



# Out of the Woods and Groves

February 2018



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS WOODBURY, COTTAGE GROVE AREA

*Saturday, February 17, 2018 - Open to the Public – 9 a.m.*

*Program: Legislative Interviews*

*Minnesota Districts 53 & 54 – Saturday, Feb. 17 from 9-11:30 a.m.*

Tam Mittelstadt - Arrangements

Meet your legislative representatives at one of our most popular meetings. It is an opportunity to hear the legislators' perspectives on issues facing the 2018 session, as well as provide some input. We look forward to seeing everyone. This meeting is open to the public so bring your family and friends!

**Where:** River Oaks Golf Course - 11099 South U.S Hwy 61, Cottage Grove, MN 55016.

**Time:** Gather at 9:00 a.m. with brunch at 9:15 a.m. and panel interviews at 10:00 a.m.

**Buffet Brunch - \$20**

Menu: Old Fashioned Pancakes, Maple Bacon, Seasoned Scrambled Eggs with Cheese, Seasoned Potatoes O'Brien – Mixed with Sautéed Onions and Green Peppers, Fresh Fruit, Assortment of Fresh Baked Pastries, Chilled Orange Juice, Regular and Decaffeinated Coffee

**Reservation (with payment) must be received by Monday, February 12, 2018, at 4:00 p.m.**

**Checks:** \$20      **Written To:** LWV Woodbury, Cottage Grove.

**Mail To:** Tam Mittelstadt, Arrangements Chair, 7563 Aspen CV S. Cottage Grove MN 55016.

**Directions:** River Oaks Golf Clubhouse is on the west side of Highway 61, south of intersection with County Rd 19 (aka Woodbury/Keats/Chemolite), just across the highway from Zywiecs Garden Center (Berryland).

**What's Inside**

- 2 President's Corner  
March Meeting: *Lively Issues*
- 3 Candidate Forum: MN Senate District 54 Special Election
- 4 Advocacy / Action  
Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL) – Metropolitan Council
- 5 Staying in Touch  
Upcoming Events

## President's Corner – February 2018

By Rebecca Fuller

***Making Democracy Work***—voter protection and mobilization, election reform, campaign finance/money in politics, and redistricting. The LWVUS is making this their priority again this year, and it will be the framework to help guide our WCG-area activities.

**February 17 (Saturday) is *Legislative Interviews for Minnesota Districts 53 and 54*.** I hope you plan to attend, and that you're inviting your friends and neighbors. It's a chance to hear our elected officials' priorities as they begin the new legislative year, to ask them questions about their positions on issues of importance, and then to advocate for accountability.

**March 19 is *Lively Issues*.** What is *Lively Issues*? It's what we call our annual local League's discussion of the grassroots issues that we want to focus on for the next year or more (e.g., Redistricting). Come prepared to talk about our local positions (they are always included in the Member Directory) and what we can do to convert our priorities into actions. Bring your suggestions for how to engage our members, our WCG-area citizens, and our local governments—all in the name of *Making Democracy Work*, encouraging citizens to participate in the life of their communities in order to improve conditions or to help shape the community's future.

*Lively Issues* is also when our local League identifies any issues that we especially want the LWVMN and/or the LWVUS to include in their Program plans. It's our grassroots input to the LWVUS in even years so they consider our input at the national convention; it's our input to the LWVMN in odd years to they consider our input at the state convention.

**Members:** Member Keith Wharton recently died unexpectedly. The League sent a condolence to his wife, Barbara (also a member). She extends her thanks to the League.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

League members are meddlers, activists, watchdogs, and engaged citizens.

The League of Women Voters began immediately after the passage of the 19th Amendment. Following decades of protesting and great persistence, women finally received the right to vote in 1919.

From 1849 to 1919, the time was filled with marches in the streets creating strategic alliances, persistence, tenacity, and dedication of individuals who would not rest until the disenfranchisement ended.

## **March Meeting – *Lively Issues: Focus for the Future***

**Date:** March 19, 2018, Monday – *Lively Issues*

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Location:** Lunch Room of the Woodbury Public Works Building  
2301 Tower Drive, Woodbury, MN 55125



**2018 Candidate Forum: Senate District 54 Special Election**

Tam Mittelstadt, Candidate Forum Coordinator

A special election February 12 will fill the Senate District 54 seat vacated by Dan Schoen. As part of the League's tradition of helping voters obtain information about candidates' positions, we held a candidate forum on Tuesday, January 30, 2018, in the Cottage Grove City Hall Council Chambers. Thanks to everyone who helped with the standing-room-only-audience.



Moderator, Liz Nordling



Candidate Forum Coordinator, Tam Mittelstadt with timers Paul Stewart and Helga Emrich.

**Election Resources and Watch the Forum:** The Washington County Telecommunications Commission website answers many questions about the upcoming election. On that site, watch the candidate forum, locate your voting site, or see a sample ballot. Use the link: <http://swctc.org/> and click on "Click Here For State Senate District 54 Special Election Coverage."

## Advocacy/Programs for Action

WCG LWVUS and LWVMN Legislative Action Chair Vivian Latimer Tanniehill

### **WCG Members Are Critical to a Successful Advocacy Effort!**

#### **Woodbury, Cottage Grove Volunteers on the LWVMN Observer and Lobby Corps**

We would like to thank the six members of the WCG chapter who volunteered for the LWVMN Observer and Lobby Corps: Alberder Gillespie, Vivian Latimer Tanniehill, Sharon Tornes, Dawn Tuvason, Julie Zeidel, and Joe Ward. In their new roles, they will provide a valuable service to the community, help to ensure that citizens are aware of the decisions that affect their lives and promote government transparency and accountability.

Several of our members have elected to serve on both Corps.

- In their role as *Observers*, members will attend governmental meetings, note what happened at the meeting, and submit a report to the LWVMN.
- As volunteer *Lobbyists*, they will lobby on democracy issues that form the core of LWV Minnesota's Program for Action.

These six were among the thirty volunteer corps members attending training for their new roles in January. The training presented by Nick Harper, the LWVMN civic engagement manager, covered everything from roles and responsibilities, to appropriate etiquette, the code of conduct, how to sign up for notifications through committee listservs and the best place to eat!

The most valued aspect of the training for me was learning where to find resources. These resources help identify when committees meet, where to find meeting agendas, and how to track bills that are a focus for the League Program for Action. These resources are available to everyone. Members are encouraged to explore the Minnesota State Legislature website (<https://www.leg.state.mn.us>) and *Member Resources-2018 Advocacy* on the LWVMN website, [lwvmn.org](http://lwvmn.org) for more information.

Remember, you have the power to **Take Action** to influence the decisions that affect your lives!

## Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL) - Two Upcoming Opportunities

By Lynne Markus and Liz Lauder, CMAL Board of Directors

### **Citizen Education: *History of the Metropolitan Council***

CMAL is co-sponsoring these programs of the Metropolitan Council with the LWV of Golden Valley, the Golden Valley Historical Society, and the LWV of Crystal/New Hope/East Plymouth.

#### **Program: *The Ideas Behind the Development of the Metropolitan Council***

**When:** Thursday, February 8, 2018, 7:00 p.m.

**Where:** Golden Valley Historical Society, 6731 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley 55427

**Speaker:** Sean Kershaw, Executive Director, Citizens' League of Minnesota

**Format:** Individual speaker followed by Q and A with the audience

#### **Program: *The Metropolitan Council – What's the Current Fuss?***

**When:** Saturday February 24, 2018, 9:30 a.m. until noon

**Where:** Brookview Community Center, 200 Brookview Parkway, Golden Valley 55426

**Speakers/Panelists:** Peter Bell, former Chair of the Metropolitan Council;

Nancy Schouweiler, Former Dakota County Commissioner;

Jim McDonough, Ramsey County

Met Council Commissioner (all invited)

**Format:** Three panelists speak for 15-20 minutes each, then Q and A with the audience

## *Staying in Touch with the WCG-Area Local League*

Visit our Woodbury, Cottage Grove area local League page on the LWVMN website:

<https://www.lwvmn.org/local-leagues/woodbury-cottage-grove>

Scroll down to find our up-to-date calendar – look for ongoing updates.

We are on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LeagueWCG/>

**Our monthly newsletter, *Out of the Woods and Groves*:**

Members and other interested persons receive our newsletter by email early in the month. Issues are also available on the web page:

<https://www.lwvmn.org/local-leagues/woodbury-cottage-grove>

Look for it on the right-hand side of screen.

**Do you have information to share with our local League?**

Email your information for any of these to [lwvwcg@gmail.com](mailto:lwvwcg@gmail.com). Please begin your *Subject* with “News”. Deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month for the next month’s newsletter.

## *Upcoming Events: Mark your Calendars - Save the Dates!*



### **Election Day – Monday, February 12, 2018**

A special election will be held in the U.S. state of Minnesota to elect a new senator for District 54 in the Minnesota Senate, caused by the resignation of Dan Schoen effective December 15, 2017.



## **The League of Women Voters of the WCG Area**

### **Member and Public Meetings**

- February 17, 2018, Saturday – *Legislative Interviews*, River Oaks at 9:00 a.m.
- March 19, 2018, Monday – *Lively Issues*, Woodbury Public Works Lunch Room at 7:00 p.m.
- April 16, 2018, Monday – Meeting, Woodbury City Hall, Birch Room at 7:00 p.m.
- May 8, 2018, Tuesday – *Annual Meeting and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Kick Off* at River Oaks
- September 22, 2018, Saturday - *50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Brunch* at Cedarhurst Mansion  
6940 Washington Co Hwy 19, Cottage Grove, MN 55016 from 10:00 a.m. to noon

### **Board Meetings (Mondays):**

- February 26, 2018 – Woodbury Public Works Conference Room at 7:00 p.m.
- March 26, 2018 – Woodbury City Hall, Poplar Room at 7:00 p.m.
- April 23, 2018 – Woodbury City Hall, Poplar Room at 7:00 p.m.
- May 21, 2018 – Joint Board Meeting – New & Old Members,  
Woodbury City Hall, Birch Room at 7:00 p.m.

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