

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

FEBRUARY 2018

VOLUME 22 NUMBER 5



MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

SUBJECT: REPORTING THE NEWS

SPEAKERS: MATT ERICKSON, DISPATCH EDITOR
AND RENEE RICHARDSON, ASSOCIATE EDITOR

LOCATION: SAGE ON LAUREL RESTAURANT
606 LAUREL STREET, BRAINERD

DATE AND TIME: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8
11:30 AM SOCIAL AND LUNCH
PROGRAM AT NOON

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Wishing you al a bright, sunny, cold Super Bowl Sunday!

We'll meet for our monthly League of Women Voters meeting on Thursday, February 8th at the new Sage on Laurel Restaurant. Come at 11:30, if you want to order lunch and socialize or just come at noon for the program. Our speakers will be Matt Erickson, Brainerd Dispatch Editor and Renee Richardson, Associate Editor giving us an update on the newspaper business in the Brainerd Lakes area. I hope to have a lively discussion on many local topics and maybe get their opinion on how the concept of "fake news" is having an impact on local reporting. We'll also have a chance to discuss the upcoming fall elections and possible coordination with the Dispatch on candidate forums.

Remember-Tuesday, February 6th is caucus night in Minnesota. Registration begins at 6:30pm and caucus begins at 7:00pm. I believe the Crow Wing County DFL meet in the Brainerd High School Cafeteria. Brainerd/Baxter GOP meet at Forestview Middle School. Nisswa/Pequot Lakes GOP meet at Nisswa Elementary. Aitkin DFL are at Aitkin High School and Aitkin GOP are at Aitkin Westside Church. To verify your location, please go to the Secretary of State website and enter your address. <http://caucusfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>

NEW SENATOR TINA SMITH

From Wikipedia

Tina Flint Smith (born March 4, 1958) is an American politician serving as the 48th and current Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota. She will be sworn in as the junior United States Senator from Minnesota on January 3, 2018, following the expected resignation of Al Franken.^[1] Smith, also a former chief of staff to Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton and Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak, is a member of the Democratic–Farmer–Labor Party. Upon her appointment she will be Minnesota's third female U.S. Senator.

Smith was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Prior to going to college, she worked on the Trans-Alaskan Pipeline in Prudhoe Bay, Alaska. She graduated from Stanford University with a degree in political science, and later earned a master's degree in business administration from Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College.^[2]

Smith first moved to Minnesota in 1984 for a marketing job at General Mills.^[3] She later started her own marketing firm, where she consulted with businesses and nonprofits.^[4] In the early 1990s, Smith became involved in local politics, volunteering for DFL campaigns in Minneapolis.^[5] She managed Ted Mondale's unsuccessful 1998 campaign for governor. After Minnesota's U.S. Senator Paul Wellstone died in a plane crash weeks before the 2002 election, Smith managed former U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale's campaign for the seat.^[6] After Mondale lost a narrow election to Norm Coleman, Smith began working as the vice president of external affairs at Planned Parenthood of Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota.^[7]

Smith left her job at Planned Parenthood to serve as chief of staff to Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak in 2006.^[8] In 2010, she was picked to manage Rybak's gubernatorial campaign, which ended after Margaret Anderson Kelliher won the DFL endorsement.^[9] Smith then joined the campaign of Mark Dayton, who skipped the endorsing convention and eventually won the DFL primary.^[5] After Dayton defeated Republican Tom Emmer in the general election, Smith was named a co-chair of the transition. Dayton appointed Smith as his chief of staff when he took office in 2011.^[9]

When Lieutenant Governor Yvonne Prettner Solon announced she would not seek re-election, Governor Mark Dayton selected Smith as his running mate in the 2014 gubernatorial election. Dayton cited Smith's work on passing legislation for new Minnesota Vikings Stadium, as well as her support for the Destination Medical Center project with the Mayo Clinic in Rochester.^[10]

Smith stepped down as Dayton's chief of staff to campaign for lieutenant governor. After being nominated by acclamation at the DFL state convention, and facing only token opposition in the DFL gubernatorial primary, Dayton and Smith defeated Republicans Jeff Johnson and Bill Kuisle in the general election.^[11]

Tenure

Since taking office as lieutenant governor in January 2015, many political observers have noted Smith has taken on a higher profile than her predecessors.^[3] She has spent a significant amount of time traveling the state in support of the priorities of Dayton's administration, including funding for optional preschool for all four-year-olds, transportation infrastructure, and rural broadband internet access. She served as chair of the Destination Medical Center board until her resignation in December 2017.^{[12][13]} Smith has also played a key role in legislative negotiations.^[14]

In 2016, Roll Call named Smith to their "America's Top 25 Most Influential Women in State Politics" list, citing her high profile role in the Dayton administration. Despite widespread speculation, Smith announced she would not run for governor in the 2018 election.^{[15][16]}

In December 2017, Smith became Governor Dayton's appointee to fill the United States Senate seat of Al Franken, who has announced his intention to resign.^[17] While political observers initially speculated Smith might serve in a caretaker role, she announced she intends to seek election to the seat in the 2018 special election.^[18] Smith is expected to be sworn in to the Senate on January 3, 2018.^[1]

QUOTE OF THE MONTH: A clay pot sitting in the sun will always be a clay pot. It has to go through the white heat of the furnace to become porcelain.--Mildred White Struven

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 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