



THE VOTER

League of Women Voters - Crystal, New Hope, East Plymouth

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RESPECT WOMEN? PASS THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Join us on
Wednesday,
September 26,
2018



New Hope City Hall
Council Chambers

6:30 Social; 7:00 Speaker

Speaker: Betty Folliard, Founder, ERA MN

BOARD MEETINGS

Wed, September 5, 6 p.m.
Linda Stokes 612-718-4176
@ New Hope YMCA, 42nd Ave.
N. & Quebec

Wed., October 3, 6 p.m.
Kathy Smrekar 763-544-6433
3510 Xylon Ave. N.
New Hope

Wed., November, 6 p.m.
Joann Brown, 763-545-7369
8240 39th Ave. N.
New Hope

Time to finish the work begun by Alice Paul and learn the history of the ERA and ERAMN and the progress of the 3/4 states threshold for ratification into the U.S. Constitution.

ERAMN began in 2014, with the goal to pass an Equal Rights Amendment into our Minnesota State Constitution. Minnesota is among 26 states who have not done so.

Equally important is to pass legislation demanding Congress remove the deadline of June 1, 1982 out of the preface to the Equal Rights Amendment.

Ms. Folliard is a member of League of Women Voters, Economic Status on Women Coalition, MN Women's Political Caucus, owner of Strategy Partners Inc., former Hopkins School District School Board Member, a former state Legislator from Hopkins, and has hosted the radio show, A Woman's Place.

Membership News

Michelle Jayne

Having run smack-dab up against many new marketing and communication ‘tools’ in the last few years, our League now has found they can be friendly, useful, and accessible to all. Hello Google.

Here is a list of these good folks who have recently joined our League and will add immeasurably to what we do:

Amy Bakken, Robbinsdale

Beth Stack, Nathan Marshall, Robbinsdale

Cathy and Brian Magnuson, Plymouth

Wendy Lukaszewski, Crystal

Paula Schulte, New Hope

LEAGUE PHONE

763-290-0288

We are now using Google voice, a free service where all voicemails are transcribed and emailed to the League account.

NEW! PLEDGE TO VOTE CARDS

Colorful, with text reminders and our League contact information on the back!

NEW BUSINESS CARDS

WORKING ON THE FOLLOWING:

- Upgrading our Website
- Facebook Page
- Position Pamphlets

President’s Letter

Kathi Hemken

This is an election year, so the majority of our efforts are bent toward registering people to vote and hosting candidate forums. Please be sure to volunteer for at least one of these events and more if you have time. Voting is a privilege and we should assist in that any way we can. Our Voters Service team has been busy arranging voter registration at the high schools, four candidate forums and assisting other Leagues. Look for their contact numbers to offer your help. We have received \$700 from the Martin Brown grant through our State League to use for this purpose, as they noted our commitment to these many activities.

The board has also set our calendar for the 2018-2019 year. Post it somewhere where you can refer to it often. It will be mailed to you. We have a lot of activities going on throughout the year and we need your involvement! You strengthen our league and our efforts.

We considered for our annual book club in March, the wine and chocolate event (reading always goes best with wine and chocolate). After considering many worthy suggestions, the Board settled on *The Fall of Wisconsin*, by Dan Kaufman. Further information and more book suggestions in newsletters-to-come.

Keep involved, let the board know what you are interested in and be on the look-out for potential new members who would love to join our dynamic group.



LWVUS CONVENTION 2018

Over 1000 attendees, 30 from our great state of Minnesota, left the convention floor and poured into the streets of Chicago to join with tens of thousands to stand together for family reunification and the injustice being fomented on people seeking asylum to escape terrorism in their home countries. Summer **2018. 1918** -100 years ago women were marching for equal opportunity and justice. Challenges are and will be there in every era as League continues to focus on making Democracy Work.

Delegates approved a proposed program of action in these areas: Voting Rights, Improving Elections; Campaign Finance/Money in Politics; Redistricting; advocating of the National Popular Vote Compact, advocating to cross the final legal hurdles to adding the Equal Rights Amendment to the US Constitution. We have our positions on these issues having studied and come to national consensus.

*LWVUS welcomed a new **Executive Director, Virginia Case**, who has over 20 years experience working in the non-profit sector.*

LEAGUE VISIBILITY

We now have white T shirts with our *new* local League logo, and you may have one! We wear these at our Farmers Market booth, and will be wearing them to Candidate Forums to help those attending know who to ask for help. You may have one, just contact Joann Brown, 763-545-7369 and we will get you outfitted.



VOTERS SERVICE

Sara Utt, Kathryn Smrekar

How's your summer? Ours has been busy planning the fall Candidate Forums and various other events where we visit with our community and offer them voter information and registration.

There are so many ways you can help!

At each Candidate Forum, we need six-eight volunteers. Our Farmers Market booths require eight (2 shifts), with some willingness or expertise in opening and closing our awning and tables.

Here is a rundown of the forums and other events where we will be inviting the public to hear and question candidates for local and state elections.

- Sept 8 New Hope Farmers Market, LWV Booth, 8 a.m. - noon**
- Sept 20 District 44A & B Legislative forum, 7 p.m. Plymouth City Hall , 3400 Plymouth Blvd.**
- Sept 25 Cooper/Armstrong Voter Registration, 10-noon, high schools**
- Oct 4 MN Supreme Court Candidate Forum, 7 p.m. Golden Valley City Hall, 7800 Golden Valley Road**
- Oct 9 District 281 School Board Candidate Forum, 7 pm, Education Service Center, Winnetka at 42nd Ave. N.**
- Oct 16 District 45A & B Legislative forum and unopposed New Hope City Council Candidates, 7 p.m. New Hope City Hall, 4401 Xylon Ave. N.**
- Oct 18 Crystal City Council Candidate Forum, 7 p.m., Crystal City Hall, 4141 Douglas Drive**

To help, or for more information about these events, contact Sara Utt, 763-545-5390, sarautt@aol.com Kathryn Smrekar, 763-545-6433, Ksmrekar2@aol.com

CITIZENSHIP CEREMONIES

For the past 20 years, LWVMN volunteers (many of whom are new members!) have:

- Collected forms from nearly 7,000 new citizens in 2017 alone, spread across 80 ceremonies.
- Carried in over 80,000 registration forms to the Secretary of State's office since 2007.
- Increased the percentage of new citizens registering to vote (it is now about 90-95%).

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Judy Stuthman at jastuthman@aol.com.

August 29, 9 a.m., 1 p.m., Landmark Center, St. Paul

September 11, 9 a.m., River Centre, St. Paul

There is nothing complicated about ordinary equality

Alice Stokes Paul, Quaker, author of the original ERA 1885 - 1977

From the Alice Paul Institute:

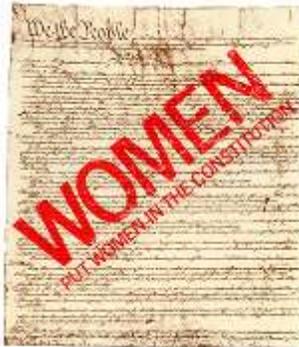
- The 19th Amendment, granting women suffrage is the only mention of the word “woman” in the U.S. Constitution. Furthermore, the only right guaranteed to women by federal law is the right to vote.
- The ERA does not add new laws to the U.S. Constitution, it only guarantees the rights currently within it. Issues like abortion, same-sex marriage, unisex bathrooms, and the female draft exist separately from the ERA and would not become law upon the ERA’s passage.
- The ERA would not make all single-sex institutions unconstitutional – only those whose aim is to perpetuate the historic dominance of one sex over the other. Single-sex institutions that work to overcome past discrimination are currently constitutional and are likely to remain so.
- The ERA is an amendment for both men and women – it is not just a woman’s issue. Issues of custody, employment, and fair wages are important to both sexes and an Equal Rights Amendment would guarantee equal legal rights without regard to sex.
- The ERA would affirm the purpose that began with the writing of the U.S. Constitution, the basic human right of constitutional protection.

ERA MN Adding an Equal Rights Amendment to the Minnesota Constitution because Assumed Equality Is Not Enough

"Equality of rights under the law shall not be abridged or denied on account of gender."

- 97% of Americans polled believe women should have constitutionally guaranteed gender equality (an equal rights amendment);
- 72% of Americans polled think it's already in place;

Senate File (SF) 2827 & House File (HF) 3257 - A state constitutional amendment providing gender equality under the law with chief author State Senator **Jeff Hayden and the companion bill with chief author State Representative **Mary Kunesh-Podein**.**



DON'T WE ALREADY HAVE ENOUGH LAWS FOR WOMEN?

The Civil Rights Act, Title IX and the Equal Pay Act all offer protections against discrimination. But these are pieces of legislation. New laws and Supreme Court rulings can diminish their power.

Women do not have guaranteed equal protection as men in our constitution -- and

thus our country.

The Equal Rights Amendment would add strict judicial protection and enforcement to existing legislation. Those elements named in the constitution, i.e. religion, race, male citizens, and country of origin, receive “strict scrutiny” in courts of law; but protection of gender against discrimination is not specified in the constitution, and thereby only receives “intermediate scrutiny”; resulting in unequal justice for women and men.

Our Speaker, Betty Folliard, started ERAMN in 2014 and gathered a other organizations to energize a campaign to advance ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment in both the MN Legislature and Congress.

While in the State Legislature, passed the MN Women's Economic Security Act (WESA), putting Minnesota on forefront of workplace protections for women.



**LWVMN
Legacy Luncheon
Saturday, September 15**

Minneapolis Women’s Club,
410 Oak Grove St. Minneapolis
10 am Social
11 am Brunch
Noon Speaker

Kathryn Haddad:

*“More than Camels and Hummus:
Arab American stories and the
importance of community building”*

Registration
August 27-September 7
Cost: \$35, free to Legacy Circle
Members

Kathryn Haddad explores contemporary events in the Arab/Muslim American community (racial profiling, immigration, violence, identity issues). Teacher at Bloomington Kennedy High School. Playwright, Kay Sexton honorary award.

Minnesota and the 2020 Census

There have been massive gains in population in states like Texas, Florida and California, all by more than a million people. Minnesota has added about a quarter million, a growth of about 4%, mostly from international migration. About 85% of the growth was in the seven-county metro area. Minnesota may lose a Congressional Seat after the 2020 Census, going from eight districts to seven. There are many ramifications to this redistricting

State Demographer Susan Brower, gives this picture of Minnesota’s population:

“ Minnesota has experienced recent population gains due to migration, broadly speaking. But there are two components to migration—state-to-state movement (or domestic migration) and international movement. Since the early 2000s, Minnesota has lost more residents to other states than it has gained each year, so our domestic migration has been a net negative. However, international arrivals have more than offset those domestic losses, so on the whole, we have grown from migration. The international arrivals include legal permanent residents, undocumented individuals, those arriving with work visas, foreign students, and refugees, among others. Seen through an economic lens, we are fortunate to have these additional workers, as we need them to fill jobs at all skill levels.”

In 2014, Minnesota’s population was 81 percent non- Hispanic white. Between 2000 and 2014, the non-Hispanic white population grew by only 2 percent (adding about 107,000 people). By comparison, all populations of color grew by 74 percent, adding about 430,700 people.

A growing share of babies born each year in Minnesota are either Hispanic and/or a race other than white— including 28 percent of births in 2014. Second, Minnesota’s population gains through migration are disproportionately from persons of color. Third, mortality rates primarily affect our non-Hispanic white Minnesotans because they represent a far larger share of older adults.

Since 2000, we have seen very strong growth in a few ethnic or cultural groups— Minnesotans who are Mexican, Asian Indian, Hmong, and Somali. The median age of Somali and Hmong residents is about 20 years old, and for Mexican residents, it’s age 23. We have extraordinary potential to positively shape the future of Minnesota by supporting our diverse young people. Our projections indicate that Asian, black, Hispanic, and multiracial Minnesotans will continue to grow most rapidly in the coming decades. “ (from League of Minnesota Cities)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST	21	Broadway Court Expo 10-2 Voters Service
	29	Citizenship Ceremonies, 9 a.m., 1 p.m., Landmark Center, St. Paul
	30	District #281 Elementary School Open Houses (3) Voters Service
SEPTEMBER	5	Board Meeting, Linda Stokes, @ NW YMCA Conference Room
	8	New Hope Farmers Market LWV Booth, 8 a.m. - noon
	11	Citizenship Ceremonies, 10 a.m., River Centre, St. Paul
	15	LWVMN Legacy Luncheon, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Minneapolis Womens Club
	20	District 44A & B Legislative forum, Plymouth City Hall, 7 p.m.
OCTOBER	25	Cooper / Armstrong High Schools, A.M., National Voter Registration Day
	26	Respect Women? Pass the ERA, 6:30 social, 7 p.m. program, Speaker, Betty Folliard, founder ERA MN, New Hope City Hall Council Chambers
	3	Board Meeting @ Kathy Smrekar, 6 p.m.
	4	MN Supreme Court Candidate Forum, 7 p.m. Brookview in Golden Valley
	9	District 281 School Board Candidate Forum, 7 p.m., Board Room at Education Service Center
	16	District 45A & 45B Legislative and New Hope City Council Candidates Forum, 7 p.m., New Hope City Hall
	18	Crystal City Council Candidates Forum, 7 p.m., Crystal City Hall Council Chambers
26	New Hope Mayor's Prayer Breakfast, 7 a.m., Cooper HS Gym	



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Empowering Voters.
Defending Democracy.

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