



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS
Duluth

Duluth Voter

September 2015

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



**You're
Invited!**

**It's time for the
League of Women Voters Duluth
Fall Kickoff**

The evening of Thursday, September 17

**Hors d'oeuvres and Cash bar
6:00 - 8:00 pm**

Come and connect with old friends, meet new ones, and enjoy some delicious treats. Learn about the activities of the League of Women Voters Duluth. Staffed information tables will be available to share what is happening and how you might become involved.

BE THERE: The Underground Depot, 506 W. Michigan St.
(Free parking in the ramp between 4th and 5th Avenue)

For more information contact:
Chelsea Helmer helmerchelsea@gmail.com or
Rachel Loeffler-Kemp loefra01@luther.edu

In this issue:

Calendar	2
Presidents' Letter	2
Membership Renewal	2
Voter Registration	3
Observers Report	3
LWV Duluth Book Club	4
What's Happening	4
Why I am a Member	4
New Members	4
LWV Members and Political Involvement	5
Bottled Water	5

Voter Service



Fall 2015 will be a busy time for the Voter Service Committee. We anticipate a lively election season with new and familiar faces in races for city council, mayor, and ISD709 school board.

There are so many ways to be a part of this noble effort, which is not only mighty interesting, but it can be pretty fun, to boot. We need you! Please consider becoming a member of the Voter Service Committee and share a bit of your time to register voters or assist at a candidate forum. No experience required...just a fair and open mind!

We will hold a planning meeting in early September to get the ball rolling and hope to see you there.

Please contact Susie Darley-Hill at susiedarleyhill@gmail.com to add your name to the Voters Service contact list. Provide your email address and the best phone number at which to reach you and you will be notified of our first gathering by late August.

See page 3 for more information on Voter Service and Voter Registration.

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

Presidents	Mary Streufert Ilsa Hoeschen
Secretary	Chelsea Helmer
Co-Treasurers	Jane Gilley Nancy Palmer
Editor	Julie Seidelmann

Calendar

September

9/4	New Citizens' Ceremony
9/15	Primary Election in Duluth
9/17	LWV Duluth Kickoff 6:00 - 8:00 pm
9/22	National Voter Registration Day
9/24	LWV Duluth Book Club
TBA	Voter Service Meeting
9/30	Membership Renewals due

Attention All Members:

Your current membership expires on August 31. **Please renew by September 30**, using either the form that was sent to you in the mail or the one on the back of this Voter and mail it along with your check made out to LWV Duluth to: Nancy Palmer, 444 Hartley Pl, Duluth 55804. This year, a portion of your membership dues (that which goes to the local and state leagues) will be tax deductible! In January all members will receive an e-mail (or letter for those who do not get email) for their tax records stating how much can be deducted.

**Your membership makes all that we do possible.
Thank you!!!**

Presidents' Letter

Dear Members,

We have been very busy since we were elected your co-presidents at the annual meeting last May. Things got real busy right away when LWV Duluth hosted the statewide convention of the LWV Minnesota June 12 to 14. Over 100 League members from all over Minnesota gathered for 3 days of networking, education, and business. National LWV President, Elizabeth MacNamara, was one of the featured speakers. A dozen local members attended and others helped out. We also hosted out of town League members at 7 Duluth restaurants on Friday evening. We would like to publically extend a great big thank you to all the LWV Duluth members, especially immediate past president, Zandy Zwiebel, for all your hard work to make this convention a big success.

On June 29 the LWV Duluth Board of Directors held our first meeting of the 2015 – 2016 business year. We spent some time getting to know each other better before we got down to business. One topic that was discussed involved League members' involvement in political campaigns. Since some members are currently running for elected office, it was a timely topic. Please check out a separate article in this Voter (page 5) that summarizes our policies.

Summer is often a time when schedules relax and we enjoy the lovely weather. While that is true, many League members have been very busy registering voters at a number of summer events. We have expanded to some new areas and will consider other opportunities for next summer. Thanks to Jodi Broadwell and her Voter Service volunteers for a job well done.

As we write this we are busy preparing for the August 20 board meeting where we will be making plans for the fall. First on the calendar is our annual Kick-off on Thursday, September 17 at the Underground in the Depot. Chelsea Helmer and Rachel Loeffler-Kemp are planning some unique ways to find out about the activities of LWV Duluth. Look for the invitation in this Voter and watch for more details as the date draws near.

It has been a very busy 3 months for us as we learn about all the ins and outs of League operations. One thing we know for sure is that our members are really great at taking charge of activities and getting things done. We look forward to another successful year working together.

LWV Duluth Co-Presidents,
Mary Streufert and Ilsa Hoeschen

League of Women Voters Web Sites



LWV Duluth
www.lwvduluth.org

LWVMN
www.lwvmn.org

LWVUS
www.lwv.org

Diversity

League of Women Voters affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of Minnesota in its membership and strives to overcome barriers of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disabilities in the activities of the organization.



Voter Registration

The Voter Service Committee has been busy registering voters this summer at the following events: Juneteenth, Music in Lincoln Park, Far West Days, Lincoln Park Meet on the Street, National Night Out CHUM, National Night Out Lincoln Park/Miller Creek, and Hillfest. Over 30 voters were registered at these events. Many thanks to the following volunteers: Annie Kennedy, Susie Darley-Hill, Jodi Broadwell, Judy Bailey, Andrea Gelb, Bernadette Savage, Kathy Baerg, Peg Mold, Mary Adams, Gay Trachsel, Myrna Matheson, and Wendy Champness.

Left - Annie Kennedy registering voters at Juneteenth.

We have a busy fall as well registering voters at the following happenings:

September 4	New Citizens' Naturalization Ceremony
September 12	Duluth Harvest Festival at Bayfront Park
September 19	Chester Bowl Fall Festival
September 22	National Voter Registration Day (location to be determined)



If you are interested in volunteering for any of these events, please contact Ellen Wiss at mewiss62@gmail.com or 218-724-4535. Watch for more details in your E-News or on the website.

We have adopted Harbor City International School and Denfeld for voter registration/education leading up to National Voter Registration Day on September 22nd. If members are interested in helping out with this project, they can contact Jodi Broadwell at jodibroadwell@gmail.com

***Please remember that the Primary Election in Duluth is Tuesday, September 15**

LWV Duluth Observers' Report

The Duluth School Board will elect three new members to the Board in the upcoming fall elections. Incumbents Judy Seligo-Punyko (District 2), Mike Miernicke (At Large), and Bill Westholm (District 3) will not seek reelection. The observer reports that, "Someone needs to put all board members into a room and lock the door, until a few issues are settled." Civility has become an issue. The Board will need to focus on success and equality for all students.

Sharla Gardner (3rd Council District), Linda Krug (Councilor at Large), Jennifer Julsrud (1st Council District), and Emily Larson (Councilor at Large) will not seek reelection. Jay Fosle will seek reelection to his 5th District Council seat. Emily Larson and Howie Hanson are candidates for city mayor. The future of the Duluth Zoo, Duluth Library, and Spirit Mountain are issues still to be considered. All members of the City Council have been respectful and meetings are conducted efficiently.

The Human Rights Commission has focused on writing a Homeless Bill of Rights. They will present their statement to the City Council. Racial equality in the schools needs to be addressed. Jim Crow was recommended as a read for students and adults.

The St. Louis County Board is currently involved in a pilot program with the City of Duluth. It is referred to as the Homeless Pilot Program. The goal is to reduce homelessness, particularly by reducing the number of evictions.

The observers will provide the upcoming candidate forums with information and inquiries. Observers are still needed for many of the city commissions.

Mary Jane Peterson mjpete62@charter.net

What's Happening

There are many ways to find out “What’s Happening” with LWV Duluth

You can read your **Voter newsletter**. You can receive a hard copy through the mail or you can choose to read your newsletter online. The online version (in living color) is posted on our website lwv.duluth.org. If you choose to read your newsletter online, you will get an email when it is posted on our website. If you would like to read your newsletter online rather than receive a hard copy in the mail and you have not already shared that choice with us, please contact Julie Seidelmann at jtseid@gmail.com or 724-3031.

You can read your **E-News email** that is sent out periodically with important information about LWV Duluth and upcoming events. It is sent out to all members who have provided an email address to us. If you are not receiving this E-News email or if you are having any trouble with the email, please let us know.

You can visit our **website at lwv.duluth.org**.

You can attend a LWV Duluth event and visit with other LWV members.

We would like to thank Anita Gille for all her work as chair of the Public Relations Committee. We would also like to thank her for the hours of training that she gave to us. We have taken over as co-chairs and will do our very best to continue the great communication that Anita has provided to LWV Duluth.

Please contact our Public Relations Co-Chairs if you have any questions.

Gwen Thorson 624-4756 gonthorson@aol.com
Julie Seidelmann 724-3031 jtseid@gmail.com

Why I am a Member of LWV By Triss Harwood

When we moved to Duluth in 1975, one of the first things I did was join the League of Women Voters. I knew that it would be a great way to get to know the city and some smart and interesting people. In the 70's and 80's we studied like mad in small groups called “units”. The unit I joined was made up mostly of young moms, because it provided a babysitter and an hour or so of adult conversation. You were sometimes frowned upon if you had not read the materials before discussion! I learned so much about everything from social issues to nuclear proliferation. Many of the people from that unit are still close friends.

I was involved at every level of our local League and given many opportunities to participate and lead. I am so proud to be part of an organization that I always “get more out of than I put into.” I am proud that we encourage people to be informed voters. I am proud of the way we look at issues from all sides. This gives us much credibility when we advocate for our positions on those issues. It is what makes the League of Women Voters such a highly respected organization.

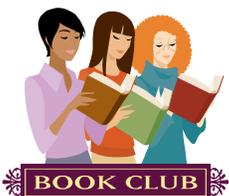
Welcome New LWV Duluth Members!



Kathryn Lenz
Karen Dingle
Gene Kremer
Carrie Umpierre

Andrea Gelb
Carmen Wendland
Marcia Ward
Catherine Scott

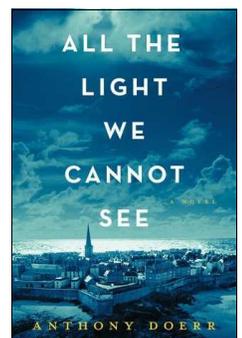
Daniel Lew
Amber Madoll
Tom Griffin



LWV Duluth “The Sisters” Book Club

Book: “All the Light We Cannot See”
A novel about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide during WWII

Author: Anthony Doerr
Discussion Leader: Gay Trachsel
FFI contact Gay Trachsel 728-5478



Thursday, September 24
(changed to 4th Thursday)
5:30 - Dinner 6:15 p.m. - Discussion
Chester Creek Café Lower Level

LWV Duluth Members and Involvement in Political Campaigns



Fall is fast approaching and that means that elections are not far behind. Questions about League members' involvement with various campaigns have come up. I hope this article will help make it clear as to what our policy is concerning members involvement in politics.

LWV promotes political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League's nonpartisanship is the basis of our public credibility and must be carefully maintained. As a group, we do not support or oppose any political party or candidate. The League does take positions on issues after member study and agreement.

LWV believes that participation in the activities of the political parties is an essential ingredient of citizen responsibility. While LWV encourages its members to be politically active and fully informed about candidates and issues, certain constraints are necessary to maintain the nonpartisanship of the organization.

Restrictions on LWV Board Members:

To avoid possible perception of partisanship, high visibility positions have the responsibility of maintaining the nonpartisanship of the organization and need to refrain from political activity or active partisan support during their term of office.

These positions include: President(s); Voter Service Chair(s); Public Relations Chair(s); Action Chair(s); Moderators for forums, and other Board members who have been authorized by the full Board to act as a spokesperson by LWV Duluth.

Board members may run for and serve nonpartisan elective offices such as City Council, School Board, County Commissioner and County Attorney. During the campaign the Board member is asked to take a leave from the LWV Board of Directors, but may come back after the election. Board members running for and elected to a partisan position must resign from the LWV Board of Directors.

Political activities of spouses and other family members of LWV Board members are viewed as distinctly separate.

Lawn Signs:

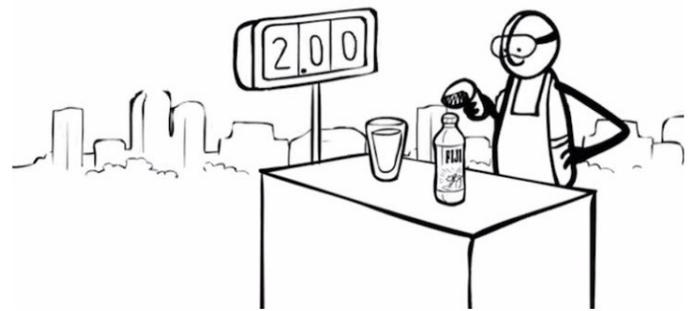
The President(s), chairs of Voter Service, Public Relations, and action committees may post only LWV vote signs. **Members** may have in their yard- either a LWV lawn sign promoting voting OR a partisan sign promoting a candidate. Members May NOT have both a LWV lawn sign AND a partisan sign promoting a candidate

The complete policy can be found on the [LWV Duluth web site](http://www.lwvduluth.org/nonpartisan-policy.html) at <http://www.lwvduluth.org/nonpartisan-policy.html>.

If you have any questions concerning this policy, please bring it to the LWV Duluth Board.

Submitted by Mary Struefert

1. Bottled water is more expensive than tap water (and not just a little).



A Business Insider column noted that two-thirds of the bottled water sold in the United States is in individual 16.9 ounce bottles, which comes out to roughly \$7.50 per gallon. That's about **2,000 times higher than the cost of a gallon of tap water.**

And in an article in 20 Something Finance, G. E. Miller investigated the cost of bottled versus tap water for himself. He found that **he could fill 4,787 20- ounce bottles with tap water for only \$2.10!**

So if he paid \$1 for a bottled water, he'd be paying 2, 279 time the cost of tap.

Submitted by Gay Trachsel

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS *Duluth*
32 East First Street
Duluth, MN 55802

Return Service Requested

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

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR SEPTEMBER 1, 2015-AUGUST 31, 2016

Date: _____

Name: _____ e-mail: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____ 2nd Address: _____

Household Member: _____ Cell Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

I would like to receive the monthly newsletter, **Voter**, by email rather than by mail: yes no

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

_____ \$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 in 1848.

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

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

_____ Additional Donation to honor Sojourner Truth, suffragist
and author of "Ain't I a Woman?" in 1851.

**Make check payable to LWV Duluth & mail to:
Nancy Palmer, 444 Hartley Pl., Duluth, MN 55803**