level – Next Phase is Starting Soon!

LWVMN will soon be embarking upon another topics-of-interest-gathering process for the remainder of our 2011-2013 program biennium. The time for LWV Duluth members to start considering new issues, or updates to current policy is now. Members can start by reviewing the state platform of positions listed in LWVMN's Program for Action (available for download from the LWVMN website). If you find a policy that needs updating, strengthening, or clearly seems to be missing, why not suggest it for a study? Or for topics on which we clearly have a position, but a timely and/or pertinent legislative bill, policy decision (e.g.: the Supreme Court Citizens United Decision of 2010), or circumstantial matter (e.g.: The MN Senate Election Re-count of 2008); a briefing paper may be the appropriate approach.

At the end of October our Local LWV Presidents will be receiving a mailing from the LWVMN Program Committee which will include preliminary program information and ideas being shared by other MN state leagues. In November the LWVMN Program Committee plans to host a training session for all LWV members interested in learning more about Program; the process, the terms of use, and how consensus building is implemented. Members who are interested in attending or learning more about LWV Program should contact Duluth's Program Chair – Zandy Zwiebel at Zwie0029@d.umn.edu.

Submitted by Zandy Zwiebel

LWV Duluth Tours Race Exhibit

A group of 18 League members gathered at the Depot to tour the traveling exhibit "Race: Are We So Different?" brought to Duluth by the efforts of the Clayton Jackson McGhee Memorial, Inc. and the Children's Museum. The League is a partner in the UnFair Campaign and arranged the tour as a unique and important educational experience for members. The Science Museum of Minnesota worked with the American Anthropological Association to develop and produce the exhibit which looks through the eyes of history, science and lived experience to explore the reality - and unreality - of race in America. In a variety of ways, information was presented on how human biological variation differs from race, when and why the idea of race was invented, and how race and racism affect everyday life, including the impacts on health, wealth and education. After exploring the exhibit, while enjoying some pizza, we shared ideas on how LWV-Duluth can engage in personal outreach within our own community to be a welcoming organization, as well as looking for opportunities to reform structural racism in our country's laws and institutions. If you were unable to join us for the tour, the project also supports a website at www.understandingRACE.org. You can also learn more about racism and how to "See It, Know It, Stop It" on the UnFair Campaign's website at www.unfaircampaign.org

Submitted by Jane Gilley

St Louis County Commissioner Candidate Forum Cancelled

LWV Duluth planned to sponsor a County Commissioner forum on September 6th, at the Harbor City International School, after the Kick-Off meeting. It was designed to bring all our members together to have fun and be educated on the views of the candidates.

The candidates were confirmed in July, due to the great work of Laura Birnbaum-Singler and the venue was set. On August 29th, a letter was received from Commissioner Dahlberg stating "St. Louis County will be holding an important public hearing that evening (Sept 6) at Clyde Iron on the Haines Road Project. I have been pushing to get this meeting for some time. I hope you understand that when faced with this conflict, I had to choose my current responsibility as a Commissioner over candidate."

At that point, we were going to proceed with the other candidates, however, we decided we better contact the other Commissioners to determine if they were going to attend the Haines Road Project Public Meeting. This project does involve the constituency of both Commissioner Dahlberg and Commissioner Sweeney and the candidates running against them, Debbie Isabell-Nelson and Pete Stauber. Changing the date of the public meeting on the Haines Road Project was attempted but the notices to the public and the media had already been sent out. To better serve the people of the project, it was determined they all should be free to attend. The League then cancelled the forum.

All candidates were informed of our decision and of our frustration .

Submitted by Gay Trachsel

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS *Duluth*

32 East First Street
Duluth, MN 55802

Return Service Requested

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ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 109
DULUTH, MN 55806

JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS FOR 2012-2013

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.

_____ \$75 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.

_____ \$50 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:
Mary Dragich, 1612 Skyline Parkway, Duluth, MN 55805.