

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

OCTOBER 2018

VOLUME 23 NUMBER 2



NO MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM  
DUE TO FORUMS

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

*The voter registration event at CLC went well. We registered about 150 people. Erich Heppner from the college put together a great event with food and music. Quite a few candidates showed up also. It was a fun event. We will not have our regular monthly meeting this month due to all of the candidate forums. November meeting will be on the second Thursday of the month as usual. We do not have a December program yet. If anybody has ideas, let me know. We do have a very busy month of candidate forums. Please show up if you can. If you are able to help, let me know.*

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## 2018 BRAINERD LAKES AREA CANDIDATE FORUMS

### **Pequot Lakes Mayor & City Council**

Monday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Pequot Lakes High School

Moderator: Matt Kilian, Brainerd Lakes Chamber

### **Crow Wing County Commissioner & Sheriff**

Tuesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Crow Wing County Land Services Building

Moderator: TBD

### **Minnesota 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District**

Monday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Madden's Resort Town Hall

Moderator: Kevin Doran, KSTP

### **Brainerd and Baxter City Councils**

Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m.

Yesterday's Gone, Downtown Brainerd

Moderator: Matt Kilian, Brainerd Lakes Chamber

**ISD #181 School Board Forum**  
Monday, October 15th at 6:30pm  
School board meeting room at WESB.

**Crosslake Mayor & City Council**  
Tuesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m.  
Crosslake Charter School  
Moderator: Wayne Holtmeyer

**Minnesota State Representative, Districts 9A, 10A, 10B**  
Monday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.  
Chalberg Theatre, Central Lakes College  
Moderator: Jeff Wig, Initiative Foundation

**Presenting Partners:**

- Brainerd Lakes, Crosslake & Pequot Lakes Chambers
  - League of Women Voters
  - Brainerd Dispatch / Echo-Journal
- Rosenmeier Center for State and Local Government

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## PAUL DOUGLAS PROGRAM ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Submitted by Jean Prickett

Paul Douglas, Meteorologist, will present a program entitled 'A Christians Perspective on Climate Change' on Saturday, October 6 from 1 to 2 pm at the Lutheran Church of the Cross, 5064 County Road 18 in Nisswa. Paul believes it is our personal responsibility to protect our resources for our future generations. Flyer is attached. Jean has been to a previous program and said it was a knowledgeable presentation.

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## WHO'S ON MY BALLOT?

It is easy to prepare to vote by visiting the Minnesota Secretary of State website. Ballot information is posted by address. Please visit the following website to view sample ballots.

<https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/whats-on-my-ballot>

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## VOTING EARLY

Absentee or early voting opens 46 days before the election. You can vote in person, by mail, or you can have an agent pick up a ballot for you. See the MN Secretary of State website for complete information.

<https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/other-ways-to-vote/>

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## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 13, 2018  
The Skillet Restaurant

Present: Mike & Kathy Edmunds, Jean Prickett, Rebecca Timmins, Becky LaPlante, Tracy Lyons, Mary Jo Ahlgren

**Treasurer's report:** There was no formal treasurer's report. Becky reported on expenses and future costs. See below.

**Previous Business:** There were no meeting minutes from the August Board meeting.

**New Business:** The group discussed notes from the 9/13/18 meeting which included LWV representatives: Becky LaPlante & Rebecca Timmins; Matt Killian, Chamber of Commerce; and Matt Erickson, Editor & Pete Mohs, Publisher Brainerd Dispatch.

### **Notes from that meeting**

#### **US House of Representatives Forum**

Becky reported on two phone calls she had had with the MN LWV in recent days. MN reps from the MN League were concerned that the forum featuring the candidates for US Representatives carefully follow regulations set out so no partisan efforts would emerge. Maddens had offered the use of their large conference room for this forum. The League indicated that we either pay the market rent rate, or Maddens could donate this room for use to the Brainerd Lakes Area League and the League would provide a receipt. This was met with approval by the MN League. They also wanted to be certain that all questions were non-partisan. The moderator does not need to be a League representative, but the MN League wants to talk with the chosen moderator before the forum. Brainerd native, Kevin Doran, from KSTP TV station out of the Twin Cities, has agreed to be moderator for this forum.

This forum will be held at Maddens on October 8 at 6:30 p.m. Discussion proceeded around the topic of forum candidates. Matt Killian had already secured the appearance of Joe Radinovich (D-Candidate) and Pete Stauber (R-Candidate). Ray "Skip" Sandman (I-Candidate) has not been invited. Becky's research showed that he does not have to be invited because he does not meet the minimum requirements; specifically as follows: Received support of at least five percent in a statewide poll of voters by a historically accurate pollster that was not commissioned by a party or a candidate. (Adopted by the League of Women Voters Minnesota Board of Directors, February 27, 2018). Matt & Pete from the Dispatch and Matt K. from the Chamber all thought we should invite him. Matt K. did indicate that the Radinovich campaign was not keen on inviting Sandman, but would get back to Matt with information about pulling out or staying in the forum if Sandman were invited. It was decided that we would wait to see what the Radinovich position was before inviting Sandman.

The format of questions will include set questions interspersed with audience questions. The latter will be heavily vetted and edited to be non-partisan by forum officials before they are asked. Live streaming on Facebook is likely and questions may come from this source as well. Format will include: intro by moderator, opening and closing statements by the candidate and roughly 10 questions which will include answers and rebuttals.

This forum is being promoted in the Dispatch, the Chamber, and the MN LWV.

#### **State Representatives Forum**

The date and location for this forum has not be set, but work is being done to set it sometime during the week of October 22 during the evening at CLC's Chalberg Theater. Jeff Wig (local Brainerd Lakes area person with the Initiative Foundation) will be asked to moderate.

#### **County Commissioner and Sheriff Forum**

This forum will be held at the Land Services Building on October 2 at 6:30 p.m. No moderator is set for this forum yet. This forum will be a two-part program with one half being devoted to candidates for county commissioners and one half for sheriff candidates.

#### **City Council Forum**

This forum will be held at Yesterday's Gone Bar and Grill, Brainerd, on October 12 at 7:30 a.m. This will be moderated by Matt Killian from the Chamber and promoted as a Chamber event.

#### **School Board Forum**

Sally Jacobsen is working with the school district on this format. The proposed format would be that each candidate would be seated at a table with information about themselves and would speak informally to people as they came by. No date set.

The planning committee for these forums will meet again on September 18.

#### **End of Notes**

Becky LaPlante reported: -Cost for State Rep. forum at CLC would be \$100-\$200 -Cost for County Rep/Sheriff forum at Land Service Building would be 28/hr w/a 4-hr min. if no employee were on the premises. She thought this would be waived because an employee would be there. -Money provided by the MN League for the forums can also be used for League/Voter education. Becky purchased buttons and a banner for \$250. -Becky asked for a vote to spend approximately \$50 for printing fliers on League, who to register to vote, and upcoming forums. This board voted in the affirmative to go ahead with this project. -Becky asked for a vote to spend approximately \$50 to update the local league's website. Mary Jo Ahlgren indicated she would underwrite that cost. Becky will host our domain on her business server which will be free of charge to the league and will be completely a stand-alone website with no mention of Becky's business.

Total summation of costs is approximately \$300-\$400 to-date out of the \$1700 grant from the MN League.

Mike Edmunds will contact Sally Jacobsen to insure the list of membership and those with pair or unpaid dues is up-to-date.

Becky will ask Mary Beutz to put out a request for volunteers at the upcoming forums.

**Upcoming meetings** - Unless otherwise indicated, all meetings will be at The Skillet  
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. November 8, 2018 Bruce Buxton from the "River to Rails Initiative" will speak to the group.

December 13, 2018 TBD This may be a holiday lunch

January, No meeting scheduled

February 14, 2019 TBD

March 14, 2019 TBD (pending is Carol Henderson: Loon expert or Toxic Tater expert)

April 12, 2019 TBD (pending is Carol Henderson: Loon expert or Toxic Tater expert)

No board meeting scheduled for October. Next meeting TBA.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH: Character builds slowly, but it can be torn down within incredible swiftness.--  
Faith Baldwin ("July" Harvest of Hope)

### 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)