



**LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS
ST. CLOUD AREA**

Visit our Website: www.lwvzca.org

League Lines

October 2016

The Mississippi Watershed What's Happening?

**Wednesday, October 12, 2016, 1:00 pm
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
3226 Maine Prairie Road, St. Cloud, MN**

Some issues are best understood and dealt with on a regional level that transcends political boundaries. That's especially true for water issues.

What goes into the Upper Mississippi River is determined by decisions, actions, and choices

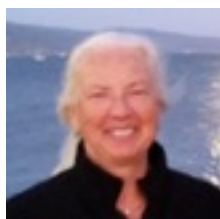
made in a very large area. The LWV Upper

Mississippi River Region Inter League Organization (UMRR-ILO) is made up of 58 local Leagues and four state Leagues in the Upper Mississippi River watershed, from the Headwaters in Itasca State Park, Minnesota, to (the furthest south League or point), Illinois. These Local Leagues represent a total membership of about 4000 individual LWV members. LWVSCA is a member League, for which the UMRR-ILO is very appreciative! You can learn a lot about this group at their [website](#). The action focus of this ILO is on reducing the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus in the Mississippi River.



Speakers Gretchen Sabel and Lonni McCauley will tell the story of the ILO's first year and talk about what Leagues can do to engage in water issues through the ILO. They will be joined by [Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District](#)'s own Katie Winkelman, who will talk about what's going on with water in Stearns County and what individuals can do to get involved. Bring your questions about water to this lively meeting for lots of information and a great discussion!

INTRODUCING OUR SPEAKERS



Gretchen Sabel, Chair of the LWV UMRR-ILO, brings a wealth of information and experience in water issues to the UMRR-ILO. Gretchen earned a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Cincinnati in 1975 and a Master's of Public Affairs degree from the Humphrey School at the University of Minnesota in 2005. She worked for the US Environmental Protection Agency in Cincinnati until 1978,

when she moved to Minnesota. Over the next 36 years she worked in various water-related programs with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the Minnesota State Planning Agency and the Minnesota Environmental Quality

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Board until her retirement in 2014. Gretchen is active with her local League in Anoka, MN and with the Action Committee of LWVMN. She is also chair of the Andover Open Space Commission and the Anoka County Water Resources Task Force.



Lonni McCauley was born and raised on a farm near Worthington, MN. She graduated from Metropolitan State University. Her career was spent in managing nonprofit organizations, chambers of commerce, Anoka Technical College Foundation, Minneapolis League of Women Voters and Stepping Stone Emergency Housing. She has been mayor of the city of Coon Rapids, a member of the Metropolitan Airports Commission and the Freshwater Society Advisory Council. She is a mediator and volunteers twice a week in conciliation courts in Anoka, Isanti and Chisago Counties. She is presently co-chair of the LWV Upper Mississippi River Region Interleague Organization Advisory Committee.



We are also delighted to have **Katie Winkelman**, Nutrient Management Specialist with Stearns County Soil and Water Conversation District who will give us specifics about Stearns County.

Our meetings are open to the public. If you know of people or organizations who are interested in water quality issues, please invite them to attend.

LWVSCA Voter Registration Events

We will be registering voters at many events this fall. Below is a list of planned Voter Registration events for October. Events listed in red still need volunteers. To volunteer contact Mary White-Levilain at marywhite.pathways@gmail.com or **320-266-5614**. The last day to pre-register for this election is October 18, 2016. After that we will be providing information to voters about same day registration.

Oct. 3, Monday, District 15A and 15B, Foley City Hall, 7-8:30 pm (staff table 6:30 to 9:00 pm), Marlene H.

Oct. 5, WOW, SCSU Atwood Theater, 12 to 1:00 pm (Staff table 1/2 hour before and after), Sheila Ferguson

Oct. 6, Thursday, ISD 742, School Board seats, Apollo High School Auditorium, 7-8:30 (staff table 6:30 to 9:00 pm) Volunteers: Sheila Ferguson, Mary White-Levilain

Oct. 10, Monday, District 13 Senate 13 A and B Senate, CSB Gorecki Center, 7 to 8:30 pm (Staff table 6:30 to 9:00 pm)

Oct. 12, Wednesday, St Cloud City Council, St Cloud City Hall, 7-8:30 (Staff table 6:30 to 9:00 pm)
Volunteers: Dee Lamb, Jerilyn Petersen

Oct. 17, Monday, Sartell City elected positions, Sartell City Hall, 7-8:30 (Staff table 6:30 to 9:00 pm)

Oct 19, Wednesday, WOW, SCSU Atwood Theater, Noon to 1pm, (Staff table 1/2 hour before and after.)

Oct. 19, Wednesday, District 14 Senate and House candidates, SCSU Student Union, 5-7:30 (Staff table 4:30 to 8:00 pm same day registration info)

Oct. 25, Tuesday, Sauk Rapids City Council, Sauk Rapids City Hall, 7 to 8:30 pm (staff table 6:30 to 9:00 pm)

Oct 26, Wednesday, WOW, SCSU Atwood Theater, Noon to 1pm, (Staff table 1/2 hour before and after.)

LWVSCA WEBSITE HAS A WEALTH OF VOTER INFORMATION

People know you're a League of Women Voters member. You are bound to get questions about voting in the next month and a half. You've probably already gotten a few! Where can you send them on the web for comprehensive answers to all their questions? **The League of Women Voters St. Cloud Area website at:** <http://lwvsca.org>

Our home page includes the following links:

- Register to Vote Online or Update Your Registration At: <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote/>
- Find Your Polling Place At: <http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us>
- See a Sample Ballot (that includes links to candidates' websites) at: <http://myballotmn.sos.state.mn.us>

Our home page also directs viewers to a "Voters' Guide" page that includes:

- A Schedule of Upcoming Candidate Forums
- Complete Voter Information
- The Minnesota Voter Bill of Rights

Be sure to visit our website to familiarize yourself with what's there. You never know when one of those questions will pop up!

ARE YOU READY FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES?

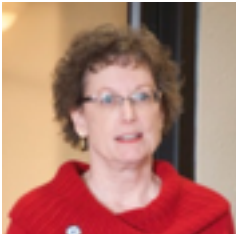
Candidate debates have a long history in American Politics. At every level of government--from city government to state legislature, from Congress to President of the United States--candidates participate in debates to help voters understand who they are and what they stand for.

Watching debates is one of the best ways that we can educate ourselves before we head to the voting booth. Luckily, when it comes to figuring out how to get the most out of debate-watching (and having fun while doing it), LWV has your back. Whether you already know who you want to vote for or are totally undecided, watching alone or hosting/attending a debate-watching party, the League has some tips and information to make sure you get the most of the debate-watching experience.

Download these handy guides below at: <http://lww.org/content/2016-debate-watching-kit>

- Tips for hosting a debate watch party
- Debate Watching 101
- Tips for evaluating candidates
- Debate Watching BINGO!





Voter Service Team Report ~ Karen Langsjoen, Voter Service Team Chair

We still need volunteers to fill various job descriptions: forum assistant, timekeeper, photographer, and greeter. This year, we will take written questions on cards from the audience. This requires the help of question screeners—a new volunteer position that will be shared with co-sponsors, when they are involved in a forum. If you can help with any of the forums listed below please contact Karen at karenl@cloudnet.com or call 320-309-2407.

CANDIDATE FORUMS

RACE	VENUE	DATE & TIME	CO-SPONSOR(S)
District 14 – Senate 14A & B	Whitney Senior Center	<u>Sept 29</u> 2:30 – 4:30	Whitney, St. Cloud Area Human Service Council, MN Council of Non-Profits
District 15 Senate 15B	Foley City Hall	<u>Oct. 3</u> 7 – 8:30pm	
School District #742	Apollo High School	<u>Oct. 6</u> 7 – 8:30pm	
District 13 – Senate 13 A & B	CSB – Gorecki Center	<u>Oct 10</u> 7 – 8:30pm	CSB/SJU McCarthy Center
Becker City Council	Becker	<u>Oct 10</u> 7 – 8:30pm	Becker Chamber of Commerce – LWV providing moderator only
St. Cloud City Council	St. Cloud City Hall	<u>Oct 12</u> 7 – 8:30pm	Working on it
Sartell City Council	Sartell City Hall	<u>Oct 17</u> 7 – 8:30pm	Sartell Chamber of Commerce
District 14	SCSU	<u>Oct 19</u> 5 – 6:30pm	SCSU -American Democracy Project
Sauk Rapids City Council	Sauk Rapids City Hall	<u>Oct 25</u> 7 – 8:30pm	
Rocori School District	Cold Spring City Hall	<u>Oct. 27</u> 7 – 8:30pm	
ALEXANDRIA FORUMS			
House District 8B	Alex Tech College	<u>Oct 18</u>	Alex Tech College AAUW

Senate District 8	Alex Tech College	<u>Oct 18</u>	Alex Tech College AAUW
Senate District 12	Alex Tech College	<u>Oct 18</u>	Alex Tech College AAUW
School district 206 Board	Alex City Hall	<u>Oct 20</u>	AAUW
Districts 3 and 1 County Commissioner	Alex City Hall	<u>Oct 20</u>	AAUW

LWVSCA UNIT MEETINGS 2016-2017

November: Policing

Convener: Jan Stavros, parakalo.js@gmail.com or 320-529-0146
 Sonja Berg, Diane Bublitz, Pat Fillmore, Ann Fleming, Jessie Harper,
 Linda Kotschevar, Pat Riley, Jerilyn Petersen

January: Caucus vs. Primary

Convener: Mary White-Levilain, marywhite.pathways@gmail.com or 320-266-5614.
 Ralph Carr, Jerilyn Petersen

February: Economic Inequality

Convener: Kate Meyer, kmeyer100@aol.com or 952-847-3060
 Diane Bublitz, Marge Rakow, Mary White-Levilain

March: Gerrymandering

Convener: Ralph Carr, rwcarr@stcloudstate.edu or 320-202-7893
 Dan Carle, Pat Fillmore, Sheila Ferguson, Gerri Gustafson, Pat Riley

April: Pollinator Decline

Convener: Linda Kotschevar, jlkotsch@hotmail.com or 320-252-3827
 Marlene Haider, Jerilyn Petersen, Marge Rakow

May: Death of a Forest

Convener: Julie Hiemenz, juliehiemenz@yahoo.com or 320-259-7637

We are already two months into our League year but there is still a list of engaging and timely topics to study. Many of the study areas have members, but there is always room for one more. Please peruse the list and find what intrigues you and join the group. Guaranteed you will come away from experience more informed, plus it's a great way to get to know fellow Leaguers. To become part of the committee contact the Convener via phone or email.

An Amendment to the Minnesota Constitution to Remove Lawmaker's Power to Set Their Own Pay

On November 8, 2016, Minnesota voters will be asked whether to amend the Constitution to remove from the Legislature the power to set their own salary. This proposed Constitution Amendment will create a Legislative Pay Council. This citizen council will be responsible for determining the salary of state legislators. This proposed amendment was authorized with bipartisan support in the 2013 Legislature. Failure to vote on the amendment has the same effect as voting no on the amendment. *The LWVMN has not taken a position in support of or in opposition to the amendment.*

The Facts About the Amendment:*

- Today Legislators, not the taxpayers who employ them, are responsible for setting their own pay.
- The current Minnesota Constitution creates a conflict of interest by requiring legislators to set their own pay.
- To change who determines legislators' pay requires an amendment to the Constitution. This amendment passed the House and Senate with bi-partisan support.
- Changing the Constitution requires a majority vote of all ballots cast.
- A majority vote of total ballots cast is different than a simple majority.
- This means that leaving the ballot blank counts the same as voting no.

Who Would Be on the Legislative Pay Commission:

- One person who is not a judge from each Congressional District appointed by Chief Justice of Minnesota Supreme Court.
- One person from each Congressional District appointed by the Governor.
- If there are an odd number of Congressional Districts, the Governor and the Chief Justice must each appoint one at-large member in addition.
- One half of the members appointed by the Governor must belong to the political party that has the most members in the Legislature.
- One half of the members appointed by the Governor must belong to the political party that has the second most members in the Legislature.

Who Can Not Be on the Legislative Pay Commission:

- No current or former legislators or their spouses
- No current or former registered lobbyists
- No current employees of the legislature
- No current or former judges
- No current or former governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state or state auditor
- No current employee of an entity in the executive or judicial branch



What Are the Legislative Pay Council's Duties?

- The Council must prescribe salaries by March 31 of every odd-numbered year, taking into account any other legislative compensation provided to legislators by the State of Minnesota, with any changes to take effect July 1 of that year.
- Membership terms, removal and compensation of members shall be as prescribed by law.

*All information quoted from Ch. 124 – H.F. No. 1823 at <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/?id=124&doctype=Chapter&year=2013&type=0>

BOOK CLUB

LWVSCA Book Club is open to all members and friends who are welcome to attend at any time. We usually meet at 6:30 P. M. the third Thursday of each month. For more information, please call Pat Fillmore at 320-259-0542. Our current book title and meeting place schedule is as follows:

	<p><i>Go Set a Watchman</i> by Harper Lee</p>	<p>Thursday, October 20, 2016 Hostess: Ginny Clark 1340 S. 9th Ave., Apt. 114, St. Cloud – 320-252-7154</p>
	<p><i>The Woman I Was Not Meant to Be: A Transsexual Journey</i> by Aleshia Brevard;</p>	<p>Thursday, November 17, 2016 Hostess: Jerilyn Petersen 2511 Tranquility Drive, St. Cloud 320-240-9183</p>
<p>Multiple Covers</p>	<p><i>The Signature of All Things</i> by Elizabeth Gilbert</p>	<p>Thursday, Dec. 15, 2016 Hostess: Linda Kotschevar 109 - 3rd Ave. N., Waite Park 320-252-3827</p>

FUTURE BOOK SELECTIONS: January 2017: *My Beloved World* by Sonia Sotomayor

Calendar

OCTOBER 2016

- 3 Candidate Forum (Dist. 15, 15b), Foley City Hall, 7-8:30pm
- 6 Candidate Forum (District 742), Apollo High School, 7-8:30pm
- 10 Candidate forum (Dist. 13, 13a, 13b) CSB/SJU Gorecki Center, 7-8:30pm
- 10 Candidate Forum (Becker City Council), Becker City Hall, 7-8:30pm
- 12 Unit Meeting, UU Fellowship Hall, 1-3pm - **Mississippi River/Water Issues**
- 12 Candidate Forum (St. Cloud City Council), St. Cloud City Hall, 7-8:30pm
- 17 Candidate Forum (Sartell City Council), Sartell City Hall, 7-8:30pm
- 19 Board Meeting, Dunn Bros, Cooper Ave 1-3:00pm
- 19 Candidate Forum (Dist. 14, 14a, 14b), SCSU, 5-6:30pm
- 20 Book Club, Ginny Clark's, 6:30pm
- 25 Candidate Forum (Sauk Rapids City Council), Sauk Rapids City Hall, 7-8:30pm

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October Community Events

- 14 “Voter Rights” Panel--Carolyn Garven, Diane Bublitz & Linda Kotschevar, First United Methodist Church, 1107 Pinecone Rd S, Sartell, 10:00am
- 18 Annual McCarthy Lecture, “Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?” And Other Conversations About Race, Speaker--Dr. Beverly Daniel Tatum, SJU Stephen B. Humphrey Theater, 8pm

NOVEMBER 2016

- 8 Election Day - VOTE
- 9 Unit Meeting, GRRL, 1-3pm
- 11 Veteran's Day
- 16 Board Meeting, GRRL, 1-3pm
- 17 Book Club, 6:30pm
- 24 Thanksgiving

November						
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

December 2016

3 HOLIDAY PARTY - SAVE THE DATE

Announcements:

The new **Membership booklets** are complete and if you do not have one yet, you can pick it up at the October Unit Meeting.

There will be no Riverwalk in October as announced at the picnic. October is very busy this year with the election so we have decided to wait until spring to hold the walk.

A publication of the League of Women Voters of the St. Cloud Area

PO BX 5084, St. Cloud MN 56302

LEAGUE LINES

Visit us at www.lwvsca.org and at www.facebook.com/lwvstcloudarea

Email us at: gmail.comlwvsca@gmail.com

MISSION:

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging the informed and active participation in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy. League of Women Voters affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of the membership...and strives to overcome barriers of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability in the activities of the organization.

President: Linda Kotschevar

Membership: Ralph Carr

Secretary: Ginny Clark

Editor: Marlene Haider

Treasurer: Diane Bublitz

Membership dues are \$70.00. Of that, \$38.00 is tax deductible.

Make your check payable to: LWVSCA.