



SPARK

Brooklyn Park, Osseo, Maple Grove,
Brooklyn Center

LWVBPOMG

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MN Equal Rights from <http://www.mncafecoalition.org/>

Think you've got equality? Think again...

Did you know the Federal Amendment to guarantee women equal rights under the US Constitution was defeated in 1982?

Did you know Minnesota has never been able to get an amendment to our state Constitution put to the people of Minnesota?

Don't you think it is about time the rights of over half of our population are secured into our state law?

Now is the time for Minnesota to support the campaign to pass a constitutional amendment for gender equality to our Constitution.

WHY do we still need a state & federal ERA?

Neither the Minnesota Constitution nor the U.S. Constitution explicitly guarantees that all of the rights they protect are held by all of its citizens

without regard to sex.

Polling shows 75% of Americans assume women have full equality.

91% believe women should have full equality under the Constitution.

ASSUMED equality is just not enough.

We need to protect ourselves from a rollback of the significant advances in women's rights over the past 40 years.

The legislature has the power to replace existing laws by a majority vote, and judicial precedents can be eroded or ignored by reactionary courts responding to a conservative political agenda.

Example: The Lilly Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire Supreme Court decision erased 20 years of legal precedent in employment law regarding equal pay.

An ERA would set a stricter judicial standard of review for deciding cases of sex discrimination.

Court decisions still reflect confusion and inconsistency about how the law is to deal with sex discrimination claims.

The United States needs to practice what it

preaches with respect to equal justice under the law.

Many other countries - including Iraq, Japan, and all the emerging nations since the 1970's - specifically affirm legal equality of the sexes in their governing documents. *Why don't we?* GLOBAL CHANGE MUST START AT HOME!

We have many legal protections (Title VII, Title IX, the Human Rights Act, the Pregnancy Discrimination Act, the Equal Pay Act and the Equal Protection Clause), **but these are statutes only - statutes can be overturned by a simple majority or by a conservative court. Finally, NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT! We need to secure the progress we've made by enacting this into the bedrock of Minnesota's democracy.**

For the first time in 28 years, we HAVE a Minnesota Legislature that could pass this legislation and put it directly to the people to decide.

We could lose this opportunity in the next election in November 2010.

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President's Report

Happy New Year! We are looking forward to an exciting new year.

Our state legislative coordinator is looking for Leaguers who are interested in becoming members of the "Observer Corps". Members will follow activities of com-

mittees and floor sessions to help us understand what is happening at the Capitol and provide transparency into what is happening. If you are interested, please call Laura at 651.224.5445 ext.223.

Anyone interested in becoming a moderator for forums? Training will be available on Saturday, May 8th. Call Allie at 651.224.5445 for more information if interested.

CALENDAR 2010

JANUARY:

5 January - BPOMG Board Meeting - MGCC 7:00– 9:00

28 January - BPOMG Unit Meeting - MGCC 7:00 – 9:00 (Program Planning— Nantional/ CMAL/ Local)

FEBRUARY:

14 February - LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS turns 90 this year.

25 February - BPOMG Unit Meeting - MGCC 7:00 – 9:00 (Financial -)

28 February - BPOMG Unit Meeting - MGCC 7:00 – 9:00 (Program Planning)

MARCH:

6 March - MN International Women's Day, Coffman Memorial Union, University of Minnesota

25 March - BPOMG Unit Meeting - MGCC 7:00 – 9:00 (Missing Children MN)

APRIL:

24 April - BPOMG Annual Meeting - MGCC 10 a.m - Noon

MAY:

1 May - LWVMN Council 2010 - MN Landscape Arboretum

15 May - CMAL Annual Meeting - Location TBD.



**** MGCC - Maple Grove Community Center,
1295 I Weaver Lake Rd, Maple Grove, MN 55369
763-494-6500**

International Women's Day Internships



Caption describing picture or graphic.

The 15th Annual International Women's Day Celebration will take place on **March 6th, 2010**, at Coffman Memorial Union, University of Minnesota.

Organized by The Advocates and the Human Rights Program in the College of Liberal Arts at the U of M, this day-long event is expected to draw between 500-700 participants

for an exciting day of workshops, plenary sessions, and performances. It is an occasion to highlight advancements in women's rights and equality, to encourage activism, and to educate participants about human rights issues that affect girls and women locally, nationally and internationally. The event is free, and a light lunch is also provided free of charge for all participants.



Missing Children MN Organization - March Unit Meeting

The Missing Children Minnesota Organization

The mission of Missing Children Minnesota is to help in locating missing children; to provide advocacy and support services to families of missing children and to provide information and prevention education to the public regarding missing children and runaways.

Since 1983 Missing Children Minnesota has helped more than 3500 families and children throughout the Midwest by providing 24-hour case management, advocacy and crisis intervention services, as well as helping families at risk for abduction create individualized prevention plans.

presents abduction prevention and personal safety programs to schools, day-care centers, early childhood and family education groups, churches and children's vacation camps.

We hope that by providing children with the information they need to be safer this year, we will have fewer missing children next year.



...has helped more than 3500 families and children throughout the Midwest ...

LWV 90th Anniversary

2010 is the 90th year for League of Women Voters. We have an amazing history to celebrate and an opportunity to prepare for a whole new century. This celebration provides the possibilities of renewing friendships, attracting new members and reflecting on our 90 years of education and action.

To do this celebrating, LWV Minnesota needs volunteers to work on a 90th Anniversary planning committee. We anticipate three events that need support, you can volunteer for all three or any one of the three. All volunteers will be supported by existing LWV Minnesota Board Committees but we need individuals to chair or co-chair each project. In addition, we can use members who are willing to work with local LWVs to assist with local 90th Anniversary events. See member resources for ideas...



League of Women Voters - Diversity Policy



Adopted January 1995

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of Minnesota in its membership. The League recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making.

LWVMN subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that this inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs.

In both its values and practices, the LWVMN affirms that there

shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the LWV on the basis of gender, race, creed, age sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

LWVMN will continue to seek new ways to provide for direct participation of members from throughout the state.



LWVBPOMG

Contact: Ellen Snapko @ 763-531-0838 with questions or concerns

<http://www.lwvnmn.org/LocalLeagues/BPOMG/>



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Brooklyn Park, Osseo, Maple Grove

The **League of Women Voters** is an American political organization founded in 1920^[1] by Carrie Chapman Catt during the last meeting of the National American Woman Suffrage Association approximately six months before the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution gave women the right to vote. It began as a "mighty political experiment" aimed to help newly-enfranchised women exercise their responsibilities as voters. Originally, only women could join the league; but in 1973 the charter was modified to include men. The league is a grassroots organization with chapters in all 50 states plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The league has approximately 150,000 members (as of 2006).^[2]

The league is nonpartisan, refusing to endorse or oppose political candidates or parties at any level of government. The league does support or oppose many political issues after studying them and coming to a consensus on a position. The league works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and to influence public policy through education and advocacy, as well as through political lobbying of Congress.

The league is organized into two complementary halves: Voter service and citizen education; and program and action.

LWV Background - Goals and Beliefs

The goal of the League of Women Voters is to empower citizens to shape better communities worldwide.

The League of Women Voters of the United States is a nonpartisan political membership organization, which:

- acts after study and member agreement to achieve solutions in the public interest on key community issues at all government levels.
- builds citizen participation in the democratic process.
- engages communities in promoting positive solutions to

public policy issues through education and advocacy.

The League of Women Voters Education Fund is a nonpartisan public policy educational organization, which:

- builds citizen participation in the democratic process.
- studies key community issues at all government levels in an unbiased manner.

enables people to seek positive solutions to public policy issues through education and conflict management.

We believe in:

- respect for individuals.
- the value of diversity.
- the empowerment of the grass-

roots, both within the League and in communities.

- the power of collective decision making for the common good.

We will:

- act with trust, integrity and professionalism.
- operate in an open and effective manner to meet the needs of those we serve, both members and the public.
- take the initiative in seeking diversity in membership and programs.
- acknowledge our heritage as we seek our path to the future.