

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

APRIL 2018

VOLUME 22 NUMBER 7



*MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM*

*SUBJECT: HISTORY AND MISSION OF  
THE CROSSING ARTS ALLIANCE*

*SPEAKERS: LISA JORDAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE  
CROSSING ARTS ALLIANCE  
DUANE BARNHART, WATERCOLOR ARTIST*

*LOCATION: CROSSING ARTS ALLIANCE  
711 LAUREL STREET IN BRAINERD*

*DATE AND TIME: THURSDAY, APRIL 12  
11:30 AM SOCIAL  
PROGRAM AT NOON*

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**PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

*From Sally Jacobsen*

*League of Women Voters Brainerd Lakes will meet on Thursday, April 12 at the beautiful, new Crossing Arts Alliance office located at 711 Laurel St. in downtown Brainerd. Come at 11:30am to socialize and browse through the gift shop and gallery. Our speakers at noon will be Lisa Jordan, Executive Director of the Crossing Arts Alliance and Duane Barnhart, watercolor artist from Aitkin. Find out the history and mission of the Crossing Arts Alliance and what an asset this group is to the Brainerd Lakes area. Feel free to bring your lunch.*

*Mark your calendars for the League of Women Voters Brainerd Lakes annual dinner on Monday, May 7th. Our speaker will be League of Women Voters Minnesota Executive Director Michelle Witte. Look for a future email with restaurant information and dinner entree selection.*

Remember to vote on the ISD #181 School Referendum on Tuesday, April 10th. For more information and answers to many questions, go to [blueprint181.org](http://blueprint181.org).  
Early voting is available now at the historic courthouse in Brainerd.

Anyone interested in joining me at the annual LWV Minnesota Council, April 28, 2018 at the St. Cloud Marriott? Cost is \$100 for the day filled with education, inspiration, workshops, and lunch.

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Monday, May 7 Annual Dinner

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### FEBRUARY 23 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Present: Sally Jacobsen, Rebecca LaPlante, Rebecca Timmins, Jean Prickett.

There were 19 people present at our February meeting with the Brainerd Dispatch staff.

Treasurers report, Rebecca LaPlante. The current checking balance is about \$900, reflecting the dues paid by new members since we sent in our BLA group dues to the LWVMN last July. Most of the money that we pay as individual dues is sent on to the state and national league. Our payment to LWVMN is based on our membership as of January 31<sup>st</sup> and the payment is due to our office in St. Paul in July. Rebecca will publish a current membership list.

Coming program meetings:

MARCH 8<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at the Skillet Restaurant, 123 E. Washington, Brainerd. The program will be from 12:00 – 1:00 pm. If you plan to by lunch, please arrive by 11:15 so orders may be taken and served before the program. The speaker will be Anna Bosch, Watershed Project Manager for the MPCA. She will speak on what has been learned about the health of both local and state wide rivers and streams in the recently completed state wide watershed survey.

APRIL 12<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be held at the Crossing Arts Alliance building, 711 Laurel St, downtown Brainerd. Bring a bag lunch. The speaker will be Lisa Jordan, director, describing the activities of the Alliance.

MAY 8<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday, - Annual Meeting with election of officers and a discussion of program topics for next year. Bring your ideas. The speaker will be Michelle Witte, Executive Director of the LWVMN. Place TBA, Possibly at Prairie Bay.  
The officers to be elected this year are president, treasurer, secretary, nominating committee chairman, and two directors.

The March League Lines will include an announcement of the Brainerd School District tax referendum on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

The LWVMN convention will be held in St. Cloud on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. Rebecca La Plante and Sally Jacobsen plan to go. Any league member is welcome.

Fall Candidate Forums: There will be elections for Governor, 8<sup>th</sup> District representative to the U.S. Congress, state legislators, school board, and county sheriff. We expect to partner with the Brainerd Dispatch and the Brainerd Chamber of Commerce (Director, Matt Killian) to provide public forums for candidates.

Respectfully submitted, Jean Prickett

# CLEAN WATER FOR GOOD HEALTH

Submitted by Jean Prickett

These are a few facts about Minnesota waters that I put together for our church Creation Care committee. I thought that they would be food for thought.

- We have 11,847 lakes over 10 acres in size. About half (5,483) are fishable.
- Minnesota has no in-coming water other than precipitation.
- Our water flows out in three directions into three major watersheds. From the north and northwest it flows into Canada and Hudson Bay. From the Arrowhead area it flows east to the Great Lakes. All of the rest goes south down the Mississippi.
- World wide, 97.41% of the water is salty sea water. Only 2.59% is fresh water and less than half of that is easily accessible for people to use.
- How people use the land has a major and cumulative effect on the water – construction, roads, farming, manufacturing, logging, paved surfaces, chemical use and disposal, etc. etc. etc.
- Using various strategies, including regulations, to protect currently clean water is about ¼ as expensive as cleaning up contaminated lakes, rivers, and ground water.

Some problems in Minnesota waters:

- In urban and farming areas one half of the lakes are not safe to swim in.
- In the metro area toxic industrial chemicals have seeped into the ground water serving 150,000 people in 6 suburbs to the point that the water must be treated to remove them. Another 37,000 are threatened in the near future as toxics are seeping toward them. The sources are dry cleaning shops, auto repair shops, the former General Mills laboratory site near the St. Paul-Minneapolis border, and 3M on the East side. They have made the news lately because of all of the PFC/PFOA chemicals they disposed of over the years. And no doubt many others.
- NITRATES are found in rural area private wells and many of the states 729 municipal wells. Sixteen cities have wells with contamination at dangerously high levels requiring treatment or replacement, costing Minnesotans \$3 million a year, on top of the expenses of private well owners. Nitrates reduce the amount of oxygen in the blood of infants under six months, causing “blue baby” syndrome, and are possibly a risk factor for Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. (Star Tribune, 4-4-17, “Tainted Waters” feature story).
- PESTICIDES are not usually tested for in well water, but some water quality experts believe that any water showing nitrates would probably also contain pesticides.
- Recent conversion of several thousand acres of VERY sandy soil in the Park Rapids area from Potlatch forests to crop land is causing well and aquifer contamination. The fertilizer and pesticides that are applied to the fields go straight down through the sand into the water table.
- SULFIDES – Contamination in the ground water and lakes near Mountain Iron resulting from sulfur compounds leaking from an 8,000 acre tailings basin at the Mintac Taconite plant. (Brainerd Dispatch, April 4, 2017)
- CHLORIDES are reaching toxic levels in ponds, lakes and streams in some cities and towns from years of putting salt on the roads in the winter, at levels high enough to affect the aquatic creatures. (From an interview on Almanac, on Minn. Public Television, April 15, 2017 with an MPCA spokesperson.
- ATRAZINE, a pesticide, has been found by the U.S. Geologic Service at elevated levels in rivers and streams all across the central states agricultural regions, well above minimum safe levels, especially in the spring and summer.

-There are serious DEAD ZONES where the Red river flows into Lake Winnipeg in Manitoba and where the Mississippi flows into the Gulf of Mexico.

Theologian Larry Rasmussen has said “We all live downhill, downstream, and downwind from everyone who has come before us, and up hill, up stream and up wind from all who will follow. As we consider the health of Minnesota’s water systems and how water is connected to human health, we MUST keep in mind the consequences for future generations - our children and grandchildren.

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH: The chief enemy of creativity is good sense.--Pablo Picasso

## 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](tel: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)*