



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS
Duluth

Duluth Voter

April 2012

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



League of Women Voters Duluth
4th Annual EqualiTEA
Saturday, April 14

Two Seatings: 11:30-1:00 pm or 2:30-4:00 pm
Duluth Woman's Club
Tickets \$20.00 (\$25.00 after April 2)

Celebrate the 92nd anniversary of women's suffrage and the importance of every citizen's right to vote. An entertaining presentation is planned to compare and contrast Minnesota's current election system and voter safeguards to Voter ID legislation currently proposed by the Minnesota legislature. A traditional "tea" served with savory sandwiches and sweets will harken back to the founding years of the suffrage movement. **You won't want to miss this!**

Reserve tickets required. Order yours today!

Sally Munger at 728-0711 or email sallymunger@mungerinn.com.

Proceeds support LWV activities in Duluth including forums, voter registration, and education.

In this issue:

Calendar	2
Presidents' Column	2
Book and Plant Sale	2
Energy Forum	3
Book Group	3
Silent Auction	3
Voter Service	4
Nominating Report	4
Budget	5
Citizens United	6
International Women's Day	7
Web Page	7
Natural Resources	7

Energy Forum

Northeastern Minnesota's Clean Energy Future
Wednesday, April 11
7:00-9:00 PM

UMD's Labovitz School of Business and Economics

Join the League of Women Voters, Minnesota Power, the Izaak Walton League McCabe Chapter, Fresh Energy, the Sierra Club, and MPIRG for a discussion about moving northeastern Minnesota to a clean energy future. There will be plenty of opportunity for Q and A. The forum will be moderated by the League of Women Voters of Duluth.

See page 3 for more information about this great opportunity to learn more about our energy future!

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.

SAVE THE DATE!!

LWV Duluth Annual Meeting, Auction, and Program

Wednesday, May 9th
Radisson Hotel Duluth
5:30 pm

Guests, Friends, Spouses welcome!

RSVP will be required. Watch for details in the May Voter!

Officers

Co-Presidents
Jane Gilley
Rosemary Guttormsson
Secretary Louise Eilert
Treasurer Zandy Zwiebel

Editor Julie Seidelmann

Calendar

April

- 4/5 Board Meeting
- 4/6 New Citizen Ceremony
- 4/11 Energy Forum
- 4/14 EqualiTEA
- 4/19 High School Voter Registration

May

- 5/3 Board Meeting
- 5/9 Annual Meeting

June

- 6/4 Book and Plant Sale

THIRD ANNUAL BOOK AND PERENNIAL PLANT SALE

Mark your calendars for our annual book and perennial plant sale that will be held the first Saturday in June, which this year is June 4. This sale was a huge success the past two years thanks to the many members who donated books and plants.

Once again we are looking for good quality hard cover and paper back books---nonfiction, fiction of all kinds including best sellers, mysteries, science fiction, suspense, and children's books. No magazines. As you begin to think about Spring cleaning, be sure to save any books you no longer want, and if you are a gardener, please consider dividing your perennials and donate them to our sale.

Questions??? Contact Gail: gail4duluth@gmail.com.

Presidents' Column

At the end of February, LWV-Duluth received some special recognition. The Duluth Public Policy Alliance (DPPA) made the difficult decision to disband their organization. As their letter stated, "As we considered where best to make use of our remaining resources, it was decided that the League of Women Voters Duluth would be a viable mechanism to help continue efforts on goals similar to those we have held important. Please accept a donation of \$3425 toward the implementation of your progressive efforts in the Duluth area and beyond." In accepting the award, the Board asked that several of our board members meet with members of DPPA to discuss possible uses for these funds, to ensure they are spent in the spirit in which they were given. If you know anyone who had been a member of DPPA, please express our very sincere thanks for this generous gift!

This year has flown by - It's already March! It's time for next year's nominating slate for the Board and the 2012-2013 Income and Expense Budget to be presented to members in this Voter for your review in preparation for the Annual Meeting which will be held on May 9th at the Radisson. Please get this date on your calendar and plan to attend. Although the meeting includes important League business, it is also a great time for socializing with other League members and to help support our activities through the silent auction fundraiser. Look for more details in the May Voter.

We want to recognize the good work done by those involved in planning the "Women Rising Up for Peace and Justice: Mighty Be Our Powers" event that took place on March 7th. The Teatro Zuccone Theater was overflowing to watch this inspiring (and frightening) film, as mothers, wives, sisters and aunts successfully demanded

an end to the long civil war which ravaged their country, their cities and their families. The film also captured the chaos of war, including the practice of arming of young boys with machine guns to serve as "soldiers." Thanks to Doris Parker, Director of Liberian Women's Initiatives of Brooklyn Park and Aicha Cooper, LWV Duluth member, for facilitating the discussion.

Recently our neighbors, LWVWI, scored a win against voter suppression laws. In a case brought by the LWVWI, the Dane County 9th Circuit Court announced a permanent injunction against implementation of the nation's most restrictive voter photo ID law. The state will appeal this decision. If you are interested in keeping track of LWVMN issues such as Voter ID, Environment, Finance, Education and Reproductive Choice currently in the Minnesota legislature check out the most recent issue of the Capitol LetterTM now online. Simply go to www.lwvmn.org and click on Capitol LetterTM under Quick Links.

Hope you have all made your reservations to attend the annual fundraiser - the 4th Annual EqualiTEA on April 14th - with some friends to enjoy a good cup of tea and to learn more about Voter ID. All proceeds will go to the effort to educate the public on this vitally important public policy issue.

Jane and Rosemary

Welcome New LWV Duluth Members!



Vanni Hayden
Nona Goertz

**Energy Forum
Northeastern Minnesota's Clean
Energy Future**

Wednesday, April 11

7:00-9:00 PM

**LSBE Room 125 (Labovitz School
of Business and Economics), UMD**

1318 Kirby Drive

Free and open to the public

Minnesota is at a crossroads on energy. We can continue to invest in clean energy and efficiency or we can choose to continue burning coal and polluting our air and water while sending billions of dollars out of state. Smart policies have made Minnesota a clean energy leader, but in northeastern Minnesota we still get almost 95 percent of our electricity from burning coal.

Minnesota Power has been required by the state Public Utilities Commission to study the transition from some of its older coal plants to cleaner sources of energy.

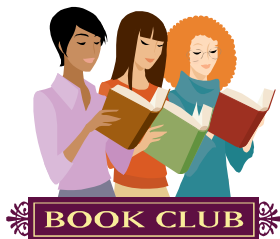
This forum will provide information about Minnesota Power's report on the future of their oldest coal plants, and examine future plans for diversifying our electricity supply to clean, efficient sources of energy that will create and sustain good paying jobs in northeastern Minnesota.

Join the League of Women Voters, Minnesota Power, the Izaak Walton League McCabe Chapter, Fresh Energy, the Sierra Club, and MPIRG for a discussion about moving northeastern Minnesota to a clean energy future. There will be plenty of opportunity for Q and A. The forum will be moderated by the League of Women Voters Duluth.

For more information, contact J. Drake Hamilton at Fresh Energy, 651-726-7562, hamilton@fresh-energy.org or Gay Trachsel 218-728-5478 gaytrachsel@gmail.com

Submitted by Gay Trachsel

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



**Due to Annual Meeting
May Book Club will be held on
Thursday, May 17
Chester Creek Café, lower level
Dinner 5:30 p.m.
Book discussion 6:15 p.m.**

Book: "The Coroner's Lunch"
Author: Colin Cotterill

First in a series of crime novels by the British author
This book comes highly recommended!
Discussion led by Gay Trachsel

Submitted by Sally Munger

**Silent Auction Items
Scour Your Cupboard!**

The LWV Duluth's silent auction is the largest fundraiser of the year and we need more items!

Remember that holiday gift you received that was a duplicate or something you don't have room for? Don't you have a drawer or cupboard full of unused gifts? Or something you bought for yourself that doesn't fit your decor now?

Donate it to the League of Women Voters!

If you are a baker donate a batch a cookies, a cake or loaf of bread. Homemade canned goods are always popular, too.

Artwork, pottery and jewelry are great. Theme gift baskets such as a wine basket, coffee basket, chocolate basket are fun to make and people love them!

Please contact Deb Ortman if you have a donation.

**You can drop it off at the Radisson Hotel
between 3:30-5:00 the day of the annual dinner,
Wed. May 9th. We can also pick it up.
Call Deb at 722-2421.**

VOTER SERVICE

The Voter Service Committee met on March 5 to discuss upcoming events and plans for 2012-13. Several committee members left the meeting with action items that will help to determine if a pre-primary forum for District 8 will be feasible and other potential forums that will be held. A follow-up meeting will be planned for late April.

Voter Service Events:

Voter ID = Voter Suppression? Get the Facts
Wednesday, April 25
7:30 pm
Burns Wellness Center Auditorium

This is an on-campus event geared to college students. Students and League members will be presenting various voting scenarios in an entertaining and interactive format. If you are interested in helping with this event, contact Anita Gille at anitagille@gmail.com. This event is co-sponsored by the CSS Students for Just Living, CHUM, and the LWV.

League members are encourage to come welcome and register new citizens to vote. About 15 people will become United States citizens. It is a very heartwarming event. If you would like to participate, contact Rosemary Guttormsson at rosemary@chartermi.net.

New Citizens Ceremony
April 6
Federal Courthouse

High School Seniors Voter Registration

We are excited about the way our plans are coming together for introducing our Duluth high school seniors to the right, privilege, and responsibility of voting in the 2012 election. Claire Wilson from the Minnesota Secretary of State's office has agreed to spend a day or two here in Duluth to help educate our young voters about voting procedures and safeguards, how and where to vote, available resources for becoming informed voters, and actually registering to vote. Since we will make our presentations in small-group sessions, we hope to make them interactive and flexible to respond to student questions.

We will make 5 classroom presentations at Denfeld on April 19th. Seniors in Economics and Government classes will participate. Three of the sessions will have two classroom sections and two will be only a single section. We are finalizing times and classroom space. Stay tuned for our East High School information. If you are interested in volunteering on April 19th, please contact Ellen Wiss at mewiss62@gmail.com.

Submitted by Anita Gille

LWV Duluth
Nominating Committee Report
March 15, 2012

Officers for 2012-2013

Co-Presidents – Gay Trachsel and Elizabeth Olson

Vice Presidents/Presidents Elect -

Nancy Bratrud and Louise Eilert

Secretary – Louise Eilert

Treasurer – Zandy Zwiebel

Elected Directors

Corrinne Lamb – 2012 – 2013

Ellen Wiss – 2012 – 2014

Laura Solem – 2012 – 2014

Julie Seidelmann – 2012 -2014

Nominating Committee Chair - Sally Munger



New LWV Duluth members learned about the League and met other members at the New Member Meet and Greet on Monday, March 19.

Income		Budget 2012-2013	Expenses		Budget 2012-2013
Fund Raising			Committees		
	LVVMN Ed Fund	\$300.00		Education	\$25
	Member Contributions	\$200.00		Health Care	\$0
	Ed Budget Phonathon	\$500.00		International Relations	\$200
				Membership	\$200
Dinner/Events				Natural Resources	\$175
	International Hosting	\$0.00		Program Planning	\$50
	Annual Dinner (May)	\$1,320.00		Voter Service	\$2,000
	Annual Dinner Auction (May)	\$2,500.00		Public Relations	\$50
	Plant and Book Sale (June)	\$900.00			
	Annual Tea (Aug)	\$900.00	Fixed Costs		
	Citizens in Action (Jan)	\$600.00		LWVMN-PMP	\$3,280
				LWVUS-PMP	\$4,920
Grant Funding				Office Postage	\$50
	Martin & Brown Grant	\$2,000.00		Office Printing	\$30
				Presidents Contingency Fund	\$125
Membership				Rent	\$780
	Household (\$75)	\$1,875.00		Supplies	\$50
	Members (\$50)	\$4,250.00		Telephone	\$500
	Member Plus (\$100)	\$1,200.00	Member Activities		
	Student (\$25)	\$175.00		Meeting Costs	\$75
	Limited Income (\$10)	\$50.00		Publications	\$25
				Membership Directory	\$250
Total Income Raised		\$16,770.00		Websit	\$200
Assets				Daughters Tea	\$1,100
	Checking	\$688.00		US Convention	\$2,000
	<i>Education Fund Account</i>			MN Council	\$100
	Rent @ 42%	\$327.00		Fall Kick-Off	\$175
	Phone @ 16%	\$80.00		Holiday Social	\$100
	MN PMP @ 33%	\$1,115.00		Annual Dinner	\$1,700
	US PMP @ 34%	\$1,680.00	Special Projects		
	Total Ed Fund Account	\$3,202.00		Citizens in Action	\$1,000
Total Assets		\$3,890.00		Local Study	\$25
			The VOTER		
Total Income and Assets		\$20,660.00		Postage	\$200
Additional Assets				Postal Permit	\$200
	Checking Balance (as of 3/1)	\$6,342		Printing and Folding	\$1,000
	Ed Fund Account Balance	\$1,571		Other (Printing Labels)	\$75
	Duluth Public Policy Alliance Donation	\$3,425	Total Expenses		\$20,660.00
	Certificate of Deposits	\$3,575			
	Business Savings	\$2,000			

LWVMN Program - March 2012

Citizens United (CU) Decision Impact on Minnesota



In January 2010, the United States Supreme Court decision in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (FEC) provided that corporations and other entities may make unlimited political expenditures, opening the door to a new flood of money in our elections. In response, a bipartisan group of lawmakers and stakeholders, including League of Women Voters Minnesota ("LWV Minnesota"), began meeting to discuss legislation that would increase the level of transparency in elections, a kind of disclosure specifically contemplated by justices in the CU decision.

As anticipated, the outcomes and complications of the CU ruling are now becoming apparent. In the days prior to the January 3, 2012 Iowa Caucuses, the first of the negative 2012 election cycle independent expenditure and "Super PAC" advertisements hit the airwaves, with an onslaught of ads against Republican presidential candidate and former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich. Currently, the flurry of fundraising and advertising continues on both ends of the political spectrum.

Although neither the LWVUS nor LWVMN currently have an official position on the Citizens United decision; both do have positions on Campaign Finance Reform, relevant to the CU decision impact. The LWVUS Lobby Corps is carrying a message of support for disclosure to U.S. House offices, asking Representatives to cosponsor H.R. 4010, DISCLOSES 2012, introduced by Rep. Chris Van Hollen. The legislation provides essential new disclosure requirements to cover the hundreds of millions of dollars in secret contributions being injected into federal elections by non-profit groups and other entities. The legislation also ensures that there will be timely disclosure by Super PACs. In January 2012, LWVUS leaders requested through Listserv discussions that the LWVUS Board of Directors determine a LWV position on Citizens United and a potential constitutional amendment and also determine if this is a priority for LWV lobbying. Discussion of an official position and related actions is expected in 2012. The LWVMN should be prepared to participate in such discussions.

The completed briefing paper highlights what existed prior to the Citizens United decision, what the decision was, and what the decision has so far meant to Minnesota's campaign finance law and laws in other states. A PDF version the paper is now available under Quick Links on the LWVMN home page or by going directly to the following link: <http://www.lwvmn.org/document.doc?id=413>.

Submitted by Zandy Zweibel

Privatization of Government: LWUS Study



A small group of LWV Duluth members met on March 19 and had a spirited discussion on the LWV study of "privatization of government." Their consensus results and comments were sent to LWVUS and will be compiled with the consensus results from leagues all over the country. These results and the results of the earlier consensus on financing education will be presented and voted on at the LWV convention in Washington, D.C. If accepted these issues will become LWV positions to be used in citizen lobbying.



Doris Parker, Executive Director of Liberian Womens' Initiatives in Brooklyn Park and Key-note speaker, highlights the role of women in community and peace building.

International Women's Day Celebration

League of Women Voters members and community members alike celebrated International Women's Day on March 7 around the theme of "Women Rising up for Peace and Justice: Mighty Be Our Powers." The Teatro Zuccone was filled to capacity for the evening's program which was a tribute to the power of women to make a difference in their communities.

The event was sponsored by LWV Duluth, Royal D. Alworth, Jr. Institute for International Studies, UMD Women's Resource and Action Center, Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs, and UMD Women Studies Department.

Submitted by Gail Schoenfelder

Make the Clean Air Promise

The LWVUS has joined with other organizations and signed on to the Clean Air Promise.

The Promise states:

I Promise to protect America's children and families from dangerous air pollution.

Because toxics and pollutants such as mercury, smog, carbon, and soot, cause thousands of hospital visits, asthma attacks, and even deaths,

I will support clean air policies and other protections that scientists and public health experts have recommended to the EPA to safeguard our air quality.

To sign onto the promise go to:

<http://peoplenotpolluters.org/>

Their website will also allow you to send an email to elected officials.

Submitted by Deb Ortman,
Natural Resource Committee member.

LWV Duluth Website Update

A calendar feature has been implemented on the lwvdu-luth.org website. Now you can easily see what League events and meetings are scheduled by going to lwvdu-luth.org. This is a great way to keep updated AND to tell a friend about events. LWV committee chairs and board members are encourage to send meeting notices to Anita Gille who is updating the calendar on a regular basis. It is important that event changes or cancellations also be sent to her so that the calendar can be refreshed. Anita asks that you provide the following information: event name, date, beginning and ending time, location, description, contact person with email or phone, and any other special information such as cost.

Send information to Anita at anitagille@gmail.com.

WHY I AM A MEMBER OF LWV

There is no other organization that I know of where members work as hard on the topics in which LWV believes.

The cooperation and willingness of all who serve is like no other. As this country moves forward towards a just and peaceful existence, it will be because of organizations and members such as we have in our League.

I feel I am fortunate to have met and worked with our incredible members, and I am hopeful that this energy of LWV Duluth will result in a better community and world for all people.

----Joyce Benson----

League of Women Voters Web Sites



LWV Duluth
www.lwvduluth.org

LWVMN
www.lwvmn.org

LWVUS
www.lwv.org

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS *Duluth*

32 East First Street

Duluth, MN 55802

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JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS FOR 2011-202

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.