

94th Annual Meeting

**Monday, May 19
5:30 p.m.**

**Minnesota Women's Building
550 Rice Street, St. Paul**

Registration: 5:30 p.m.
Dinner: 6:00 p.m.
Program: 6:30 p.m.
Meeting: 7:15 p.m.

Speaker:

Dai Thao, Ward 1 City Council

Cost: \$20

Buffet dinner and materials

Catered by

New Saigon Restaurant
Vietnamese cuisine

Reservations:

Deadline— May 12

Make checks payable to **LWVSP** and mail to the League office:

LWVSP
550 Rice Street
St. Paul, MN 55103



Councilmember Dai Thao

Interrupting the Pipeline to Prison

Twin City LWV's sponsor community rally

One size doesn't fit all. That was a recurring message by speakers in a broad range of social, housing, research and correctional agencies on March 6 at a massive rally at Plymouth Congregational Church in Minneapolis. LWVSP and LWV-MPLS joined forces to gather a host of groups all working for social justice in many ways to prevent the causes that lead to poverty and eventual incarceration.

Minnesota has a reputation as “the State of perpetual punishment”, stated Mark Haase of the Council on Crime and Justice. Our mandatory minimum sentences, especially for drug offenses, are excessive and often inappropriate to the crime, giving Minnesota the eighth highest rate of incarceration. Minnesota's Second Choice Coalition notes that detention is not the answer to preventing further dangerous behaviors. “Nothing good ever comes out of prison,” stated Rev. Brian Herron of Zion Baptist Church. The early root causes need to be fixed.

The event opened with encouraging remarks from Minneapolis Mayor Betsy Hodges who pledged efforts to find justice and equity. At the closing, State Senator Bobby Jo Champion spoke about efforts at the State Legislature including restoring voting rights to former felons. The last word was by Susan Tucker, LWVMN executive director, who provided assurance of League's support and our long standing mission of equity and providing balanced information to the voting public.



Reporter from KFAI interviewing LWVSP member Judy Screaton at event.

March Meet-up recap

Family Place meets needs of homeless

Speaker of the month for the March Monthly Meet-up was Margaret Lovejoy, founder and executive director of *The Family Place* in Lowertown, St. Paul. It is a day center for homeless families with children where they can find a safe daytime shelter while they look for jobs and an affordable apartment. However, there is not space for sleeping, so the St. Paul Council of Churches' “Project Home” partners take them to area churches overnight. They return every morning to *The Family Place* where the respective school busses come to pick up the school-age children and bring them back.

A child's question to his mother, “How will I find you after school?” started Margaret wondering where families who have no home spend the daytime hours? And she knew what she was called to do. Now, at *The Family Place*, there are services including daily meals, showers, help looking for jobs, and access to health care, day care and transportation.

Margaret Lovejoy has received many honors for making our city a better place for many to live. This month she added a crowning achievement –a PhD based on her experience in humanitarian service. For additional information, go to www.famplace.org.

Co-Presidents' Message:

Vicki Gee-Treft & Laura Schwartz

We encourage your participation at our annual LWVSP meeting, May 19. You will have an opportunity to visit with fellow Leaguers while dining, hear City Council member Dai Thao's insights and experiences during his first four months in office, witness the results of our League this past year, and get a window into next year's programming and priorities. We especially want you to offer your voice. For example, the Nominating Committee reports the president or co-presidents and president-elect positions remain open for next year which poses significant concern. While there is passion among our membership, members respond with hesitance when called to the leadership positions and some express fatigue or over-committedness. What are your thoughts for a solution so that our local League can keep pace with the changing demands of our community? Questions about merging, partnering, and working together to recruit members need to be asked. We need to find a way to keep our organizational structure vibrant to fulfill our mission with a changing membership demographic. Many of our key Board positions are filled with engaged and passionate volunteers willing to support leaders with a vision. We look forward to seeing and hearing from you!

Changes to By-laws proposed for Annual Meeting discussion and action

The Bylaws Committee recommends that, at the Annual Meeting, the League of Women Voters Saint Paul discuss allowing its 501(c)4 organization to go dormant and using the 501(c)3 as our primary organization. The committee also recommends changing the bylaws of the current 501(c)4 so that the nominating committee is composed of three people instead of five, and there is no stipulation requiring the chair to be or not be a current Board member.

Our 501(c)3 (allowing for tax-deductible contributions) was created as a corporation with a board of directors and no membership. LWVSP will need guidance from the state League and legal support to assist us in making the bylaw changes and legal filings for both the 501(c)4 and 501(c)3 organizations. It is our understanding that action regarding the status of the c4 organization must come to the full membership, but that the c3 needs only Board of Directors action. Action regarding transfers of existing funds within each entity and filings with appropriate state and federal entities is outside of the scope of the current Bylaws committee charge and will need to be identified with legal support by the Board of Directors.

At the 2013 LWVMN convention, the question of c3 versus c4 status was raised and debated. LWVMN, with legal support, has identified a way to help local Leagues increase deductible fundraising potential by sharing its c3 status with local Leagues who could then reduce the activity in their c4 organization by putting it in a "dormant" state. They have also identified solutions to the dues-paying relationship with LWVUS, to avoid the current requirement that dues are paid from the c4 organization. (Dormancy requires that no financial transactions occur.) There was strong consensus among members present at the convention that "dormancy" rather than termination is the preferred solution for the c4 entity. LWVSP is one of the few locals that already has two entities, one c3 and one c4, so the process should be simpler than for many local Leagues in Minnesota that will have to incorporate a new c3 entity under the LWVMN umbrella. LWVSP could also choose to transfer its c3 to become a part of the LWVMN umbrella, but this would reduce autonomy and is not currently recommended by the Bylaws committee. If simplifying annual reporting and filing is a goal of the Board of Directors, this should be researched if membership votes in favor of making the c4 dormant.

—By-Laws Committee, Diane Power, chair



BOOK CLUB

**Byerly's Supermarket
1959 Suburban Avenue
(I-94 and White Bear Avenue)**

The LWV Book Club meets the second Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. in the sitting area that used to be the restaurant. Bring a friend or neighbor to introduce them to the League.

*The Club will adjourn for July and August. Summer will be a good time to delve into the long but fascinating book selected for September on the relationship between Roosevelt and Taft (**The Bully Pulpit** by Doris Kearns Goodwin).*

Wednesday, May 14: Keith Ellison, *My Country, Tis of Thee*

Wednesday, June 11: Qais Omar, *A Fort of Nine Towers*

Wednesday, September 10: Doris Kearns Goodwin, *The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft and the Golden Age of Journalism*

Contact Margie Anderson, margiea2@aol.com or 651-731-9411 for more information or if you would like to join the group.

Leaguers participate in TPT forum

Twin Cities Public Television invited LWVMN to participate in a town hall forum called *Redesigning Minnesota*. LWVMN, in turn, invited LWVSP board members Laura Schwartz and Sarah Small to accompany them.

The hour-long 8th episode, *The New Normal*, took an in-depth look at the "new normal" for Minnesota's state and local government as baby-boomers retire. LWVMN's Executive Director, Susan Sheridan Tucker, spoke at the forum about restoring voter rights to felons. LWVMN and LWVSP were in good company, as the audience was primarily filled with current and past legislators and other key decision makers in Minnesota. Notably, former Governor Al Quie was in attendance.

To view the March 23rd episode (*The New Normal*) on-line, click on http://www.mnvideovault.org/mvvPlayer/customPlaylist2.php?id=26368&select_index=0&popup=yes#0

2014-15 Slate of Officers, Directors

The 2014 Nominating Committee submits the slate below to members at the LWVSP Annual Meeting. There are three key positions in the slate that remain open and will pose significant concern to the Board of Directors, namely President, President-elect and Nominating Committee member. Please see President's Message, p. 2 and come to the Annual Meeting for further discussion. —Jaclyn Schroeder, chair

- *President:**
open..... 2014-2015
- *President-elect**
open..... 2014-2015
- *Secretary:**
Nicole Mickelson..... 2014-2015
- *Treasurer:**
Amy Mino 2014-2016
- Directors:**
(6 elected to two-year staggered terms)
open 2014-2015
Sarah Small..... 2013-2015
*Dru Osterud 2014-2015
*Anne Auten..... 2014-2016
*Judy Screaton 2014-2016
*Hally Turner 2014-2016

***Nominating Committee:**
Diane Power, plus an open position
The Board can appoint up to six directors to serve a one-year term. At this time, those recommended for appointment are Hayden Kilkenny, Anika Walz, Joan Newmark and Sigrid Johnson.

CALENDAR

Book Club
Wednesdays, May 14 & June 11

LWV Minnesota State Council
May 3, Arboretum, Chaska

LWVSP Annual Meeting
Monday, May 19, 5:30 p.m.

CMAL Annual Convention
Saturday, May 17

Board Meeting
Wednesday, June 11, 6:00 p.m.

Proposed combined 501(c3) and 501(c4) budget

	2013-2014 Budget	2013-2014 Projected	2014-15 Proposed
INCOME			
Membership Dues	4,700	3,546	4,700
LWVMN Ed Fund	400	408	400
Meeting Registrations	1,200	1,100	1,200
Donations	3,950	4,340	4,200
Grants	2,000	1,000	2,000
Carryover Reserve Funds	1,600	0	7,200
Miscellaneous	0	2	0
TOTAL INCOME	\$13,850	\$10,396	\$19,700
EXPENSES			
Administration	2,057	2,174	2,219
Membership	4,874	4,305	6,693
Communications	421	408	421
Fundraising	191	202	205
Program	5,507	4,440	10,162
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$13,050	\$11,529	\$19,700
Income vs. Expenses	\$800	(\$1,134)	-0-

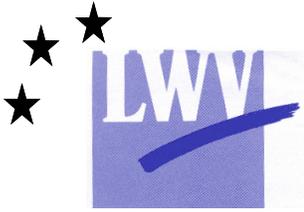
CMAL panel on local government taxes

On Saturday, March 15th, the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL) met at the Minnesota School of Business in Richfield to hear three people involved in public service talk about their experiences on the subject of taxes and local government. The focus of the discussion was on taxes, how officials navigate the complex system of how much and what to tax, and how to allocate funds from taxes.

Dan Roe, Mayor of Roseville, said that municipalities have more stable funding than the state during hard economic times. The state relies heavily on income and sales taxes as their sources of funding—both of which decline when unemployment rates increase—whereas property taxes (the major funding for cities) stay relatively the same. Cities also receive some state aid in the form of Local Government Aid (LGA), but the state tends to dip into this fund if they need it to balance the budget. So, Roseville has learned not to use the LGA funds to pay for basic city services; instead, it goes towards more long-term projects such as replacing aging infrastructure.

Heidi Nelson, City Manager of Wayzata, also pointed out that in tough economic times, people will cut back on city services, so the revenue generated from user fees and service fees (such as building permits) goes down, and city governments and administrators need to plan around that.

Robbinsdale School Board Chair Sherry Tyrrell spoke about the difficulty of planning a budget around the vagaries of state law-making. Eighty percent of their revenue comes from the state, and that when the Minnesota Miracle was created (a wealth-sharing tax system in the metro area), some cities were allowed to spend more than the limit allowed by the state in their own school districts. Robbinsdale was one of the ones that was “grandfathered” in. However, school districts still need to rely on tax levies to supply the remainder of what is not received from the state.



**THE LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS ST. PAUL**

550 Rice Street
St. Paul, MN 55103
www.lwvsp.org

Co-presidents: Laura Schwartz, Vicki Gee-Treft
Editor: Joan Newmark

TIME DATED MATERIALS

Annual Meeting—Monday, May 19

Meet your new nominees

Hayden Kilkenny has lived in St. Paul for the past 12 years. She and her family are very involved in the Irish community in St. Paul through dance and cultural organizations. Currently, she is Chair of Community Relations for the St. Patrick's Association, which organizes the St. Patrick's Day parade in St. Paul each year. She also does volunteer coordination for the organization. She joined LWV because she was impressed by the topics discussed at League's Monthly Meet-ups. As a parent, she is interested in helping youth of our community find a voice through voting and participating in the political process.

Dru Osterud has been a member of the League of Women Voters St. Paul since 1970, minus a year or two. She has held many positions: Chair of a study committee, Treasurer, President, and Finance Chair and, when LWVSP had the Elections Return Project as a fundraiser, she volunteered on that project multiple times. In 1985, Dru received the St. Paul LWV's Lyksett Award. Dru's first job in what would become her career grew out of her volunteer work for the League on government and housing issues in St. Paul! She worked for 23 years as an advocate for low-income people at the Legislature, primarily on issues relating to housing, taxes and child care. She spent the last 10 years working for the Department of Human Services on child care policy.

Diane Power has been a member of the League of Women Voters in St. Paul for over 35 years. She has served in a variety of positions, including President, Chair of the Election Returns Project, Chair of the Circle of Leadership event, and on the Nominating Committee. Diane is a retired librarian. For many years she catalogued state documents at the Minnesota Legislative Reference Library. She has taught at St. Kate's in their library program and has done workshops for librarians around Minnesota. She has a M. A. in Library Science and a B. A. in Mathematics with a minor in Political Science from the University of Minnesota.

Anika Walz returned to Minnesota in 2013 with a strong desire to re-engage in community service and discourse with a particular focus on seeking out strong, smart, female mentors. Shortly after moving back to St. Paul, she joined the LWVMN staff and became a member of LWV St. Paul. Prior to returning to Minnesota, Anika managed holistic international development programs in East Africa. She is a graduate of St. Kate's in Justice and Peace Studies and plans on pursuing a Master's Degree in Public Policy this fall.

Dues Reminder

Membership Categories

Student	\$20
New Member	\$55
Member	\$75
Household	\$90
Supporter	\$100

Send your check, payable to
LWVSP, to:

LWV St. Paul
550 Rice St., St. Paul, 55103

VOTER

May—June, 2014
Vol. 18, Issue 3

The newsletter of the League of Women Voters St. Paul is published bi-monthly, and distributed by:

LWV St. Paul
550 Rice St, St. Paul, 55103