



Voter

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January Calendar

January 2, 2014 7 pm

* LWV SLP Board Meeting at Judy’s home

January 9, 2014 – 12:30 pm

* Unit 2 Meeting

Topic: Lively Issues - LWV position review

Location: ParkShore Senior Center Card Room

January 16, 2014 7 pm

* Unit 3 Meeting

Topic: Lively Issues – LWV position review

Location: Deb’s Home

(Call 612- 803- 6142 for directions)

January 18, 2014 9:30 am

CMAL Topic: To be determined

January 25, 2014 9:30 am

* West Metro Area Leagues

Topic: How a law is implemented in Minnesota

Location: St. Louis Park City Hall

Upcoming Events

*** February 14 – 94th Anniversary of League of Women Voters**

February 6, 2014 7 pm

* LWV SLP Board Meeting at Barb’s home

February 12, 2014 – 12:30 pm

* Unit 2 Meeting

Topic Impact of Crime in St. Louis Park

Location: ParkShore Senior Center Card Room

February 15, 2014 – 11 am

* Legislative Interviews with District 46 legislators



In 46 B.C., the emperor Julius Caesar introduced the Julian calendar, and instituted January 1 as the first day of the year, to honor Janus, the Roman god of beginnings, whose two faces allowed him to look back into the past and forward into the future.

Romans celebrated by offering sacrifices to Janus, exchanging gifts, decorating their homes with laurel branches and attending raucous parties. In medieval Europe, Christian leaders temporarily replaced January 1 as the first of the year with days carrying more religious significance. Pope Gregory XIII reestablished January 1 as New Year’s Day in 1582.

President's Message January 2014

I hope the holidays enabled you to recharge your Energizer Batteries for our 2014 year. I know that my energy level is increasing daily, especially when we get these wonderfully warm and sunny winter days. I hope you get a chance to enjoy the sun – whether you get out to run some errands or sit in the sunbeam and read a good book.

It's time to label December as our fund raising month to help us focus our efforts and appreciate our success. The board participated in a couple of fund raising events in December. We wrapped gifts at Barnes and Nobel and Eilseen hosted a phonathon. In addition to the raising money for the scholarship fund and our operating costs, we strengthen our camaraderie knowing we are all working for the same values and the same goals.

In January, the unit meeting topic will be Lively Issues. Please bring a copy to your unit meeting, and West Metro is hosting a meeting at SLP City Hall about how a law is implemented in Minnesota. It will be a great topic. I hope you will be able to attend.

As we reflect on 2013, we registered a lot of voters, held many engaging conversations with our members and local leaders, stayed in the public eye through consistently publishing newspaper articles and even a magazine article. There is no challenge to keeping busy. In 2014 we will have opportunities to support initiatives that Beth Fraser reviewed, such as online voter registration. Elisabeth McNamara reminds us, "Making Democracy Work is more than just a tag line, for our wonderful volunteers, it is a way of life."

Cheers to a wonderful life.

Deb Brinkman, President
LWV SLP

Highlights from the December 2013 LWV SLP Board Meeting:

- *Reviewed the success of the Phonathon
- *Suzanne, our MLD coach suggested we reach out to newly retired women to join the league or host a community education class
- *Reviewed plans for the December unit meetings – confirmed that the Unit 3 meeting will be cancelled – we are too busy with fund raising events
- *The topic for January Unit meetings will be Lively Issues. We will be doing National and Local. Program responses need to be submitted by March 1.
- *West Metro meeting scheduled for January 25 and will be hosted at the St. Louis Park City Hall.



Worth Noting

Fundraising for LWVSLP Dollars for Scholars Scholarship



Pictured: Aggie Leitheiser, Barb Person, Eilseen Knisely, Deb Brinkman

Phonathon: On December 3, LWV SLP members called friends of the League to ask for their support for LWV activities. This annual event raises money for the state and local LWVs are given a portion of the funds for their assistance.

Gift-wrapping: On December 15th and 19th LWV members Deb Brinkman, Judy Cook, Barb Person, Aggie Leitheiser, Eilseen Knisely, and Dorothy Karlson wrapped books for donations. Dorothy Karlson coordinates this annual event which both raises funds and gives us a chance to talk to shoppers about the work of the LWV.



Barnes & Noble Booksellers in Minnetonka support local groups by allowing gift-wrap services for donations. Here Aggie Leitheiser helps wrap books for a customer.

Important Links

<http://www.lwvmn.org/page.aspx>

League of Women Voters Minnesota

<http://www.lwv.org/>

League of Women Voters United States

<http://www.lwvslp.org>

League of Women Voters St. Louis Park

NEW LWV Minnesota

Publication: "How Minnesota's Campaign Finance Laws Limit Transparency"

Author Sherri Knuth is the Policy and Outreach Manager for LWV Minnesota. Sherri holds a Masters degree in Public Affairs from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota and a law degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

<http://www.lwvmn.org/document.doc?id=774>

Children First Asset #12

School Boundaries: School provides clear rules and consequences.

Did you know 44% of St. Louis Park young people say their school provides clear rules and consequences? Explicit school boundaries show what is needed in order to have respectful relationships conducive to a positive environment. If rules are not consistency enforced, students won't think they are a priority.

January Unit Meetings to Focus on Program Issue Review

Unit 2 January meeting

January 9, 2013 – 12:30 pm

Location: ParkShore Card Room

Unit 3 January meeting

January 16, 2013 7:00 pm

Topic: Lively Issues – LWV position review

Location: Deb's Home

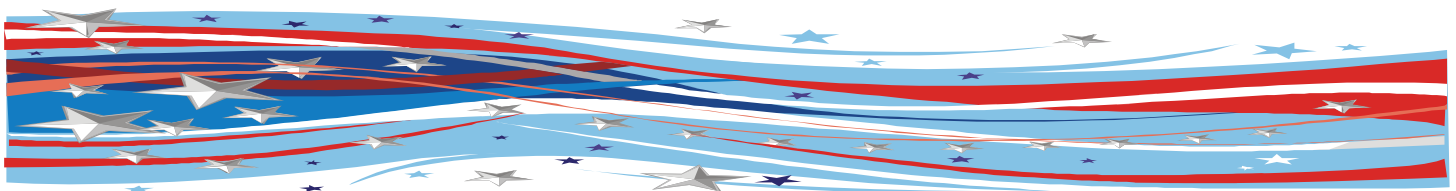
(Call 612- 803- 6142 for directions)

Every two years state and local LWVs participate in the LWVUS Program Planning process by making recommendations concerning program issues - this is one of the ways we remain a grassroots organization.

The Program Planning process is an important LWV tool for identifying issues for study, review and update, and/or concurrence. It gives members and LWVs the opportunity to balance the pros and cons, assess possible support, and consider the viability of issues. During the process, members have the opportunity - especially with email and forums - to organize support based on factual materials before the Program Planning reporting deadline of March 1, 2014.

LWV SLP will also review local positions and policy statements to identify issues needing updating, those that should be eliminated or new ideas requiring study. This is a foundation of our grass-roots and consensus approach to a unified approach to taking positions or understanding and advocating for local, state and national issues. See page 5 through 7 for the national positions and pages 8 through 10 for local positions that will be reviewed this year.

If you are not able to attend one of the discussion sessions and have input to offer on the position, please contact President Deb Brinkman at 612- 803- 6142 so your concerns can be included.



SUMMARY OF PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS

League of Women Voters® of the United States

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.

Voting Rights

Citizen's Right to Vote. Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.

DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation.

Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and full voting representation in both houses of Congress.

Election Process

Apportionment. Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.

Campaign Finance. Improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process.

Selection of the President. Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct-popular-vote. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates.

Citizen Rights

Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation. Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision-making.

Individual Liberties. Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

Public Policy on Reproductive Choices. Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

Congress and the Presidency

Congress. Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision making capability and effective performance.

The Presidency. Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

Privatization Ensure transparency, accountability, positive community impact and preservation of the common good when considering the transfer of governmental services, assets and/or functions to the private sector.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations.

United Nations Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic and humanitarian needs of all people.

Trade Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers, expand international trade and advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental and social goals.

U.S. Relations with Developing Countries.

Promote U.S. policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.

Arms Control Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

Military Policy and Defense Spending Work to limit reliance on military force. Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

Natural Resources Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems.

Resource Management Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.

Environmental Protection and Pollution Control Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

Air Quality. Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources.

Energy. Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources. Land Use. Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship.

Water Resources. Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water.

Waste Management. Promote policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes.

Nuclear Issues. Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment.

Public Participation

Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.

Agriculture Policy

Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.

SOCIAL POLICY

Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.

Equality of Opportunity

Equal Rights. Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.

Education, Employment and Housing. Support equal access to education, employment and housing.

Federal Role in Public Education. Support federal policies that provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12.

Fiscal Policy

Tax Policy. Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax.

Federal Deficit. Promote responsible deficit policies.

Funding of Entitlements. Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability and health insurance.

Health Care

Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs.

Immigration

Promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises; and provide for student visas. Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.

Meeting Basic Human Needs

Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

Income Assistance. Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter. Support Services. Provide essential support services.

Housing Supply. Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.

Child Care

Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.

Early Intervention for Children at Risk Support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development and safety of all children.

Violence Prevention Support violence prevention programs in communities.

Gun Control Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

Urban Policy Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.

Death Penalty The LWVUS supports abolition of the death penalty.

Sentencing Policy The LWVUS believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. The LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses. Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement and well defined channels for citizen input and review.

League of Women Voters St. Louis Park Program

GOVERNMENT

Diversity

- Support the city of St. Louis Park in developing a long-range plan for hiring and promoting qualified persons of diversity at all levels of city government services. (1993)
- Support St. Louis Park elected officials, civic groups and community leaders in collaborating to develop a long range plan for the city to use in solving problems related to communication between diverse groups, public safety, racism, violence, and maintaining neighborhoods. (1993)

Initiative and Referendum

- Support of the continuation of legislative initiative and compulsory voter referendum on constitutional amendment; opposition to most forms of voter initiative and referendum on statutes.
- Opposition to recall by voters of members of the Legislature and state constitutional officers.
- Support of strict procedural limits on any process of initiative.

Details

Support of:

1. The continued initiation of constitutional amendments by the legislative branch; opposition to all forms of voter initiative of such amendments (direct, indirect or advisory).
2. The continuation of compulsory voter referendum on constitutional amendments.
3. Strict procedural limits on any form of initiative, referendum or recall considered or adopted in Minnesota, including restrictions on:
 - a. Time span for collecting signatures.
 - b. Eligibility requirements for persons signing and collecting petitions.
 - c. Percentage of signatures required, geographic distribution of signers, and verification of signatures.
 - d. Size of vote required for passage.
 - e. Procedure for repeal or amendment of a successful initiative or referendum.
 - f. Contributions to and spending for ballot issue campaigns.

Opposition to:

1. Direct initiative and advisory initiative on statutes, no agreement on indirect initiative on statutes.
2. Optional and compulsory referendum on statutes; no agreement on petition referendum statutes.
3. Voter recall of members of the Legislature and state constitutional officers; no agreement on voter recall of judges or appointed officials. (2002)

EDUCATION**ESL Programs**

- Support the ESL (English as a Second Language) program. Support additional funding for the ESL program. Support increases in the following if additional funding becomes available: Books, workbooks, reference materials, computer discs, teachers, and paraprofessionals. Support adequate space for the ESL program. The League does not support cutbacks in the funding for the ESL program. (1990)

Diversity

- Support St. Louis Park School District 283 in being pro-active in working to ensure that students and school personnel understand the increasing diversity of the students. (1993)
- Support the teaching of history, culture, literature and arts of African-Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic- Americans and Native-Americans on an ongoing and comprehensive basis. (1993).
- Support the development of a long range, pro-active plan to hire qualified persons of diversity, and that it uses the assistance of its present minority personnel in doing this. (1993)

NATURAL RESOURCES**Recycling**

- Support the expansion of recycling of solid waste, including plastics. (1987).
- Support policies that promote and protect environmental quality. (1973) (1979).

SOCIAL POLICY**Domestic Abuse**

- Support mandatory arrest of the offender as part of the stated policy and guidelines that police must follow. (1988)
- Support the handling of domestic abuse cases in criminal court. (1988)
- Support an intervention/advocacy program in St. Louis Park. (1988)
- Support funding of advocacy and intervention programs through a combination of private and public funds. (1988)

Prevention of Violence

Support for violence prevention programs in our community.

1. Educational programs that emphasize self-esteem, healthy sexuality, problem solving, positive expression of emotions, nonviolent conflict resolution, and respect for others to prevent violent behavior. This would include support for:
 - a. Government-sponsored parenting and early childhood classes.
 - b. Local or state government mandating or encouraging such education programs in school curricula.
 - c. Use of public money to train teachers and administrators to use nonviolence curricula.

- d. Training for childcare providers.
2. A requirement that adult educators, including coaches, participate in prevention of sexual harassment and violence education programs and that public money is provided for adequate training.
3. The use of public money for a stateside public information and communication campaign designed to prevent violent and sexually violent behavior; i.e. to promote healthy sexuality, nonviolent conflict resolution, and gender and race equality.
4. Efforts by state and local government to develop and coordinate programs dealing with primary prevention of violence.
5. Allocation of public monies in governmental programs to combat violence through reducing substance abuse and poverty, and by identifying and responding to individuals who have been violent or are at risk for violent behavior.
6. The following social institutions taking an active role in preventing violent behavior:
 - a. Religious community
 - b. Business community
 - c. Legal community
 - d. Medical community
 - e. Media, civic and recreation community
7. Efforts to encourage the media industry to exercise self-restraint in the promotion of violence.
8. Efforts to encourage the pornography industry to exercise self-restraint in the promotion of sexually violent pornography. (1991).

Family Services

- Support a one-stop-shop office for coordinating family services. (1995)
- Support computerization of the services to simplify distribution of information and to eliminate duplication. (1995)
- Support a program to supplement the public bus system. (1995)

CONTINUING STUDIES

- Study revisions of the St. Louis Park City Charter.
- Study revisions of the St. Louis Park Comprehensive Plan.
- Study housing opportunities in St. Louis Park to meet future needs of the community.

1. TRANSLATING LOCAL LEAGUE POSITIONS INTO ACTION

Informal action begins with every member spreading interest and information in an ever-widening circle, starting with family, friends and neighbors. In addition, we can take action by carrying this information into the community through other organizations to which we belong. Supporting legislation, which furthers League's Program, by contacting our legislators is another important action to take. No one should speak or write letters for the League without first checking with the President.

LWV United States

UPDATE ON THE LWVUS AGRICULTURE STUDY

At the 2012 LWVUS Convention, the members voted to have an Update to the Agriculture position in the LWV Program for Action. A Committee was formed and they have been working since then to create a document for local leagues to use in consensus. The information is on its way – but here is a quick update:

Link to the LWVUS website: http://www.lwv.org/member-resources/agriculture-update?utm_source=LeadersUpdate&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=LU20131121

About the Agriculture Update and Committee: The Agriculture Update will focus narrowly on: 1) current technology issues in agriculture including genetically modified organisms (GMOs), herbicides, pesticides, agriculture water pollution, aquifer depletion, antibiotics in livestock, and accurate food labeling; and 2) current agriculture finance

Agriculture Update: Suggested Readings

The Committee has identified three specific background documents that provide a broad and relatively neutral overview of the complex set of issues addressed by U.S. agricultural policy and three websites that provide similar types of information, but from the website sponsor's point of view. The Committee has done our best to identify "neutral" background resources, each of the documents and websites is presenting information that is consistent with the mission of the authors and/or sponsoring organization, so League members must be willing to read widely to get a balanced understanding of the agricultural policy challenges facing the U.S. in particular and the world in general.

While these documents and websites are not a formal part of the Update's reading materials that will be issued later, the committee feels that they will provide useful background reading for members that are not familiar with agriculture issues.

Documents

1. The administration's perspective on the key agricultural policy issues that need to be addressed in 2013 as reported in *Challenges and Opportunities in U.S. Agriculture* (Chapter 8 of the *Economic Report of the President-2013*). The Committee considers it an excellent introductory document offering background on such topics as the role of agriculture in the U.S. economy, structural changes that have taken place since the 1920s, the development of new markets (e.g., organic, local), the contribution of research and development to productivity growth, agriculture in world trade, and the challenges of agricultural risk management. The document can be downloaded in PDF using the following link: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/granule/ERP-2013/ERP-2013-chapter8/content-detail.html>
2. Union of Concerned Scientists policy brief entitled *The Healthy Farm: A Vision for U.S. Agriculture*. We selected this report because it looks at farming from a variety of perspectives (production, economics, and environment) and a variety of farming systems (industrial, conventional, organic, etc.), offering examples of technologies and management practices able to contribute to the UCS vision of a healthy farm. The report contains many useful references and links. http://www.ucsusa.org/assets/documents/food_and_agriculture/The-Healthy-Farm-A-Vision-for-US-Agriculture.pdf
3. Short article from Scientific America entitled *Will Organic Fail to Feed the World?* The article presents a summary of a recent analysis of 66 studies comparing conventional and organic methods for 34 different crop species. There are numerous live links providing definitions of terms and additional reading. <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=organic-farming-yields-and-feeding-the-world-under-climate-change&page=2>

LWV Minnesota

GEARING UP FOR ELECTION DAY 2014, TERRY KALIL, VOTER SERVICE CHAIR

Happy New Year! Election Day 2014 may be a whole winter, spring, summer and beautiful autumn away, but it’s not too early to plan your local LWV’s Voter Service activities for the coming months.

Creating a detailed 2014 calendar of events, including training opportunities, election activities and your committee’s work to engage and educate voters before the November 4, 2014 General Election is an excellent starting point and a valuable tool in recruiting volunteers.

This mid-term election will include races for many federal, state and local offices, including:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| US Senate | US Representative | Governor & Lt. Governor |
| Secretary of State | State Auditor | Attorney General |
| MN House of Representatives | County Commissioners | County Offices |
| Municipal Offices | School Boards | Townships |

Here’s a recap of the key 2014 dates (from sos.state.mn.us) and suggested activities to get your calendar started:

Date	Election Activity	Your Local LWV Activity
February 4, 2014	Precinct Caucuses	Attend, listen, learn
May 20, 2014	Filing Period Opens for State and General Elections, along with municipal/school district elections where a primary is possible	Candidate forum planning complete, moderators trained, volunteers recruited
June 3, 2014	Filing Period Closes for races with primary elections	Send “save the date” announcements for candidate forums
July 29, 2014	Filing Period Opens for municipal/school district elections with no primary	Register voters, help with voter registration at citizenship ceremonies
August 12, 2014	Filing Period Closes for races without primary elections	Host candidate forums
August 12, 2014	Minnesota Primary Election Day	Serve as election judge, transport voters to polls
November 4, 2014	Election Day	Serve as election judge, transport voters to polls

To help your local LWV prepare for Election Day 2014, training opportunities for new and experienced moderators will be announced early in the year. If you have a specific training need or would like to host a Candidate Forum & Moderator workshop, please contact Terry Kalil, Voter Service Chair at tkalil@arvig.net or 218 341-0452.



Educate. Advocate. Reform.™

Observer Reports

December 2 City Council Meeting Judy Cook Observer

The City Council meeting of December 2 was called to order at about 7:30 p.m. After approval of November study session minutes, November council meeting minutes and the consent calendar, the Council heard a staff presentation on the 2014 City budget. The staff anticipates a budget increase of approximately 2.5%. Therefore, property taxes would increase to over that amount. The budget process is very detailed and residents are encouraged to learn more about it by attending the December 16 Council meeting or watching it on Public Access TV.

The Council next considered MGM Wine and Spirits application for a liquor license near or in Knollwood Shopping Mall. Steve Hallfin opposed the granting of this license because he feels that large liquor businesses are putting the Mom and Pop stores out of business. The remainder of the Council voted to grant this license.

The staff made a presentation of their planning and progress on proposed light rail stations. Substantial planning is being done including but not limited to rezoning, landscaping, parks, trails, sidewalks and business access. The council approved a contract with CodaMetrics to develop a form based code for the three SWLRT station areas. CodaMetrics would establish and codify the City's vision to allow more flexibility in zoning than the current process allows. The Council approved this request.

The meeting was adjourned about 9:15 p.m.

December 16 City Council Meeting Aggie Leitheiser Observer

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 with Sue Santa Absent. A proclamation honoring Marion Dorfman, founding member of Friends of the library in 1963. She has served for 50 years on the board, 40 of those years as treasurer. Farewell tributes were offered to parting Council members Julia Ross and Sue Santa.

Minutes of November Study Session, Council meeting and December closed executive session and City Council meeting of December 2 were approved with no changes. Consent agenda was approved. The 2014 budget was adopted with increase of 2.42%. This represents an increase of 3.5% on tax levy and 3.3% on HRA levy. The

2014-2018 Capital Improvement Program was approved with \$120 million for the next 5 years.

The City Manager annual evaluation was approved following a comprehensive process. Increases of 2% for non-union employees and 1% for City Manager (brings him to the cap). Approval was also given to continuing participation in the volunteer Firefighter Benefit Program, increasing performance program pay by 2% for Paid-On-Cal Firefighters for 2014 and adding a Police Lieutenant Additional Duty Pay when assigned to a special duty event policy to the Personnel Manual.

An update on the Highway 7 and Louisiana project shows 8% of total project is contamination cleanup due to changing water table. Other costs are lower – including property acquisition. The city has applied for Hennepin County Environmental Remediation Fund for \$533,000.

Reminder of the Met Council meeting on Light Rail Transit January 9 at the Rec Center.

St Louis Park School Board Meeting – November 25, 2013 Dorothy Karlson Observer

There were two groups in the Spotlight at the beginning of the meeting. Cargill has contributed the reduction of the achievement gap in the fields of science, technology and math by giving \$150,000 every year for three years. This gift was gratefully acknowledged. Other thanks went to the members of the Vote Yes Committee for their successful work in promoting the referendums, which received a 75% positive vote.

Superintendent Metz congratulated "The Echo," for receiving an award for being one of the top 24 high school newspapers in the nation. He also acknowledged the Park Nicollet Foundation for their development of a mental health program.

Sandy Salin, Director of Business Services, gave information about the completion of the district's annual audit. She reported that there was a positive variance, good financial management, and good cooperation with the district staff. She also gave an update on the next steps for the referendum funds that will be used for building additions. She presented the recommendation that the district continue the current practice of open enrollment based on availability of facilities.

Clarence Pollock, principal of Aquila Elementary School, presented the school's annual report. He said that the students are showing increased achievement in curriculum-based assessments. He said that the staff is incorporating instructional changes to increase success in the Common Core reading Standards. He shared graphs showing percentages of proficiency in math and reading as compared with the state. He

reported a decrease in disciplinary incidents and commended the counseling staff for their work with students.

Kari Ross, director of teaching and learning, and Lisa Greene, director of community education, told of the option the district has to offer all day kindergarten to all kindergarten students. A half-day kindergarten option at Central Community School will also be offered as an option.

St Louis Park School Board Meeting – December 9, 2013 Deb Brinkman Observer

The meeting began with three spotlight events.

1. Center for Diagnostic Imaging Donation to Peter Hobart. CDI made a generous contribution to Peter Hobart for warm weather attire and \$6,000 that will go to the backpack program
2. 2013 TIES Teachers of the year
Mary Norris, High School
Keri Olufson, Peter Hobart
3. Twin West Chamber of Commerce Brad Meier

The business meeting was **called to order** at 7:17 pm by Bruce Richardson
The agenda was approved.

During **Open Forum**, Emma, a senior at the high school spoke to address two clubs that were not endorsed:

1. Knitting Club because the knitting needles could be used as a weapon
Emma suggested knitting needles were not any more dangerous than pencils
2. Gender Equality Club. Emma cited several instances where there is minimal female leadership and indicated that gender inequalities make women feel unsafe.

The Superintendent's Report reviewed the General Mills and Cargill donations of \$200,000 over the next three years.

Discussion Items

An American Indian Parent Committee was formed (as required if there are 10+ American Indians in a school district. The Committee's first priority was bonding together. Another high priority focus is Educational Equality.

Coordination Middle School initiative continues to evolve. Their most current accomplishment is a plan to reach MYPiB - Middle year IB program. The program will need an additional \$15,000 in funding.

The final levy information was reviewed, for \$24,389,212. It will be payable in 2014.

The Peter Hobart Elementary School Construction is on schedule to be done in January.

The Consent Agenda was approved. Personnel – there is one retiring teacher.

Action Agenda

The final levy was approved

The new Community Education Advisory Council Member appointment of Debbie Daniels was approved.

The American Indian Resolution was approved as presented.

The supervisors-Managers tentative contract was approved for 2012 – 2013.

The Sale of General Obligation Bonds was approved.

Communications and Transmittals

There is a food drive – items should be dropped off at the 'Bird Feeder'

Kindergarten Information Night is scheduled – lots of good information

This is Larry Shapiro's last meeting. He has been on the board for 8 years.

Richardson Reflections of the last year

Two children died. The Emergency Response Team was amazing. One child was saved – those teachers are heroes.

We hired one new superintendent

We added a Curriculum Director

The Elections are exciting. The Referendum passed 3 to 1 – indicating good community support for schools

More than 300 students graduated. On graduation night, students recognized teachers.

The meeting was **adjourned** at 8:40 pm

Study Shows We Can Recycle and Compost More

According to a recent statewide study released by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), the top three components of our garbage are organics (31%), paper (25%), and plastics (18%). These items can all be diverted from the waste stream through recycling or composting. Since 2000, paper has decreased in Minnesota's waste stream while plastic and food have increased. The study provides valuable insights for the MPCA and local governments when developing and improving recycling programs.

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/about-mpca/mpca-news/featured-stories/demographics-of-garbage.html>



LWV SLP OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2013-14

OFFICERS:

President: Deb Brinkman
 Vice President: Judith Cook
 Secretary: Vacant
 Treasurer/W. Metro: Barb Person
 Observer: Dorothy Karlson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Voter Service: Eilseen Knisley
 Voter Service: Carlota Medus
 Membership: Judy Cook
 CMAL: Debbie Blake
 Voter Editor: Aggie Leitheiser

YES! I WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ST. LOUIS PARK

Name (Family Member #1): _____

Name (Family Member #2): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Membership Dues (Dues and subscriptions are not tax deductible.)

- First Year Introduction Special \$25.00**
- Voter Subscription Only \$10.00
- Single Active Attending Member \$45.00
- Supporting/Member-at-Large \$50.00
- Family Membership (household) \$70.00
- Add me to The Voter eMail Distribution List (free)

Make checks payable to LWV SLP

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