

Out of the Woods and Groves

October 2018



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS WOODBURY, COTTAGE GROVE AREA

October – Public Meetings

By Betsy Stites

You won't want to miss the two great programs the WCGA League is sponsoring in October:

Thursday, October 11

Getting to Green – Finding Common Ground Solutions

The Woodbury Cottage Grove Area League is partnering with The Grove United Methodist Church and Conservation Minnesota to host the community education event. Learn about your role as a citizen in helping to shape public policy and become a community advocate for environmental sustainability. Tom Horner will moderate a panel of local, governmental and environmental experts. We will have a voter registration table at the event.

It will be at the Grove United Methodist Church, 7465 Steepleview Rd., Woodbury from 6:30 to 9:00 PM.

Free and open to the public.

Monday, October 22



Voter Fraud & CyberSecurity

Hear about our national elections and the ways Minnesota works to ensure the integrity of the voting process.

It will be held at Cottage Grove city hall, 12800 Ravine Parkway, Cottage Grove, from 7:00- 8:30 pm.

Free and open to the public. Be sure to invite your family and friends.

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Making Democracy Work

President's Corner – October, 2018

By Rebecca Fuller



Empowering Voters! Defending Democracy! And we have been busy doing both! As I write this, the third of five candidate forums is in process, we have a full day of voter registration scheduled for National Voter Registration Day on September 25, and three high school voter registration dates have been set for October.

Voter registrations in the state are way up. According to the Star Tribune September 8:
Minnesota sees surge in new voter registrations ahead of competitive November midterm elections
Voter registrations are surging in Minnesota, especially among young adults. . . .two-thirds of the new voter registrations so far — 35,608 people — are 18 to 30 years old. . . . The spike comes after the state in August saw the highest primary turnout since 1994.

New voter registration in Minn.
26,204 in 2014
72,207 in 2016
20,326 in 2017
52,644 through September 6, 2018



**Our efforts are making a difference!
See who is on your ballot at:**



VOTE411.org
or
www.sos.state.mn.us

DID YOU KNOW?

There's a deadline that we have to be aware of with all our voter registration efforts—Paper voter registration temporarily closes 20 days before the election, and opens again on Election Day for voters who register at their polling place. (www.sos.state.mn.us)

Making Democracy Work

The League is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public.

OUR MISSION: Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

OUR VISION: We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.

OUR VALUE: We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.



Making Democracy Work
Woodbury, Cottage Grove Area LWV celebrates 50 years!

By Jodi Ritacca



What a great day! What a great event!

Congratulations to our amazing women who have been on our League for 50 years! You are such an inspiration.

Marty Wells (3rd from left) recognizing lifetime members Shirley Walker, Kay Banitt, and Mary Jane Rohde, our first President.



LWVMN Executive Director Michelle Witte introduced media panelists to honor our first amendment: L to R, Carla Beaurline, of Around Town Media, LLC; Vineeta Sawkar, Senior Media Relations Manager, University of St. Thomas; Amanda Thiesen, Senior News Producer, KSTP-TV; Panhia Yang, News Producer, Fox9 News.



Future League members Elise, daughter of speaker Amanda Thiesen, and Amira, Jodi Ritacca's granddaughter.



A full house at the lovely Cedarhurst Mansion.

Thank you to everyone for helping to make the 50th Anniversary Celebration a huge success!



InterLeague Organizations (ILO's)

by Lynne Markus

LWV Upper Mississippi River Region InterLeague Organization (UMRR)



**Events in Minneiska, Winona, and Onalaska -
September 26, 30 and October 1**

Want to enjoy the Mississippi River on a Winona river boat tour, and enjoy the company of other river-minded folks?

Go to the LWV UMRR blog, <https://www.lwvumrr.org/blog/lwv-umrr-river-events-winona-minneiska-and-onalaska-september-26-30-and-oct-1>, for more information.

Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL)

***Should the Metropolitan Council Members be Elected or Appointed?
Should LWV Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL) Update Its
Current Position?***

CMAL will be seeking input from all metro-area League members before the 2019 Legislative session begins. All current members of local LWV leagues in the Twin Cities Metro area are automatic CMAL members.

When: Saturday, October 20, 2018; 10:00 a.m. to Noon

What: CMAL Quarterly Meeting: *Metropolitan Council - Are Changes Needed?* A Panel Discussion to Aid CMAL Consideration of Updating the Current CMAL Position on Metropolitan Council.

Where: Autumn Grove Park Gathering Center, 1365 Lydia Ave. West, Roseville, MN 55113

Why: CMAL is interviewing a panel of experts and using other sources regarding Metropolitan Council to assemble study materials for consideration by each LWV member in the seven country Metropolitan region.

All local LWV members are automatically CMAL members and will be given study materials after October 20th and prior to the start of the 2019 legislative session in order to cast their vote to the CMAL Board of Directors regarding keeping or changing on the CMAL position on Metropolitan Council. Stay tuned for more information.



New Members

By Membership Co-Chairs Kay Hendrikson (khendrikson@comcast.net)
and Jean Roemer (jean.roemer@comcast.net)

New Member Biography – Mary Borowiecki

Why you joined the League:

I am interested in membership opportunities to join and assist the League of Women Voters. The opportunity to both assist others and learn more about our local government would be both enriching and rewarding.

I want to be active in the community in a neutral, honest and complete way. With an immigrant in the family I am especially interested in advocacy, inclusion, and sharing.

I am employed at the University of Minnesota, Clinical and Translational Science Institute, as an accountant for the Clinical Trials Financial Services department. Exposure to many state and local budget and policy items is both common and interesting here at UMN.

What skills would you like to use as a member of the League?

Right now I am looking to see where the needs are. I have no preconceived notions and am pretty flexible.

Voters Service



Candidate Forums

Ten candidate forums were held this year for the offices of Washington County Commissioner Districts 2 & 4, Cottage Grove City Council, Newport City Council, House Districts 53A, 53B, 54A, 54B, Woodbury Mayor and City Council.

WCGA members contributed 95 volunteer hours during the forums. They included:

Tam Mittelstadt	Camille Miller
Maggie & Tom Hickel	Jodi Ritacca
Leigh and Paul Stewart	Julia Lyon
Rebecca Fuller	Ellen Pearson
Marty Wells	Jean Roemer
Vivian Latimer Tanniehill	Kay Hendrikson
Sandy Heikkila,	Sharon Tornes
Amy Freyburger	Helga Emrich

Here is the link to view the archive of the forums: <http://www.swctc.org/2018-elections>

Voter Registration

Karla Sand again visited Woodbury Senior Living Estates, this time helping residents complete applications for Early/Absentee ballots.

Do you identify strongly as Democrat? Republican? Both types of volunteers are needed to carry out this event, to ensure we are providing non-partisan assistance. Interested? Contact Karla Sand at karlaviolets@hotmail.com



Upcoming Events: Mark your Calendars - Save the Dates!

The League of Women Voters of the Woodbury, Cottage Grove Area

Member and Public Meetings

- October 11, Thursday, *Getting to Green- Finding Common Ground Solutions*
- October 20, Saturday, CMAL - *Should Met Council Members be Elected?*
- October 22, Monday, *Election Integrity - Voter Fraud & CyberSecurity*
- December 1, Saturday, Holiday Brunch – *Civil Discourse*

Board Meetings (Mondays):

- October 15, Woodbury City Hall, Ash Room
- November 5, Woodbury City Hall, Birch Room
- December – no board meeting

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 Cottage Grove, MN 55016