

LEAGUE LINES LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE BRAINERD LAKES AREA

SEPTEMBER 2018

VOLUME 23 NUMBER 1



MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

SUBJECT: ELECTION SYSTEM AND SECURITY

**SPEAKER: DEBBIE ERICKSON,
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIRECTOR
CROW WING COUNTY**

**LOCATION: THE SKILLET RESTAURANT
123 WASHINGTON ST NE, BRAINERD**

**DATE AND TIME: THURSDAY, SEPT. 13
PROGRAM AT NOON
11:30 SOCIAL**

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

We have a busy fall coming up with the elections. I hope to see everyone at the first meeting in September. It should be very informative. We have heard a lot about election security lately. It will be interesting to find out how Minnesota and Crow Wing County deals with it. Please stay after for an open board meeting. We have quite a bit to discuss for the upcoming candidate forums. I am also looking for people to volunteer at the college for National Voter Registration Day. Someone from the student government contacted me and asked if we would help out. It is September 25th from 11am to 2pm. Our twitter account is now active. Please follow us on twitter. LWVBLA. Thanks!!!!

NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Becky LaPlante, President
Sally Jacobsen, Treasurer
Rebecca Timmins, Secretary
Kath Hegstrom, Membership*

ANNUAL MAY MEETING NOTES

By Mary Beutz

Exiting President Sally Jacobson discussed raising dues since \$8 is all we keep locally per member. A motion was made to increase dues to \$85 and \$105 but the increase did not pass by vote. Jean motioned that we just do an additional notice in the dues reminder for those that can give more. Elaine seconded and the additional line on the dues request passed.

The speaker for the meeting was Michelle Witte, Executive Director, LWVMN. Below is the centennial plans she discussed. She presented an overview of what the state is doing and explained that they are trying to increase visibility. There are 35 Leagues with around 2000 members. Specifically, minority inclusion is being stressed at the state office. They are developing a tool kit and strategic plan focused on customer service. They state office assists local leagues with website design and graphics and also partners with the ACLU and other groups. 80% of local leagues participate in trainings. They have decided to go back to mailing some pieces, such as *The Voter*. They register almost 9000 new citizens every year and are working on a text service for young people in an effort to get them to pledge to vote. They are hosting three broadcast forums with partners and will be live streaming online.

Membership has grown by 10% and they raise 90% of their budget and there has been a 20% increase in donations. Members can check the state site under 'News'.

A centennial celebration will be planned for and they are already working on it. The 100th Anniversary Gala will be at the Union Depot. There will be fundraising and travelling exhibits, which will be available. Bus tours could be arranged for out-state Leagues. She encouraged Local Leagues to 'tell their story'.

BUDGET REPORT

Submitted at May Meeting

2017-2018 Expenses \$1,392.33

Savings \$260.33

Education Fund \$376.78

Proposed 2018-2019 \$2,410.00

100TH CENTENIAL PLANS FROM LWVMN

- **April 2019-Aug 2020:** Traveling History Exhibit with local Leagues
- **Fall 2020:** Minnesota History Center Exhibit
- **Sept 2019:** Minnesota Suffrage Memorial Community Event
- **Oct 2019:** 100th Anniversary Gala at Union Depot
- **Aug 26, 2020:** MN State Fair
- **Summer 2020:** Summer Parades and Fairs in Local Communities

Here's the more annotated version:

Prepare a budget and work plan

- **MAIN POINT - How often do we have a centennial?** Most all expenses occur within FY20-21, so we can plan and fundraise this year, and if something falls through, it can be dropped.
- **April 2019 Convention:** Will work with LWV St. Paul on a final plan to share with the LWVMN board before July retreat.
- **April 2019-Aug 2020 Traveling Exhibit:** Have a strong task force leader; will recruit addl League leaders; \$ is in 2020 Commission, should that pass; also applying for a MN Historical & Cultural Heritage Grant this May
- **Sept 2019 - Minnesota Suffrage Memorial Community Event:** Have \$ in commission; otherwise can also be a low-cost community event and/or secure sponsors
- **Oct 2019 - 100th Anniversary Gala at Union Depot:** Is a fundraising event; \$4,500 base cost for rental; all other costs handled though tickets and sponsors

- **Summer 2020 - Summer Parades and Fairs in Local Communities:** Will develop tool kits internally and have some signs/banners/swags that local Leagues could purchase
 - **Aug 26, 2020 - MN State Fair:** Keeping our activities to just one “power day;” great opportunity for visibility and therefore also for sponsors
- Fall 2020 - Minnesota History Center Exhibit**

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 29, 2018

Stone House Coffee

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

New Board Officers: Becky LaPlante, President; Sally Jacobsen, Treasurer; Rebecca Timmins, Secretary
Treasurer's report:

Sally Jaconbsen provided the 2017-18 actual and 2018-19 proposed budget. She also reported that the BLA LWV received a grant from the State LWV in the amount of \$2,550 for upcoming forums for local government candidates and a grant in the amount of \$1,000 for forums featuring statewide candidates. Sally will be paying our chapter dues to the state LWV by July 13.

Previous Business:

The spring annual meeting for the BLA LWV was held on May 7 at Northern Cowboy restaurant. Michelle Witte, Executive Director of the MN State League of Women Voters was the featured speaker. She gave an overview of the league and what it is doing currently. 2019 will be the 100th anniversary of the 19 Amendment and the formation of the League of Women Voters.

New Business:

The group discussed the need for a nominating committee chair. Becky will ask the Edmunds to seek a chair.

Upcoming meetings

The group discussed monthly meeting venues. The Skillet meets the needs of the LWV monthly meetings. Unless another space is located that is better suited, we will hold our meetings at The Skillet. September 6, 2018 Becky will contact the Crow Wing County and invite Debbie Erickson to speak. She is the Administrative

Services Director for the county, and in this capacity, she provides election administration. If she is unavailable, Becky will ask if there may be another person in that area to speak, i.e. Lisa Kotchikian, Elections Support Specialist.

October There will be no regular monthly LWV meeting in October to make way for the various forums that hope to host along with the Chamber of Commerce and the Brainerd Dispatch. The possible events are:

- Governor candidate debate party. This would be at a public venue with a live stream of the debate.

This group will explore area restaurants/bars for this party.

- US Senate candidate debate in the Brainerd Lakes area. Sally will explore this possibility with the Chamber of Commerce. It was suggested that a letter be sent from the BLA LWV and the Chamber to all possible candidates now so they have an idea of what we'd like to do when the field is narrowed.

- Other forums could include: State representatives, County Commissioners, County Sheriff, city council and mayor, and school board candidates.

Along with the Chamber, the LWV will determine what works best for number of forums and who appears at each.

November 8, 2018 Becky will contact Bruce Buxton from the “River to Rails Initiative” to speak to the group.

December 13, 2018 Rebecca will contact Pam Perry, retired DNR loon expert to speak about loons and their viability here and in other parts of the country.

January, February and March meetings TBD

April 12, 2019 Jean will explore getting a speaker about “Toxic Taters.” This will cover information about what chemicals used in farming can do to end users of the food products.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH: *Clinging to the past is the problem. Embracing change is the answer.*--Gloria Steinem

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