

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

MARCH 2018

VOLUME 22 NUMBER 6



MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

**SUBJECT: UPPER MISSISSIPPI-GRAND RAPIDS
WATERSHED PROJECT**

**SPEAKERS: ANNA BOSCH, WATERSHED PROJECT MANAGER
FOR THE MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY**

**LOCATION: THE SKILLET IN BRAINERD
123 WASHINGTON ST NE**

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

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

We had a good meeting in February at The new Sage on Laurel Restaurant in Brainerd with our featured speakers, Matt Erickson and Renee Richardson from the Brainerd Dispatch. It was interesting to hear about the "behind-the-scenes" workings at the paper and possible future changes.

In keeping with our field trip theme this year, we will be meeting at the newly renovated Skillet Restaurant on Washington Ave. in Brainerd in March. Our speaker, Anna Bosch will talk about her work with the MPCA, specifically the Upper-Mississippi-Grand Rapids Watershed Project. Learn how changes at the federal level may be affecting our local natural resource.

Mark your calendars for another field trip monthly meeting on Thursday, April 12th. We haven't confirmed all the details, but if it all works out, it should be a fun meeting.

Please note this month-

- The League of Women Voters annual **convention** will be held in St. Cloud at the Courtyard Marriott on Saturday, April 28th. It is an all day event beginning with a buffet breakfast meeting, nine break-out sessions, lunch, and a presentation of the current Centennial plans concluding with a social hour. The cost for the day, including meals is \$100.
- Remember there is an **ISD #181 School Referendum** on Tuesday, April 10th. If you live anywhere in the large school district, you need to be informed and vote. All the information you need is at blueprint181.org . There are three ballot questions that will have a huge impact on the district for future generations. This website will also tell you where to vote. (It may not be the same place as your general election voting) There is also a tax impact calculator so you will know exactly how the results will affect your finances. There are many public information sessions scheduled throughout the community, if you want more information. Early voting began on February 23, so you may request an absentee ballot or go vote in person now at the Crow Wing County Historic Courthouse on the 2nd floor.

ISD181 REFERENDUM QUESTIONS

From The Brainerd Dispatch

April 10th the public will consider three ballot questions involving improvements to all the elementary and secondary school buildings and the addition of a performing arts center, for an estimated total cost of \$204 million.

The three ballot questions broken down will be:

- Question 1: Investing in the elementary school buildings and Early Childhood Family Education program for a total cost of \$104 million.
- Question 2: Investing in the secondary buildings for a total cost of \$93 million.
- Question 3: Investing in a performing arts center for a total cost of \$8 million.

The third question is contingent on the second question passing; meaning if Question 2 fails so does the third.

Question 1

The \$104 million breakdown:

- New Baxter Elementary School: \$26 million.
- Baxter Early Childhood Hub: \$5 million. (The hub would serve as the main location for early childhood offices and classrooms.)
- Garfield Elementary School: \$11 million.
- Harrison Elementary School: \$19 million.
- Lowell Elementary School: \$13 million.
- Nisswa Elementary School: \$12 million.
- Riverside Elementary School: \$13 million.
- Renew Washington Educational Services Building: \$5 million.

Question 2

The \$93 million breakdown:

- Brainerd High School—South Campus: \$11 million.
- Brainerd High School—North Campus: \$79 million.
- Forestview Middle School: \$1.5 million.
- Brainerd Learning Center: \$1 million.
- Lincoln Education Center demolition: \$500,000.

Question 3

- \$8 million for an improved performing arts center at BHS, going from a 950-seat arts center to 1,200 seats.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH: *The capacity to combine commitment with skepticism is essential to democracy.--Mary Catherine Bateson*

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