

LWV-ECC

2010 SUMMER VOTER



Co-President's Corner:
Sally Bruggeman and
Sarah Carlson



*This month's column was submitted by
Co-President Sarah Carlson*

The Charity Pin -- you see them pinned to lapels and bumpers -- and return addresses are adorned with them.

Each color identifies a cause and hopes to increase awareness and donations by their use. The League of Women Voters has chosen the red, white and blue as its banner colors. In celebration of its 90th birthday, the colors were bright in Atlanta as the 49th National Convention kicked off. A history of Change, A future of Hope, 90 years of making Democracy work. The suffragists worked long, endured much, rallied and experienced the limitations and discrimination of their time, all done for the right to vote. It is from the names of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucy Stone, Carrie Chapman Catt and Susan B. Anthony that the League was born. The work of these and endless others are often forgotten in today's political arena. However, it was at every turn during the National Convention in Atlanta with its workshops, training sessions to plenary and yes, even the speeches the awareness of the League's roots and its challenges of today were presented.

I was proud to represent the League of Women Voters of Eastern Carver County at the Convention. Like many others, I was a first

"timer" and often I was reminded of our basic core value -- the right to vote for all of our country's citizens and the powerful role that the League plays in each election. From voter registration to conducting the candidate forums, the League has the ability to educate and improve the information regarding candidates and their political platforms. The League also exposes corporations' endorsement of candidates and campaign reform that impact right to vote.

During the convention I attended caucuses presenting information regarding Sustainable Water and Food Supplies, Marriage Equality, Sentencing Reform, Medicare for All and Safe Drilling exposed the issues associated with the pro and con allowing each point of view to be presented on these sensitive topics. From the moment I completed registration, I was briefed on what to anticipate during the Opening plenary session and rules and procedures that delegates were to follow. I later learned that the parliamentarian for LWVUS, Ann Gilton, had served many years in her role as advisor to the President in presiding effectively during the Convention. Over "drinks" shared in the atrium of this grand Atlanta Marriott, Ann shared with me that her guidance could be questioned, but her advice was always right! Her favorite book on the night stand? She responded, "Always ROBERT'S RULE OF ORDERS NEWLY REVISED".

The LWVUS has adapted to the political and economic landscapes during the period of 2008-2010, and the delegates were directed to note the high level of voter service and election reforms related to the election in 2008 and encouraged them to continue in 2010. The

League has also made a tremendous effort over the past 15 months to pass health care reform, and that work along with many others resulted in the passage of historic legislation in March 2010. In the campaign finance reform arena and global climate change legislation the League has stood out as a voice for civility, non-partisan information and the importance of tighter disclosure requirements related to corporate spending and campaigns.

Voter outreach and education, protecting and empowering citizens, global democracy, member and League support are all activity areas for the League, and the opening session of the Convention featured a message from Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, live comments from Representative John Lewis Georgia, and President Obama. Their combined message spoke to the value that Leagues like ours are making across America in promoting an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive. The most critical is the education and encouragement to vote and to participate in our government's decision making.

One topic, the cost to maintain the existing level of operation of LWVUS, was particularly painful to many of the Leagues represented at the Convention, as the per-member payment will increase. The increase approved will increase the per-member payment for 2010 by \$.40, and another \$.40 for 2011-2012. The current per-member payment (pmp) is \$29.20 per year. The current per-member payment (pmp) will increase for 2010-2011 to \$29.60 and for 2011-2012 to \$30.00.

Directly correlated to this increase in National dues are how will this impact our League and how much the dues will need to increase. Your input will be sought as we face this and other issues this upcoming year.

At the convention my awareness for the League's positions, influence and potential were honed. I left convention (103 Fahrenheit) ready to support the program that had been approved by the delegates attending. The vigorous debate that ends in organizational commitment

is the League way. My awareness has been heightened and I thank you for the opportunity to attend.

NOW, speaking of activity -- **OUR UPCOMING YEAR OF MEETINGS SCHEDULE HAS BEEN CHANGED.** Please make note of the changes on your calendars. In order to keep the expense of meetings at \$0.00, our reservations for the use of the Thornton Wilder Room at the Chanhassen Library had to switch from the third Tuesday of each month to the second Tuesday of each month. Thank you to Sandy Curtis for working with the Library's staff to schedule meeting times utilizing this great facility. Meeting days are November 9, 2010, February 8, 2011, March 8, 2011 and April 12, 2011. Meeting times will remain the same with fellowship and desserts at 6:00 and meetings beginning at 6:30. September kick-off is scheduled for September 21, 2010 with potluck.

VOTING AUGUST 10th! Candidate forums are set to begin in September and continue through October. More details to follow soon.

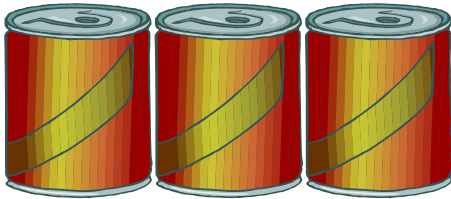
Don't forget River City Days and our opportunity to earn dollars for awarding scholarships. We are one of the very few Leagues that offer a financial scholarship to eligible, graduating seniors, and we want to continue doing so in future years.

Thank you for your support of the League's activities. Wear red white and blue!

-- Sarah



NOTE: As you can see, there are still a few open shifts, so please be generous and give League your time!



**2010 RIVER CITY DAYS
POP BOOTH SCHEDULE**

(Please contact **Nadia Janson** (952-474-2084) (NadJ@mcshi.com) if you would like to be added to the schedule)

Friday, July 23th

1:00 to 4:00 (Set up Booth)

1. Sarah Carlson
2. Nadia Janson
3. Sharon Moeller
4. _____
5. Elaine Ward (CASHBOX)

3:45 to 6:15

1. Barb Link
2. Bev Geffert
3. Charlie Sherwood
4. Glenda Noble
5. Leanne Ashley

6:00 to 8:30

1. Sarah Nagle
2. Sally Bruggeman
3. Leanne Ashley
4. _____
5. _____

8:15 to Closing (Could be 11:30-12)
(Includes Clean-Up)

1. Elaine Ward
2. Nadia Janson
3. Sarah Carlson
4. _____

Saturday, July 24th

9:30 to Noon

1. Mary Staples
2. Sharon Moeller
3. Leanne Ashley
4. Suzy Miller
5. Elaine Ward (CASHBOX)

11:45 to 2:15

1. Glenda Noble
2. Leanne Ashley
3. Jim Weygand
4. Sally Bruggeman
5. _____

2:00 to 4:30

1. Bev Geffert
2. Sandy Curtis
3. Ines Lochart
4. _____

4:15 to 6:45

1. Barb Link
2. Katie Bade
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

6:30 to 9:00

1. Elaine Ward
2. Leanne Ashley
3. Sharon Moeller
4. Sharon Moeller's Grandson
5. _____

8:45 to Closing (Could be 11:30-12)
(Includes Clean-Up)

1. Sarah Carlson
2. Nadia Janson
3. Suzy Miller
4. Elaine Ward
5. _____



Calendar of Events

July, 2010

July 23-24 - Chaska River City Days
(MAJOR FUNDRAISER for
LWVECC)

August, 2010

August 10 - Primary Election Day, with
Polls Open from 7 am to 8 pm

August 17 - 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Social Event
At Mary Stapleton's House
(see Related Article)

August 17 - 7:30 p.m., Board of Directors'
Meeting (Following Social)

August 18 - 7:30 p.m., The "Women's City
Cabaret", Fitzgerald
Theatre, hosted by Jearlyn
Steele (see Related Article)

August 26 - Woman Suffrage Anniversary

September, 2010

September 14 - Candidate Forum

September 21 - Fall General Membership
Kick-Off Meeting/Potluck,
Thornton Wilder Room,
Chanhassen Library

September 28 - Candidate Forum

October, 2010

October 5 - Candidate Forum

October 12 - Candidate Forum

November, 2010

November 9 - General Meeting

February, 2011

February 8 - General Meeting

March, 2011

March 8 - General Meeting

April, 2011

April 12 - General Meeting

YOU and YOUR GUESTS ARE
INVITED to a fun, laid-back
evening of socializing, yummy



appetizers, desserts

(we are asking ALL

members to bring

an appetizer or

dessert) and

beverages (provided by hostess
Mary) on Tuesday, August 17, from
6:00 to 7:30 p.m., at **Mary
Stapleton's Home, 3190 High
Point Drive, Chaska, MN**. It's a
chance to catch up with your fellow
"Leaguers" and get to know our new
members.

Directions to Mary's house: From Highway
41, take Pioneer Trail west (past Jonathan
Elementary School). At the intersection of
Pioneer Trail West and Bavaria Road turn
right (north) onto Bavaria Road. Continue
north through the 2 round-a-bouts for .6
miles. Turn left onto Adrian Drive, which is
also marked as Pinnacle Heights on the
entrance monument. Make an IMMEDIATE
right, the road curves to the left. Mary's
house is the second house on the right. The
address is on the entrance boulders to the
driveway. Mary's phone number is **952-443-
2232** should anyone get lost or need better
directions.

Please join us for this social as we prepare
for another election year.

NOTE: There will be a Board of Directors
meeting following the social.

School Board Observer Corps

Throughout this past year, beginning with October 8, our League School Board Observers have attended a total of 13 meetings. We have shared our reports among the corps of observers, but realized that all of the League membership might appreciate receiving them. Consequently by now you should have received the May 13 report.

Through the years LWVECC has had observers, not only at School Board meetings, but also at County Commissioner and City Council meetings. These observations help to remind elected officials that their constituents care about their decisions. The information we receive also gives us background information helpful for lobbying on pertinent issues.

Now numbering seven people, we have an effective group of dedicated Leaguers who are helping to keep League up to date with our School District's events. It has been an eventful school year. You may recall that our observations began when School Board members voted to extend their terms for one year to make them even-year election terms. Also during this year, current Superintendent David Jennings has announced his retirement, effective July 1. His replacement is Jim Bauck, who comes to Chaska from the Buffalo Schools. This fall five Board members will be up for election.

We hope you will "stay in touch with District 112".



"Hot Button" Topics/Concerns

Do you have or know of an issue or an important topic that should be asked of candidates in the upcoming forums that League is sponsoring? Voter Service Co-Chairs Ines Lochart and Sandy Curtis welcome your input/ideas. Please contact Sandy at sandycurtis@me.com /952-474-1910 or Ines ines@mchsi.com /952-474-3502. Initially, focus is on the contests for County Commissioners/ County Sheriff and State Senate and Representatives.

Thank You

When paying their 2010-2011 dues, several League members made a contribution above and beyond their "normal" membership dues category. These funds will be added to our Operating Budget.

Congratulations to LWVECC's



2010 Scholarship Recipients

Active with a capital "A" describes each of our 2010 scholarship winners -- Kaitlin McGee and Lauren Halberg. Kaitlin and Lauren have demonstrated their commitment to participation within their community, in addition to maintaining high academic standards throughout their years at Chaska High School.

Kaitlin has been a member of the District 112 Youth Commission, a youth representative on the City of Chaska Commitment to Community Task Force, 2010 Carver County Health Partnership LIVE !! Youth Summit, and helped with one of our League's candidate forums. Kaitlin helped plan the Youth Summit, which she described as "an event designed to educate teenagers about what is going on in their communities, what they think needs to be done, and how they can help to influence changes This event was absolutely thrilling to participate in and it was something that pulled me even more towards my dream of becoming a middle school or high school social studies teacher." Kaitlin plans to attend the University of Minnesota, Morris.

Lauren served as a High School Page with the Minnesota State Legislature and wrote that this helped her gain a better understanding and knowledge of politics. "The beauty of living in a democracy is that the general public decides who makes important decisions from a local to a national

level. Americans are afforded an extremely rare privilege that they need to take advantage of by voicing their ideas and making their opinions count." Lauren is a leader of International Club and serves as president of National Honor Society at Chaska High School. Lauren plans to attend Scripps College and combine her interest in the entertainment industry with her love of English and writing. Her goal is to someday work as a television writer. Lauren already plans to attend graduate school after college.



Successful Voter Registration Event

Voter Service Co-Chairs Sandy Curtis and Ines Lochart worked with Chanhassen Park and Recreation staff and arranged to have a tent for registering voters on July 3 as part of Chanhassen's annual July 4th holiday celebration. Sandy reports: "We had a very successful Voter Registration day on Saturday. A big THANK YOU to volunteers Nadia, Marcia, Sally and Elaine who helped us man the tent during the six hours. We registered an even 20 new voters -- a record for our group for one day!! In addition, we sent perhaps six or so forms home with others to be filled out at a later time. Another success was giving out another six+ applications for absentee voters! The day was very satisfying, and we all felt like we were making a difference!!! And help from the City setting up and tearing down was fabulous!"

“Women’s City Cabaret”

As part of the League’s year-long celebration of the 90th anniversary of women’s right to vote, LWVMN Member Resources Co-Chairs Karen Langsjoen and Miriam Simmons have arranged a special night of music, poetry and special guests. Jearlyn Steele will serve as host for this event sponsored by Minnesota Public Radio.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2010, 7:30 pm

Fitzgerald Theatre
10 Exchange Street East
St Paul, MN 55101-2220

They met with the MPR producer and have been told the cost is only \$20 per person! Tickets are available by calling the box office (651) 290-1200; *Group tickets are available until August 11. (There is a discount for groups of five or more.)*

A map, directions, and parking suggestions may be found at:

<http://fitzgeraldtheater.publicradio.org/> .

There are two public parking structures within about two blocks of the Fitzgerald, and there is on-street parking, free in the evenings.

JOIN US FOR A PRE-CABARET PARTY:

Kincaid’s Fish and Chop, 380 Saint Peter Street, St Paul, MN 55102-7700, (651)602-9000

Food and beverages can be purchased in the bar area at Kincaid’s from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.; Kincaid’s is at the corner of St. Peter and Sixth Street. You can see a downtown St. Paul map with skyway system at:

<http://www.stpaul.gov/DocumentView.aspx?DID=5052>

Let’s rock St. Paul on this summer evening!

League of Women Voters – Principles: LWV believes in representative government and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States. **LWV** believes that democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible. **LWV** believes that every citizen should be protected in the right to vote; that every person should have access to free public education which provides equal opportunity for all; and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic or administrative discrimination. **LWV** believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government.

LWV believes that responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people; should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation; promote the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest; share in the solution of economic and social problems that effect the general welfare; promote a sound economy; and adopt domestic policies that facilitate the solution of international problems. **LWV** believes that cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solutions to world problems, and that the development of international organization and international law is imperative in the promotion of world peace.

The LWVECC VOTER is published eight or nine times per year by the League of Women Voters of Eastern Carver County. Deadline for articles and announcements is the Monday following Board meetings.

League of Women Voters of
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