



Out of the Woods and Groves

September 2018



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS WOODBURY, COTTAGE GROVE AREA



- *September – 50th Anniversary Brunch - Update*

Activities to celebrate the Woodbury Cottage Grove Area League of Women Voters are in full swing.

After a fun time participating in the Woodbury Days Parade, the next event is our *50th Celebration Brunch* on Saturday, September 22 at historic Cedarhurst Mansion. Invitations have been mailed to members, former members including those who were instrumental in creating our local League, elected officials, and others.

The event includes a discussion on *Honoring our First Amendment* by a panel of local esteemed media specialists.

Register early and bring friends—including teenagers and men! Find more information and register at www.lwvmn.org/wcgbrunch - just click on the header, *Attend our 50th Anniversary Celebration Brunch!* Registration is \$50 per person.

Special 50th Anniversary Membership Promotion!

The Celebration Brunch is also our 2018 membership drive, with a special \$50 membership rate through September, for new and renewing members at the link: www.lwvmn.org/wcg Click on the *Join Now!* button which will be active through September 30, 2018.

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Empowering Voters! Defending Democracy! That's the new LWVUS mission; our local emphasis on *Making Democracy Work* in our geographical jurisdiction is how we contribute to the larger LWVUS mission.

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.

As we continue our efforts to partner with other organizations, to increase our citizen education impact, it is essential that we double-down on our efforts to protect our nonpartisan status. I recently distributed to all members a document that deals with the many things we have to investigate when considering a partnership. It takes some time—it may be different for candidate forums than for educational programs, etc.—but it's essential, and sometimes there are “shadow” organizations that are not nonpartisan. Contact me if you want some clarification or help – or contact Nick Harper in the LWVMN office.

A big **THANK YOU** to all who have been busy planning our year, those who volunteered for the Woodbury Days parade, and those who are planning our 50th Brunch. We'll have more volunteer opportunities in the future—voter registration at our events, developing new options for visibility (e.g., maybe an ice cream social for a voter registration event, etc.). So we'll be looking forward to your help, and to your creative ideas to enhance the work that we do.

DID YOU KNOW?

The League of Women Voters has a web site for voters: **VOTE411.org**

SPREAD THE WORD. Voters can register to vote, find their polling place, get ballot information, sample ballots, etc.



Making Democracy Work

A Perspective on Civil Discourse: Here's one reason that civil discourse can be such a challenge. The 500 most common words in the English language have more than 14,000 definitions. That explains why so many verbal interactions often create confusion and misunderstanding. Beware of misinterpreting messages because of your perceptions of the senders' meaning or intent.





Candidate Forums

Candidate forums are part of the League's tradition of helping voters obtain information about candidates' stands on issues. This fall, we will be hosting ten. Please put these dates on your calendars and share with your friends in the area.

South Washington County Telecommunications Commission will feature a live broadcast and replays on Cable Channel 18. The forum will be streamed on SWCTC.org.

We need volunteers at each of our forums. Jobs include: Greeter, Attendee Sign-in, Candidate Sign in, Timers, Question Screeners, and Runners to collect questions from the audience. If you can help out with one or more of these, please email Tam Mittelstadt or Maggie Hickel, Voter Service Co-Chairs.

2018 Candidate Forum Dates & Times:

Volunteer contact:

SEPT 6, Thursday - Cottage Grove City Hall
7 pm Washington County Commissioner District 2
8 pm Washington County Commissioner District 4

tjmittel@hotmail.com

SEPT 11 Tuesday - Cottage Grove City Hall
7 pm Cottage Grove City Council
8 pm Newport City Council

tjmittel@hotmail.com

SEPT 13 Thursday - Cottage Grove City Hall
7 pm House District 54A
8 pm House District 54B

tjmittel@hotmail.com

SEPT 18 Tuesday - Woodbury City Hall
7 pm House District 53A
8 pm House District 53B

tjmittel@hotmail.com

SEPT 20 - Thursday - Woodbury City Hall
7 pm Woodbury Mayor
8 pm Woodbury City Council

mbhickel@yahoo.com

If you don't know your House district, go to the Secretary of State Minnesota's website: Vote411.org





Making Democracy Work *Education / Public Meetings*

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars, save the dates!

Help Keep Minnesota Green

Betsy Stites



Thursday, October 11, from 6:30 - 9:00

The Woodbury Cottage Grove Area League is partnering with Conservation Minnesota and the Sustainability Committee of The Grove United Methodist Church to host a community forum on “The Citizen’s Role in Getting to Green.” There is a role for all of us in helping to protect the environment. Come hear about some solutions from local experts.

We will have a Voter Registration table at this event.

Place: The Grove United Methodist Church, 7465 Steepleview Road, Woodbury. More details in the October newsletter.

All You Ever Wanted to Know About Our Voting System

Betsy Stites



Monday, October 22 from 7 - 8:30

It’s almost time for our national election. Do you have questions about the safety and security of our election system? Wondering how it really works and why MN has such great turnout?

Secretary of State Steve Simon will be at the League’s October meeting at the Cottage Grove City Hall, 12800 Ravine Parkway, Cottage Grove, to answer our questions. *This is free and open to the public, so tell your friends and family.*

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

Lynne Markus



Saturday, October 20, 2018

Watch for more details on this free event sponsored by the LWV Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues of Women Voters (CMAL). 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.

Voter Registration



Karla Sand and Tam Mittelstadt

What Happened last Month

Karla Sand led voter registration events in August with residents at Woodbury Senior Living, Assisted Living Facility.

Future Events

High School Registration

Events will take place October 9, 10 and 11 at Park High School in Cottage Grove, Woodbury and East Ridge. Two to three volunteers are needed each day during lunch time from 11:30 - 1 pm. If you can help register students, please contact Karla Sand, Voter Registration Chair at karlaviolets@hotmail.com

National Voter Registration Day is September 25.

Volunteers are needed to register voters inside Woodbury Central Park in front of the Library entrance. If you can help, please contact Camille Miller at camillemiller68@yahoo.com.



New Members

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

We welcome new member Brenda Bramel.

New Member Biography – Brenda Bramel

I joined the League of Women Voters because I was looking for a group of women who wanted to support young adults in signing up to vote. The gun-control issue in Parkland really hit home for me because I have daughters in elementary and high school. I was trying to figure out the best way I could make a difference. I realized that helping with voter registration is a way I can support young people, as well as people of all ages, find their power in democracy through voting!

I have lived in Woodbury since 2013 with my husband, Daryl, and my two daughters, Sophia (age 10) and Sydney (age 14). We also have a 100 pound standard poodle who is our pride and joy. We enjoy being outside and spending time as a family. We are really looking forward to this summer as we love to camp, garden and ride our bikes.

In my work life, I am a social worker who works full-time for the State of Minnesota. I support adults with mental illness and I have done this type of work for 30 years. I still enjoy it very much!



August 26, 2018 Woodbury Days Parade



Back Seat:
Mary Jane Rohe, WCGA 1st president
Shirley Walker, WCGA lifetime member

Front Seat:
Rebecca Fuller, WCGA current president

Driver:
Greg Carlini, husband of member
Jodi Ritacca

Lexus Convertible courtesy of
Maplewood Lexus

Our parade participants



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WOODBURY, COTTAGE GROVE AREA
7538 Aspen Cove South
Cottage Grove, MN 55016

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