

Voter Newsletter

2018-2019 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It has been a pleasure to serve as your president for the past two years with this wonderful board of directors. We have had some very talented new members step up into leadership roles, and they are simply doing a great job! I will miss Vice President Vicki Barnes' enthusiasm and passion for civic issues as she steps down this year. She has put together two amazing years of thoughtful, insightful programs, including two high profile programs on ending human sex trafficking (2018) and changing the community response to sexual assault (2019) with partner Saint Paul Neighborhood Network (SPNN).

Our membership continues to grow, now at nearly 140, the highest it has been in all of my 25 years in League. Morgan Croft Schornak took over membership with Hayden Kilkenny and continued the "Coffee Social" engagements to help new members meet longtime members.

The candidate forums were not without drama! Our summer forum for the Ward 4 was rife with issues when one of the candidates was arrested for domestic issues. Amy Perna handled the forum in true League style and kept her cool amid the heated atmosphere.

As I explored the League's history with board member Heidi Kloempken and researcher Emily Ganzel, it was clear that League was no stranger to controversy! Over our 100-year history, League members were engaged and activated around a variety of topics. It was a lot of fun to explore the materials held for LWVSP at the Minnesota History Center. Putting together the "100 Years of Civic Engagement: LWV in Minnesota" exhibit with the LWV Minnesota was a high point of the year.

My thanks to the entire 2018-2019 League Board for stepping up and stepping in when needed to complete our core mission of voter service and voter engagement. It has been a pleasure to serve with you! I'm looking forward with working with Amy Perna as Co-President and our league leadership during the next fiscal year.

Amy Mino, President, 2017-2019



LWVSP paid tribute to Ramsey County Elections Manager Joe Mansky, a longtime partner who retired in March.

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LWVSP YOUTH VOTE TEAM UPDATE

The LWVSP Youth Vote Team has two new projects focused on working with high school students as leaders in St. Paul voter engagement and voter registration efforts. The first is our own LWVSP *Student Leader* program. The second is LWV Minnesota's *Fellowship* program. So far we are working with 11 highly engaged high school students in seven schools in St. Paul and growing every week!

LWVSP's Student Leader program is now focused on five high schools on the short list for Spring 2019: Focus Beyond, Harding, Johnson, St. Paul Conservatory for Performing Arts (SPCPA), and Washington Technology Magnet. We currently have three student leaders in Harding and maybe another two in SPCA. [For an example Student Leader job description, please see our website.](#)

LWV Minnesota's Fellowship program is up and running. Four fellows conducted a voter registration event in April at Central High School, while three fellows at Como Park High School planned and held a Political Participation Day in May.

To help manage all of the communications and training, LWVSP hired a parttime Youth Vote Coordinator, Morgan Hess. Morgan is a junior history major at Macalester College and is providing important coordination of the high school student leader initiatives. Morgan will also be working on the LWVSP Voters Guide.

The LWVSP Youth Vote Team is comprised of 10 volunteers: Amy Mino, Amy Perna, Bev Blomgren, Colleen Zuro-White, Dan Krivit, Heidi Kloempken, Joann Ellis, Melody Luepke, Joette Hamann, and Sig Johnson. If you want to join the LWVSP Youth Vote Team and help work with high school and college students, contact Dan Krivit (612-616-7739; Dan.Krivit@Outlook.com) or Morgan Hess (303-746-6795; MHess@Macalester.edu).

“MONEY IN POLITICS: RESTORING FAIR REPRESENTATION TO THE PEOPLE”

Join us at noon on June 12th at the Landmark Center for “Money in Politics: Restoring Fair Representation to the People.” Featured speakers are Vicki Barnes, Volunteer MN State Coordinator for American Promise and Take Back Our Republic, and Richard Painter, author of “Taxation Only With Representation” and Professor of Law at the University of Minnesota. Learn about recent Supreme Court decisions that have limited our ability to regulate campaign spending and have allowed big moneyed special interest groups to influence our elections and our policies.

This event is free and open to the public.

JOIN OUR BOOK CLUB

Our book club meets on the second Wednesday of each month. The club always welcomes new visitors, even if they haven't read the book.

Where

3M Room of the Sun Ray Library
2109 Wilson Avenue, Saint Paul, MN
55119

Wednesday, June 12 at 10:15 a.m.

In June we will discuss *Reading with Patrick: A Teacher, A Student and a Life-Changing Friendship* by Michelle Kuo.



An item from the “100 Years of Civic Engagement: LWV in Minnesota” exhibit.

Find us on Twitter @LWVStPaul!

2019 ANNUAL MEMBER DRIVE

As we come upon our annual membership drive this summer, we are so thankful for all of the members of our local league. Whether you are a lifetime member, this is your first year, or you are somewhere in-between: thank you for your support. You help us “Make Democracy Work for All.” LWVSP’s financial year runs July 1 through June 30. Renewal reminders for annual membership will be going out in July. You can renew your annual membership by visiting lwvsp.org/join or mailing your membership renewal to our new address at 75 5th Street West, Suite 224 Saint Paul, MN 55102.

NEW OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

We’re very pleased to welcome Amy Perna as the new LWVSP Co-President, Hayden Kilkenny as the Vice President, and Heidi Kloempken as secretary. Nichole Fairbanks and Morgan Croft Schornak will continue their appointed terms as Treasurer and Director of Membership, respectively.

The new directors are Joann Ellis (CMAL/Program), Claudia Dieter (Program Planning), Cheryl Bailey (Voter Service/Youth Vote), Jacquelyn Kelly (Voter Service), Dan Krivit (Voter Service/Youth Vote), Marion McCarthy (Phone Volunteers), Helen Losleben (TBA), Jennifer Haselberger (Communications/Newsletter), and Jesse Faciana (TBD).



LWVSP board members Hayden Kilkenny and Marion McCarthy attend 2019 Annual Meeting

SUMMER VOTER SERVICE ACTIVITIES

The City of St. Paul, St. Paul Public Library, Ward 7 and the Southeast Community Organization are partnering to throw an East Side Summer Kickoff at Conway Park, 2090 Conway Avenue, on June 11 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. The event will be held outside on the grounds between the Conway Recreation Center and the Sun Ray Library. In case of rain, the event will be rescheduled for June 18, 5:30 to 7:30 pm, at the same location.

LWVSP will be one of the groups participating in this event. Volunteers will staff a LWVSP table where community members will be able to register to vote and practice filling out a ballot using the ballot counter from Ramsey County. Other League members will be roaming the crowds with clipboards and registration materials.

In addition to LWVSP, several city departments, as well as local businesses, non-profits and churches will provide entertainment, music, sports, hands-on activities and refreshments for all ages. Participating organizations include the Sanneh Foundation, Ramsey County Public Health, East Side Table, St. Paul Fire Department, St. Paul Parks and Recreation, St. Paul Police Department, YoPro, the Animal Humane Society, Taqueria Espartaco Food Truck, Fat House & QabMib Food Truck, Los Ocampo Food Truck, Saint Pascal Baylon Church, RiverLife Church, Hazel Park Congregational Church, Grace Lutheran Church, and Holy Apostles Episcopal Church. The event is sponsored by Sunray Laundromat, Sun Ray Lanes, Ha Tien, Mama C’s Salsa, Davanni’s- East Side and Sun Ray BP Gas.

League members are encouraged to attend this event to kick off LWVSP’s Summer Voter Service Activities.

LWVSP 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

LWVSP celebrated its 100th year at the 99th Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 23, at Episcopal Homes in St. Paul. A big thanks goes to Episcopal Homes for hosting our meeting and providing a delicious dinner! Our guest speaker was Toni Newborn, Chief Equity Officer for the City of Saint Paul, who works to ensure that the city provides equity in its workforce, services, and community. She stressed the need for city government to include more under-represented communities within its processes and to provide equity opportunities for all to succeed, outlining Mayor Melvin Carter's initiatives in this area. She provided some insight and suggestions to the League about reaching out to these communities to help us better reflect the diversity of the city.

After dinner and the keynote presentation, two annual awards were given. On behalf of Erin Heisler-Wagner (the 2018 Sunrise Award winner, who recently had a baby boy and was unable to attend), President Amy Mino presented the 2019 Sunrise Award to Vicki Barnes. Vicki was instrumental in invigorating League programming and coordinated a number of highly educational and engaging events in the past two years, while also serving in a leadership capacity as the Vice President. The Faye Lyksett Award, given to a member who has demonstrated outstanding service to the League and the community for which she or he has not received public recognition, was presented this year to Hayden Kilkenny by Phil Hollihan and Marion McCarthy, the 2018 award winner. Hayden's service to the League since becoming a member in 2012 was highlighted, including her leadership on the board and her efforts in membership and programming. She put together a very fun Pub Crawl for the 2019 state convention in April!

The business of the Annual Meeting concluded with the election of officers and the approval of the budget. Going into the new board year, members heard about plans for voter service and the youth vote efforts. Member Dru Osterud presented a recommendation for further LWVSP history research on the contributions of minority populations to the League and securing the vote.



LWVSP members Vicki Barnes and Hayden Kilkenny receive awards at the 2019 Annual Meeting.