

**LEAGUE LINES  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF THE BRAINERD LAKES AREA**

MAY 2018

VOLUME 22 NUMBER 8



*ANNUAL DINNER*

*LOCATION: NORTHERN COWBOY FLAME AND BREW  
(FORMERLY IVANS ON THE BAY)  
19090 STATE HIGHWAY 371*

*DATE AND TIME: MONDAY, MAY 7  
5:30 PM SOCIAL  
6:15 DINNER  
PROGRAM AT 7*

*COST: \$25 FOR COMPLETE DINNER WITH VARIOUS OPTIONS  
PAID AT THE RESTAURANT*

*RSVP TO [sally@jacobsenlaw.com](mailto:sally@jacobsenlaw.com)  
IF YOU ARE ABLE TO ATTEND*

*SUBJECT: LWVMN*

*SPEAKER: MICHELLE WITTE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LWVMN*

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

From Sally Jacobsen

*I'm excited to have Michelle Witte, the Executive Director of the League of Women Voters Minnesota as our speaker at our annual dinner. Michelle is passionate about the League's mission. Since she became the Executive Director in May 2017, there have been big changes at the state office. She has reorganized and hired new staff. They are an energetic group and more responsive. The website has been redesigned and is easier to use. The state league office building was recently sold, so the League will become a tenant, instead of landlord, which should help stabilize expenses since the old building was always needing costly repairs. After being at the League Council in St. Cloud yesterday, I feel like there is a renewed energy with everyone involved. Michelle is a dynamic speaker and has lots of ideas about how to grow our League and further the mission of the League of Women Voters. She also has exciting news about plans and partnerships for the yearlong 2019 Centennial celebration of the passing of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment granting women the right to vote and the establishment of the League of Women Voters on October 29, 1919.*

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## DUES REMINDER

Hi,

*It is time to renew your membership if you haven't already paid. Single membership is still 65.00 and family is 85.00. If you are attending the next meeting, you may bring check or cash there. If you are unable to attend please either click on the link below and pay online or mail a check to:*

*13513 Executive Acres Rd  
Brainerd, Mn 56401*

*<https://squareup.com/store/league-of-women-voters-brainerd-lakes-area>*

*We have had a great year with wonderful speakers. This next year is an important election year. We will be involved in putting together local candidate forums. Thank you for being involved, learning about local issues, and supporting voter education.*

*Thanks,  
Becky LaPlante  
LWVBLA Treasurer  
320-266-1197*

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## LWVMN CONVENTION

*Thurs., June 28 – Sun., July 1, 2018  
at Hilton Chicago - 720 S. Michigan Ave*

*For the latest information on the 57<sup>th</sup> convention please visit.*

*<http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/council-and-convention/convention-2018>*

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# LWVMN RELEASES STATEMENT ON VOTER REGISTRATION REPORT

From LWVMN website

*St. Paul, Minn. – In response to the report on voter registration released today by the Office of the Legislative Auditor, Michelle Witte, Executive Director of the League of Women Voters Minnesota released the following statement:*

*We'd like to thank the nonpartisan staff of the Office of the Legislative Auditor for their work on the voter registration report released today. The report shows that Minnesotans can be proud of our voter registration system, which has been a model for the nation. The report also shows that we need to do some work investing in secure, modern and efficient registration systems, especially those that meet the special cybersecurity issues we are now facing as a nation.*

*We strongly encourage our legislature to continue the tradition of requiring bipartisan support for any updates and changes made to our election system as a result of this report.*

*As Senator Mary Kiffmeyer and Representative Tim O'Driscoll stated in a 2017 letter to the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board, "the longstanding tradition in elections and campaign finance policy has been that all approved policy must have broad bipartisan support."*

*We also applaud Senator Susan Kent and Representative Laurie Halverson for their leadership on The Secure Access for Minnesota Voters Act (SF3374/HF3791). This bill was introduced by Rep. Halverson and Sen. Kent to provide the reforms and cyber security updates that Minnesota needs right now to secure our elections and ensure access to the ballot for all eligible voters.*

*"We urge the legislature to work together to keep voting secure and accessible for all, and maintain Minnesota's ranking as first in the nation for voter turnout. There are many bipartisan solutions, such as Automatic Voter Registration and Restore the Vote, already on the table to help us successfully address the challenges we face," says Terry Kalil, LWVMN President. Automatic Voter Registration has been an effective bipartisan measure in other states to secure access to the ballot and ensure integrity of our voter registration system.*

*The League of Women Voters Minnesota is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization committed to empowering voters and defending democracy since 1919.*

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**QUOTE OF THE MONTH:** Authentic choices require that we push past our comfort zone.--Sarah Ban Breathnach

## LEAGUE PRINCIPLES

- *The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that all powers of the U.S. government should be exercised within the constitutional framework of a balance among the three branches of government: legislative, executive, and judicial.*

- *The League of Women Voters believes that democratic government depends upon informed and active participation in government 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.*

- *The League of Women Voters believes that every citizen should be protected in the right to vote; that every person should have access to free public education that provides equal opportunity for all; and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic or administrative discrimination.*

- *The League of Women Voters 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.*

- *The League of Women Voters believes that responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people; that government 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 affect the general welfare, promote a sound economy and adopt domestic policies that facilitate the solution of international problems.*

- *The League of Women Voters believes that cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solutions to world problems and that development of international organization and international law is imperative in the promotion of world peace.*

*DIVERSITY MISSION - The League affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of Minnesota in its membership and strives to overcome barriers of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability in the activities of the organization. The League Lines is a publication of the League of Women Voters of the Brainerd Lakes Area. If you have comments or would prefer a hard copy mailed to you, please email the editor at [mbeutz@brainerd.net](mailto:mbeutz@brainerd.net) or call 218-820-4622 in the evenings.*

*If you would like to know more about the League of Women Voters of the Brainerd Lakes Area, visit our website at <http://www.lwvbrainerdlakesarea.org> or our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/League-of-Women-Voters-Brainerd-Lakes-Area/120427464679302>, or the Minnesota League of Women Voters website <http://www.lwvmn.org>  
The LWVBLA is very fortunate to work with Donna Evans of Gizmo Creations, LLC on our web page. Check the web page for updates and also visit her web designing site [www.gizmocreations.com](http://www.gizmocreations.com)*