



League of Women Voters of Minnesota Records

Copyright Notice:

This material may be protected by copyright law (U.S. Code, Title 17). Researchers are liable for any infringement. For more information, visit www.mnhs.org/copyright.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER

The University of Minnesota Human Rights Center was established in 1988 and focuses on training effective human rights professionals and volunteers. The Human Rights Center assists human rights advocates, monitors, students, and educators by providing training, fellowships, materials, and electronic resources and networks. In addition to the Fellowship Program, the Human Rights Center achieves its objectives by pursuing the following initiatives:

- **The Human Rights Library and Resource Center Web Site**
(<http://www.umn.edu/humanrts>) provides thousands of human rights documents, education materials, links, research techniques, and curriculum sharing options for researchers, educators, students, and activists;
- **The Human Rights Documentation and Curriculum Library** has the nation's largest collection of human rights books, monographs, periodicals, and other published materials from around the world;
- **The Human Rights Resource Center** develops, markets, and distributes human rights education materials (*i.e.*, curricula, syllabi, coursebooks, action guides, posters, resource kits, and other publications) on human rights issues and supports human rights learning communities (*i.e.*, trainings, presentations, seminars, symposia, courses, and retreats);
- **Partners in Human Rights Education**, in cooperation with the Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, trains lawyers, community advocates, and pre-K-12 teachers to engage students in the Midwest to work for human rights and social justice;
- **The Applied Human Rights Research Program** undertakes research and evaluation to improve the effectiveness of human rights advocates.

For further information,
Please contact:

University of Minnesota
Human Rights Center
229 - 19th Avenue South, Room 439
Minneapolis, MN 55455
phone: 612-625-2857
e-mail: humanrts@tc.umn.edu

Applications must be received by

1 March 2000.

Decisions will be made by

15 April 2000.

The Human Rights Center
has received generous support from
the Otto Bremer Foundation, the Ford
Foundation, the Mansfield Foundation,
the McKnight Foundation, the John Merck
Fund, the Laura Musser Fund,
and other donors.

*The University of Minnesota
is an equal opportunity
educator and employer.*

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
HUMAN RIGHTS CENTER

UPPER MIDWEST
INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS
FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
1999-2000

The Human Rights Center encourages residents of the Upper Midwest - including students, teachers, lawyers, other professionals, community leaders, and others - to undertake practical experience in human rights organizations.

The Fellowship Program is designed to promote human rights by providing practical training in the varied aspects of human rights work worldwide. The fellowship placement should provide both training for the individual and assistance to the organization.

Participants will foster links between communities in the Upper Midwest and human rights activities throughout the world. Participants will return with a deeper commitment to a lifetime of work in human rights and will contribute to bringing universal human rights concerns home to communities in the Upper Midwest. The human rights movement itself can benefit greatly from collaboration among individuals from different social, economic, and cultural origins, and those with both rural and urban backgrounds.

FORMER HOST ORGANIZATIONS

Over the last several years, the Human Rights Center has sponsored over 170 interns and fellows to work with human rights organizations in more than 50 countries. Examples of previous host organizations include:

- ❑ Amnesty International (Chicago, USA)
- ❑ Andean Commission of Jurists (Lima, Peru)
- ❑ Asian Forum for Human Rights (Bangkok, Thailand)
- ❑ Center for Victims of Torture (Minneapolis, USA)
- ❑ Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center (Miami, USA)
- ❑ Human Rights Documentation Center (Sofia, Bulgaria)
- ❑ Human Rights in China (Hong Kong, China)
- ❑ Human Rights Organization for Nepal (Kathmandu, Nepal)
- ❑ Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (Washington, D.C., USA)
- ❑ Legal Services Project of Profamilia (Bogota, Colombia)
- ❑ Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights (Minneapolis, USA)
- ❑ Organisation Marocaine des Droits de l'Homme (Rabat, Morocco)
- ❑ UN High Commissioner for Refugees (Ankara, Turkey)
- ❑ UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women (Colombo, Sri Lanka)
- ❑ UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (Geneva, Switzerland)
- ❑ Women Living Under Muslim Laws (Lahore, Pakistan)

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants are encouraged to arrange placements with local, regional, national, or international human rights organizations. Applications are particularly encouraged from Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, and Wisconsin. Applicants must secure a written commitment from the proposed sponsoring organization indicating that the organization will accept the fellow if funding can be arranged.

In searching for possible fellowship sites, you may wish to consult the University of Minnesota Human Rights Library at <http://www.umn.edu/humanrts/>.

Applicants may wish to contact organizations that have previously sponsored interns and fellows from the Human Rights Center. A list of previous internship and fellowship grants is available from the Human Rights Center and is posted at http://www.umn.edu/humanrts/links/intrn_web.htm. In addition, information about other potential placements is available from the Human Rights Center.

The Human Rights Center will award approximately fifteen grants. Grants will ordinarily range from \$1,000 to \$4,500, averaging about \$3,200, and are intended to cover travel and living expenses incurred during the approximately ten-week fellowship experience.

The application and guidelines for the 1999-2000 fellowship program are available at <http://www.umn.edu/humanrts/links/internshipopportunities.htm>, or by contacting the Human Rights Center.

PREVIOUS PARTICIPANTS

"The most valuable experience of the internship for me was visiting, relating to and learning about the slum population. This experience gave me a deep desire to continue my education further in Public Health and to return to work with slum populations in developing cities I trust that in some small way, my internship experience and activities contributed to enhancing the lives of those who suffer daily human rights abuses."

- Dawn Pauls, Indian Social Institute,
New Delhi, India

"I was not only able to learn a great deal about a country and a people in the process of struggling to attain a democracy, but I was able to see first-hand what their situation clearly is People are beginning to realize that the key to instigating change and establishing a true democracy cannot take place within political institutions alone, but through education and the personal responsibility of individuals. Being a part of promoting that message to teachers within the Czech Republic was a very fulfilling experience."

- Ann Marie Schultz, Bohemia Corps,
Czech Republic

"The human rights knowledge and experience that I gained from my work at the Center for Victims of Torture is exemplary. I am very happy to have worked with an organization such as the Center for Victims of Torture, which is playing a vital role in eradicating the vicious cycle of torture on a global level, thereby assisting and helping the advancement of the field of human rights."

- Anthony Wijesinha, Center for
Victims of Torture, Minneapolis,
Minnesota

Registration Form (may be copied)

**LOTT Seminar: Women Making a
Difference in Public Policy**

Name _____

College _____

Major _____

Mailing Address until Dec. 18 _____

Zip _____ Phone _____

Anticipated date of graduation _____

☐ I would like to share a room both nights at the Holiday Inn Express. Please match me with a roommate – please add \$80.00 to the program fee. **TOTAL=\$275.00**
ROOMMATE PREFERRED (if applicable): _____

☐ I would like a private room both nights at the Holiday Inn Express – please add \$160.00 to the program fee. **TOTAL=\$345.00**

☐ I will make my own arrangements for overnight lodging. **TOTAL=\$195.00**

Registration and Refunds: All program fees are due at the time of registration. Early registration is encouraged due to limited space. Requests for refunds must be in writing. Canceled registrations before December 28, 1999 will receive a full refund less a \$25 fee. No refunds will be made after this date, but a substitution will be allowed.

Make check payable to:
**League of Women Voters of MN
Education Fund**
and send with registration form to
LOTT, 550 Rice Street, St. Paul, MN 55103
612/350-1265 or 651/224-5445
LWVMN@mtn.org

**LOTT Seminar
Schedule**

Thursday, January 27

4:30 PM Registration and check-in

Dinner with Keynote Speaker:

Katherine Lanpher
Host of MPR's Midmorning Show

Friday, January 28

- Tour of State Capitol
- Panel: *Women Making a Difference from the Inside* including **State Rep. Mindy Greiling**
- Lunch with Speaker
- Panel: *Women Making a Difference in the Courts* including the **Honorable Pamela Alexander**
- *Extraordinary Advocates*
- Discussion: *Why Stick Your Neck Out?*
- Dinner with Speaker

Saturday, January 29

- **LWVMN Citizens in Action Workshop**
- Young Women Mentors Lunch

Leaders of Today & Tomorrow (LOTT) is a program of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund which works to inspire the leadership of women in public life, recognizing that strong, diverse perspectives are needed in the nation. LOTT was founded in 1993 as a program of the MN Women's Consortium with guidance from area colleges and organizations.

**Women
Making a Difference
in Public Policy**



January 27- 29, 2000

*A program of the
League of Women Voters of
Minnesota Education Fund*

Have you ever wondered?

... WHY there are so few women in elected offices and organizations that make public policy?

... HOW you as a college woman can make a difference?

... HOW you can move issues that are important to you into public discourse?

... HOW Minnesota government and public policy *really* work?

Public policy affects everything you do.

Regardless of your current program of study – business, art, biology, human services, political science, LOTT can show you how to have a voice in decisions that impact your life.

Seminar speakers are Minnesota women leaders representing the legislature, courts, state agencies, media, and interest groups. Students learn how policy is shaped, how current public policy affects women and how they themselves can influence policy.

LOTT's intensive seminars take you beyond the textbooks and classrooms to put you where the action is.

LOTT® will help . . .

- *DEMYSTIFY* the legislative process
- *INCREASE* awareness of issues vital to Minnesota women
- *MEET* movers and shakers of women's organizations
- *CONNECT* with women mentors affecting public policy
- *SPEND* hands-on time with women leaders

LOTT Participants have said:

"This was fantastic experience that will be with me forever."

"It was a privilege to be involved in a conference that included brilliant, warm, friendly women from so many different colleges."

"The LOTT program changes my life . . . LOTT gave me confidence, inspiration and drive to take hold of life's opportunities."

"My advisor pushed me into coming...I didn't want to have anything to do with politics. But now I realize that I have no choice but to be involved...It's something we all have to do."

Date:

January 27-29, 2000. Seminar begins at 4:30 PM on Thursday, January 27 and ends by 3:00 PM Saturday, January 29.

Credit:

Students may earn college credits. The seminar offers a minimum of 15 hours of contact time. Check with your college registrar to determine eligibility.

Location:

Seminar locations include the MN State Capitol complex and the Holiday Inn Express at Bandana Square in St. Paul.

Expenses:

Program fee of \$195 includes all meals, activities, transportation between sessions, and student membership in the League of Women Voters of MN. Accommodations are an additional fee (see registration form).

Scholarships:

Several schools offer scholarships to attend LOTT. Please check with your home institution for funds availability.

Limited scholarships are available through LOTT. Please contact our office for more information or an application. A \$25 fee must accompany scholarship application. Awards will be determined by December 15, 1999.

NOTE: Scholarship application deadline is **December 1st** and is earlier than the seminar registration deadline.

LOTT seeks participants of diverse backgrounds and locations from all around the state and encourages women of color and/or from Greater MN to apply.

BOARD MEMO



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
MINNESOTA

550 Rice Street • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103
Phone 651-224-5445 • Fax 651-290-2145
lwvmn@mtn.org
<http://tcfreenet.org/ip/pol/lwvmn>

NOVEMBER 1999

80 Years - A Voice for Citizens, A Force for Change

800/663-9328

Fax: 651/290-2145

lwvmn@mtn.org

<http://www.lwvmn.org>

To: Local League Presidents
From: Judy Duffy, President
Re: Unicameral Legislature

This issue has generated much discussion both topically and procedurally among our League members. The topic is one of concern for us as an organization—an organization that is primarily concerned about the structure, responsiveness and accountability of government.

The Governor has promised to make this proposal a priority for the upcoming legislative session which begins on February 1, 2000. Members of the Legislature are already lining up on both sides of the issue. Because this is an issue that so fundamentally concerns the League, we feel it is imperative to be at the table for the discussions which are sure to occur. Already, we are fielding questions from all sectors wondering where the League is on this question. We need to inform ourselves and communities about such a major change in government structure.

The LWVMN Board established a committee to make a recommendation about how the League will respond to this issue. Every time we take action or lobby on any issue, we must determine if our positions and/or principles support the action. Our bylaws state the "The Program of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota shall consist of: a) action to implement principles and b) those state governmental issues chosen for concentrated study and action." The unicameral committee is in the process of determining whether or not we can use our positions and/or principles to reach a position either in support or opposition to a unicameral legislature; they can also decide we cannot reach a position.

The committee's preference, and the board agreed at its last meeting, is to have a position in time to affect legislation this session. The committee's process has included examining the principles and positions that apply to this issue and looking at standards (based on those principles and positions) that we can use to evaluate a unicameral legislature.

It is crucial that our members are informed and involved in this process, therefore the December *VOTER* will be devoted to this issue. There will also be a member input process. Local Leagues will be sent information and encouraged to have meetings on the issue. League members will be asked to weigh-in on the issue by responding to questions on a tear-off form in the December

VOTER. The tear-off will go first to you, the local League president, for your information and board discussion. The member/local League advisory forms can then be forwarded to the LWVMN office, with your local League's advice/comments should you wish to give it.

The LWVMN Board has re-scheduled its January Board Meeting to January 26th in order to give more time for member/local League response to the questions. The Board will then hear the recommendations from the Committee and determine whether we can formulate a position from which to act.

Since December-January is usually a quiet time for League activity, I wanted to let you know this will be coming and ask your understanding and cooperation in helping us inform ourselves about a critical issue in state government.

Thank you to all of you for your help.

C A L E N D A R

MWB = Minnesota Women's Building, 550 Rice Street, St. Paul

November 15 - Community Circles Steering Committee, 12:00 noon, MWB
 - Community Circles Action Committee, 2:00 p.m., MWB
 17 - Office Management Committee, 9:30 a.m., MWB
 18 - LWVMN Staff Meeting, 12:00 noon, League Office
 20 - **Unicameral Committee**, 10:00 a.m., MWB
 22 - Voter Service Committee, 9:00 a.m., MWB
 - **Unicameral packet mailed to local League Presidents this week**
 25 - 26 - LWVMN Office closed for Thanksgiving

December 1 - Member Resources Committee, 9:00 a.m., MWB
 2 - Agriculture Study Committee, 1:00 p.m., MWB
 7 - Minnesota Women's Building Committee, 4:00 p.m., MWB
 10 - LOTT Board, 9:00 a.m., MWB
 14 - *Presidents' Mini-Mailing* if necessary
 15 - VOTER mailed
 18 - **Unicameral Committee**, 10:00 a.m., MWB
 20 - 24 - LWVMN Office closed for Holidays

January 1 - HAPPY NEW YEAR! Y2K IS UPON US!
 8 - **Unicameral Committee**, 10:00 a.m., MWB
 10 - Action Committee, 1:00 p.m., MWB
 14 - **Deadline for Unicameral responses to local Leagues**
 15 - Deadline for Legislative Interviews
 17 - Legislative Internship Training, TBD
 20 - **Deadline for local Leagues to send responses to Unicameral Committee**
 22 - **Unicameral Committee**, 10:00 a.m.
 26 - **LWVMN/EF Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m., MWB**
 27 - 29 - LOTT Seminar, State Capitol
 29 - Citizens in Action Workshop, State Capitol

February 1 - 2000 Legislative Session Begins

ENCLOSURES

(To be mailed separately to Presidents and DPM subscribers the week of November 22nd)

- Unicameral Packet - Erickson
- LWVMN/EF Logo and Print Policy Guidelines - Gochberg
- Membership Packet - Frisch
- LOTT Seminar Brochure - Ritter/Avendasora/Tjernlund
- Upper Midwest International Human Rights Fellowship Program brochure

COMMUNICATIONS

Karen Gochberg, 9943 Jamaca Court N, White Bear Lake, 55110, 651/429-8480
k_gochberg@hotmail.com

Enclosed with this presidents' mailing are the recently adopted LWVMN/EF Logo and Print Policy Guidelines. The guidelines and standards were developed for use by the state League. However, the specifications should be followed when local Leagues use the illustrated logo. The Print Standards contain useful information which can be used by local Leagues.

Your League is encouraged to adopt logo/print guidelines that meet your needs. It is important that any League identify in a consistent manner whether by adopting these guidelines or formulating their own.

The League of Women Voters has a reputation for providing significant and reliable information. Therefore, it is important that League publications be readily identified as originating from the League of Women Voters. Guidelines and standards establish consistency and a product recognizable by the public.

MEMBERSHIP

Carol Frisch, 7025 Comanche Court, Edina, 55439, 612/829-0604, carolf@thinkmhc.org

Please be reminded to forward to the LWVMN office and LWVUS office the names and addresses of new members as quickly as possible. We are concerned that they receive the full benefits of belonging to a three tiered organization immediately and will do our utmost to get them on the mailing list speedily. You may use mail, email or phone, whichever is most convenient.

Review the enclosed copies of the Open House Member Survey and the Summary of the September Young Women's Focus Group and other materials distributed at fall workshops for ideas that you may apply to your recruitment and retention efforts. Think about holding your own focus group of a target group in your community or promoting holiday gift memberships in your newsletter.



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS

M I N N E S O T A

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (651) 224-5445 FAX (651) 290-2145

Date: November 23, 1999
To: Local League Presidents
From: Eydie Kargas
Re: Logos

After Logos are available on the internet...

If you need logos and are not able to download from the League website at <http://www.lwvmn.org>, you may order them from the office in PC format only. Cost is \$6.00 per floppy disk.

BOARD MEMO



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
MINNESOTA

550 Rice Street • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103
Phone 651-224-5445 • Fax 651-290-2145
lwvmn@mtn.org
<http://tcfreenet.org/ip/pol/lwvmn>

O C T O B E R 1 9 9 9

Mini-Mailing to Local League Presidents

Part II: Action Mailing

1-800-663-9328
www.lwvmn.org

ENCLOSURES

- **Unicameral Legislature Packet:** letter from Judy Duffy and background materials: Erickson, McWilliams
- **Legislative Interview Packet:** Erickson, McWilliams
- **Women Candidate Development Coalition Information:** Erickson

Candid Candidates: Responses to Campaign Finance Reform Survey from Candidates in the 1998 Minnesota Election is at the printer. We hope to have the publication available in early November. Look for it in the next "Presidents' Mailing" scheduled for the week of November 15th.



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL

290-2145

October 1999

Refers
to Pres. M19
book
1999-2000

Dear local League President,

The idea of a unicameral legislature has been around for a long time, but this year it looks like it has support of the governor and several legislators. Several bills to create a unicameral legislature were introduced during the 1999 session. Because we do not have a position on a unicameral legislature per se, the League board has convened a committee whose purpose is to research the issue and make a recommendation on a course of action for the League. Because the League is fundamentally concerned with government, its organization, accountability and responsiveness, we believe it is important to be in a position to speak to the unicameral proposals. (We do have positions and principles that relate to how government should operate and we have supported or opposed legislation based on those positions and principles in several instances.)

After discussing several options, the committee has decided to try to have a position in place by the time the legislature convenes on February 1, 2000 so that we can lobby on the issue this session.

The committee process includes:

1. Researching the issue: House Research by Tom Todd, articles in the MN Journal, newspaper articles, magazine articles, information on Nebraska's system, the book *Tribune of the People* by Royce Hanson, internal reforms in the MN legislature dealing with changes in conference committee rules, meeting with proponents and opponents and house/senate research (October 22 or 23), a review of pending bills, attending meetings or listening to tapes on the issue (MN Women's Consortium Brown Bags, Citizen's League's Mind-Opener Breakfasts, others);
2. Looking at League positions and principles that deal with government for guidance in evaluating unicameral vs. bicameral system;
3. Arriving at standards by which to evaluate a unicameral system;
4. Discussing the issue (designing a process to receive input from local Leagues);
5. Recommending a course of action to the board (which could be a position for or against unicameralism.)

We plan to provide information to local Leagues on how they might inform themselves and their communities. We are also planning a major meeting co sponsored by the Citizen's League, and probably KTCA and The Minneapolis Star Tribune in January. We encourage you to hold public meetings in your community and to hold discussions in your local League. Members of the committee are available to help facilitate meetings.



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (651) 224-5445 FAX (651) 290-2145

October 1999

Dear local League President,

The idea of a unicameral legislature has been around for a long time, but this year it looks like it has support of the governor and several legislators. Several bills to create a unicameral legislature were introduced during the 1999 session. Because we do not have a position on a unicameral legislature per se, the League board has convened a committee whose purpose is to research the issue and make a recommendation on a course of action for the League. Because the League is fundamentally concerned with government, its organization, accountability and responsiveness, we believe it is important to be in a position to speak to the unicameral proposals. (We do have positions and principles that relate to how government should operate and we have supported or opposed legislation based on those positions and principles in several instances.)

After discussing several options, the committee has decided to try to have a position in place by the time the legislature convenes on February 1, 2000 so that we can lobby on the issue this session.

The committee process includes:

1. Researching the issue: House Research by Tom Todd, articles in the MN Journal, newspaper articles, magazine articles, information on Nebraska's system, the book *Tribune of the People* by Royce Hanson, internal reforms in the MN legislature dealing with changes in conference committee rules, meeting with proponents and opponents and house/senate research (October 22 or 23), a review of pending bills, attending meetings or listening to tapes on the issue (MN Women's Consortium Brown Bags, Citizen's League's Mind-Opener Breakfasts, others);
2. Looking at League positions and principles that deal with government for guidance in evaluating unicameral vs. bicameral system;
3. Arriving at standards by which to evaluate a unicameral system;
4. Discussing the issue (designing a process to receive input from local Leagues);
5. Recommending a course of action to the board (which could be a position for or against unicameralism.)

We plan to provide information to local Leagues on how they might inform themselves and their communities. We are also planning a major meeting co sponsored by the Citizen's League, and probably KTCA and The Minneapolis Star Tribune in January. We encourage you to hold public meetings in your community and to hold discussions in your local League. Members of the committee are available to help facilitate meetings.

In this packet we have included: House research by Tom Todd, a House Reference Library bibliography of resource materials, League principles and positions that apply, standards for evaluation of a unicameral legislature, and a summary of current bills.

If you would like to contact the major groups involved, here are the names and numbers:

Supporters:

Minnesotans for a Single House Legislature (MSHL)
PO Box 32271
Fridley, MN 55432-0271
877/4 - 1 - HOUSE
612/795-9070
www.singlehouse.com

Opponents:

Opponents of a Unicameral House (OUCH)
Bill Brady
2435 Galtier St
Roseville, MN 55113
651/481-0273
bbrady@uswest.net

If you have questions or comments, please call Susan Weisbrod (651/436-7528) Board member, Government Issues, or Kay Erickson (612/474-7324) Board member, Action Co-Chair.

Sincerely,



Judy Duffy
President

Unicameral Legislature
Informational Packet

October 1999

POLICY BRIEF

Minnesota House of Representatives

Research Department

600 State Office Building

St. Paul, MN 55155

August 1999

Tom Todd, Legislative Analyst

651-296-5048

Unicameral or Bicameral State Legislatures: The Policy Debate

Political scientists and students of legislatures have long debated the relative merits of bicameral and unicameral state legislatures. (Nebraska is the only single-house state legislature in the country; the others are bicameral.) This publication attempts to summarize the arguments commonly advanced on both sides of this debate. The arguments are arranged in categories as follows.

Representation and Responsiveness	2
Which legislative system provides better, more responsive representation? For whom?	
Stability of the Law	3
Is a bicameral legislature inherently more stable, more restrained in its actions, and therefore more likely to preserve a desirable steadiness and reliability in the law?	
Accountability of Legislators	4
Which legislative system better enables voters to hold their elected representatives to account for legislative actions?	
Authority of the Legislature	6
Which legislative system gives greater authority and effect to the decisions of the legislature and individual legislators? Could the legislature be too authoritative?	
Concentration of Power within the Legislature	8
Does either legislative system bring about an undesirable concentration of power inside the legislature?	
Quality of Decision-Making	9
Which legislative system makes for a better legislative process and better legislative decisions?	
Efficiency and Economy	11
Would a unicameral legislature be more efficient and less costly in conducting its work? How important is this, in relation to other considerations?	
Custom and Precedent	12
Is a unicameral legislature a radical departure from the fundamental institutions and traditions of American government?	

Representation and Responsiveness

Which legislative system provides better, more responsive representation? For whom?

Unicameralists say that two houses no longer serve a representational purpose in state legislatures, because the members of both houses are elected by and serve the same constituencies. Bicameralists say that a larger, two-house legislature is more complexly representative of the multiplicity of interests in diverse societies. Both sides assert that their favored structure is more responsive to the people and less susceptible to control by powerful minorities.

UNICAMERALIST	BICAMERALIST
<p>Dual representation. Bicameral state legislatures are no longer necessary for representational purposes, because the courts now require that the members of both houses be elected from equal population districts. In earlier times, bicameral state legislatures may have served a representational purpose: during the period of the American revolution, in some states the two houses represented somewhat different socio-economic groups; 50 years ago, members of the two houses of state legislatures represented somewhat different political communities (e.g., counties, cities, city wards). The two houses of Congress continue to represent different constituencies (state districts and population districts). But in state legislatures today, the members elected to the two houses are essentially duplicate representatives of the same population districts. Therefore, bicameral state legislatures can no longer be justified on representational grounds.</p>	<p>Dual representation. A citizen in Nebraska has one representative in the state legislature; a citizen in Minnesota has two. Dual representation increases the probability that legislators and constituents will have direct contact and that citizens or communities petitioning for legislative action will get a hearing from a sympathetic representative or one with helpful connections. Further, members of the two houses provide important and useful variations in representation, even though all are elected from population districts. House members represent smaller, more cohesive constituencies, while senators represent larger, more diverse districts. Also, the senator and the representatives from a legislative district are not like peas in a pod: they serve different terms of office, sit on different committees, are differently situated, employed, and connected within the district, and may belong to different political parties.</p>
<p>Responsiveness to the majority. The unicameral system favors rule by the majority. Because the unicameral legislative structure and process are simple, straightforward, and open, a unicameral legislature is more likely to represent and respond to the preferences of the unorganized mass public.</p>	<p>Responsiveness to the majority. The founders adopted the bicameral structure deliberately to frustrate simple majority rule. Double representation in a bicameral legislature fosters the balanced representation of rival interests, a more just and inclusive goal than mere majority rule.</p>
<p>Responsiveness to diverse and minority interests. What counts in responding to diverse and minority interests is not the number of legislative bodies, but a good electoral system and the use of methodical, time-consuming legislative practices to ensure that all interests are heard and all viewpoints carefully considered. Because its decision-making process is relatively simple and efficient, a unicameral legislature has the time to provide a fuller and fairer hearing to all</p>	<p>Responsiveness to diverse and minority interests. The bicameral structure is more complexly responsive to the multiplicity of public interests in diverse societies. Two legislative bodies—with different membership, terms of office, perspectives, leadership, and customs—bring a valuable diversity of outlook to legislative decisions. The members and committees of one house often afford a fuller or fairer hearing of a particular bill, issue, or point of view than the other house. As a result, the bicameral</p>

UNICAMERALIST	BICAMERALIST
<p>interests and points of view. Extended consideration of an issue by legislators in one house is more likely to deepen understanding than hasty consideration by duplicate legislators in two houses.</p> <p>Responsiveness to powerful interests. The transparency of the unicameral system reduces the influence of professional representatives of powerful interests and enhances the influence of less organized and moneyed citizen groups. The bicameral system, with its complex procedures and numerous, often hidden points of access, favors those who have the time and knowledge to play "inside ball." In particular, the concentration of decision-making authority in conference committees enables the paid lobbyist to influence legislative activity unobtrusively and, by swaying only a few members, to impede or advance legislation without respect to the will of the majority.</p>	<p>legislative process is more likely to give voice and effect to disparate points of view and protect the rights and interests of various minorities.</p> <p>Responsiveness to powerful interests. When power is divided and diffused, as it is in a bicameral system, the professional representatives of powerful interests must win the support of a larger number of leaders, committee chairs, and members. The dispersion of authority through two houses makes it more difficult for the paid lobbyist to affect legislative activity by influencing just a few members. In a unicameral system, on the other hand, with just one house and fewer key legislators, managing outcomes is easier. Nebraska bears this out, being known among political scientists as (in the words of one) "almost heaven" for special interest lobbyists.</p>

Stability of the Law

Is a bicameral legislature inherently more stable, more restrained in its actions, and therefore more likely to preserve a desirable steadiness and reliability in the law?

Bicameralists say that a two-house legislature better balances the competing values of responsiveness to the people and stability in the law, and that a unicameral legislature would be more mutable in its membership, inconstant in its actions, and apt to be unwisely swayed by fleeting waves and large tides of popular sentiment. Unicameralists say that the modern practice of electing the members of both houses of state legislatures from the general populace in the same population districts has vitiated the supposed moderating effect of the bicameral structure, and that a properly organized unicameral legislature would not be more volatile or erratic than a bicameral one.

UNICAMERALIST	BICAMERALIST
<p>Legislative stability and restraint. The founders' theory of bicameral stability—in which the momentary passions of popular majorities expressed in the House would be restrained by wiser, more conservative representatives of wealth and property in the Senate—is a relic of history. For a long time now, the members of both houses of state legislatures have been chosen by and from the citizenry at large within the same voting</p>	<p>Legislative stability and restraint. The founders valued stability in the law and, therefore, restraint and continuity in lawmaking. They believed that a legislature composed of two independent bodies of lawmakers is inherently more stable in membership and temperate in thought and action than a one-house legislature. This conviction did not depend on the idea of an aristocratic Senate: it was held by the founders throughout the revolutionary and</p>

UNICAMERALIST	BICAMERALIST
<p>districts, without destabilizing the legislature. There is little reason to suppose that a unicameral legislature, so chosen, is more volatile or erratic than a bicameral one.</p> <p>Balancing responsiveness and stability. Nebraska's legislature illustrates how a unicameral legislature can balance the virtues of responsiveness to the people and stability in the law. Legislators in Nebraska serve four-year, overlapping terms of office. Therefore, during each biennial legislative session, half of the members of the Nebraska legislature know that they will face the voters at the next election, while the other half, whose terms continue, tend to bring a longer view to the same decisions. With the terms of its members overlapped in this way, Nebraska's unicameral legislature can be responsive to the concerns of the citizenry at each election without excessive mutability either of membership or policy.</p>	<p>early national period, even as both houses of state legislatures were coming to represent the same constituencies. It is still valid.</p> <p>Balancing responsiveness and stability. In Minnesota's bicameral system, members of the House, all accountable to the people in small districts statewide every two years, tend to respond quickly to changing popular sentiment, while senators, who serve a four-year term of office and larger districts, tend to bring a longer and wider view to the same decisions. This natural balance of responsiveness and restraint is not possible in a unicameral legislature, because overlapping four-year terms (as in Nebraska) disenfranchises half the state at every election, while universal two-year terms destabilizes the legislature, making it more vulnerable to control by a succession of transient majorities.</p>

Accountability of Legislators

Which legislative system better enables voters to hold their elected representatives to account for legislative actions? Unicameralists say that a unicameral legislature would be more accountable to the electorate, because the simplicity and transparency of the unicameral legislative process permits voters to better fix the responsibility of individual legislators for legislative actions. Bicameralists say that the bicameral legislative process is actually more open to public view and public accountability, and that a unicameral legislature would not necessarily remedy, and might actually worsen, the real accountability problem—allowing a few legislators to impose legislative decisions on the general membership.

UNICAMERALIST	BICAMERALIST
<p>Accountability and procedural simplicity. Legislators in a unicameral system are more accountable to the electorate, because the simplicity and directness of the unicameral legislative process encourages citizens to pay attention to legislative activity and permits them to better follow and understand the actions of their representatives. Knowing that they are under more and better scrutiny back home, unicameral legislators naturally feel more accountable and alert to constituent concerns and interests. In a bicameral legislature, on the other hand, accountability is weak, because the</p>	<p>Accountability and procedural simplicity. Observation does not support the unicameralist's belief that procedural simplicity enhances the accountability of elected officials by fostering citizen vigilance and comprehension. The citizenry of Nebraska is not noticeably more mindful or informed of legislative activity than the citizenry of bicameral states like Minnesota; and Nebraska legislators are not known to be more alert to constituent interests than Minnesota legislators. Accountability would benefit more from continuing efforts to clarify and streamline the bicameral</p>

UNICAMERALIST

complexity of the legislative process discourages and confuses citizens attempting to follow the activities of their representatives so as to hold them to account for their part in legislative decisions.

Accountability and procedural openness. A unicameral legislature is more accountable to the electorate than a bicameral legislature, because the unicameral legislative process is more open to public view. In a unicameral legislature, decisions are made in public settings—either in standing committees or on the floor—where legislators speak and vote in full view of the media and the public. In the bicameral legislative process, in contrast, the fulcrum of legislative decision-making shifts from the standing committees and the floor to negotiations between the two houses—where a few leaders and the members of a few conference committees from each house make the most important legislative decisions in relative privacy and obscurity. Because its pivotal decision-making processes—inter-house negotiations—are so removed from public view and resistant to public comprehension, a bicameral legislature is necessarily less accountable to the voters than a unicameral legislature.

Accountability and the second house. The bicameral structure undermines the accountability of individual legislators by clouding their responsibility for decisions. Legislators in one house can blame decisions on the other house. They can vote for a measure they oppose, or against one they favor, knowing that the other house will reject the result. They are impelled to design legislation not on the merits but rather as ploys to improve their bargaining position with the other house. Members of a unicameral legislature cannot disguise, yield, or distort their decision-making responsibility in these ways. As a result, citizens are able to fix responsibility for decisions and hold legislators to account for their actions.

Accountability and conference committees. The bicameral system undermines the accountability of rank-and-file legislators by shifting decision-making authority from the general membership to conference committees. Because the general membership cannot amend the reports of conference committees (nor usually, because

BICAMERALIST

process (e.g., earlier deadlines, longer lie-over periods for major bills, less reliance on conference committees) than from imposing a new and unfamiliar system of government.

Accountability and procedural openness. A bicameral legislature is more accountable to the electorate than a unicameral legislature, because the bicameral legislative process is more open to public view. Conference committees nowadays operate mostly in public: much like standing committees, they engage in public debate, take public testimony on disputed issues, make decisions in public, and conduct some negotiations in private. Conference committees actually serve to open up the legislative process, because they provide a forum for public debate and testimony on contentious issues after initial floor action on bills, and because they focus public attention on the final negotiations on these issues among key legislators, executive officials, and interest groups. Without conference committees, the public will have no opportunity to be heard on crucial floor amendments, and final negotiations on contentious issues will shift from a relatively open setting to private meetings prior to floor action on bills.

Accountability and the second house. To diffuse governmental authority—which is a central purpose of legislatures in democratic societies—is to diffuse responsibility. When a group of people make decisions on complex matters using parliamentary procedures, the responsibility of each member of the group will always be ambiguous. For this reason, the absence of a second house, though it may change tactics, will not end strategy: unicameral legislators will continue to jockey to improve bargaining position and to yield or divert responsibility for outcomes to others—other members, committees, committee chairs, political party caucuses, legislative leaders, and the governor.

Accountability and conference committees. The culprit in this unicameralist complaint is not conference committees so much as the practice of concentrating important decisions in a few bills brought from committee to floor in the closing days and hours of the legislative session—a practice that could just as well afflict a

UNICAMERALIST	BICAMERALIST
<p>of time constraints, even reject them), the decisions of conference committees are effectively final. Consequently, rank-and-file legislators who do not serve on important conference committees are able to disclaim responsibility for legislative decisions by blaming them on conference committees. In a unicameral legislature, members cannot hide behind conference committee decisions. Each member is fully responsible for voting on bills on the floor and can be held to account for those actions by the voters.</p>	<p>unicameral legislature, with more pernicious results. The accountability of individual legislators can be enhanced, if need be, within the bicameral structure, simply by reducing the authority of conference committees (e.g., by using joint committees more and conference committees less; changing legislative rules on conference committee appointments, authority, and procedures; and imposing deadlines and lie-over requirements on conference committee reports).</p>

Authority of the Legislature

Which legislative system gives greater authority and effect to the decisions of the legislature and individual legislators? Could the legislature be too authoritative?

Unicameralists say that eliminating friction, rivalry, and contention between the two houses would give the legislature and individual legislators greater prestige, independence, and authority and permit more decisive and effective legislative action. Bicameralists say that a larger, two-house legislature inherently possesses more capacity and expertise, and therefore greater independence and authority, and that a unicameral legislature would unwisely concentrate the state's governmental power.

UNICAMERALIST	BICAMERALIST
<p>Legislative authority. The bicameral system divides legislative authority between two houses with competing sets of members, committees, and leaders. Partitioning the legislature in this way diminishes its authority and effectiveness in dealing with the executive branch of state government and with the federal government. The unicameral structure, by concentrating legislative power in the members and leaders of one house, enhances the prestige, independence, and authority of the legislature. A strong legislature is able to deal more effectively with the governor and the executive branch and to represent the interests of the state more forcefully on the national level.</p>	<p>Legislative authority. Because a bicameral legislature has more legislators, committees, and leaders, it possesses inherently more capacity and expertise, and therefore greater authority and independence in relations with the governor and other agencies of government. A unicameral legislature is weaker, because it has fewer legislators and committees available to acquire and apply specialized knowledge, oversee the executive, and serve the same number of citizens. Nebraska's legislature is not a uniquely prestigious or influential force in state government, compared with bicameral state legislatures; and some evidence (e.g., pay, authority, turnover) suggests the contrary.</p>

UNICAMERALIST

Member authority. Individual legislators in a unicameral system can act more decisively and with more certain effect, because their authority is not shared with the members of another house. A bicameral legislature, in contrast, does not repay industrious, diligent legislators: the members of one house often devote considerable time and attention to an issue, only to have their efforts brushed aside, frustrated, or overlooked by the other house.

Legislative effectiveness and gridlock. Decisive, timely, and effective action cannot be expected from any institution with two governing bodies. The bicameral system hamstringing legislative decision-making and hinders public business of consequence. Jealousy, friction, and rivalry between the members and leaders of the two houses make lawmaking difficult, sometimes even impossible.

Concentration of governmental power. The unicameral system corrects the modern concentration of power in the executive and judicial branches of government. The founders lived in an age of burgeoning legislative power; hence they feared a strong legislature and sought to inhibit its ability to act. But we live in an age of executive, bureaucratic, and judicial dominance, when the problem with legislatures is infirmity, not prowess. By concentrating and increasing the authority of the legislature, the unicameral structure restores the proper balance of power among the three branches of state government.

External constraints on the legislature's power. Although the authority of legislators in a unicameral system is not limited by a second house, members are nonetheless constrained by powerful countervailing external forces: they are more accountable to the electorate; and the executive veto and judicial review remain as constitutional protections against legislative excess.

BICAMERALIST

Member authority. Bicameral legislatures do not lack for capable and effective legislators. If individual legislators in a unicameral system have more authority and less annoyance, it is only because they can act alone, without the impediment of having to convince their counterparts in another house. That is one of the purposes and effects of the bicameral system: to limit and restrain the power of legislators.

Legislative effectiveness and gridlock. Government should be limited and making laws should be difficult. A divided, rivalrous government inhibits the concentration and misuse of governmental power. Also, contention between the two houses may reflect the views of the people. If gridlock is the issue, it would be better addressed by a nonpartisan or parliamentary system than by a unicameral one.

Concentration of governmental power. The unicameral system unwisely concentrates in one house the solemn power to make law and conduct other public business (e.g., spend money, impeach and try public officials). The founders—knowing the long history of impulsive and tyrannical legislatures—considered this to be the most dangerous branch of government, the greatest threat to the liberties of the people. They sought to curb the lawmaking power, not only by dividing it with the executive but by partitioning the legislature internally. The unicameral system removes one leg of the balanced, three-legged stool of lawmaking in the bicameral tradition.

External constraints on the legislature's power. The electorate, the executive veto, and judicial review are blunt and untrustworthy instruments of control, external to the legislative process. They are no substitute for the safeguard of restraining the legislature's power by dividing the legislature itself.

Concentration of Power within the Legislature

Does either legislative system bring about an undesirable concentration of power inside the legislature? Bicameralists say that a single-house legislature would concentrate the lawmaking power in the hands of fewer legislators and eliminate essential constitutional restraints on the concentration of power within the legislature. Unicameralists say that the bicameral structure concentrates power in the handful of members who serve on important conference committees and the leaders who appoint them, and that unicameral legislatures elsewhere do not over-concentrate power within the legislature.

UNICAMERALIST	BICAMERALIST
<p>Concentration of legislative power. The bicameral system concentrates decision-making power in the hands of a few members—those who serve on important conference committees and the leaders who appoint them. Because the legislature as a whole cannot amend the reports of conference committees (nor usually, because of time constraints, even reject them), the bicameral system permits a few well-placed legislators to impose their views on the membership of both houses.</p>	<p>Concentration of legislative power. The unicameral system concentrates decision-making power in one house—where bill authors, committee chairs, and leaders possess singular power, unchecked by co-equals in another house. In a unicameral legislature—perhaps especially in a large one—power and policy can fall more easily under the unrestrained hand of a single strong leader, committee chair, caucus, or group of legislators.</p>
<p>Internal constraints on power. The members of the legislature choose their leaders, and they also adopt the rules of procedure that allocate power to those leaders. Therefore, the members of a unicameral legislature can readily compensate for the absence of countervailing powers in a second house by choosing leaders carefully and by adopting rules of procedure that limit the authority and influence of leaders and committee chairs.</p>	<p>Internal constraints on power. The bicameral system disperses power among legislators constitutionally, rather than relying on legislators themselves to limit the authority of their leaders. As for conference committees, a bicameral legislature can reduce their sway, if it wishes, by changing the legislative rules and practices governing conference committee appointments, procedures, scope of authority, and deadlines.</p>
<p>Experience elsewhere. The unicameral system does not over-concentrate the legislative power in Nebraska or in democratic nations that have single-house legislatures.¹ In Nebraska's unicameral legislature, on the contrary, power is more dispersed than in the typical bicameral legislature. Leadership authority in the Nebraska legislature is divided among several legislators and committees, and the general membership elects not only the leaders but the chairs of committees as well.</p>	<p>Experience elsewhere. The dispersion of power in Nebraska's unicameral legislature is the result of unique conditions there—the small number of legislators (49), entrenched decentralist legislative customs and traditions, and the absence of political party caucuses and caucus leaders. These conditions do not apply in more populous states with larger, partisan legislatures accustomed to operating with strong political caucuses and caucus leaders. As for the unicameral systems in other nations,</p>

¹ The following western democracies have national unicameral legislatures: Finland, Israel, Luxembourg, Denmark, Sweden, and New Zealand. The latter three have converted from bicameral to unicameral structures since World War II. Other jurisdictions, like Iceland and Norway, have legislatures that are elected on a unicameral basis but divide into two houses after election for purposes of processing legislation. Others, like Canada and Britain, have bicameral national legislatures, but practical legislative power is heavily concentrated in one house. Canada's provinces all have unicameral legislatures.

UNICAMERALIST	BICAMERALIST
As a consequence, rank-and-file legislators have more real authority in Nebraska than they do in most bicameral legislatures, where power in each house is concentrated in one or two leaders and the members of a few conference committees.	they are parliamentary systems, where power is supposed to be concentrated in fewer hands—the ministers of government.

Quality of Decision-Making

Which legislative system makes for a better legislative process and better legislative decisions? Bicameralists say that the bicameral legislative process promotes quality results by slowing decision-making, by creating more opportunities for second thought before final action, and by requiring that all actions have the approval of two independent groups of lawmakers. Unicameralists say that the bicameral structure actually shortcuts deliberation and engenders carelessness and error in lawmaking, whereas the simplicity of the unicameral legislative process fosters slower, more deliberate, careful decision-making. Both sides assert that their favored structure makes for greater citizen participation and therefore provides lawmakers with better information on which to base decisions.

UNICAMERALIST	BICAMERALIST
<p>Deliberative process. In a unicameral legislature, committees and members are able to proceed slowly and carefully, because they are relieved of the need to move legislation through a cumbersome legislative process involving two houses. By virtue of the directness and simplicity of its process, a unicameral legislature has the time to give the ideas of legislators and citizens a more thorough airing and a more exacting consideration than is possible in the accelerated, duplicate proceedings of a bicameral legislature.</p> <p>Bicameral legislatures, in contrast, are notorious for scurry. To get bills through time-wasting, duplicate proceedings in two houses and conference committees, the bicameral legislature is forced to take shortcuts and use fast-track procedures that condense committee and floor debate and eliminate opportunities for deliberation and reflection.</p>	<p>Deliberative process. The bicameral legislative process illustrates the virtues of redundancy in critical decision-making systems. Bicameralism fosters quality results by requiring more hearings before more people, by slowing decision-making, and by creating multiple opportunities for debate, reflection, and sober second thought. Also, even in a populous state, one of the houses of a bicameral legislature can be quite small, which is conducive to deliberation and resistant to hierarchy.</p> <p>Both houses of Minnesota's bicameral legislature debate issues at great length. If necessary, time for debate and reflection could be increased, without radical institutional surgery, by changing bicameral procedures (e.g., earlier deadlines, longer lie-over periods for major legislation, more reliance on joint committees and less on conference committees).</p>

UNICAMERALIST	BICAMERALIST
<p>Despite the fast-track procedures used by bicameral legislatures, most bills still bog down in inter-house wrangling. As a result, decisions are not made until the very end of the session, when the most complex and important measures are shuttled rapidly from house to house with little time for comprehension or careful consideration.</p>	<p>The end-of-session crush of legislation is caused not by the bicameral structure so much as by the practice of concentrating most decisions in a few bills brought out for passage late in the session—a practice that could just as well afflict a unicameral legislature, at even greater cost to the deliberative process.</p>
<p>Quality assurance and the second house. Experience does not support the bicameralist assertion that one house checks and corrects the actions of the other house. On the contrary, the presence of a second house encourages and enables legislative carelessness—as when one house hastily accepts the actions of the other house on faith, without independent evaluation, or passes ill-conceived legislation, relying on the other house to correct or reject it.</p>	<p>Quality assurance and the second house. In a bicameral system, every proposed law must be approved by separate groups of lawmakers with different perspectives and insights. This reciprocal oversight fosters a quality product, because two groups of decision-makers do not come readily into each other's opinions without good reason. The system is imperfect, of course, but experience shows that the second house often detects and corrects mistakes and improves the work of the initiating house.</p>
<p>A single-house legislature, in contrast, knowing that its decisions are final, acts only with great care and diligence. Nebraska's unicameral legislature is known for its methodical, repeated consideration and inspection of every bill before final passage.</p>	<p>Repeated consideration of a bill or issue by the same group of people in a unicameral legislature cannot replace the discipline created by requiring one group to gain the approval of another group before imposing a law on the citizenry.</p>
<p>Quality assurance and the conference committee. The conference committee system breeds legislative error. The two houses tend to take less care on bills initially, trusting to conference committees to fix mistakes. Conference committees themselves are prone to error—consisting, as they do, of a few interested members making decisions on complex matters under enormous time pressure in relative obscurity. And finally, the blunders made by conference committees are imposed on the rest of the legislature, which cannot amend conference committee reports (nor usually, because of time constraints, even reject them). By eliminating conference committees, the unicameral structure enhances the probability of quality legislation.</p>	<p>Quality assurance and the conference committee. Conference committees often improve legislation after its initial passage by forcing key legislators to listen to their critics, re-examine their positions, and consider compromise with other views before final action. In effect, a conference committee is a concluding debate on the pivotal issues in a bill among the legislators with the greatest expertise and involvement in it. Conference committees also regularly repair mistakes made during the hurly-burly of Minnesota's traditional process of open floor debate and amendment. Without conference committees, a unicameral legislature might find it necessary to limit the scope and complexity of amendments permitted on the floor.</p>
<p>Citizen participation. The unicameral legislative process encourages broad public participation in legislative decisions and provides members with more information to use in making decisions, because it allows citizens and organizations to channel their energies more effectively on the activities of one house.</p>	<p>Citizen participation. The bicameral legislative process encourages broad public participation in legislative decisions and provides members with more information to use in making decisions, because it offers more forums where interested citizens and organizations can participate. When bills must go through committee</p>

UNICAMERALIST

Participating in the bicameral legislative process, on the other hand, is a burden for everyone; ordinary citizens in particular are put off by the time required to attend duplicate proceedings in two houses, often followed by conference committee meetings.

External quality controls. In our system of shared lawmaking authority, quality control does not rest with the legislature alone. The executive veto and judicial review are adequate protection against serious legislative error.

BICAMERALIST

hearings and floor debates in two houses, often followed by conference committee proceedings and additional floor debates, public sentiment has more time to develop, and ordinary citizens have more opportunity to become informed, organize, and communicate their views.

External quality controls. The executive veto and judicial review are blunt and untrustworthy instruments of quality control, external to the legislative process. They are no substitute for a legislative structure that fosters self-criticism and the detection of error.

Efficiency and Economy

Would a unicameral legislature be more efficient and less costly in conducting its work? How important is this, in relation to other considerations? Unicameralists say that a unicameral legislature would be more efficient in conducting its business and less costly to operate. Bicameralists say that a unicameral legislature would not necessarily save much time or money and that the benefits of two houses are worth some additional cost.

UNICAMERALIST

Procedural efficiency. Owing to the simplicity and directness of its process, a unicameral legislature is able to act on legislation more efficiently. A successful bill takes a straightforward path from committee to the floor to the governor. In a bicameral legislature, a successful bill must go through duplicate committee hearings and floor debates in the two houses, then often through a conference committee, and again through two more floor debates. This cumbersome, redundant procedure is inherently wasteful and inefficient; it confers no benefit commensurate with the time and energy it consumes.

Cost of the legislature. A unicameral legislature is smaller and less costly to operate. There are fewer legislators and employees to pay and no duplication of bills, committees, and meetings. A unicameral legislature about the size of the current Minnesota House (134 members) would save the state roughly \$20 million a year (the current annual cost of the Senate), perhaps more.

BICAMERALIST

Procedural efficiency. A two-house legislature saves time by dividing the work of studying legislation; if one house rejects a bill, the other house need not consider it. Nebraska's unicameral legislature is not notably efficient in processing legislation; in fact, legislative sessions in Minnesota are shorter than they are in Nebraska, where repetitive floor debates on bills compensate for the absence of the safeguards provided by a second house and conference committees. Anyway, how desirable is efficiency in lawmaking, in comparison with values like participation and representation?

Cost of the legislature. The cost of the legislature is just a tiny part of the cost of state government. Although an annual saving of \$20 million (if realized) is not trivial, it would reduce the state's total budget by less than two-tenths of one percent, a saving that must be weighed against the loss of the benefits of bicameralism.

UNICAMERALIST	BICAMERALIST
<p>The bicameral legislature will not make the radical changes from within that are required to reduce its costs by this much.</p> <p>Nebraska's first unicameral legislature in 1937 reduced the cost of legislative operations by about one-half. Today, the operating cost of the Nebraska legislature is about one-third that of the Minnesota legislature. The unicameral system in Nebraska allows that state to hold down the cost of legislative operations without compromising the capability of the legislature or the resources available to individual legislators: thus, despite its relatively low total operating cost, Nebraska's unicameral legislature still spends more money and provides more staff per legislator than does Minnesota's bicameral legislature.</p>	<p>Changes in the bicameral system, like joint staff offices and joint committees, could reduce the cost of the bicameral system without giving up its benefits.</p> <p>The low cost of the Nebraska legislature is a consequence of many factors besides unicameralism—the small number of members (49), poor compensation, the absence of partisan political caucuses, etc. By some accountings, the unicameral system could actually increase costs: on a per capita basis, Nebraska's unicameral legislature spends more on itself than the bicameral legislatures of neighboring states; and as compared to Minnesota, Nebraska spends more per legislator and only 20 percent less per capita. Thus, a large, partisan unicameral legislature in a state with energetic governmental traditions might not be a bargain.</p>

Custom and Precedent

Is a unicameral legislature a radical departure from the fundamental institutions and traditions of American government? Bicameralists say that the unicameral legislative structure is a radical departure from 200 years of American governmental experience, practice, and tradition. Unicameralists say that unicameral legislatures are an established and proven form of state, local, and private governance in the United States and other democratic nations.

UNICAMERALIST	BICAMERALIST
<p>United States. The unicameral system is not a radical experiment in government. Two colonies had unicameral legislatures (Delaware and Pennsylvania), as did three states in the revolutionary and early national period (Georgia, Pennsylvania, and Vermont). The Continental Congress was a unicameral body. The state of Nebraska has been satisfied with its unicameral legislature for more than 60 years.</p> <p>Local government. Local governments in the United States all have unicameral governing bodies. This was not always so: bicameral governing boards at the local level were once common in this country. Who now would argue that each city, county, and town should have two governing bodies?</p>	<p>United States. Unicameralism is a radical departure from 200 years of American political and governmental practice. Except in Nebraska's small, nonpartisan legislature, the system is untested in modern state government. The experience in Nebraska has little predictive value about the character and effects of unicameralism in more populous states with larger, partisan legislatures and different governmental customs and traditions.</p> <p>Local government. Local legislative functions are, in fact, usually divided among several elected boards (school, park, city/town, county, watershed, etc.). Anyway, the local government analogy is not persuasive, because local governments are not sovereign but rather creatures of the state.</p>

UNICAMERALIST	BICAMERALIST
<p>Other democracies. Unicameral legislatures exist in other nations that share many of our political traditions. Indeed, several western democratic nations have converted from bicameral to unicameral systems in recent decades.²</p> <p>Private organizations. No business or nonprofit corporation would put up with two boards of directors.</p>	<p>Other democracies. The experience with unicameralism in other nations is not pertinent. They are parliamentary systems with very different government structures, legislative-executive relations, and political and legislative traditions.</p> <p>Private organizations. Private corporations do not make laws.</p>

For more information about the nation's only unicameral legislature, see the House Research information brief, "Nebraska's Unicameral Legislature." Also, the information brief, "The Minnesota Legislature: Proposals to Change its Size and Structure," summarizes bills introduced in the 1999 Minnesota legislative session that bear on this issue.

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Many House Research Department publications may also be accessed via the Internet at: www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hrd/hrd.htm.

² The following western democracies have national unicameral legislatures: Finland, Israel, Luxembourg, Denmark, Sweden, and New Zealand. The latter three have converted from bicameral to unicameral structures since World War II. Other jurisdictions, like Iceland and Norway, have legislatures that are elected on a unicameral basis but divide into two houses after election for purposes of processing legislation. Others, like Canada and Britain, have bicameral national legislatures, but practical legislative power is heavily concentrated in one house. Canada's provinces all have unicameral legislatures.

SingleHouse

MINNESOTANS FOR A SINGLE-HOUSE LEGISLATURE - MSHL

Web Site: www.singlehouse.com

Toll Free: (877) 4-1-HOUSE

Single-House Legislature: Open, Responsive, Accountable

An interview with George Pillsbury and Gene Merriam, two former state legislators

To most Minnesotans, lawmaking is a mysterious and confusing dance. Bills start in the state House of Representatives or the state Senate, but that's not where laws are always made. The final drafting of our laws is often done by small, little observed groups of legislators working in conference committees. They write the laws at the last minute of most legislative sessions, and the reports these conference committees issue must be passed or rejected with no opportunity to change them in any way. It is an arcane system developed to accommodate 18th and 19th Century interests and concerns. As society has grown more complicated over the past two decades, so has lawmaking. When Senator Pillsbury came to the Senate for his first session in 1971, the state Legislature formed only 19 conference committees. In 1990, eighteen years later,

that number grew to 157.

Few Minnesotans have the time or interest to follow this complicated system. The legislative process must be made simpler and more open. Many current and former members of the Minnesota Legislature have called for a complete restructuring of the state's lawmaking body. They propose a single-house system that would eliminate conference committees and make lawmakers more accountable and lawmaking more understandable.

Members of both political parties support this proposal. Listen to what former state Senator George Pillsbury, a Republican who represented western Hennepin County from 1971-82 and former state Senator Gene Merriam, a DFLer who represented Coon Rapids and neighboring communities from 1975-96, say about why our current legislative system must be changed.

What we gain

Openness: With a single-house legislature, laws are made out in the open, not by small, select conference committees in the final, hectic days of a session. It will be easier for citizens and the media to follow legislation.

Accountability: With a more open and straightforward process, legislators will be held accountable for their votes and their actions by their constituents.

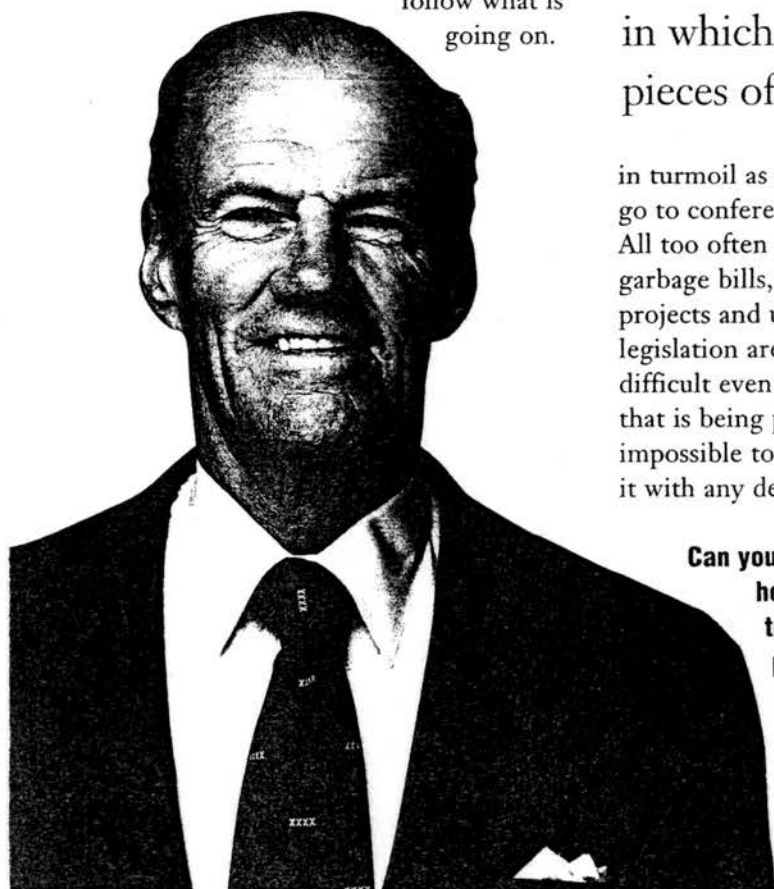
Responsiveness: Each voter will have one representative. There no longer will be large Senate districts. Your legislator will truly be elected by a community and will respond to its needs.

Effectiveness: With a single house, time and money isn't wasted on fruitless internal posturing. Staff and overhead costs also will be reduced, saving taxpayer's money.

Together, you have more than 30 years experience in the Minnesota Legislature. Why do you want to change an institution in which you each succeeded so well?

Pillsbury: Since 1970, the two houses of the Legislature have been elected by the same constituencies. The Minnesota Constitution requires each House district to be in only one Senate district, and the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that each district must have an equal number of residents based on the latest census. The two houses have the same tasks, and they are required to agree precisely on how the state deals with its opportunities and problems. It's an impossible job. We have total duplication of effort and that has led to the power of the conference committees or "The Third House," as they are called, where all of the major legislation is rewritten. It makes it very difficult for a citizen and even

many legislators to follow what is going on.



Legislative Stats

Budgets (98-99)

House — \$49.9 million
Senate — \$36.7 million
Joint — \$24.9 million
Total — \$111.5 million

Staff

House — 271
Senate — 209
Joint — 94
Total — 574

Bill introductions (99)

House — 2,475
Senate — 2,285

Bills passed (99) — 250

Would you agree with that assessment, Senator Merriam?

Merriam: The two houses generally consider legislation fairly deliberately, linearly and rationally through the first several months of a legislative session. The public can track through the media what is happening. Then all of a sudden in the last few weeks of the session this deliberative process ends up

Pillsbury: Yes. In the mid-1980s, a plan to close the Rochester State Hospital was inserted into a bill at about 2 a.m. No one knew about it. There were no hearings. It just got slipped into a bill and the bill passed.

Explain briefly how conference committees work. How many representatives serve on each committee and who appoints them?

All too often this process produces garbage bills, in which assorted pet projects and unrelated pieces of legislation are tossed together.

in turmoil as all the major bills go to conference committees. All too often this process produces garbage bills, in which assorted pet projects and unrelated pieces of legislation are tossed together. It's difficult even to read everything that is being passed, and it's impossible to understand all of it with any depth.

Can you give an example of how conference committees led to laws the public did not want?

George Pillsbury

Merriam: Conference committees consist of either 10 or six members. On most major bills, the committee is 10, five from each house. They are appointed by the leadership of each house, and it is a great source of power for the leaders.

Do the rules require that there be a fair representation of interests and opinions on the conference committees?

Merriam: No, but traditionally the leaders select members who have voted for the bill with some representation given to the minority party.

The Third House

Imagine a group made up of just a handful of people. They alone decide what goes into law, and what stays out. They do it in cramped rooms, often late at night when it is hard for others to observe their actions.

A few members with their pet projects can wheel and deal which can hold up an entire bill until the others give in to the committee members' demands. Whatever this group finally decides, it must be voted up or down in total with no chance for others to amend or modify it.

That is how a conference committee works and that is why so many Minnesota legislators

support a single-house legislature.

Conference committees have always been powerful but now the number of conference committees has increased so much that the potential for mischief is greater. With a single-house, no conference committees would be required. Every bill would be decided by members of policy committees and subject to amendment and ultimately to a vote of the entire body. The process would be simple,

understandable and open. It's time to close down "The Third House" and move to a simple, accountable single-body legislature.

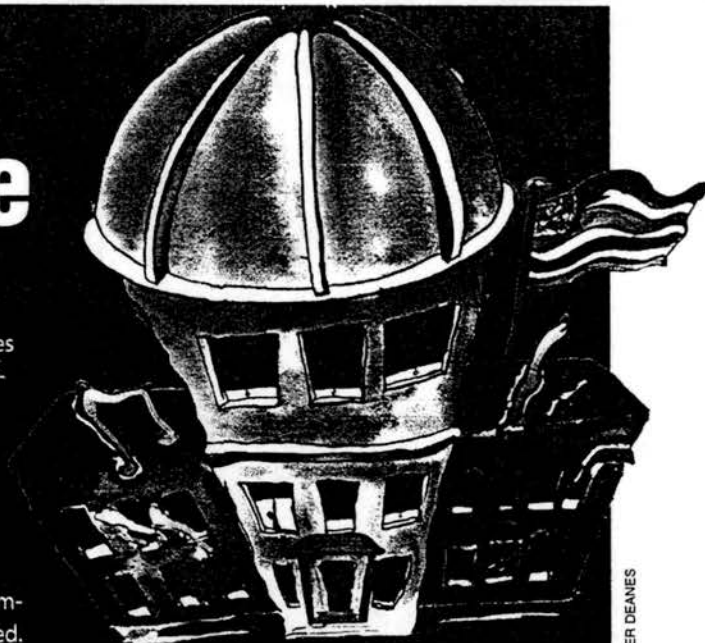


ILLUSTRATION BY CHRISTOPHER DEANES

Pillsbury: But it doesn't always work that way. One time I voted for a particular bill just so I could be put on the conference committee. The Majority Leader selected another Republican senator instead. He said I knew too much about the subject and didn't want me on the conference committee.

Does the knowledge that a bill will be rewritten in conference committee affect how lawmakers pursue ideas they want to help become law?

Merriam: In the present system, there is so much posturing going on with the view towards where you finally want to end up. Let's say you really want a certain outcome. So you write in the bill what you want plus a little bit more because you know the other body wants a little bit less. So, we have to position ourselves for going into conference committee. Or, what happens is you'll see a problem with a bill and people will say, 'Don't worry. We'll fix it in confer-

ence.' It's really no surprise that most people cannot follow this kind of maneuvering. And, that's too bad, because the public should be able to understand what's happening in the Legislature without having to be there 24 hours a day to keep an eye on things.

With a single house, it would not be so easy for legislators to hide behind the other house or the omnibus bills.

How would a single-house legislature correct the problem of confusion and secretiveness that conference committees produce?

Merriam: In a single-house legislature, you wouldn't have conference committees, so all the problems associated with them would be gone. Bills would be heard in committees and move on to the floor to be debated and then passed or rejected. It's a much more straightforward process and a better one.

Pillsbury: The whole process becomes more deliberative and more open. All the bills would be written in the policy committees. All the issues would be discussed there. Ultimately, a bill would go to the floor of the single-body and discussion and voting

would be wide open. There is no opportunity for someone to sneak something in or sneak something out.

Currently, voters elect a representative and a senator from their area. What will happen to accountability and responsiveness to the public with a single-house system?

Merriam: It would enhance accountability. Right now, there is so much diffusion and blurring of responsibility. We can take a

popular vote in one house and know that the other house will kill it. Also many times bills are rolled into big omnibus bills with many different provisions and you have to vote for all of it or none of it. So a legislator can say, "Gosh, I wasn't for that, but I had to vote for it." I think that's one reason the public is so disengaged from politics. It's too confusing for the normal person with a job and family and a house and yard to follow. With a single house, it would not be so easy for legislators to hide behind the other house or the omnibus bills.

missions and school boards. You don't hear about cities wanting to go to a two-council system. That's because the system works well with a single decision-making body.

So, what is the check against a single-house legislature?

Pillsbury: The public and the media will be able to follow legislation easily with a single house. Voters can follow in the newspapers exactly what their legislator did on a bill. Further, the Governor can veto a bill and judicial review will remain intact.

The public and the media will be able to follow legislation easily with a single house.

So are you saying a single-house system would be more accountable?

Pillsbury: Accountable, very definitely. Also, simpler and more understandable.

What about the system of checks and balances? Don't the two houses prevent each other from going against the wishes of the public?

Merriam: The two points you've just raised are the most often heard arguments for a two-house system. Unfortunately, my experience is that both of them work to the contrary. We all learned in school that when you have two bodies there is greater consideration given to ideas. But when you look at what happens it is the exact opposite—bills often get very little consideration in either house. Most governments run with a single body—city councils, county com-

If a single-house legislature were created, how large would it be?

Merriam: There is no magic number or size. I submitted legislation that would have had 135 members. * That number comes from the fact that we now have 134 in the House and we'd need an odd number to avoid a tie. Plus, that would create districts of about 33,000 to 35,000 people. That's a pretty good-sized community. But it still is a community. It's possible for a dedicated legislator to come to every door in that community during a campaign.

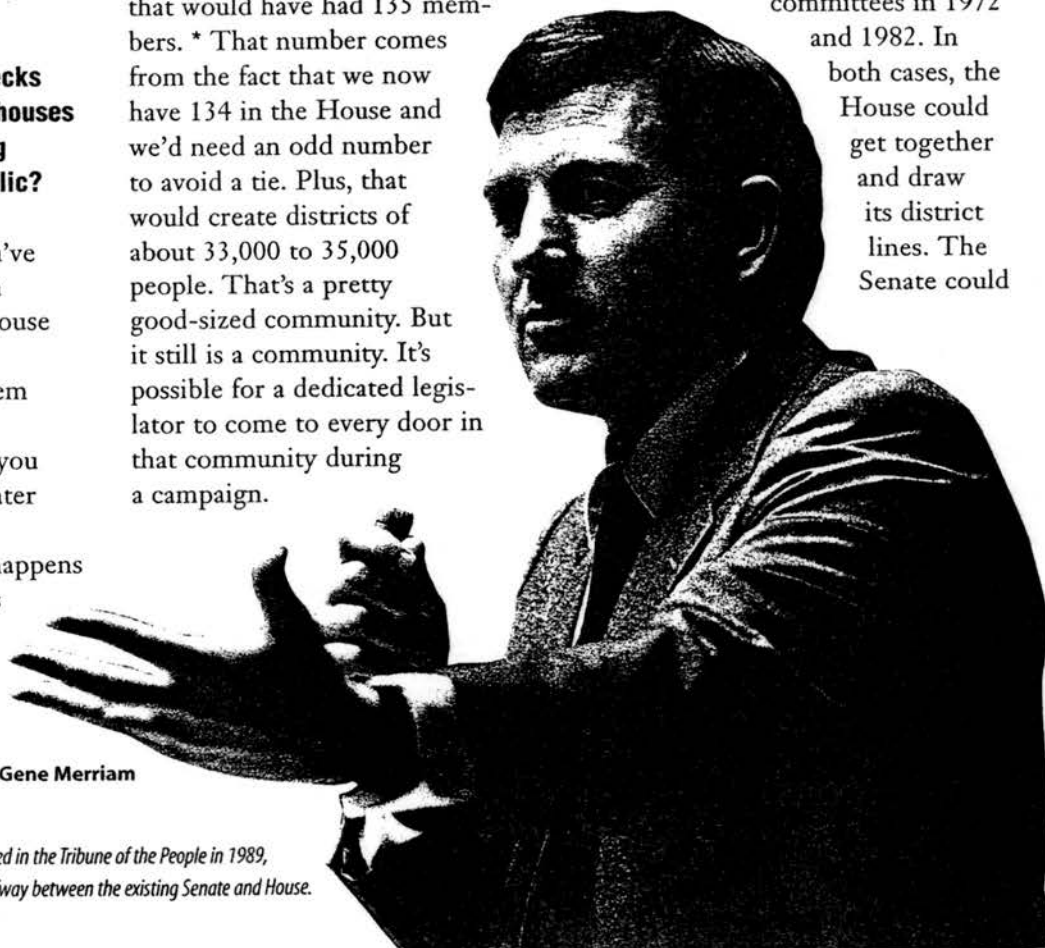
How would a single-house legislature affect the relative power of urban and rural interests in Minnesota?

Pillsbury: It wouldn't change at all. Population determines where legislative districts are drawn. Half the people in Minnesota live in the metropolitan area and half live outside of it. Greater Minnesota will have no more and no less representation than it does under the two-house system.

How will legislative district lines be drawn?

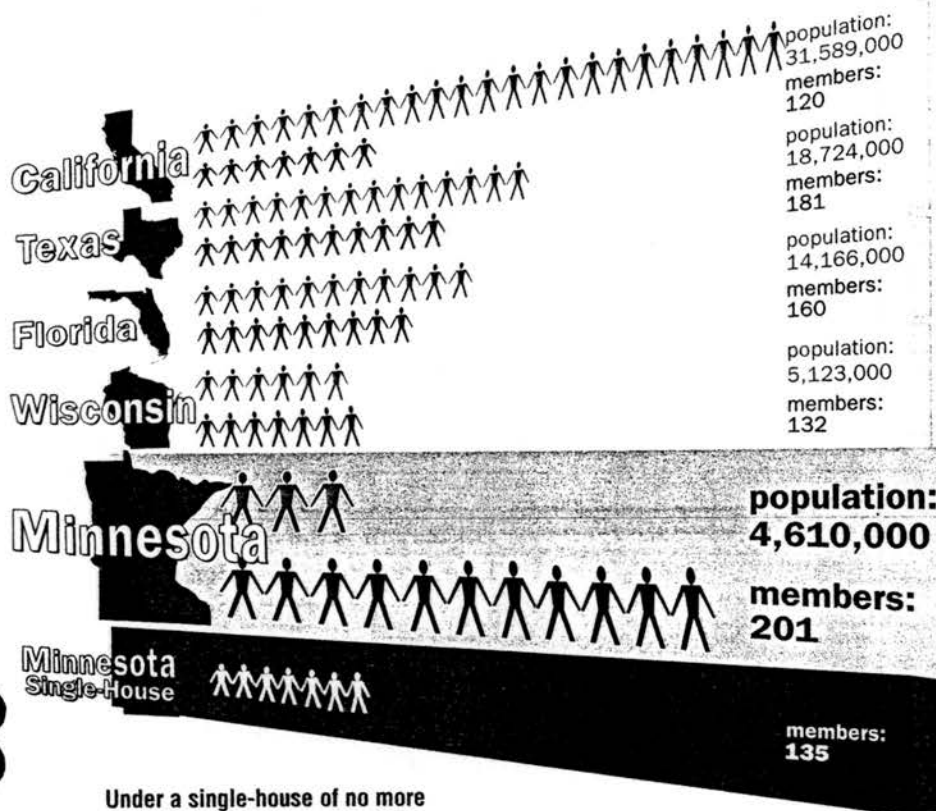
Pillsbury: It is the job of the Legislature to reapportion seats and draw the district lines. If a single-house body is approved, this would happen in 2002 after the next census. We actually believe reapportionment will be much easier with a single house. Here's why. I served on the reapportionment committees in 1972 and 1982. In both cases, the House could get together and draw its district lines. The Senate could

Gene Merriam



* The Hubert Humphrey Institute study published in the Tribune of the People in 1989, recommends a membership of 99, which is halfway between the existing Senate and House.

Legislative Representation



Under a single-house of no more than 135 members, Minnesota still has more representation per capita than California, Texas, Florida and Wisconsin.

get together and agree on its district lines but since Minnesota law requires that no House district be in more than one Senate district, the two bodies could never agree. The courts ended up drawing the lines in both cases.

Would a single-house legislature save taxpayers money?

Merriam: Yes, it would. Legislators come pretty cheap, but there has been a tremendous increase in the size of legislative staff over the last couple of decades. We also have the overhead of offices, computers and other equipment for all that staff. But saving money isn't the main reason to go to a single-house-system. It's just a much better way of running a state.

Why is now the time to go to a single-house legislature?

Pillsbury: We cannot afford the luxury of two houses any longer. The world is more complicated. The competition among states is greater. State legislators have a much more difficult job. It is important to have a state Legislature that can carry out its responsibilities as effectively as possible. The bicameral system goes back to the establishment of Parliament in England with its House of Lords and House of Commons, one to represent the interests of property owners, the other the interests of the people.

When Minnesota became a state the Senators were elected to represent counties, the Representatives the interests of the people. In 1962, based on the equal protection clause in the 14th Amendment of the Constitution, the United States Supreme Court declared that all elected bodies in the United States, except the U.S. Senate, had to represent the citizens equally. So the Minnesota State Senate now is elected on the same basis as the House. Moreover, this system was designed over a hundred years ago. A lot has changed since then. Nobody farms the way they did in the 1850s. Nobody runs a business like they did in the 1850s. Nobody practices medicine or takes care of their health the way people did in the 1850s. We shouldn't be making laws that way either.

Who will decide whether we have a single-house legislature in Minnesota?

Merriam: It's a two-phase process. First, a majority of the House and the Senate must approve the proposal to put a Constitutional amendment on the ballot. That's the first step. Then, 50 percent of the people who vote in the next election must vote YES for the amendment.

If this were passed, Minnesota would be the second state to have a single-house legislature.

Pillsbury: That's right! Minnesota has always been a progressive state in terms of good government. It makes sense that we be leaders on this issue as well. ■

August 6, 1999

Reasons for a Bicameral over a Unicameral System

Laws are more difficult to make. Many well-meaning ideas require detailed scrutiny to keep from making more problems than they save.

Leave decisions in the hands of elected officials versus bureaucrats. Harder to keep bureaucrats accountable.

Bicameral encourages more citizens to get involved in running for public office. More people mean a greater diversity of interests represented in the legislature.

Two houses require more legislative leaders; two sets of committee chairs. A single speaker cannot control the legislative process.

Smaller number of legislators means rural areas are going to be a long way from their elected representatives. The opportunity of elected representatives living in the communities they represent will be eliminated, for the most part, in a unicameral system.

Unicameral will allow special interests to pump more money into fewer campaigns. Campaigns will become driven by more money, making the types of candidates and campaigns be more media driven versus door to door campaigning.

Bicameral decreases the likelihood that one party or a single interest can dominate the process.

Bicameral is the standard for 49 of 50 states. No state since Nebraska, adopting unicameral in 1934, has made such a switch. Minnesota citizens rejected it less than 20 years ago.

By most accounts, the current system with a DFL controlled Senate and a Republican House combined with a reform party Governor has served citizens well in its first year. We had the Largest tax cut in state history. Because no party had the ability to enact initiatives on its own, a package was put together that balances interests. Compromise was the order of the day. *What's the problem?*

Unicameralism is counter to Minnesota's rich political history of encouraging public participation in the political process. Same day voter registration – public financing allow for significantly more people to participate in the political process than most any other state.

Unicameral will supposedly prevent conference committees from abusing the will of either House. Yet, by its very nature, unicameral will allow key legislators more influence on a given issue, but they somehow are not going to find a way to utilize this extra influence to effect the will of a single House.

Bicameral encourages game playing such as voting for a bill they you know the other House will kill. Legislators who play those types of games will figure out new ways to play games. For example, perhaps legislators will vote for something because they know the Governor will veto it and so it will not become a law. Few legislators play those types of games and a wholesale overhaul of the system is not warranted based on a few people who will be able to figure out a new way to play the old game.

Citizens for Two Houses
2435 Galtier Street, Roseville, MN
651-481-0275 - bnbrady@uswest.com

LWV PRINCIPLES THAT APPLY TO THE UNICAMERAL ISSUE

- Active Participation of citizens
- Government accountability and effectiveness
- An Informed Public
- Fair competition for candidates and freedom from undue influence
- Encourages responsible government that is responsive to the will of the people
- Dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches

STANDARDS FOR THE EVALUATION OF THE UNICAMERAL LEGISLATURE

Representation

- Does the structure of the unicameral legislature ensure that all citizens are represented in a fair and equitable manner?
- Does it provide effective democratic representation?

Accessibility and Responsiveness

- Do the operations of a unicameral legislature provide citizens an adequate opportunity to participate in the legislative process?
- Will the simplified structure of a unicameral legislature allow for a more informed citizenry?
- Will citizens have sufficient access with fewer elected representatives?
- Will fewer elected representatives in the unicameral legislature be able to adequately respond to constituents and provide constituent services?
- Will a unicameral legislature increase the influence of lobbyists and special interest groups?
- Given the dispersion of the population in the State, does the size of the unicameral legislature effect the accessibility to legislators?

Accountability

- Does a unicameral structure provide sufficient checks and balances during the legislative process?
- Is there sufficient ability to catch and correct legislative error?
- Does the structure of the unicameral legislature provide sufficient opportunity for citizens to hold legislators accountable for their actions?

Distribution of Power

- Does the structure of the unicameral legislature result in a reasonable and acceptable distribution of power within the legislature?
- Does the unicameral legislature change the balance of power between the branches of government?

Effectiveness

- Assuming Minnesota would retain partisan designation of its representatives, would this negatively impact the effectiveness of a unicameral legislature?

The Solution "fits" the problem

- Is changing the fundamental structure of government the most effective method of fixing the problems identified in Minnesota's bicameral system?

Efficiency

- Is a unicameral system more efficient in terms of speed and/or cost reduction?

Other Considerations

- Does a unicameral system encourage or discourage people's desire to run for office?

Bills Currently in the Legislature

Bill/Companion: HF0034 SF0140

Authors: Greiling

Sviggum

Hausman

Anderson, I.

Folliard

Tingelstad

Abeler

Westerberg

Provisions: Unicameral - 135 members (by constitution).

4 year terms, except election after reapportionment which will be 2

Status: Introduced 01/07/1999, referred to Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee

Bill/Companion: HF0159 SFOO43

Authors: Sviggum

Pawlenty

Hausman

Rostberg

Pugh

Westerberg

Tingelstad

Provisions: Unicameral - 135 members (by statute).

Staggered terms - in 2002, one half will be elected for 2 years and one half for 4, from then on all terms will be 4 years, including after redistricting.

Status: Introduced 01/19/1999 referred to Governmental Operations and veterans Affairs Policy Committee

Bill/Companion: HF0287 SFOO30

Authors: Sviggum

Provisions: Unicameral - 99 members (by statute).

Staggered terms - in the election after each redistricting all senators run, with those in odd number districts serving 2 years, all other terms 4 years 60% may propose amendments to constitution (currently a majority).

Status: Introduced 01/25/1999 referred to Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee

Bill/Companion: HF0813 SFOO44

Authors: Hausman

McGuire

Goodno

Wenzel

Greiling

Provisions: Unicameral - 135 members (by statute). 2 year terms

Status: Introduced 02/18/1999 referred to Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee

Bill/Companion: HF1304

Authors: Pugh

Pawlenty

Provisions: Bicameral - 48 Senators, 96 Representatives (by statute). 4 year terms, except election after reapportionment which will be 2 Session not to exceed 120 legislative days

Senate convenes in regular session only in first year after election, only acts on bills that raise revenue or appropriate funds.

Bills for raising revenue originate in house. All other bills originate and are acted on only by the house.

Status: Introduced 03/02/1999 referred to Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee

Bill/Companion: HF1484

Authors: Anderson, I.

Wenzel

Provisions: Unicameral - retaining house, 102-135 members (by statute).

4 year terms, except year after reapportionment which will be 2, elections held in year of presidential election.

Status: Introduced 03/06/1999 referred to Governmental Operations and Veterans Affairs Policy Committee

Bill/Companion: SFOO30 HF0287

Authors: Marty

Provisions: Unicameral - 99 members (by statute).

Staggered terms - in the election after each redistricting all senators run, with those in odd number districts serving 2 years, all other terms 4 years 60% may propose amendments to constitution (currently a majority)

Status: Introduced 01/07/1999, referred to Election Laws Committee

Bill/Companion: SFOO43 HF0159

Authors: Spear

Kleis

Junge

Marty

Day

Provisions: Unicameral - 135 members (by statute).

Staggered terms - in 2002, one half will be elected for 2 years and one half for 4, from then on all terms will be 4 years, including after redistricting.

Status: Introduced 01/07/1999, referred to Election Laws Committee

Bill/Companion: SFOO44 HF0813

Authors: Kleis

Spear

Marty

Day

Olson

Provisions: Unicameral - 135 members (by statute). 2 year terms

Status: Introduced 01/07/1999, referred to Election Laws Committee

Bill/Companion: SF0140 HF0034

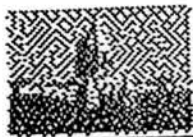
Authors: Scheevel

Kleis

Kelly, R.C.

Provisions: Unicameral - 135 members (by constitution). 4 year terms, except election after reapportionment which will be 2

Status: Introduced 01/14/1999, referred to Election Laws Committee



Minnesota Legislative Reference Library

September 1999

Resources on Minnesota Legislative Issues Unicameral Legislatures

This guide is compiled by staff at the Minnesota Legislative Reference Library on a topic of interest to Minnesota legislators. It is designed to provide an introduction to the topic, directing the user to a variety of sources, and is not intended to be exhaustive. In particular, it is focused on items available in the Legislative Reference Library.

A single-house legislature at the state level is a rare exception in the United States. Three states were initially established with unicameral legislatures; Georgia, Pennsylvania, and Vermont. All three switched to a bicameral system by 1830. Nebraska switched from a bicameral to a unicameral system in 1934, and many states considered adopting this model in the succeeding decades. Nebraska remains the sole single-house legislature. In Minnesota many bills have been introduced over the years, but they garnered scant attention and support.

This issue has gained new prominence with the backing of prominent Minnesota politicians. The Speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives, Steve Sviggum, has been a long-time supporter of moving to a one-body legislature. The unicameral legislature has become a cornerstone of Governor Jesse Ventura's legislative agenda. On August 17, 1999, the Governor toured the state to promote a proposed constitutional amendment on the 2000 ballot to create a unicameral legislature.

Minnesotans are beginning to weigh in on the unicameral issue; two organizations have been formed recently. The Minnesota Citizens Committee for a Single-House Legislature is committed to increasing public awareness about the benefits of a single-house legislature. Senator Dave Kleis and Representative Alice Hausman are the Unicameral Legislative Caucus Co-chairs.

An alternative group, OUCH, Opponents of a Unicameral House, advocates maintaining two bodies, and encourages citizens to advocate for improvements to the current system. Representatives Dave Bishop and Mark Gleason are on the OUCH Steering Committee.

INTERNET INFORMATION:

- "Birth of A Bicameral" -- from the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature.
- "A House Divided." -- Minnesota Public Radio coverage of Governor Ventura's August 17, 1999, tour of the state to promote a unicameral legislature.
- Minnesota Citizens Committee for a Single-House Legislature
- OUCH - Opponents of a Unicameral House.
- "Proposal for a Single House Legislature" -- From Governor Ventura's official web site. Governor Ventura has promoted a unicameral legislature throughout his time in office. In his first State of the State message he proposed a need for "a unicameral legislature that spends at least one year out of four cleaning old and intrusive laws off the books."

SIGNIFICANT REPORTS:

Bigelow, Page Elizabeth, Compiler. *Essays on Unicameralism*. New York : National

Municipal League, 1972. (JF541 .B544)

Buehler, Ezra Christian, Ed. *Unicameral Legislatures*. New York: Noble and Noble, 1937. (JF541 .B8)

Cholik, Clare. *Bicameral vs. Unicameral Legislatures*. (Legislative Research Council Issue Memorandum 98-03) Pierre, SD: South Dakota Legislature. State Legislative Research Council, 1998. (JF541 .C56 1998)

Grau, Craig and Dale Olson. *The Unicameral Option*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, 1986 (JF541 .G72 1986)

Johnson, Alvin. W. *The Unicameral Legislature*. Minneapolis: The University of Minnesota Press, 1938. (JF541.J6)

Sittig, Robert. *The Nebraska Unicameral after Fifty Years*. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska, Department of Political Science, April, 1986. (JK6666.S48 1986)

Reynolds, Arthur. *How Many Houses? : A Discussion of the Merits of Unicameralism for the Minnesota Legislature*. (A Report for the Minnesota Constitutional Study Commission, Legislative Branch Committee and Professor Charles Backstrom, Department of Political Science, University of Minnesota.) St. Paul: Minnesota Constitutional Study Commission, 1972. (JF541 .R49 1972)

Summers, Harrison Boyd. *Unicameralism in Practice: The Nebraska Legislative System*. New York: The H.W. Wilson Company, 1937. (JK6667.1937.S8)

Todd, Tom. *The Minnesota Legislature: Proposals to Change its Size and Structure* ([HTML Version](#)) ([PDF Version](#)) St. Paul: Minnesota Legislature, House Research Department, August, 1999. (JK6171 .T63 1999)

Todd, Tom. *Nebraska's Unicameral Legislature* ([HTML Version](#)) ([PDF Version](#)) St. Paul: Minnesota Legislature, House Research Department, January, 1998. (JK6666 .T63 1998)

Todd, Tom. *Unicameral or Bicameral State Legislatures: The Policy Debate* ([HTML Version](#)) ([PDF Version](#)) St. Paul: Minnesota Legislature, House Research Department, August, 1999. (JF541 .T63 1998)

Unicameral Legislatures Versus Bicameral Legislatures. Lansing, MI: Michigan Legislative Service Bureau, Legislative Research Division, 1993. (JF541 .M53 1993)

SELECTED ARTICLES:

Todd, Tom. "Nebraska's Unicameral Legislature: A Description and Some Comparisons with Minnesota's Bicameral Legislature," *Journal of the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries*, Vol, 4, No. 1, Spring, 1998, p. 15-27.

Wunnicke, Pat. *"Fifty Years Without a Conference Committee," State Legislatures*, October, 1987, p. 20-23.

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

Codes for the Library newspaper clipping files and the Vertical File: L60.118.

For additional articles, check the following Inside Issues headings: Legislatures

For additional reports, use the following terms in [PALS](#), the on-line catalog:

Use the keywords 'unicameral' and 'unicameralism' for the most precise searches.

Tribune of the People by Royce Hanson, Univ. of MN Press (available at the library). An in depth study of MN legislature and recommendations for reform including unicameral legislature.

ACTION



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
MINNESOTA

550 Rice Street • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103
Phone 651-224-5445 • Fax 651-290-2145
lwvmn@mtn.org
<http://tcfreenet.org/ip/pol/lwvmn>

To: Local League Presidents, Action Chairs
From: Kay Erickson and Jane McWilliams, Action Co-Chairs
Date: October 1999
Re: Legislative Interview Packet

Attached is the Legislative Interview Packet including:

- ✓ Step by step instructions on how to do the interviews
- ✓ Legislative interview assignments
- ✓ Legislative interview questions 2000(with background information for your use)
- ✓ Legislative interview questions 2000 (without background information for distribution to legislators)
- ✓ Report forms to be returned to LWVMN – enough for every legislative interview assigned to your League.

ACTION



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
MINNESOTA

550 Rice Street • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103
Phone 651-224-5445 • Fax 651-290-2145
lwvmn@mtn.org
<http://tcfreenet.org/ip/pol/lwvmn>

LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEWS

To: Local League Presidents and Action Chairs

From: Kay Erickson and Jane McWilliams, Action Co-Chairs

Date: October 1999

To learn our legislators' positions about issues that are important to the League, we hold legislative interviews before the legislative session begins. They provide local Leagues with a chance to build a working relationship with their legislators and our state League lobbyists learn the legislators' views on our priority issues. This helps to develop action strategies and to promote our positions more effectively. (We do not support or oppose candidates, but we do work with elected officials on selected issues.)

Feel free to be creative. Some Leagues hold brunches, soup suppers, holiday parties, etc. You may offer a meal to a legislator if he or she is part of the program. Coordinate the interview with another League in the legislator's district. (See the list in this packet.)

WHAT TO DO:

1. Schedule a face to face meeting with each assigned legislator before January 15. (The session begins February 1, 2000.) These interviews are a good way to involve new members and if possible the president and/or action chair should lead the questioning. **If other local Leagues share your legislative district try to involve them in your interview.**
2. Mail the questions (without the background information) to the legislators in advance and, if an in-person interview cannot be arranged, urge the legislator to answer the questionnaire in writing.
3. Keep the meeting friendly. **DO NOT LOBBY** the legislator on a particular issue. The League is there to listen not to debate.
4. If the legislator agrees, tape record the interview and/or videotape for your local cable channel and plan to print an article about the interview in your VOTER. Be sure to send a copy of the interview to the local League that shares your legislative district if they do not participate in the interview with you. Share your information with other community organizations.

(over)

5. Present a recent League publication to each legislator both as a token of appreciation and as an introduction to League work. Also include League membership information.

6. Send a thank you note.

7. Return to the League office by January 15, 2000.

If you have questions about any specific questions and/or background materials, you can contact these folks:

Agriculture: Georgiana Campbell 507/645-7488
Campaign Finance: Mary Lou Hill 612/374-4218
Government: Jane McWilliams 507/645-8423
(Unicameral, Initiative & Referendum, Reapportionment)
Gun Violence: Lynn Westphal 612/941-8493
Health Care: Mary Lou Hill 612/374-4218
Housing: Anne Velasco 612/521-2070
Mental Health: Pat Bugenstein 612/888-5309
Natural Resources: Vicki Anderson 612/368-9785
CMAL: Lorraine Fischer 651/777-5037
Transportation: Anne Velasco 612/521-2070

Thank you!

League	House	Senate	Share with...
ABC	49A, 49B, 50A, 50B	49, 50	
ARDEN HILLS/SHOREVIEW	53A	53	
AUSTIN	27B	27	FREEBORN COUNTY (27)
BEMIDJI	4A	4	CASS LAKE (4)
BRAINERD AREA	12A	12	
BLOOMINGTON	40B, 41A, 41B	40, 41	
BROOKLYN CENTER	47B	47	BROOKLYN PARK (47)
BOOKLYN PARK/OSSEO	33A, 33B, 47A	33	
BUFFALO/MONTICELLO	19A, 19B	19	
CANNON FALLS	29B		
CASS LAKE/WALKER	3B, 4B	3, 4	
CRYSTAL/NEW HOPE	46A	46	ROBBINSDALE (46)
DULUTH	6B, 7A, 7B, 8A, 8B	6, 7, 8	
E. CARVER COUNTY	35A	35	
EDINA	42A, 42B	42	MEPH (42B, 42)
ELY	6A		ELY (6)
FREEBORN COUNTY	27A		
FRIDLEY	48A, 52A	48	
GOLDEN VALLEY	45A, 45B	45	WAYZATA/PLYMOUTH (45A, 45) MEPH (45A, 45)
JACKSON	22B	22	
MAHTOMEDI	55A	55	ST. PAUL (55)
MANKATO	24A	24	ST. PETER (24)
MINNEAPOLIS	58-62A & B, 63A	58-63	
MEPH	43B	43	SOUTH TONKA (43)
NEW BRIGHTON	52B	52	FRIDLEY (52)
NEW ULM	23A	23	ST. PETER (23)
N. DAKOTA COUNTY	38A, 38B, 39A, 39B	38, 39	
NORTHFIELD	25A, 25B	25	
OWATONNA	28A, 28B	28	
RED WING	29A	29	CANNON FALLS (29)
RICHFIELD	40A, 63B	40	BLOOMINGTON (40)
ROBBINSDALE	46B		
ROCHESTER	30A, 30B, 31A	30, 31	
ROCK COUNTY	21B	21	
ROMAFH	54A, 54B	54	
ST. CLOUD	14A, 16A, 16B, 17B	14, 16, 17	
ST. CROIX VALLEY	51B, 56A, 56B	51, 56	WOODBURY (56B, 56)
ST. LOUIS PARK	44A, 44B	44	MEPH (44A, 44)
ST. PAUL	55B, 64-67A & B	64-67	
ST. PETER	23B, 24B		
SOUTH TONKA	43A		E. CARVER & MEPH (43A)

Legislative Interviews

WAYZATA/PLYMOUTH	34B	34	
WHITE BEAR/NORTH OAKS	53B, 55A	53	ROMAFH (53B, 53)
WILLMAR	15A	15	
WINONA	32A, 32B	32	
WOODBURY/COT GROVE	57A, 57B	57	ROMAFH (57A)

The following districts are not assigned. If your League is adjacent to or has members in one of these districts you may interview.

HOUSE

1A, 1B, 1
 2A, 2B, 2
 3A
 5A
 9A, 9B, 9
 10A, 10B, 10
 11B
 12B
 13A, 13B, 13
 14B
 15B
 17A
 18A, 18B, 18
 20A, 20B, 20
 21A
 22A
 25A
 26A, 26B, 26
 34A
 35B
 36A, 36B, 36
 37A, 37B, 37

**LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS 2000
FOR LOCAL LEAGUE USE**

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

1. **Would you support a bill to require full public disclosure of campaign receipts and spending by candidates and parties alike?**

Background: In September 1999 U.S. District Judge Ann Montgomery knocked the party spending limits out of state statutes so that parties may now spend unlimited amounts of money on candidate races. Prior to this ruling Minnesota restricted the amount that parties could spend on individual candidates. Political parties should be just as obliged as candidates to tell the world where they get their money and how they spend it.

2. **Would you support a bill to require the disclosure of both receipts and spending statements more frequently than the current requirement of 15 days before the primary; 10 days before the general election and on January 31 of each year? If yes, why? If not, why not?**

Background: Reporting requirements were established long before the advent of computerized record keeping. Internet should make any sizable gift or expenditure visible to citizens within 48 hours of money changing hands.

3. **Do you support the current gift ban limits?**

Background: In the 1999 session there was a strong move to relax the current gift ban legislation. Although no changes were made it is a good bet that the move will resurface in the 2000 session. LWVMN lobbied against the relaxation of the gift ban in 1999.

LWVMN Position: Support of improvements in election laws regulating campaign practices.

LWVUS Position: Action to improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process. See Program for Action p. 11

GOVERNMENT

1. **What is your view on a unicameral legislature for Minnesota?**

Would you support placing a constitutional amendment on the ballot in November 2000?

Background: The League has no position on a unicameral legislature but has established a committee that plans to make a recommendation to the LWVMN Board in time for the legislative session.

2. What is your view on Initiative and Referendum?

Would you support placing a constitutional amendment on the ballot in November 2000?

Background: The League has opposed creating laws by I & R since it conducted a study in the 1980's. During the 1999 session LWVMN testified before committees in both houses in opposition to I & R proposals. The House bill passed but the Senate bill still rests in the Election Laws Committee.

LWVMN Position: LWVMN opposes most forms of voter initiative and referendum on statutes. See Program for Action p. 13.

3. What is your view on creating a bipartisan commission to draw up new legislative and congressional districts?

Background: The LWVMN has worked in coalition to support timely redistricting of the state legislature. In 1980 LWVMN supported a constitutional amendment establishing a bipartisan commission. The amendment failed.

LWVMN Position: Support of regular and equitable reapportionment with definite procedures established to ensure prompt redistricting by the Legislature or by a reapportionment commission. See Program for Action p. 13

HEALTH CARE:

Would you support state funding to provide health insurance coverage for ALL children and adults not already covered by other state and/or federal programs and whose incomes do not permit them to pay for their own health insurance? Why and/or why not?

Background: HF 2208/SF1687 a universal single-payer health care bill has been readied for the 2000 legislative session. Authors are Rep. Linda Wejcman 61B and Sen. Leo Foley 49.

LWVUS Position: Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of care for all U. S. residents and controls health care costs.

EDUCATION

1. Do you think the state's method of funding education needs reform?
2. If so, what problems are there with it currently?
3. What changes in the method do you recommend to correct the problems?

LWVMN Position: State funding for education should be at a level that makes programs of comparable substance and quality available to all. A student's access to a good education should not depend on the wealth of his or her school district. See Program for Action p. 8.

TRANSPORTATION

How might light rail transit be used in the total effort to transport people to jobs and services and for recreational and social needs?

CMAL Position: CMAL supports various modes of transportation both public and private: ridesharing, carpools, vanpools, paratransit, buses and deregulated taxis. A light rail transit mode can be supported if assured high ridership, economic feasibility and integration into the total transportation system.

LWVUS Position: LWVUS believes that energy-efficient and environmentally sound transportation systems should afford better access to housing and jobs. See Program for Action p. 28.

AGRICULTURE

1. Are there (state) agricultural policies with unintended undesirable effects on the viability of agriculture and of rural communities? If yes, what changes could you suggest?

Background: LWVMN has adopted a study of sustainable agriculture for the coming year.

LWVUS Position: Support the promotion of adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.

FIREARMS

1. Do you support or oppose:

- a. Weakening of Minnesota's concealed weapons carry permitting system?
- b. A ballot proposal to amend the Minnesota Constitution to create a new right to keep and bear arms?
- c. Special protection for gun stores and shooting ranges?
- d. Immunity for gun dealers from liability suits?

2. Have you or are you willing to spend some time working on behalf of gun violence prevention? If so, please specify.

Background: During the legislative session 2000 the LWVMN will be working on gun violence prevention bills pertaining to: protecting children, keeping guns from criminals and gang members and assuring product safety. We will continue to oppose the weakening of Minnesota's concealed (weapon) carry permitting system.

LWVMN Position: Action to support restrictions on the sale, possession and use of firearms by private parties in the state of Minnesota. See Program for Action p. 16

MET COUNCIL

- 1. How well is the restructured Met Council functioning?**
- 2. Do you think its broadened powers have resulted in better and more efficient service?**
- 3. In what areas do you think the Council is doing well?**
- 4. What areas or services need improvement?**
- 5. Has the time come to expand the definition of the Metropolitan Region beyond the present seven-county limit or to consider an elected Council?**

Background: In 1993 the Legislature restructured the Council into four divisions: transportation, environment, community development and administration and broadened their powers to include what had previously been the separate regional operational agencies. A concern is that effective planning may be lost in the shuffle. As population grows so do development of jobs and housing and some growth is now beginning in adjacent counties. Stricter controls to prevent sprawl in the existing region cannot contain leapfrog development in additional counties without expanding the

definition of the region. CMAL's position on the appointed Council was last reviewed prior to the restructuring which changed the role of the Council.

CMAL Position: Support the Metropolitan Council as the decision-making body for metropolitan needs in accordance with these criteria: efficiency and economy, equitable financing, flexibility, citizen control and responsiveness to the electorate. CMAL supports retention of an appointed Metropolitan Council with greater use of its existing powers.

CMAL supports metropolitan-level planning, programs and policies directed toward channeling development in ways that will: (1) preserve and enhance the natural environment, (2) use public investment to the best advantages and (3) provide area residents with diversity in choice of facilities and amenities.

**LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS 2000
FOR LEGISLATORS' USE**

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

1. Would you support a bill to require full public disclosure of campaign receipts and spending by both candidates and parties alike?
2. Would you support a bill to require the disclosure of both receipts and spending statements more frequently than the current requirement of 15 days before the primary; 10 days before the general election and on January 31 of each year?

If yes, why? If not, why not?

3. Do you support the current gift ban limits?

GOVERNMENT

1. What is your view on a unicameral legislature for Minnesota?

Would you support placing a constitutional amendment on the ballot in November 2000?

2. What is your view on Initiative and Referendum?

Would you support placing a constitutional amendment on the ballot in November 2000?

3. What is your view on creating a bipartisan commission to draw up new legislative and congressional districts?

HEALTH CARE:

Would you support state funding to provide health insurance coverage for ALL children and adults not already covered by other state and/or federal programs and whose incomes do not permit them to pay for their own health insurance?

Why and/or why not?

EDUCATION

1. Do you think the state's method of funding education needs reform?
2. If so, what problems are there with it currently?
3. What changes in the method do you recommend to correct the problems?

TRANSPORTATION

How might light rail transit be used in the total effort to transport people to jobs and services and for recreational and social needs?

AGRICULTURE

Are there (state) agricultural policies with unintended undesirable effects on the viability of agriculture and of rural communities?

If yes is the answer, what changes could you suggest?

FIREARMS:

1. Do you support or oppose:
 - a. Weakening of Minnesota's concealed weapons carry permitting system?
 - b. A ballot proposal to amend the Minnesota Constitution to create a new right to keep and bear arms?
 - c. Special protection for gun stores and shooting ranges?
 - d. Immunity for gun dealers from liability suits?
2. Have you or are you willing to spend some time working on behalf of gun violence prevention? If so, please specify.

MET COUNCIL:

- 1. How well is the restructured Met Council functioning?**
- 2. Do you think its broadened powers have resulted in better and more efficient service?**
- 3. In what areas do you think the Council is doing well?**
- 4. What areas or services need improvement?**
- 5. Has the time come to expand the definition of the Metropolitan Region beyond the present seven-county limit or to consider an elected Council?**

LWVMN, 550 Rice St., St. Paul MN 55103

REPORT OF LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEW

League of Women Voters of _____ Date _____

Please return to state office by January 15, 2000.

Legislator

Name:

District:

Party:

Kind of Interview: Where held, number of League members involved, general impressions:

Attitude of legislator toward League:

Questions used and views of legislator on each: (if you need more space, record on extra sheets of paper and attach to this page.)

Question # and Subject View of Legislator

Signed:
Address:

Fill out a separate report on each legislator. Keep one copy for your League and send one to LWVMN.

WOMEN CANDIDATE DEVELOPMENT COALITION



October 6, 1999

Dear Local League President,

Enclosed are WCDC's most recent candidate "Wanted" flyers. They provide information on legislative, county commission, mayor, city council, and school board elections. The first two will occur next year; the latter three may be held this year or next year, depending upon the cities and school districts' election schedules. The flyers are designed for three purposes: to encourage women to seriously consider running for office; to inform them that WCDC exists and will assist prospective women candidates; and to act as a consciousness raiser with the general public, especially women.

Please help us distribute these "Wanted" flyers in your community -- post them at LWV meetings, post them in public buildings, provide them to other women's organizations for re-printing in their newsletters, etc. You have our permission to make additional copies.

As you know, we women are 52% of Minnesota's (and America's) population. And, we vote in significantly higher percentages than do men. However, although exciting progress has been made in electing more women to office, women still are grossly underrepresented in public policy-making positions at all levels. Many legislative, county commission, and mayoral positions have never, in history, been held by women, for example.

County Commissions are a very important level of Minnesota government because they deal with so many public policy issues critical to women and families. They are non-partisan positions. There are approximately twenty Greater Minnesota counties that have never elected women to the Commission. If your Local League is in one of those twenty counties I hope LWV members will make a concerted effort to encourage good women -- including LWV members -- to run. One-half of Commissioners -- either 2 or 3 on a 5 person Commission -- are up for election next year. County government sorely needs the talents of women.

Enclosed in this packet, also, is a WCDC speaker flyer. If your Local League is interested in a presentation I will be happy to schedule one for 1999 or 2000.

Sincerely,


Shirley Nelson, Director

Enclosures

WOMEN CANDIDATE DEVELOPMENT COALITION



SPEAKER AVAILABLE

Dr. Shirley Nelson, Director of the Women Candidate Development Coalition, has been a speaker at past LWV MN state conventions and has made presentations to many Local Leagues. She is available to speak to Local League meetings throughout Minnesota. Because LWV MN is a founding member of WCDC, no speaker's fee or travel expenses are charged for her presentation. An honorarium will be accepted if available.

Dr. Nelson will discuss the extraordinary 1998 election year and analyze the results from a women candidate perspective. Among other topics she includes in her presentation are the following:

- Progress made in electing women to office
- Minnesota's urgent need for more women candidates at all levels
- Reasons why 2000, 2001, and 2002 will be key years for women to run
- Types of campaign assistance and training available to women candidates
- The need for all women to vote and to be knowledgeable about political issues which directly affect them
- Women's leadership styles and concepts of power
- Strategies to access appointments to local government boards and commissions

Dr. Shirley Nelson will drive **anywhere** in the state of Minnesota to speak to LWV Local Leagues. To arrange a presentation for your group, contact her at the address or phone number listed below.

WANTED:

Woman To Run For State Legislature

QUALIFICATIONS: Female, eager to have impact on statewide programs that greatly affect us all. **The 1999 Minnesota state budget is 11 billion 38 million dollars.**

JOB DESCRIPTION: **Policy-Making position in:** agriculture, business, corrections, economic development, housing, education, environment and natural resources, health and human services, public utilities and energy, taxes and tax laws, transportation, labor-management relations.

SALARY: House and Senate base pay: \$31,140 yearly
(per diem, travel and housing expenses are additional)

APPLY: Filing for districts located within one county is at county offices; filing for multi-county districts is at Secretary of State Office in St. Paul. Filing fee of \$100 or 500 signatures.

2000 Elections: File July 5 - July 18, 2000
Primary (if needed): Tuesday, September 12, 2000
General Election: Tuesday, November 7, 2000

TERM OF OFFICE: House: 2 years; Senate: 4 years

EMPLOYER: The general public who needs the expertise, life experiences, and wisdom of women in these public policy matters. **Only 28.4%** of the 201 state legislators in Minnesota are women. In many legislative districts women have **NEVER** been elected legislator.

WHERE TO FIND ADVICE & HELP: **Women Candidate Development Coalition**
Shirley Nelson, Director
Minnesota Women's Building
550 Rice Street
St. Paul, MN 55103
Phone: 612/724-6348 (days, evenings, weekends)

WANTED:

Woman To Run For County Commissioner

QUALIFICATIONS: **Female**, eager to have impact on programs that greatly affect us all. The 87 county budgets this year total approximately \$10 billion dollars!

JOB DESCRIPTION: **Policy-Making position in:** social services (child protection, child support collection, mental retardation, chemical dependency, mental health, services for the aging, financial assistance for individuals and families), public health, probation/parole, law enforcement, planning & zoning, environment, waste management, parks, extension, tax assessing, tax collection, pay equity.

as well as roads, bridges & ditches!!!

SALARY: From \$3,500 to \$74,496 **plus** fringes and per diems (depends on county)

APPLY: File at your County Court House.

2000 Elections: File July 5 - July 18, 2000
Primary (if needed): Tuesday, September 12, 2000
General Election: Tuesday, November 7, 2000

TERM OF OFFICE: 4 years

EMPLOYER: The general public who needs the expertise, life experiences, and wisdom of women in these public policy matters. Only **17%** of the **447** county commissioners in Minnesota are women. In several counties women have **NEVER** been elected commissioner, while in some others there are no women serving on the Commission currently.

WHERE TO FIND ADVICE & HELP: **Women Candidate Development Coalition**
Shirley Nelson, Director
Minnesota Women's Building
550 Rice Street
St. Paul, MN 55103
Phone: 612/724-6348 (days, evenings, weekends)

WANTED:

WOMAN TO RUN FOR SCHOOL BOARD

- QUALIFICATIONS:** Female, eager to have an impact on school district programs in her community.
- JOB DESCRIPTION:** **Policy-making position** in public education. Decision-making power to establish school district policies, direction, and goals for: curriculum and instruction, finance and budget, curricular and extra-curricular programs, personnel issues, legislation, affirmative action, sex equity issues, comparable worth....
- SALARY:** From \$0 to **\$9,600** yearly plus expenses (depending upon the district)
- APPLY:** File at your school district administrative offices
- All school districts now hold **Fall** elections. Some districts have elections in even numbered years, some in odd number years. **Check with your school district for filing dates and elections years.**
- Some districts file in July with a Primary in September.
Other school districts file in August with no Primary.
General elections for all districts are held in November.
- EMPLOYER:** The general public which needs the expertise, life experiences, and wisdom of women in these critically important public policy matters. **Women are grossly underrepresented on school boards.** Only 32.4% of school board members in Minnesota are women.
- WHERE TO FIND ADVICE & HELP:** **Women Candidate Development Coalition**
Shirley Nelson, Director
Minnesota Women's Building
550 Rice Street
St. Paul, MN 55103
Phone: 612/724-6348 (days, evenings, weekends)

WANTED:

WOMAN TO RUN FOR MAYOR

QUALIFICATIONS: **Female**, interested in learning a great deal and having a leadership impact on the quality of life as well as the future of her city.

JOB DESCRIPTION: **Policy-making position** in establishing budget priorities, determining how growth will be managed. Make decisions on such varied issues as economic development, management and personnel issues, water, storm sewers, sewage treatment, libraries, police, fire, streets, parks and recreation, historic preservation, housing, affirmative action, comparable worth, and much more.

SALARY: Average is \$3,000 to \$4,000 yearly plus expenses and/or per diem (depending upon the city). The following salaries were paid as of 1997-98:

Albert Lea	\$ 8,500	Moorhead	\$14,736
Duluth	\$75,821	Owatonna	\$ 9,000
Minneapolis	\$79,773	Rochester	\$25,626

APPLY: File at your City Hall

City elections take place in November. Some cities have elections in even numbered years, some in odd numbered years. In some cities the filing period is in July, in other cities it is late August or September. **Check with your city hall for filing dates and election years.**

TERM OF OFFICE: Usually 2 or 4 years (depending upon the city).

EMPLOYER: The general public which needs the expertise, life experiences, and wisdom of women in these public policy matters. Only **14.7%** of mayors in Minnesota are women.

WHERE TO FIND ADVICE & HELP: **Women Candidate Development Coalition**
Shirley Nelson, Director
Minnesota Women's Building
550 Rice Street
St. Paul, MN 55103
Phone: 612/724-6348 (days, evenings, weekends)

(over)

WANTED:

WOMAN TO RUN FOR CITY COUNCIL

- QUALIFICATIONS:** Female, interested in learning a great deal and having an impact on quality of life as well as the future of her city.
- JOB DESCRIPTION:** Policy-making position in establishing budget priorities, determining how growth will be managed. Make decisions on such varied issues as economic development, management and personnel issues, water, storm sewers, sewage treatment, libraries, police, fire, streets, parks and recreation, historic preservation, housing, affirmative action, comparable worth, and much more.
- SALARY:** Average is \$3,000 to \$4,000 yearly plus expenses and/or per diem (depending upon the city). The following salaries were paid as of 1997-98:
- | | | | |
|-------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| Albert Lea | \$ 4,800 | Moorhead | \$ 7,716 |
| Duluth | \$ 7,800 | Owatonna | \$ 6,900 |
| Minneapolis | \$59,763 | Rochester | \$14,777 |
- APPLY:** File at your City Hall
- City elections take place in November. Some cities have elections in even numbered years, some in odd numbered years. In some cities the filing period is in July, in other cities it is late August or September. **Check with your city hall for filing dates and election years.**
- TERM OF OFFICE:** Usually 2-4 years (depending upon the city).
- EMPLOYER:** The general public which needs the expertise, life experiences, and wisdom of women in these public policy matters. Women are grossly underrepresented on city councils. Only **24.8%** of city council members in Minnesota are women.
- WHERE TO FIND ADVICE & HELP:** **Women Candidate Development Coalition**
Shirley Nelson, Director
Minnesota Women's Building
550 Rice Street
St. Paul, MN 55103
Phone: 612/724-6348 (days, evenings, weekends)

(over)

BOARD MEMO



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
MINNESOTA

550 Rice Street • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103
Phone 651-224-5445 • Fax 651-290-2145
lwvmn@mtn.org
<http://tcfreenet.org/ip/pol/lwvmn>

OCTOBER 1999 Mini-Mailing to Local League Presidents

1-800-663-9328
www.lwvmn.org

Note: MWB: Minnesota Women's Building, 550 Rice Street, St. Paul

Note: Annual Appeal phonathons will begin in late October

CALENDAR

- October**
- 9 - Unicameral Legislature Committee; 10:00 a.m., LWVMN office
 - 14 - Member Resources Committee; 9:00 a.m., MWB
 - 15 - LWVMN Staff Meeting; noon-1:00 p.m., LWVMN office
 - 18 - Community Circles Steering Committee; Noon, MWB
 - 19 - LWVMN Voter Service Committee; 9:00 a.m., LWVMN office
 - 21 - Pilot Community Circle Begins in Willmar; 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
 - Regional Meeting, Brainerd, Central Lakes College, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
 - 28 - Regional Meeting, West Metro Alliance, Brookview Community Center
5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
 - 30 - Regional Workshop, ROMAFH, Roseville Skating Center, 9:30 a.m. -
1:00 p.m.
- November**
- 1 - LWVMN Action Committee Meeting; MWB, 9:30 a.m.
 - 4 - Agriculture Study Committee; MWB, 1:00 p.m.
 - 5 - Minnesota Compact Meeting; MWB, 1:30 p.m.
 - 6 - Unicameral Legislature Committee; MWB, 10:00 a.m.
 - 8-10 - Community Circles training, around the state
 - 10 - LWVMN/EF Board Meeting; MWB, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
 - 12 - Leaders of Today and Tomorrow; MWB, 9:00 a.m. - Noon
 - 16 - *Presidents' Mailing* to local League Presidents and subscribers

ENCLOSURES

PART I

- List Serve Promotion - Wickstrom
- Marketing and Products - Boche & Kargas
- 10-Minute Activist sign up - Erickson
- Student Pledge Newsletter, 9/8/99 - Student Pledge Against Gun Violence
- Student Pledge Newsletter, 9/30/99 - Student Pledge Against Gun Violence
- Ray Suarez's Speech from 9/24/99
- New President Tips - Duffy
- Women to Washington Update - MN Women's Education Council
- Program Survey - Brockelsby
- UN Rally Flyer

PART II ...

to follow in 10 days, including Legislative Interview Packets and Campaign Survey Finance Report.

Calling All League Members...

Join the LWVMN List Serve!

- Keep up to date on state League goings on.
- Stay informed on LWVUS and LWVMN Action Alerts.
- Discuss hot topics with fellow League members.

List-serve for League of Women Voters of Minnesota members allows those who subscribe to it to **send** and **receive** mail from all other subscribers.

To subscribe send the following message:

subscribe lwvmn-share YourFirstname YourLastname

To: listproc@mtn.org

Leave the subject blank.

You will receive a reply that says your request has been forwarded to owner-lwvmn-share for approval.

After checking that the name is a current LWVMN member, you will be registered with the e-mail address your message was sent from. (If you change e-mail addresses, you must re-subscribe.) You will receive a confirmation that you have been added to lwvmn-share with your name and e-mail address. You will then receive all messages sent to the list, and more importantly, **you will be able to send messages** to all League members on the list. Please feel free to send information that would be of interest to other League members, or to ask questions about League studies or issues.

To send a message, address it to:

lwvmn-share@freedom.mtn.org

The state office will be sending Action Alerts through lwvmn-share. If you have questions or additional information, please send them in to the list, or call the State office at 651/224-5445.

Date: October 8, 1999
To: Local League Presidents
From: Eydie Kargas, Marketing Project Director, 612/473-8610
Laurie Boche, Field Service Director, 651/224-5445
Re: League Products

We are considering buying small plastic bags with the LWV logo imprinted on them to give to people who come to membership events. Membership fair goers can put membership information, League publications, and whatever freebies we have to offer in their bag. We need to be able to purchase a large enough volume to make the per bag price affordable. We would like to offer bags to local Leagues for their membership events if we can get a good product. Please call Eydie if you would be interested in purchasing a product like this. We would like to know how many you might purchase so we can get an idea of how many to order. If there is interest we may be able to offer these bags for \$.25 each in volume.

What other products are you interested in? Balloons? Caps? Tee-shirts? Key chains? Let Eydie know and she will check it out. Remember we have beautiful pens and pencils for your membership events.

ACTION



**THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS**
MINNESOTA

10 MINUTE ACTIVIST

550 Rice Street • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103
Phone 651-224-5445 • Fax 651-290-2145
lwvmn@mtn.org
<http://tcfreenet.org/ip/pol/lwvmn>

Make your voice heard on League issues that matter to you! Join Leaguers around the state as a Ten Minute Activist during the 2000 Legislative session. Fill out and return this form and we will notify you when action is needed on those issues you select. You may be contacted 0-6 times per year. You can respond with a postcard or a phone call. This is an important part of our advocacy!

_____ YES! I WANT TO BE A TEN-MINUTE ACTIVIST!

Name: _____

Address: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Congressional District: _____ Legislative District: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

I prefer to be contacted by: Phone / Fax / E-mail (Circle one)

Issues I will take action on:

_____ Financing Gov't/Taxes	_____ Prevention of Violence	_____ Criminal Justice
_____ Election/Campaign Reform	_____ Firearms	_____ Health Care
_____ Family and Children's Issues	_____ Natural Resources	_____ Mental Health
_____ Equity Issues/Civil Rights	_____ Housing	_____ Education
_____ Reproductive Rights/ Teen Pregnancy	_____ Initiative and Referendum	_____ Judges
_____ Reapportionment	_____ Other: _____	_____ Unicameralism

*Mail to: LWVMN, 550 Rice Street, St. Paul, MN 55103 or FAX to 651/290-2145
Questions? Call 800/663-9328 or 651/224-5445.*

If you wish to receive the **FREE** weekly House and Senate publications, call:
For the Senate BRIEFLY call 651/296-0504; for the House SESSIONS WEEKLY call 651/296-2146 or 800/657-3550.

CAPITOL LETTER SUBSCRIPTION: Mail / E-mail (circle one)

_____ I would like to subscribe to the **CAPITOL LETTER**. I enclose my check for \$10 to cover the cost of mailing 6-8 issues with the latest inside information from the League lobbyists on Legislative activity during the 2000 session. *(It is not necessary to be an activist to subscribe.)*

From: Mary-Lewis Grow <mlgrow@microassist.com>
To: lwvmn@mtn.org <lwvmn@mtn.org>
Date: Wednesday, September 08, 1999 1:54 PM
Subject: Student Pledge Newsletter

Dear Judy,

Welcome to the Student Pledge Against Gun Violence mailing list! Ben has been spending a lot of time in recent months getting our fax logs and rolodex cards recorded on a database so now we should be able to communicate more often.

Things are picking up here and will continue to do so over the next several weeks as the Day of National Concern (October 21, 1999) approaches. Last year 1.1 million pledges were reported but that number significantly under-represents the actual total since some school systems did not record their tallies. This year our goal is to more than double last year's number, with at least 2 million signed pledges recorded. Please see our website at www.pledge.org for more information on this and other issues.

The most important way to reach (and surpass!) this year's goal is through you. We hope, through these occasional updates to inform you about important plans and events as they develop. If you know of people who should be added to this list, please email us back with their pertinent contact information. If you would like to be removed from this list, please reply to this email with the word Remove in the Subject space.

Some good news to share:

- * The current issue of Family Circle magazine (September 14) has an article about the Student Pledge on page 21. In her letter to readers, the editor also encourages participation in the national Pledge drive.
- * NBA Superstar Kevin Garnett recently did a photo shoot with kids in Pledge t-shirts -- the resulting billboards and posters will soon be displayed around the state of Minnesota.
- * An Atlanta PTA chapter invited high school students to create a public service announcement about the Student Pledge and the best one aired with rave reviews on Atlanta television. If you are interested in bringing this PSA to your community, let us know and we will tell you how to get a copy.

Alert:

- * Senate Resolution 158 -- which designates October 21, 1999, as the "Day of National Concern about Young People and Gun Violence" and requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the school children of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities -- will be voted on within the next few weeks. If the names of your Senators are NOT in the following list, please contact your Senator(s) and tell them to support our Resolution: Boxer (CA), Dodd & Lieberman (CT), Fitzgerald (IL), Landrieu (LA), Kennedy & Kerry (MA), Sarbanes (MD), Levin (MI), Wellstone & Grams (MN), Edwards (NC), Dorgan (ND), Lautenberg & Toricelli (NJ), Bingaman (NM), Reid (NV), Moynihan & Schumer (NY), Smith (OR), Specter (PA), Chafee (RI), Johnson (SD), Warner & Robb (VA), Jeffords (VT), Murray & Gorton (WA). If you don't have contact information for your Senators, let us know and we will email you their info.

There is enormous interest in this year's observance and each day brings calls from new cities. Students are taking over a lot of the leadership for this year's initiative, thanks in large part to our strong partnership with the National Association of Student Councils. Young people want to be part of the solution in reversing gun violence and the Student Pledge gives them a voice. The wider the participation, the stronger the impact of their collective promise, so let's continue to do all we can to help spread the word.

Thank you for your support and work with the Student Pledge; if you ever have any questions or would like a copy of this year's Pledge packet, please don't hesitate to email us at mlgrow@microassist.com

Sincerely,
Mary Lewis Grow
Ben Rasmussen
Susan Sanderson

The Student Pledge Against Gun Violence
Mary Lewis Grow, National Co-ordinator
112 Nevada Street
Northfield, MN 55057
507.645.5378
www.pledge.org

From: Mary-Lewis Grow <mlgrow@microassist.com>
To: lwvmn@mtn.org <lwvmn@mtn.org>
Date: Thursday, September 30, 1999 12:53 PM
Subject: 2nd Newsletter

Hello Judy,

Things here are really moving, so we thought it was about time for another update.

Lots of good news to share:

* Senate Resolution #158 passed unanimously the week-before-last. Our thanks to everyone who wrote to their senators in the past few weeks.

* Numerous communities across the nation have been letting us know about their preparations for the Student Pledge Against Gun Violence and the Day of National Concern About Young People and Gun Violence on October 21. More and more community-wide events are being planned to support the school initiatives. Many communities are also planning kick-off events for the week before.

> In Northfield, Minnesota, for example, a candle-light vigil will be held in the town square on the night of October 14. Candles will be lit for each of the students who has died in recent school shootings and, as the police chief reads their names, the candles will be blown out one by one. The local children's chorus will sing and candles will be distributed to the crowd and lit as a sign of remembrance and hope.

> In Washington, D.C., both the women's WNBA and men's NBA teams are helping with Day of Concern and Student Pledge activities. At the Wizards' game on October 15, pledges will be distributed and young people invited to take them back to their schools for October 21.

> In New York, the Director of Educational Safety Development and Support for NYC Public Schools, the Student Council leadership, and students have put together a "launch event," featuring a group, the GunRunners -- men in wheelchairs, many of them because of gunshot wounds. Hundreds of NYC students will be there to help publicize the Day of Concern. The District Attorney's Office in Brooklyn has invited a student spokesperson to talk on his radio show and will help publicize the Student Pledge throughout the month of October.

> In Minneapolis on October 18, a production of "Gun Play" by Syl Jones, will kick off the week's activities.

> Another launch event will take place in Raleigh, North Carolina -- probably on or near October 15. The event is being planned with the help of North Carolina Governor Jim Hunt.

Most of the above events will take place the week before the Day of Concern. In our next

newsletter, we will write about different cities' plans for the Day of Concern itself. Please let us know your community's plans. We are hearing about some wonderful things that are in the works in city after city. Give us details so we can share and help generate new ideas.

Also of interest:

* Two editions of Scholastic Magazine will feature the Student Pledge, with copies of the Pledge that can be clipped and copied. The latest issue of the National Association of Student Councils' magazine *Leadership* also features a two-page spread about the Student Pledge, along with other suggestions for violence prevention. Please check out these publications!

* We have compiled a list of contacts but the list is far from complete and many, many more individuals and organizations are working on this initiative than we even know about. If there is a contact listed for your area, feel free to get in touch and offer your help. If no contact is listed for your area and you would like to volunteer, please let us know. The list of these contacts follows at the end of this email.

**** Please encourage your school system to set up an efficient means of tallying up the total number of pledges signed so that the numbers can be reported back quickly. We want to be able to announce our national totals as close to the Day of Concern as possible. Knowing that their commitments were made in the company of millions of other young people will add tremendous power to the observance for participating students.****

You may notice that we have removed the option of having individual students record their pledges on-line as the resulting traffic was too great. Last year, our entire service provider's system crashed for about six hours due to the tremendous volume of submissions. It will still be possible to record your school's or school system's numbers on-line at <www.pledge.org>. Or, you can e-mail them to mlgrow@microassist.com or fax them to (507) 663-1207. You may also call them in at (507) 645-5378. When you report your school's numbers, please be sure to give us the full address, including city and state, as well as a telephone number and contact name.

Thank you for everything you're doing to make this year's Student Pledge and Day of National Concern a powerful and healing observance.

The National Coordinating Staff:

Mary Lewis Grow
Ben Rasmussen
Susan Sanderson
Zach Pruitt

507.645.5378
www.pledge.org
mlgrow@microassist.com

Area Contacts:

Arizona
Sherri Chesson (Phoenix)
Children's Book Author
gorp2@earthlink.net
1-888-SAY-GORP

Gail Leland (Tucson)
Homicide Survivors
survivor@pcao.co.pima.az.us
520-740-5729

Arkansas
Viki Teague
vikididit@conwaycorp.net
501-327-1223
www.conwayschild.org

California
City of Los Angeles
Evaristo Vasquez
Student
juniorVasquez00@hotmail.com

Canada
Roxanne Dhanpaul
Student
sugakane@hotmail.com

Colorado
Don Davidson
Teacher
dond@d20.co.edu
Phone: 719-598-3127
Home Phone: 719-593-5934
Fax: 719-265-8210

Connecticut
Sue McCalley
Connecticut Collaborative for Education Against Gun Violence
203-637-3749

Florida
Linda Torres (Central Florida)
Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida
ltorres@bgccf.org

City of Miami
Diane Landsberg
the non-violence project

yinyang621@hotmail.com
305-358-6643

Georgia
Karon Park (Atlanta)
Georgians Against Gun Violence Inc.
KaronPark@aol.com

Idaho
Sun Valley Area
Tracy Osburn
Teacher
josebun@micron.net

Illinois
City of Chicago
Investigator Connie Perusich
Chicago Police Department
312-747-5595

Indiana
Patricia Williams (Central & East)
Gun Responsibility In Every Family of Indiana
chicknpat@aol.com

Terri Rae Bigheart
IASC District 1 Advisor
Golfie@aol.com

Kentucky
Carrol Callebs
Teacher
ccallebs@fayette.k12.ky.us

Massachusetts
Debra Garceau
dgar987@aol.com

Michigan
Elisabeth Davis
Michigan Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence
edavis@mppgv.org
Phone: 517-332-4299
Fax: 517-332-4392
www.mppgv.org

Vince Villegas (Student)
Students Against Firearm Endangerment
vmiester@aol.com

Mississippi
Lee Ann Whitley
Student
lawhitley@aol.com

Nebraska
Heather Burwell
Educator
heather200@aol.com
402-896-1923

New Jersey
Barbara Muller-Ackerman
American Schools Counselors
BarbMAcker@aol.com

New York
New York City
Dr. Enid Margolies
Director of Educational Safety, Development and Support for NY City Public Schools
212-979-3316

North Carolina
Joey Johnson
Student
sanfordnational@netscape.net

Ohio
Ms. Toby Hoover
Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence
peace4all@juno.com
Phone and Fax: 419-872-6442

Pennsylvania
City of Pittsburgh
Bill Sebastian
District Board of Directors for Allegheny County
wseb@aol.com

Rhode Island
Lisa Pavoni
lpa613@aol.com
Phone: 401-766-3111
Fax: 401-762-2126

Tennessee
Donnie Cantwell
Hope Foundation

d.cantwell@mailcity.com
423-583-3524

Texas
City of Houston
Kristina Woods
Texans Against Gun Violence Educational Fund
snake144@flash.net

Norma Lacy
US Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas
Norma.Lacy@usdoj.gov
713-567-9388

City of Dallas
Joyce Strickland
Mothers Against Teen Violence
matv214@aol.com

Utah
Verne Larsen
Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program
vlarsen@usoe.k12.ut.us

Virginia
Alice Mountjoy
Virginians Against Handgun Violence
Email through website
Phone: 757-622-1238
Fax: 757-622-3953
www.vahv.org

Washington
Bruce Gryniewski
Washington Ceasefire
WashCease@aol.com
www.waceasefire.org

City of Seattle
Mike Seely
Mothers Against Violence in America
maviausa@aol.com
1-800-897-7697
www.mavia.org

West Virginia
Doris McGillick
slinkybink@aol.com

Wisconsin
Olusegun Sijuwade
olupeacelab@hotmail.com
www.peacelab.com

9/30/1999

MINNESOTA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

RAY SUAREZ'S SPEECH

BLOOMINGTON, MN, SEPTEMBER 24 1999

This is my first appearance in public as the former host of Talk of the Nation. So far, so good.

I've been asked to talk to you about immigration and the changes it continues to bring to our country. In the rest of the country, it might seem like a counterintuitive topic for Minnesota... there's an idea that this is a pretty white bread place... in Kentucky they don't wonder how the Hmong are settling in, or where a Somali goes to get legal advice, or whether Hennepin county can quickly get its hands on a Croatian translator.

Like an enormous organism that only realizes there's a sprain when it tries to use a particular muscle... America has a lot of unfinished business to attend to when it comes to attaining some common wisdom on what it means to be an American... who is an American... how far open our Golden Door can be... just a crack... or flung open wide?

The idea that immigrants are never going to be our kind of people is an old one... as old as the country itself. And from that idea, that WE became American, that MY family did the hard work of putting aside what we were to become what we are... from that idea springs the notion that while previous generations of immigrants were changed by the country, this latest one is going to change the country, make it foreign, split its presumed unity.

You can be pro-immigration, anti-immigration, you can have concerns about the environment, the economy, education, social service costs, all connected with the fact that we are now living through the highest rate of immigration since the 1920s. This is an issue on which people can have honest disagreements, disagreements stated with intellectual integrity. And certainly, my own opinions on the matter are not all that important. But as a reporter, as someone who has watched this story develop through much of my working life as a journalist, I am fascinated by what we do with this idea socially, emotionally, politically... realms far from the mute columns of immigration statistics, county hospital bills, per capita income figures.

How we see our community... how we understand connectedness to shared enterprises like public schools... how we feel called to serve, or not serve, in the public sphere, in many cases all leads back to how we answer these questions... Who is my brother? Who is my sister? Who is deserving of my concern? With whom do I have an obligation to share?

When I was working on my book, *The Old Neighborhood*, I can't tell you how often people told me about the place they grew up, the place they were young marrieds or raised their children... and the sense that it was not their place anymore, that they had become a stranger in a place they once knew intimately, a place that once gave

them comfort and security. This wasn't said with bigoted fury, said with animus or resentment toward newcomers or people who are different... it was more often said with bewilderment, amidst a struggle to put into words something that was more often felt than explained. People are people... they are prone to be ahistorical, to not see their own experience as connected in a long chain of events with the experiences of people just arriving in America today.

Let's look at the mythology concerning language... there is a much beloved story going round that previous generations of immigrants learned English very well, and right away. This is the fraternal twin with an idea going round that today's immigrants don't learn English, quickly, or well, and that today's immigrants feel no need to learn the language. As someone who grew up in an immigrant neighborhood in Brooklyn, I can tell you from experience, experience that is confirmed in research, that there is no immigrant experience that is representative of all immigrants... if you watch the language acquisition of a young stay-at-home mother, a man who works on a construction site or a restaurant, a teenager who has just arrived in the country, or a pre-schooler, born overseas but starting in the American school system from day one, and an elderly person living in a household with young, bilingual relatives ... you'll see that all these people learn different parts of the language, learn at different speeds, learn with a wide range of accents. For some reason, the people spitting with rage over bilingual education, or emergency exit signs in Spanish, or voter Education materials in Vietnamese, misremembering the real fluency of their own grandfather from Calabria, who worked hard his whole life but spent his social hours in an all-Italian speaking milieu to the extent possible... conveniently forget their own grandmother who spoke broken, lovable, English, but always spoke to mom and dad in Yiddish. It is our American amnesia, in part, that makes language the wedge issue it has become.

When still speaker, Newt Gingrich, who managed to clothe some of his more suspect propositions in the language of the academy, said that we could be developing another Quebec, right inside our own borders. For some reason, the former history professor left out the fact that bilingualism was enshrined in the founding of the Canadian state... that it was a compromise forged from melding the remnants of two empires, that Canadian children learn from the first day they begin history class of the two founding nations of Canada... and significantly, Canadians who speak French are fully one fourth of the population... a percentage that simply cannot be ignored. In fact, the Canadian example teaches us nothing about our own future trajectory as a home for immigrants, because throughout the 20th century Canada has assumed that it must construct social space for the maintenance of the French language, while in the United States it is virtually impossible to find an immigrant parent, of economically active age, who denies the centrality of English acquisition to success in the United States, if not for themselves, then certainly for their children.

A state that has watched its politics deeply marked by immigration in recent years has been California... it's the poster child for the new politics of immigration. It is also an illustration of how politicians use immigration, for

better or worse. When, in the post cold war consolidation of the defense industry, southern California was in frightening economic disarray, the immigrant became a subject of hysteria. The differences between legal and illegal immigrants were collapsed... the economic benefits of immigration to southern California were totally ignored in favor of its costs... language battles became a symptom of this new anxiety... and schools, hospitals, policing, health clinics, county jails, became institutions that, if you believed what you were hearing, had their costs totally driven by illegal immigration.

Were the people of Southern California bearing the high costs of, let's say, the maternity ward of LA County hospital, as women who came here without documents gave birth to newly minted American citizens on the public dime? You bet, no doubt. Were the real estate tax payers of Los Angeles, San Diego, and Orange County paying to educate not only their own children, but the children of adults who weren't even supposed to be in the country? Of course they were.

And were all these concerns valid parts of a public policy debate that was absolutely necessary to have in California.. in Texas, in Florida and elsewhere. They were.

But America's misgivings about its immigrant self was clear when it came to trying to have an adult conversation about why those people were coming, and what those people did once they got here. The dry walling of Southern California, during those same years, was being done in Spanish... enough sod to cover the state of Connecticut was being done, in Spanish... houses from Chula Vista, to San Luis Obispo were being painted, in Spanish. Some of the same good burghers of Orange County who quietly, inwardly cheered local congress members Bob Dornan, and Dana Rohrabacher, when they heard their thunder over talk radio, walked past an illegal cutting the hedges on the way through the front door to kiss the wife. Labor demand created labor supply... and the labor market of California operated in an economic realm that did not respect the existence of a border. And the seamstresses, dry wallers, and bricklayers of this economic shadow world pay income taxes, pay social security taxes, pay sales taxes, and will not collect social security... will not collect a union pension, or a company pension... they will not be able to go on state disability insurance when they get hurt on the job. In the new America, we hypnotized ourselves into believing that immigration was not a complex, interlocking maze of social, economic, and political factors... but a simple set of articles of faith... like a litany, a well-remembered prayer said almost without engaging the conscious mind.

And when Bob Dornan was not returned to congress by the people of Orange County, we eventually found it was those same immigrants who were changing what used to be wonderful California... had also illegally registered, in the DOZENS to defeat B-1 Bob. But those hundreds of thousands of Mexican Americans, whether naturalized, a son, or a granddaughter, or the great grandchildren of Mexican immigrants, have been roused into action. Today they are an enormous impediment to winning statewide office for the Republican party. With the memories of

proposition 187, and proposition 209, and the economic scares of the 80s and 90s fresh in their minds, Mexican Americans rejected Republican candidates in many key races... and may end up being a tremendous factor in the presidential elections in the year 2000. Today, the political street troops of Latino California are energized, running voter registration drives, cutting their teeth in school board and county commissioner and state assembly races, and those who are Democrats are saying loudly that it's not what language George W Bush speaks to them in, but what his words mean that will be crucial next year.

There is a mirror image political grass roots growing in Southern Florida, where the Republican party has made a strong alliance with Latino immigrants of the last 40 years... two Cuban-born politicians are Republican US representatives from Florida... along with mayors, county board members, the movers and shakers of the fastest-growing region of one of the fastest growing states in the country are Latinos. But this does not remove Miami Dade from American history... it connects this county to the 20th century... to Polish ward bosses in Chicago, to Al Smith and the teeming Irish wards of Manhattan at the turn of the century, to a Hungarian campaign speech in the Buckeye neighborhood in South Cleveland... and to the St. Louis of today, where neighborhoods that had emptied out in the past 30 years are now filled with new tenants and storekeepers from the Muslim sections of Bosnia, who are safe, and working hard, and committed to the future of this country. Last year I was the commencement speaker at my high school, 24 years after I graduated from a school where the student body was basically Italian, Jewish, Black and Puerto Rican... in 1998 the valedictorian was a Russian-born boy, and the Salutatorian was an Indian-born girl, and both were headed to Ivy league schools. So what I call in my book the America Factory, Brooklyn New York, is doing it again, making Americans from the raw material that comes to this country, now from the four corners of the earth. It may be that the real discomfort with the new immigrant America comes not from the fact that there are newcomers, but that we need a little time to get used to who they are and where they come from. Perhaps we don't remember that earlier in this century, when Europe was virtually the sole source of new arrivals to this country, it wasn't that Europeans were the only people who had some interest in coming here... it wasn't that only Europeans had the gumption, the will, the nerve.. it was enshrined in law that immigrants from continental Europe were to have a preference in gaining permanent entry to this country. By the 1960s, demand had built up in a way that saw the annual quotas from many European countries unfilled... a rapidly industrializing and wealthier western Europe in the postwar years slowed the flow from some countries into a trickle.. while people from the Philippines, Taiwan, and India might have had to wait until the middle of the 21st century for their number to come up. The laws that handicapped people from Asia and Latin America were changed, and a new era in American immigration began. But the new arrivals faced a very different social landscape from that of their peers a half century earlier...

America had slammed the door in the late 1920s, as suspicion of foreign political ideas and foreign influence grew, as the isolationist blocs in the congress grew after the first world war and America's refusal to join the League of Nations. Immigration was cut, then followed ten years of economic depression, six years of world war,

and after VE and VJ day, and the rapid economic growth and suburbanization of the 1950s, we were a different people: assimilated... 30 years away from the last big immigrant ways. Ethnic politics were still played in a big way in Milwaukee and Chicago and New York and Boston... but it was immigrant politics with an American accent. The people from the old country were receding into memory in many places, the languages that had filled the newsstands in the 1920s, the choral and cultural societies and their festivals were now occasions for gray haired grandmas and gnarled-handed grandpas to sit in a chair and watch children in folkloric costume, kids who less often knew a word of the languages they were singing in, who had college in their future, and fully vested ownership in stock in the American enterprise.

The cities these people left behind to move in the millions to the west and south, to build enormous suburban rings around the old neighborhood... these cities were no longer the dense places of scarce land that drove people into apartment buildings, into mile after mile of cheek by jowl bungalows. The cities had sagged, and became a cheaper place to rent and buy. But they shined a beacon to new people... to hundreds of thousands of Syrians, Jordanians, and Palestinians in Brooklyn, Grand Rapids, and Chicago... to more Barbadians in Brooklyn than there are in Barbados... to the Cape Verdeans of Rhode Island and Eastern Massachusetts, to the Somalis of Minnesota, the Ethiopians of Washington DC, the Pakistanis in Atlanta and the Iranians of Los Angeles. Today one of the biggest events in the calendar of Brooklyn is West Indian carnival, and east Flatbush is again filled with accountants, dentists, transit system foremen, elementary school teachers and sanitation supervisors... they're just a different color now, and they and their forebears just come from a different place on the globe. Shockingly, Puerto Ricans will no longer be the predominate Latin American group in New York City when the next census is done... tens of thousands have moved to Long Island, Westchester County, northern New Jersey... a couple have even moved to Washington DC, and the south Bronx, and Northern Manhattan are now full of Dominicans. America's best known Dominican is probably Sammy Sosa... when the season is over and he's heading back to the DR and to his family where does Sammy go... to be toasted by civic organizations, paid tribute by budding politicians, and generally gone berserk over? Washington Heights in Manhattan. The president of the Dominican Republic grew up in New York. The president of Lithuania came as a youngster to Chicago, and ended up as the Midwest regional administrator for the EPA before heading home... the new president of Latvia spent more than 30 years in the United States. The pace and volume of the flow of people and capital between this country and the rest of the world has quickened. When once upon a time American mayors might have treated immigrant groups with a mixture of paternalism and neglect, today's mayors talk frequently with the state delegation to congress, even to the State Department, to understand the situation in home countries, speed along family reunification, and work with foreign police forces to watch those who would exploit their citizens. Cultural exchange, economic and political ties follow new Americans into our cities in part because there's something fundamentally different about coming here today... the immigrant who came to the Midwest from Stavanger, Norway... to Boston from Palermo... to New York from Warsaw, often had an idea that they would never see their home town again, that for many reasons the door was slamming shut behind them and they would not go home. Today, the two way traffic

between Latin America and American cities, east Asia and American cities, even between Africa and new immigrant communities across the country, is furious, and unremarkable. Once upon a time, Giuseppe Garibaldi lived in exile in Staten Island, the great Cuban patriot Jose Marti published his proindependence essays and poems in New York, and that unlikely Irish president with the Portuguese name, Eamon de Valera, was born in New York. Today Nigerian opposition organizations plan and publish and plot in two dozen American cities... Chinese democracy activists send out their messages of hope and encouragement to people back home and in exile across the world using the internet from American Universities... and after the priest turned politician Jean Bertrand Aristide was overthrown in Haiti he lived just down the block from NPR studios in Washington and stayed in constant contact with Haitian communities in Brooklyn, Miami, and Chicago. The role that America plays in the world hasn't changed all that much since Garibaldi knew he had to go to America to campaign for a united Italy. And the way America makes people change is as old as the country. And another thing that never changes is the way the new people rub up against the old and cause us to re-examine our own assumptions, and maybe think about our own pasts.

When the tin miners of Cornwall, the farmers and dock workers of Germany, the coal men of Wales, and strong backs from Ulster and Leinster came pouring into America in the mid nineteenth century, we were a small country with a lot of room, fast growing regions, and industries that hadn't yet figured out how to do without people. It was a hungry country that took people from Cork to Moscow and made them the raw material for a giant, rich industrial power... and took people against their will from Africa and made them the raw material for multinational agricultural trade. We are not that any more, and much of the anxiety around today's immigration takes account of the fact that with 275 million people, and sprawl, and pollution, and the fastest-growing cities, Phoenix and Las Vegas, living on stolen water, it won't be as worry free to grow in the future as we've grown in the past. School systems under money pressure already wonder if they can build new schools for neighborhoods that once figured never to need a new one again... Even in this age of rising per capita income and projected government surpluses, we wonder if we can keep the door open permanently. These are not irrational fears. For every city that's watching a sagging neighborhood revitalized by newcomers from an unexpected source, there's another community trying to figure out how to deal with a high-needs community, perhaps one fleeing war and national breakdown, one that hasn't seen any new industries in 50 years, one where people on the economic margins are afraid of more competition. It's in those tough moments that we'll see what we're made of... whether we as voters and citizens can have an adult conversation about how to handle the unexpected, when to ask for help, and when to say, we've done our bit, how to tell the difference between doing something that's uncomfortable, and impossible. Immigration has had a tremendous cost to America... and brought untold benefits, benefits that in many cases represent a net transfer of resources from places in the world that can hardly afford to make a gift to us... but every time a bright student from a poor country, educated at state expense, boards a plane and heads for the United States with no intention of coming back... to open a travel agency in Miami, or to work for a software company in Palo Alto, to become a nurse in San Diego, or begin the difficult re-accreditation

process so that he or she can treat countrymen as a doctor in St Paul or the Bronx... that is a big net gain for America, and a net loss for the country back home. Don't be tooled by the scaremongers... figuring out public policies that respect human rights, take account of economic realities, shelter those in danger, and protect national borders and national interests is not that easy. But we shouldn't let the fear of having to do something hard scare us into legislating by slogan, or else all that will separate us from the Know Nothings of the () century, and a long line of nativists parties ever since is that we're more polite and use modern tools to spread our simple minded message.

SUGGESTIONS TO NEW LEAGUE PRESIDENTS

These suggestions came from representatives from 14 Local Leagues who attended a discussion session on May 15, 1999, during LWVO Convention

- Spread the wealth — have a President-Elect or a Co-President
- Break all the work into bites
- You [meaning you personally AND your League] can't do everything!
- Take the Board through a self-analysis — to “ignite the passion” and decide what is best to do in the next year
- Adopt planned neglect
- Exchange VOTERS with other Leagues your size and copy their good ideas!
- Use a “pass” file at Board meetings so members at least see all the communications that are not on the agenda
- Work with other organizations to present topics of mutual interest

This piece came across my desk from the LWV of Ohio. There may be an idea or two that are helpful to you. Be assured that you do not need to do everything. Do what you can and try to enjoy your work and be confident that you are making a contribution to your community.





MINNESOTA WOMEN'S EDUCATION COUNCIL

Rice St. • Suite 101-A • St. Paul, MN 55103 • (651) 228-0995 • Fax (651) 292-9417

Judy Duffy
League of Women Voters
550 Rice Street
St. Paul MN 55103

W2W Update Send Women to Washington by 2002

The Minnesota Women's Political Caucus is moving forward with the initiative to elect women to represent our state in Washington DC by 2002.

As the enclosed calendar, "Planning for the Future" shows, we have 18 chances to do this. In 2000 we will elect 8 people to the House of Representatives and 1 U. S. Senator. Then redistricting will occur. In 2002 we will elect 8 people to the House of Representatives and 1 U. S. Senator.

Who will run for these offices? W2W has identified some potential candidates but we are seeking more names. We need to encourage women to run - send W2W their names on the enclosed form. The more women who run, the more women will win.

On February 8th, 46 women attended a mini-training session where they heard from four women who ran for Congress and the Senate: Natalie Haas Steffen, Mary Rieder, Joanell Dyrstad and Ann Wynia had the courage to run and they shared their experiences & advice. One piece of advice was not to use "gender" as an issue in campaigns. However, W2W can promote generic multipartisan efforts to elect women to Washington. The Women's Press has an article coming out the first week of March featuring these efforts. The next phase of the training is April 17, 1999 at Lino Lake Laborers' Training Center. It's an all-day training - contact our office (651-228-0995) for information.

On March 1st, W2W hosted a breakfast for organizations to discuss collaborative efforts to achieve our objective. W2W does not want to form a separate group or coalition but rather seeks to work collaboratively with other like-minded groups.

W2W is asking organizations for two things: (1) to publicize W2W's effort in mailings and newsletters - and particularly to publicize the April 17th campaign training; (2) to invite W2W to attend their meetings to talk about this effort. W2W is scheduled to be at AAUW's Annual Meeting in Duluth on May 1st to conduct a workshop.

Together we will send Women to Washington by 2002.

Judy Schotzko
Nancy Hylden
W2W Co-Chairs
MWPC

Bobbi Megard
President
MWEC

Planning for the Future

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
FED.		US House 8 seats		US Senate (Grams) 1 seat US House 8 seats		US Senate (Wellstone) 1 seat US House 8 seats		US House 8 seats		US Senate (open) US House 8 seats
STATE		Governor Lt. Governor Atty General Auditor Sec. of State Treasurer MN House 134 seats		MN House 134 seats MN Senate 67 seats		Governor Lt. Governor Atty General Auditor Sec. of State Treasurer MN House 134 seats MN Senate 67 seats		MN House 134 seats		Governor Lt. Governor Atty General Auditor Sec. of State Treasurer MN House 134 seats MN Senate 67 seats
LOCAL	Mayor City Council & other races Minneapolis St. Paul Bloomington Duluth Rochester	County Offices	Various City Races	County Offices	Mayor City Council & other races Minneapolis St. Paul Bloomington Duluth Rochester	County Offices	Various City Races	County Offices	Mayor City Council & other races Minneapolis St. Paul Bloomington Duluth Rochester	

REDISTRICTING

WOMEN TO WASHINGTON (W2W) BRAINSTORMING

Please take this form along should other names come to mind as potential candidates. Either mail or fax it to:

W2W
c/o MWPC
550 Rice Street, Suite 101-A
St. Paul, MN 55103

OR

651/292-9417 (fax)
651/228-0995 (phone)

Name: _____		
Address: _____		
City: _____	Zip: _____	Phone: _____
Experience (2-3 brief sentences or attach resume/vitae: _____		

Referred by: _____		

Name: _____		
Address: _____		
City: _____	Zip: _____	Phone: _____
Experience (2-3 brief sentences or attach resume/vitae: _____		

Referred by: _____		

Name: _____		
Address: _____		
City: _____	Zip: _____	Phone: _____
Experience (2-3 brief sentences or attach resume/vitae: _____		

Referred by: _____		

To: League Presidents/Program Chairs
From: Gabi Brockelsby, LWVMN Program Chair
Date: October 4, 1999
Re: Program Survey

It's that time again!!

Please take a few moments to complete the attached questionnaire regarding program. I realize this is an inconvenience for you and am trying to make it as painless as possible. The information gathered will help LWVMN determine program trends and how we can help Leagues who may be struggling with program. The list will be compiled and returned to you so that you can see if another League in your area is working on a similar project.

If it is easier for you to e-mail the information to me my e-mail address is: gbrockelsby@hagertelecom.net.

I would appreciate having the information back by November 15th.

Thank you so much for taking the time to complete this form!

LWV of _____

Return by: 11/15/99

Does your League's program have a theme this year (examples: sustainable communities, Making Democracy Work, education, etc.)? If so, how does your theme weave into your monthly(?) program?

What are your planned programs for the year? (Do you have a list of monthly programs published? If so, please attach or enclose a copy with this survey.)

Are there any topics for which you would like LWVMN to act as a resource? (examples: find reference materials, speakers, coordinate area meetings with other local Leagues, etc.)

Is your League undertaking any studies at this time? What are the topics? When do you expect to publish your findings?

What could LWVMN do to help you with program in any fashion? (You can wish for the moon here!) Are there any topics you feel need to be addressed at the state level?

1999 UNITED NATIONS RALLY DAY

"Our Multigenerational World"



Presented By the UN Rally Board of Minnesota
Wednesday, October 27

HENNEPIN AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
511 GROVELAND AT LYNDALE, MINNEAPOLIS

As life expectancy pushes to new limits, society is becoming more and more multigenerational, creating challenges for both the young and old. This year marks the 55th year that a United Nations Rally has been held in Minnesota. During this time a long line of distinguished speakers has addressed Rally participants, including Eleanor Roosevelt, Ralph Bunche, Marion Anderson, and, most recently, Ved Nanda, president of the World Jurist Association. Join us for a day of seminars and workshops discussing the challenges presented by an aging population. Learn how the generations can work together. Regardless what your age is, this is one program that you shouldn't miss.

PROGRAM

9:00 a.m.—9:30 a.m. Registration
9:30 a.m.—9:45 a.m. Earl Eames Memorial
9:45 a.m.—10:45 a.m. First Sessions
 [1] The Multigenerational World In China
 [2] The United States and a Multigenerational World
11:00 a.m.—12 p.m. Sessions Repeated
12: p.m.—2:30 p.m. Lunch and Keynote Speaker

THE DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS OCTOBER 18

TICKET PRICE: \$20 (includes program and luncheon)

RETURN TO: Elaine Ploog, 6670 Vernon Avenue South, #308, Edina MN 55436. (612) 939-0545

_____ Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ to cover _____ tickets
_____ Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ as a contribution to provide student scholarships and support the UN Rally.

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip Code _____
Organization _____
Telephone _____

Please make checks payable to: UN RALLY FUND

Note: A limited number of free student tickets will be available due to the generosity of local businesses and organizations.

BOARD MEMO



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
MINNESOTA

550 Rice Street • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103
Phone 651-224-5445 • Fax 651-290-2145
lwvmn@mtn.org
<http://tcfreenet.org/ip/pol/lwvmn>

AUGUST 1999

80 Years - A Voice for Citizens, A Force for Change

1-800-663-9328

Fax #: 1-651-290-2145

lwvmn@mtn.org

<http://www.lwvmn.org>

Calendar

Note: MWB: Minnesota Women's Building, 550 Rice Street, St

August

- 25 - Board Memo, Presidents' Mailing sent to L
 - 30 - Community Circles Facilitator Committee,
 - LWVMN Field Service team in Moorhead,
 - 31 - Community Circles Evaluation Committee.
 - LWVMN Voter Service Committee Planni
- 8/30, 8/31 or 9/7: interested members are v

September

- 1 - LWVMN Member Resources Committee,
 - Communications Committee, MWB 12:00
- 2 - Agriculture Study Committee, MWB 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
- 6 - Labor Day, LWVMN office closed
- 8 - Curriculum Committee, LWVMN office 9:30 a.m.
 - "Citizens in Action" planning, LWVMN office 1:00 p.m.
 - **Membership Open House, MWB 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.**
 - COME ONE, COME ALL!!**
- 10 - Leaders of Today and Tomorrow, MWB 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
- 13 - LWVMN Action Committee, MWB 9:30 a.m.
 - Community Circles Steering Committee, MWB 9:30 p.m.
- 17 - Member Resources Committee, MWB 9:00 a.m.
 - LWVMN Staff Meeting, LWVMN office 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
- 20 - **Deadline for reservations for Dinner with Ray Suarez**
- 21 - LWVMN Policies Committee, MWB 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
 - Focus Group: "Twenty to Thirty Somethings," LWVMN office 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
- 24 - **Public Policy Dinner with Ray Suarez, Doubletree Hotel, Bloomington**
Bloomington 5:30 p.m.
- 27 - *Mini-Mailing to Local Leagues*

October

- 2 - Fall Regional Meeting, Red Wing, St. James Hotel, 9:30 - 1:00 p.m.
- 21 - Fall Regional Meeting, Brainerd, Central Lakes College, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- 28 - Fall Regional Meeting, Golden Valley, Brookview Community Center,
5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- 30 - Fall Regional Meeting, ROMAFH, Roseville Skating Center, 9:30 - 1:00 p.m.

The is format

BOARD MEMO



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
MINNESOTA

550 Rice Street • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103
Phone 651-224-5445 • Fax 651-290-2145
lwvmn@mtn.org
<http://tcfreenet.org/ip/pol/lwvmn>

AUGUST 1999

80 Years - A Voice for Citizens, A Force for Change

1-800-663-9328

Fax #: 1-651-290-2145

lwvmn@mtn.org

<http://www.lwvmn.org>

Calendar

Note: MWB: Minnesota Women's Building, 550 Rice Street, St. Paul

- August**
- 25 - Board Memo, Presidents' Mailing sent to Local Leagues
 - 30 - Community Circles Facilitator Committee, MWB 3:00 p.m.
 - LWVMN Field Service team in Moorhead, evening
 - 31 - Community Circles Evaluation Committee, MWB 12:00 noon
 - LWVMN Voter Service Committee Planning for Election 2000
- 8/30, 8/31 or 9/7: interested members are welcome to join in!
- September**
- 1 - LWVMN Member Resources Committee, MWB 9:00 a.m.
 - Communications Committee, MWB 12:00 noon
 - 2 - Agriculture Study Committee, MWB 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
 - 6 - Labor Day, LWVMN office closed
 - 8 - Curriculum Committee, LWVMN office 9:30 a.m.
 - "Citizens in Action" planning, LWVMN office 1:00 p.m.
 - **Membership Open House, MWB 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.**
COME ONE, COME ALL!!
 - 10 - Leaders of Today and Tomorrow, MWB 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
 - 13 - LWVMN Action Committee, MWB 9:30 a.m.
 - Community Circles Steering Committee, MWB 9:30 p.m.
 - 17 - Member Resources Committee, MWB 9:00 a.m.
 - LWVMN Staff Meeting, LWVMN office 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
 - 20 - **Deadline for reservations for Dinner with Ray Suarez**
 - 21 - LWVMN Policies Committee, MWB 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
 - Focus Group: "Twenty to Thirty Somethings," LWVMN office 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
 - 24 - **Public Policy Dinner with Ray Suarez, Doubletree Hotel, Bloomington**
Bloomington 5:30 p.m.
 - 27 - *Mini-Mailing to Local Leagues*
- October**
- 2 - Fall Regional Meeting, Red Wing, St. James Hotel, 9:30 - 1:00 p.m.
 - 21 - Fall Regional Meeting, Brainerd, Central Lakes College, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
 - 28 - Fall Regional Meeting, Golden Valley, Brookview Community Center,
5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
 - 30 - Fall Regional Meeting, ROMAFH, Roseville Skating Center, 9:30 - 1:00 p.m.

ENCLOSURES

(included in this mailing with the *Board Memo* to local League Presidents and DPM subscribers)

- Registration Packet for Fall Regional Meetings/Matlock
- Membership Open House FlEyer/Frisch
- Request for Proposal for Community Circles; **new deadline 10/15/99**/Gendler
- 1999-2000 Annual Appeal Phonathon/Volunteer Information/Packet/Nordling
- Action Guidelines for Local Leagues/Erickson
- LWVMN Board List & Local League Presidents List
- Planned Giving Brochure/Nordling
- Flyer re 9/24 Dinner with Ray Suarez/Nordling

BOUQUETS TO

- Connie Hondl for her extended stay as LWVMN bookkeeper.
- Janet Gendler for organizing the Community Discussion Circle project on Immigration.
- Liz Nordling for chairing the fundraiser committee for the Ray Suarez event.
- Gertrude Ulrich and Jane Bennett for co-chairing the Agriculture Study.
- Laurie Boche for visits to local Leagues and responding to so many requests.
- Liz Nordling and Laurie Boche for responding to the request from Ely, Minnesota for a candidate debate. (Thanks to Liz and Laurie, it happened in a non-League community and they provided a terrific service!)

PRESIDENT

Judy Duffy, 505 Lake Ave., Birchwood, MN 55110-1631 612/429-9703

I hope you are all having a good summer. I know that planning for another League year can take some time but you will be glad you took the time for planning later on. Meanwhile, try to keep your work and meetings at manageable and hopefully, enjoyable levels. League is an avocation, not a vocation! Also, remember LWVMN is a resource for all your questions.

You will receive a lot of information about projects, meetings and opportunities for further involvement. This information is not meant to overwhelm you but to make you aware of all that is happening and offers opportunities to anyone who has a specific interest. If it is something you are not interested in, discard it. You have permission to do so!

Enclosed in this mailing is information about our upcoming **fundraiser with Ray Suarez** on Friday, September 24th at the DoubleTree Grand in Bloomington. This is part of an ongoing public policy series with high profile speakers. These events are fun, stimulating and make us all proud to be a part of this organization. Please make your reservation and invite your friends and colleagues to join you. It's a great way to support the League and get something out of it at the same time.

The **Community Discussion Circle project on immigration** is progressing well. Several Leagues have indicated an interest in convening these circles next February. The topic is current and ripe for discussion in many localities. The goal is to facilitate discussion and action appropriate for each community.

The **Agriculture Study committee** is just beginning its work. It is a complex and daunting subject to tackle but the committee is up to the task. As usual, the League is not intimidated by complexity!

In answer to the need for better informed members of our organization, we are hosting an open house at the LWVMN office on Wednesday, September 8th from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. The open house is intended for prospective, new and longer term members. There will be information about all levels of League from the local, state and national as well as information about action, membership, studies and projects.

The **regional meetings** are another opportunity to gather information and meet with League members from your area. They will be offered from the end of September through October in several locations. Find the one most convenient to attend by checking out the information in this mailing.

The proposal for a **unicameral legislature** is sure to be a hot issue in the upcoming session. The LWVMN Action Committee is convening a subcommittee to look at the pros and cons of the issue and make some recommendations to the LWVMN Board. If you are interested in this and want to be a part of it, let us know.

Meanwhile, have a great kickoff to your League year and many thanks for all that you do for the League and your community!

ACTION

Co-Chair Kay Erickson, 6000 Wyngate Ln, Minnetonka, MN 55345 612/934-2991
Co-Chair Jane McWilliams, 901 W. First, Northfield, MN 55057 507/645-8423

Important Dates

Citizen in Action conference: Saturday, January 29, 2000
Legislature convenes: February 1, 2000

Gearing Up

We're already hearing about some of the issues that will be coming before the legislature when it convenes next year--so it's not too early to designate a Board person or Action chair to follow through on state and national action alerts. Please identify who will do action for your League on the Local League Board List that was sent to local Leagues in June.

Unicameral Legislature

One of those upcoming issues is the proposal for a unicameral legislature. At this point the League does not have a position. We are forming a committee to research the issue and present a recommendation to the LWVMN Board. If you or any of your members are interested in being part of this committee, please call Kay or Jane.

Closer to Home

We hope you are thinking about ways your League can take action in your community. The Portfolio Updates has ideas for how to get started. Remember, you do not have to have studied an issue in your local League to take action. You can use state and national positions to lobby in your community—in fact we encourage you to lobby using state and national positions. If you have questions refer to the Action Guidelines in this packet or call either of us.

M E M B E R S H I P

Carol Frisch, 7025 Comanche Ct, Edina, MN 55439 612/829-0604

The major fall membership undertaking at LWVMN is the Member Open House, Wednesday, September 8, 1999 from 4:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the LWVMN Office and all levels of the MN Women's Building, 550 Rice Street, St. Paul. The LWVMN staff and board members will be on hand to greet and chat with members about the League and plans for 1999-2000. We expect it to be an informal and friendly time for people to get better acquainted with leadership and with all levels of the League. CMAL and the LWVUS board will also be represented. Light refreshments will be served. Please consider organizing a group to drop in any time during the Open House for information, enthusiasm and camaraderie.



LWV CONFIDENTIAL

FALL REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

Date:	LWV:	Location:	Registration. Deadline:
Saturday, October 2, 1999	Red Wing	St. James Hotel	September 23
Thursday, October 21, 1999	Brainerd	Central Lakes College	October 12
Thursday, October 28, 1999	W. Metro Alliance	Brookview Community Center	October 19
Saturday, October 30, 1999	ROMAFH	Roseville Skating Center	October 21

Agenda for Saturday Workshops:

9:30 - 10:00 Registration
10:00 - 12:00 Workshops
12:00 - 1:00 Lunch

Agenda for Thursday Workshops

5:30 - 6:30 Registration and dinner
6:30 - 8:30 Workshops

Cost: \$14.00 per person including registration and meal

Call the LWVMN office with questions at 651/224-5445.

Workshops

(Participants will attend all workshops)

ACTION:

Learn how to take effective action in your community at whatever level of involvement you desire, and how you can be a part of the LWVMN and LWVUS lobbying efforts.

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK:

Get ideas about doing your own Making Democracy Work projects, and hear about what some local Leagues have done. Then, share your own ideas and programs.

AGRICULTURE STUDY:

Get up to date on how the new study is progressing. Then, find out how to prepare your League community for this new LWVMN state study.

HOW TO USE YOUR EDUCATION FUND MONEY:

Walk through the process of how to use your League's tax deductible contributions to pay for programs and projects that serve your community.

MEMBERSHIP:

Explore ways to recruit and retain members, as well as to reach out to diverse populations. Discuss local League success stories and problems as we search for ways to keep the League going strong.

NUTS AND BOLTS:

Learn ways to be in League without it taking over all of your spare time. Discuss how local Leagues can put tasks together as blocks to make it easier for members to participate with however much time they have to give. This includes a portfolio to remember the social aspect of League – to have some fun together while dealing with serious issues.

REGIONAL WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM

(Register now, time is running out!)



League: _____

Workshop Location/Date: _____

Total Number Attending: _____

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$ _____
(Number attending x \$14)

Use separate registration form for each location

Names of Members Attending:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____

Directions to Workshops:

Red Wing - St. James Hotel

From the Twin Cities:

Highway 61 to Red Wing. The St. James Hotel will be on your left at the intersection of Bush Street. (Highway 61 becomes Main Street.) The previous intersection will have a More 4 store to the right and the YMCA on the left. Turn left at the intersection. A parking garage attached to the hotel will be located halfway down the block to the left side. A second parking ramp is on the right.

From Highway 52:

Take Highway 58 in Zumbrota. At the intersection with Highway 61 turn right and proceed one block. Turn right on Bush Street. A parking garage attached to the hotel will be on the left side. The hotel is located at the intersection of Bush and Highway 61 (Main Street).

Call Gabi Brockelsby with any questions at 651/388-7971.

Brainerd - Central Lakes College

From the North/South from Highway 371 turn Left/Right onto Washington. Cross the Mississippi and take a left onto 4th St. NW. Go ten blocks to College Drive. There will be a sign on the corner here. Take a right. The dining room is in the west building of the campus.

From West/East from Highway 210 (which turns into Washington.) Take a Right/Left onto 4th St. NW. Go ten blocks to College Drive. There will be a sign on the corner here. Take a right. The dining room is in the west building of the campus.

Call Dean Wiesner with any questions at 218/828-9329.

Golden Valley - Brookview Community Center

200 Brookview Parkway

From 394 take the Louisiana Ave Exit north 2 blocks to the lights at Laurel and go about ½ mile to Winnetka. Turn right and go about 3 blocks to Western Ave, turn left and go about ¼ mile to the stop sign at the intersection of Brookview Pkwy and Western Ave. Turn left and proceed into the parking lot of the Community Center which will be on your right.

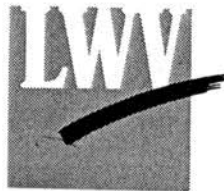
From Highway 55 take Winnetka Ave south about ½ mile to Western Ave, turn right and go about ¼ mile to the stop sign at the intersection of Brookview Pkwy and Western Ave. Turn left and proceed into the parking lot of the Community Center which will be on your right.

Call Mary Hepokoski with any questions at 612/541-9801.

Roseville- Roseville Skating Center - Fireside Room

2661 Civic Center Drive

Highway 36 to Lexington Ave. Go north. Take a left on Woodhill, one block north of County Road C. Park in lot north of the Skating Center.



COME TO THIS SPECIAL OPEN HOUSE IN YOUR HONOR!!

LWVMN MEMBERSHIP OPEN HOUSE

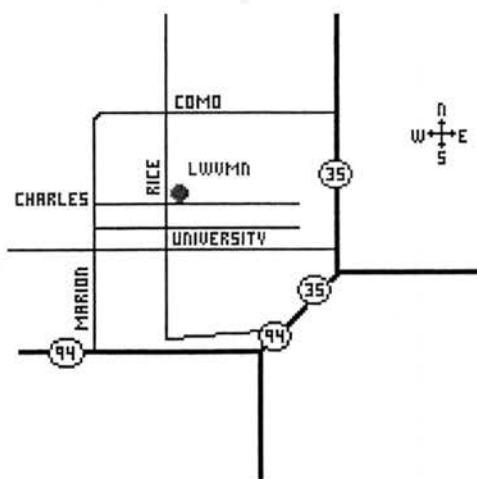
550 Rice Street, St. Paul

Wednesday, September 8, 1999

4:30 – 7:30 PM

Join us for a fun time with LWVMN Board and Staff to get better acquainted with the League and get a perspective on the activities of 1999-2000. You will spend time with neat people, tour the State Office, and enjoy socializing with other members while you get an insider's perspective for the LWV year. Light refreshments, too!

For further information contact:





THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA EDUCATION FUND

350 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (651) 224-5445 FAX (651) 290-2145

TO: Local League Presidents

PRESIDENT

Judy Duffy

FROM: Janet Gendler, Chair, "Changing Faces, Changing Communities project"
Community circles on immigration sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund

ADVISORY BOARD

Ralph Burnet
CEO
Coldwell Banker Burnet

Ned Crosby
Chair
Jefferson Center

DATE: August 25, 1999

Isabel Gomez
Judge
Hennepin County District Court

Joan Anderson Growe

Joan A. Grzywinski
President/District Manager
St. Paul and South Metro Minneapolis
Norwest Bank Minnesota, N.A.

Roger L. Hale
Chairman & CEO
Tennant Company

Jean L. Harris, M.D.
Mayor
Eden Prairie

Josie R. Johnson
Senior Fellow
College of Education
University of Minnesota

Steven D. Ladwig
President
Data Storage Products & Technologies
Imation Corporation

Sheila Leatherman
Executive Vice President
United HealthCare

Peggy Lucas
Partner
Brighton Development Corp.

Laura McCarten
Director of Community Services
Northern States Power Company

Vivian Jenkins Nelsen
President and CEO
International Institute for
Interracial Interactions:
INTER-RACE

James A. Roberts
Vice President, Corporate Relations
Minnesota Power

G. Edward Schuh
Professor
Hubert H. Humphrey
Institute of Public Affairs
University of Minnesota

Laura Waterman Wittstock
President
MIGIZI Communications, Inc.

Mark G. Yudof
President
University of Minnesota

Are you looking for increased visibility in your community? Do you want to learn about a new tool for addressing an important public policy issue? Would you like to find a new way to add to community life and perhaps to recruit new members in the process? Are you interested in cooperating with other Leagues in your area on a timely and relevant local issue with regional as well as statewide implications?

If so, you're invited to participate in "Changing Faces, Changing Communities," a community circles project on immigration sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund.

Community Circles are a means of small-group deliberation developed in 1990 as a project of the Topsfield Foundation, a nonprofit, nonpartisan foundation whose goal is to improve the quality of public life in the United States.

For the Minnesota project, groups of 8 - 12 people representing a cross-section of their communities will meet to discuss immigration and how it affects their community, to get to know one another, to consider different points of view, and suggest solutions for problems. They will use a discussion guide which was developed in cooperation with the Study Circles Resource Center (part of the Topsfield Foundation) by a committee led by the LWVMN to help focus serious and broad public conversation among a range of voices: conservative and liberal; young, middle-aged, old; new and not-so-new immigrants as well as Native Americans; leaders as well as followers; skeptics and believers.

The LWVMNEF is the lead sponsor of this project in Minnesota. Local government, community organizations, church groups, ethnic groups, and media organizations serve as members of the steering committee and as coalition partners.

What will the LWVMN provide participating communities? All participating Leagues will receive organizer and facilitator training; assistance in connecting with diverse populations; easy-to-use, tested discussion guides for facilitators and participants; and general on-going support.

In addition, local Leagues may apply for a grant which would help cover the cost of childcare, refreshments, transportation, room rental, translators (if needed), publicity and advertising; office costs; costs for rental of audio/video equipment, or other miscellaneous costs incurred by the local Leagues. The amount of the grant could be as much as \$2,700. You may also apply to use your League's tax deductible dollars on deposit with LWVMN Ed Fund (form enclosed).

If you are interested in participating in this Community Circles project, please return the enclosed application by ***October 15, 1999***. If you have questions, please call project chair Janet Gendler (tel:612/920-3567) or project director Susan Anderson (tel: 612/331-1117).

AGREEMENT

The local League/grant recipient will:

- designate at least one individual to participate in a training workshop sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund.
- organize at least one community circle* consisting of eight to twelve individuals representing a broad range of people from the community who will meet once a week for five weeks from mid-February to late March 2000. (Community circles must be held by April 2000.)
- devote special attention to bringing together as diverse a group as possible, i.e., old immigrants and new, Native Americans (if appropriate in the given community), a variety of religious and political views, old and young, business people, local government officials, unemployed, etc.
- assist in identifying a facilitator for each community circle organized.
- arrange for room rental, refreshments, and childcare, transportation, translators as needed for each community circle.
- contact local print and broadcast media to arrange for coverage of the community circles and/or to encourage other news articles or editorials related to the topics to be addressed by the community circle(s)
- communicate regularly with the "Changing Faces, Changing Communities" project chair and/or project director.
- at the end of the project, submit receipts and invoices and prepare a final report documenting the expenditures included in the grant request.

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund will provide:

- organizer and facilitator training for each participating community (at a location and time to be determined)
- discussion guides for community circle facilitators and participants
- assistance in connecting with diverse populations in participating communities
- general on-going support and counsel
- timely payment of all grant requests

*Each local organizer is committed to establishing at least one community circle but may form as many as ten circles (or more) depending on the level of interest in the respective community.

Grant Application and Agreement

APPLICATION

Name of local League _____

Person responsible for this application

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Community/Communities which will be involved in the project _____

Amount requested as grant stipend \$ _____

(Attach a separate page with a description of the grant request and budget line items.)

If awarded a grant, I, _____, fully understand and agree that this money may in no way be used to further any League activities that advance or promote membership programs or advocacy programs or issues.

One half of the grant will be distributed upon approval of the grant application in January 2000. The next 45% will be distributed when the community circles convene in mid-February/early March and the final 5% will be awarded upon submission of the financial report

Signature _____ Date: _____

Please submit this application no later than July 15, 1999 to: Janet Gendler, Project Chair, "Changing Faces, Changing Communities," LWVMNEF, 550 Rice Street, St. Paul, MN 55103

Please call Janet Gendler, project chair (tel: 612-920-3567) or Susan Anderson, project director (tel: 612-331-1117) with questions or requests for assistance.

Changing Faces, Changing Communities
Community Circles on Immigration in Minnesota
The League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund (LWVMNEF)

Budget Per Community	Amount Requested
Project Coordinator/Manager	\$
Publicity and Advertising	\$
Room Rental	\$
Facilitator honorarium	\$
Office costs	\$
Refreshments	\$
Rental of audio/video equipment	\$
Travel	\$
Child Care	\$
Translators	\$
Other	\$

Please note that we have a limited amount of available grant money . Whenever possible please use donated space, child care etc. and remember you may have money available in your LWVMNEF account (form included)

LOCAL LEAGUE APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL TO DO A PROJECT*

To: LWVMNEF
550 Rice Street
St. Paul, MN 55103
651/224-5445
Fax: 651/290-2145
lwvmn@mtn.org

From: LWV of _____
Name/Treasurer: _____
Address _____

Phone: _____
Date: _____

Who is responsible for the project? _____ Portfolio _____

Title and Date of the Project: _____

*Please note: this application must be submitted **at least three weeks** before the project is begun.

Type of Project:

- _____ Conference Attendance
_____ Publication
_____ Meeting to Educate the Public on an Issue
_____ Candidate Forum
_____ Voter Reimbursement
_____ Other (please specify: _____)

Note: **Publication** applications should include contents, authors, timetable and distribution. **Meeting** applications should include the planning committee, participants, program and materials. For applications to distribute publications other than LWVMNEF, include a sample copy and the distribution plan. For **Voter reimbursement**, calculate the percentage of column inches devoted to citizen education and voter service.

Purpose of the Project: (Why are you doing this project? What is the need in the community?)

Details of the Project (please be specific):

Who is the project designed to serve? Who will benefit from the project?

Project Budget: (Basic Outline)**Income**

\$_____ in your Ed Fund Account
\$_____ to be raised

Expenses

\$_____ Total

Date of Local League Board Approval: _____

League of Women Voters of Minnesota Action Guidelines for Local Leagues

These guidelines are designed to ensure that the League speaks with one voice. The Board of Directors of the LWVMN is the final authority in action policy when resolving conflicts if more than one local League is involved or when state LWV policy is involved. Remember that when taking action it should be made clear that all League action is nonpartisan. Action addresses issues rather than candidates or political parties.

I. Action Alerts

From time to time local Leagues receive calls to action from LWVMN and the LWVUS. These may be in the form of an Action Alert from the state or national League, giving background information on an issue together with action strategies and instructions. Action suggestions also appear in the *Capitol Letter*, *MN Voter*, *Report from the Hill*, and in other communications from the state or national League. **All Leagues are strongly requested to carry out the suggested action.**

II. Locally Initiated Action: Local Leagues may want to initiate action. Local action by Leagues is vital and is encouraged.

A. **The decision to take action which will affect only your community rests with your local board if certain requirements are met.** In deciding to take action based on a local position, the Board must consider whether the contemplated action falls within the relevant position and whether the local position is consistent with the position of other levels of LWV. The Board will also want to consider whether members understand and support the action and whether the action would be effective in the community.

Local Leagues may take positions in their communities based on positions from other levels of League, and consultation with a Board member from that level may be helpful in planning action strategy. If action affects other area Leagues, and there is an inter-league organization such as Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues, that level of League must be consulted before any action is taken.

B. **Action that would affect more than one League requires consultation with the Boards of the other Leagues involved.** The procedure to be followed will depend on the complexity of the issue and the number of Leagues involved. If only two or three Leagues are affected, all should agree (or have no objection) to the plan of action. If more than three Leagues are involved the LWVMN legislative coordinator or Action Committee should be consulted. A substantial majority of the Leagues involved must agree to the contemplated action. This consultative arrangement is necessary to ensure agreement on the interpretation of positions, to coordinate activities of different levels of League, and to enhance the effectiveness of League action campaigns.

- C. **Action that would involve contact with a state government official *requires consultation with the LWVMN Legislative Coordinator or state Board president.*** This consultation is necessary in order to keep LWVMN informed about all state-level advocacy efforts and to ensure that there is no conflict with other LWVMN action.

Local Leagues may also take action on the state level under a local position **if all three of these conditions are met:**

1. The legislation must not be statewide in scope;
2. Every effected local League must be notified of **the proposal prior to any action;**
3. Such action must be approved by the State Board or the State President, Legislative Coordinator and Program Chairs prior to any action.

- D. **Action that would involve contact with government officials at the national level *requires consultation with the national LWV office.***

As with state-level action, the local League must clear plans with the relevant level of League. You may call the LWVUS office directly or you may contact the appropriate state program chair or LWVMN Legislative Coordinator for guidance. In general, permission to act at the national level may be limited to those issues included in the LWVUS Advocacy agenda.

(These guidelines are adapted from those of LWV-Illinois.)

League of Women Voters of Minnesota
550 Rice Street, St. Paul, MN 55103

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS FOR 1999-2001

8/25/99

OFFICERS

Judy Duffy
505 Lake
Birchwood, 55110-1631
LWV Mahtomedi

651/429-9703 (H)

FAX:
e-mail: GandJDuffy@aol.com

President

Carol Frisch
7025 Comanche Ct.
Edina, 55439
LWV Edina

612/829-0604 (H)
651/774-0105 X 115 (W)
FAX: 651/774-0205
e-mail: carolf@thinkmhc.org

1st Vice President
Membership

Janet Gendler
3906 Zenith Ave. S.
Minneapolis, 55410
LWV Minneapolis

612/920-3567 (H)

FAX:
e-mail: jhgendler@aol.com

2nd Vice President
Special Project - Changing Faces,
Changing Communities

Jeanne Matlock
1128 W. Montana Ave.
St. Paul 55108
LWV St. Paul

651/488-0458 (H)
218/847-3477 (W)
FAX: 651/488-1406
e-mail: jmatlock@pro-ns.net

3rd Vice President
Member Resources

Jeannette Lang
2320 E 3rd St
Duluth, 55812-1851
LWV of Duluth

218/724-4754 (H)

FAX: 218/720-1497
e-mail: 74024,727@compuserve.com

Secretary

Connie Hondl
5209 Tifton Dr.
Edina, 55439
LWV Edina

612/944-1229 (H)

FAX:
e-mail: hondlc@aol.com

Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Deidra Avendasora
1137 W Shryer Ave
Roseville, MN 55113
LWV ROMAFH

651/454-7550 (W)
FAX: 651/454-7655
deidra@enodat.com

LOTT

Gabi Brockelsby
3593 Kosec Dr.
Red Wing, 55066
LWV of Red Wing

651/388-7971 (H)

FAX: 651/
e-mail: gbrockelsby@hagertelecom.net

Program

Judy Covey
611 St. Olaf Ave.
Northfield, 55057
LWV Northfield

507/645-8920 (H)

FAX: 507/645-8920
e-mail: jcovey@rconnect.com

Curriculum

Stacy Doepner-Hove
600 Nicollet Mall, Suite 390B
Minneapolis, 55402
LWV of Minneapolis

612/338-3205 (H)

FAX:

Voter Service

Kay Erickson
6000 Wyngate Ln.
Minnetonka, 55345
LWV MEPH

612/934-2991 (H)

FAX: 612/934-5975
e-mail: kerickson@visi.com

Future Trek/Action

Karen Gochberg
9943 Jamaca Ct. N
White Bear Lake, 55110
LWV of Mahtomedi

651/429-8480 (H)
FAX: 651/429-1937
e-mail: k_gochberg@hotmail.com

Communication

Elizabeth Nordling
415 Birchwood Ave.
Birchwood, 55110
LWV of Mahtomedi

651/426-1238 (H)
FAX: 651/426-6937
e-mail: sing@minn.net

Development

Gladys Ritter
Tomorrow
1690 Neal Ave N
Stillwater, 55082-1704
LWV of St. Croix Valley

651/436-1873 (H)
FAX:
e-mail: logos48@aol.com

Leaders of Today and
(LOTT)

Mary Steen
716 St. Olaf Ave.
Northfield, 55057
LWV Northfield

507/645-7274 (H)
FAX:
e-mail: msteen@stolaf.edu

Voter

Gertrude Ulrich
7601 Aldrich
Richfield, 55423
LWV Richfield

612/866-8171 (H)
FAX:

Agriculture Study

Susan Weisbrod
1840 Margo Ave. N
Lake Elmo, 55042
LWV St. Croix Valley

651/436-7528 (H)
FAX: 651/436-1747 (call first)
e-mail: Sweisb@aol.com

Government Issues

OFF BOARD

Joyce Blomquist
1980 W Skillman
St. Paul, 55113
LWV ROMAFH

651/631-0688 (H)
FAX:

Nominating Committee Chair

Joann Buie
6640 Vernon Hills Rd
Edina, 55436
LWV Edina

612/933-3390 (H)
FAX:

Planned Giving

Diane Gibson
1297 Wyncrest Ct.
St. Paul, 55112
LWV Arden Hills/Shoreview

651/683-5962 (H)
651/893-3620 (W)
FAX: 651/893-9983
e-mail: gibsond@freenet.msp.mn.us

Technology

Kathy Kolb
3947 Aldrich Ave N
Minneapolis, 55412
LWV of Minneapolis

612/522-4188 (H)
612/728-5332 (W)
FAX:

Budget Committee Chair

Jane McWilliams
901 W 1st St.
Northfield, MN 55057-1613
LWV Northfield

507/645-8423 (H)
FAX:
e-mail: jmcwilliams@microassist.com

Action Co-Chair

Ady Wickstrom
1252 Silverthorn Drive
Shoreview, 55126-5637
LWV Arden Hills/Shoreview

651/780-5245 (H)
651/483-7806 (W)
FAX: 651/780-6086
e-mail: ady.wickstrom@visi.com

Webmaster

LOCAL LEAGUE PRESIDENTS

8/24/99

ANOKA/BLAINE/COON RAPIDS

ALIE STEFFEN
7007 NW 164TH LN
RAMSEY, 55303
612/753-4298

JEORGETTE KNOLL
3303 NW 157TH AVE
ANOKA, 55304
612/421-4678

ARDEN HILLS SHOREVIEW

GLORIA KUEHN
3581 RIDGEWOOD RD
ST. PAUL, 55112
651/633-4061

AUSTIN

GRETA KRAUSHAAR
1306 1/2 16TH AVE. SW
AUSTIN, MN 55912
507/433-4165

BEMIDJI AREA

ELIZABETH SMITH
100 ROOSEVELT SE #5
BEMIDJI, 56601
218/751-4895

BLOOMINGTON

PAT BUGENSTEIN
10757 HOPKINS CIRCLE
BLOOMINGTON, MN 55420
612/888-5309

ANN SHORTAL
10627 JAMES CIRCLE
BLOOMINGTON, MN 55431
612/881-6176

BRAINERD LAKES AREA STATE UNIT

DEAN WIESNER
432 TYROLL HILLS DR.
BRAINERD, MN 56401
218/828-9329

BROOKLYN CENTER

BARBARA SEXTON
3824 N. 58TH AVE.
BROOKLYN CENTER, 55429
612/537-2118

BROOKLYN PK/OSSEO/MAPLE GRV

CAROL VOSBERG
8816 INVERNESS TER
BROOKLYN PARK, 55443
612/493-4032

BUFFALO/MONTICELLO AREA

JANE SHANKS
852 NW 90TH ST.
BUFFALO, MN 55313
612/878-2766

CANNON FALLS

ALICE FIELD
43104 - 145TH AVE. WAY
ZUMBROTA, MN 55992
507/732-7400

CASS LAKE/WALKER AREA

BARBARA SMITH
PO Box 594
CASS LAKE, 56633
218/335-6832

CRYSTAL/NEW HOPE/E PLY.

MARY JANE LEE
5920 WISCONSIN CIRCLE
NEW HOPE, 55428
612/533-7254

YLEEN JOSELYN
4068 HAMPSHIRE AVE N
CRYSTAL, 55427-1498
612/533-9659

LEE HUMPHREY
8116 HOTH AVE N
NEW HOPE, 55427
612/525-1273

DULUTH

LWV DULUTH
32 E. 1ST ST.
DULUTH, MN 55802
218/724-0132

JANE GILLEY
311 E WADENA ST.
DULUTH, 55803
218/724-7240

EASTERN CARVER COUNTY

MIDGE MAIN
1575 CREST DRIVE
CHASKA, 55318
612/368-7251

EDINA

ANDY OTNESS
5433 KELLOGG AVE S
EDINA, 55424
612/922-5165

FREEBORN COUNTY

GRACE SKAAR
RT 3 BOX 95
HAYWARD, 56043
507/373-5080

FRIDLEY

LILLIAN MEYER
7868 ALDEN WAY NE
FRIDLEY, 55432
612/571-5328

GOLDEN VALLEY

BARB JULIAR
3037 KYLE N.
GOLDEN VALLEY, 55422
612/588-5183

JACKSON AREA

LAVONNE NELSON
918 WHITE
JACKSON, MN 56143
507/373-5080

MAHTOMEDI AREA

MARGARET WESTIN
200 WILDWOOD AVE.
BIRCHWOOD, 55110-1623
651/429-9229

MANKATO AREA

JO CATTRYSSSE
806 CENTER ST.
MANKATO, 56001
507/388-652

MINNEAPOLIS

LWV MINNEAPOLIS
YOUNG QUINLAN BLDG, STE 335
81 S. 9TH ST.
MINNEAPOLIS 55402
612/333-6319

GAIL HANSON
110 1ST AVE NE, #1603
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55413
612/676-1591

MEPH

BETTE ANDERSON
7336 TOPVIEW RD.
EDEN PRAIRIE, 55346
612/941-2853

LUANN TOLLIVER
14801 WYCHEWOOD RD
MINNETONKA, 55345
612/938-6749

NEW BRIGHTON

KATHLEEN PICKERING
2407 MOUNDS AVE.
NEW BRIGHTON, 55112
651/633-1500

NEW ULM

RUTH ANN WEBSTER
1 S. STATE ST., P.O. BOX 458
NEW ULM, 56073
507/359-7269

NORTHERN DAKOTA COUNTY

BETTY FEDDE
1662 NORWOOD DR
EAGAN, MN 55112
612/452-2966

NORTHFIELD

CINDY BERQUIST
1501 LIA DRIVE
NORTHFIELD, MN 55057
507/663-0816

SUZANNAH CIERNIA

41 FAREWAY
NORTHFIELD, MN 55057
507/663-7876

OWATONNA

ADRIENNE BREINER, CONTACT
738 E. PROSPECT
OWATONNA, MN 55060
507/451-3933

RED WING

GABI BROCKELSBY
3593 KOSEC DR
RED WING, 55066
651/388-7971

RICHFIELD

GERTRUDE ULRICH
7601 ALDRICH
RICHFIELD, 55442
612/612/866-8171

ROBBINSDALE

HELAIN FREEMAN
3938 SCOTT N
ROBBINSDALE, MN 55422
612/533-8015

ROCHESTER

VERA DOUGHER
633 WOODHAVEN CT NE
ROCHESTER, 55906
507/252-1561

ROCK COUNTY STATE UNIT

MILDRED PAULSEN
BOX 70
STEEN, 56173
507/855-2328

ROMAFH

MARY ANN PALMER
2479 BRENNER ST.
ROSEVILLE, 55113
651/633-8140

JUDY STUTHMAN

1885 FERNWOOD AVE.
ROSEVILLE, 55113
651/644-8588

ST CLOUD AREA

JESSIE D. HARPER
2216 10TH AVE. S.
ST. CLOUD, 56301
320/252-4152

ST CROIX VALLEY

MIRIAM SIMMONS
13960 N 47TH ST.
STILLWATER, 55082-1234
651/439-2062

ST LOUIS PARK

DOROTHY KARLSON, CONTACT
3420 BOONE AVE S.
ST LOUIS PARK, 55426
612/935-4057

ST PAUL

LWV ST. PAUL
150A EATON
ST. PAUL, MN 55107
651/222-1215

MARY VIK, CO-PRESIDENT

2335 STEWART AVE. #324
ST. PAUL, 55116
651/698-7794

ST PETER

MARY GOVER, CONTACT
838 LOWER JOHNSON
ST. PETER, 56082-1177
507/931-1895

SOUTH TONKA

ANN MELDAHL
6180 CATHGART DR.
SHOREWOOD, MN 55331
612/474-9313

JANE STEIN

5995 GLENCOE RD.
SHOREWOOD, MN 55331
612/474-4673

WAYZATA/PLYMOUTH AREA

BEV BENSON
4930 YORKTOWN LN. N.
PLYMOUTH, 55442
612/519-1174

WHITE BEAR/NORTH OAKS

JANET YOUEL
4749 N 122ND ST
WHITE BEAR LAKE, MN 55110
651/426-0933

SYLVIA ROMAN

953 PINERIDGE CT
MAHTOMEDI, MN 55115
651/770-0541

WILLMAR

MARY WERNER
5272 LAWLER BEACH RD
WILLMAR, MN 56201
320/235-1585

WINONA STATE UNIT

LYNN THEURER
498 KERRY CT.
WINONA, 55987
507/454-1680

WOODBURY/COTTAGE GROVE

MARTY WELLS
436 HIGHPOINT CURVE
MAPLEWOOD, MN 55119
612/739-6144

CMAL

BARBARA PERSON
2049 UTAH AVE. S.
ST. LOUIS PARK, 55426
612/546-3490

League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund Public Policy Dinner

"Our New Neighborhood"

Ray Suarez, host of National Public Radio's "Talk of the Nation," and author of *The Old Neighborhood: What We Lost in the Great Suburban Migration*, is our featured speaker.

**Friday,
September 24, 1999**

Cocktails 5:30 p.m.

Dinner 6:30 p.m.

Doubletree Hotel,
7901 24th Ave. S., Bloomington

**Single Tickets: \$60
before August 20th and
\$75 after that day.***

*Purchasers of select tables
of \$1,000, \$1,500, or \$2,000
for 10 persons will receive
special mention in the
program.*

Reservations to
Jo Ann Strachan

Phone: 612-854-6526

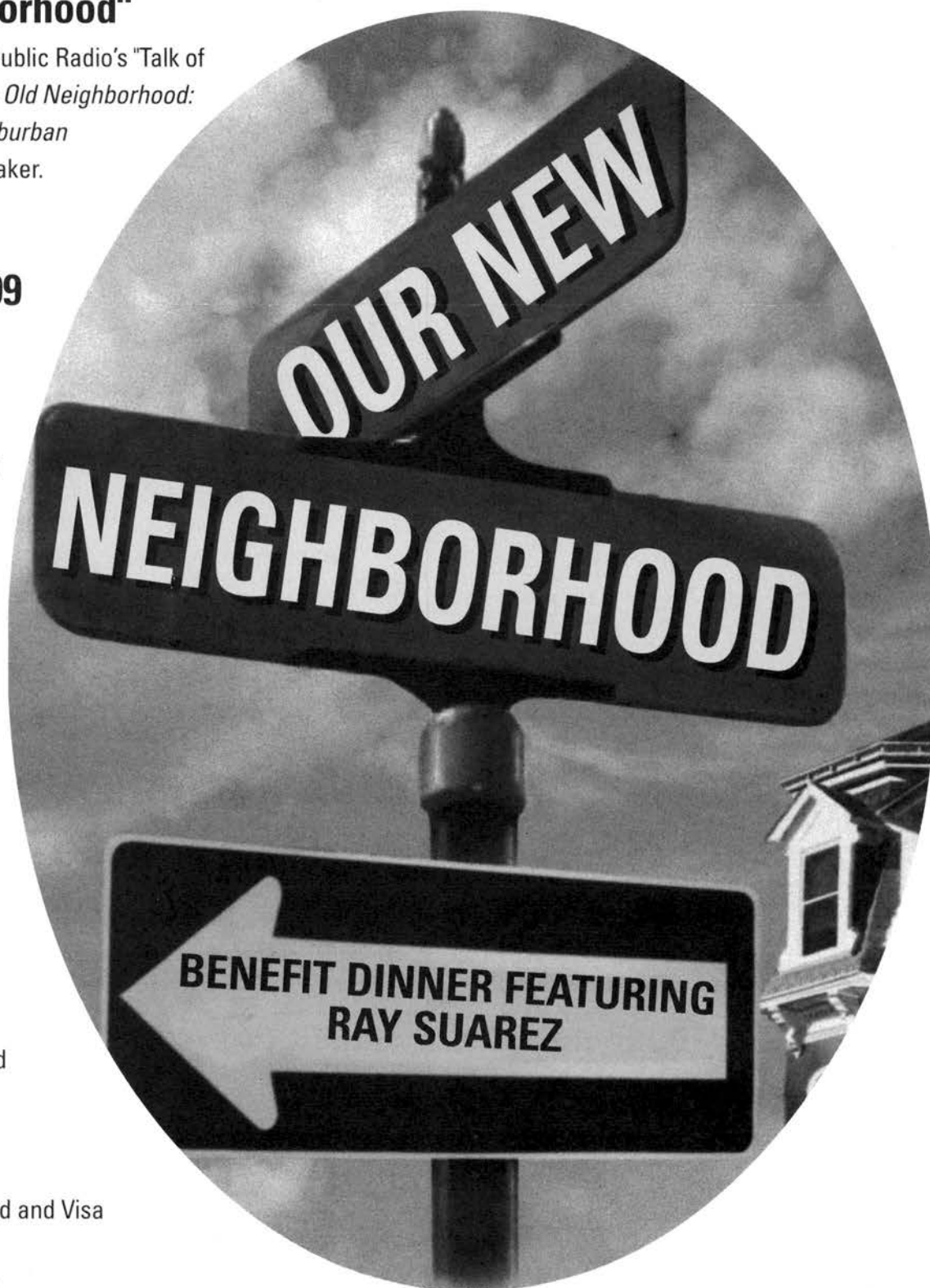
Fax: 651-290-2145

Mail: LWVMN Education Fund
c/o Jo Ann Strachan
1875 Meadowview Road
Bloomington, MN 55425

American Express, MasterCard and Visa
accepted.

Checks payable to LWVMNEF.

*Any amount over \$25 per ticket is tax-deductible.



Beneficiary Designations

Certain assets (such as retirement plan assets or life insurance) are transferred by contract rather than through an estate. The donor can name the League as the beneficiary.

Qualified Retirement Plans

Qualified Retirement Plans include IRAs, 401(k)s, and 403(b)s. With careful planning, the League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund could become the beneficiary of these plans. By making the League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund the beneficiary, these retirement assets would not be subject to income tax or estate tax. Please note that these taxes can be avoided only by completing the appropriate forms obtained from the Retirement Plan Administrator.

Life Income Gifts

A life income gift creates a trust for the benefit of the League and the donor.

Charitable Remainder Trust

The donor irrevocably transfers assets to a trust to provide income to named beneficiaries during their lifetime. Thereafter, the trust's assets would go toward the League.

Pooled Income Funds

Charitable Remainder Trusts for smaller funds are called Pooled Income Funds. The League pools the funds through The Saint Paul Foundation, which manages them as a single trust. Contributors receive payments proportionate to the size of their investments in the funds.

Gifts of Income Interest

A Charitable Lead Trust provides income to the League for a number of years. When the trust term ends, the principal goes to the donor's family and/or other beneficiaries.

Retained Life Estates

A gift plan defined by federal tax allows a donor to donate her or his home, farm, or vacation home to a charity, while she or he retains the right to live in it for the rest of her or his life.

Sample Language for Wills

I give, devise, and bequeath to the League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund, a Minnesota non-profit corporation, located at 550 Rice Street, St. Paul, MN 55103 (here, specify the dollar amount or the percentage of the estate), for its Endowment, (or any other purpose).

On this matter, consult your attorney or call the League Development Director.



Basics of Estate Tax

1. Unified credit shelters can include everything under \$650,000 (1999 amount) rising up to \$1 million by 2006.
2. Gross estate includes everything a donor owns (art, jewelry, a home, land, for example) at the date-of-death value.
3. Federal estate tax rates start at 37% and go up to 55% for estates valued up to \$650,000.

Estate planning is the transfer of family values as well as the transfer of family wealth. We ask you to consider the League as you make your plans. Your gift, of any size, will help the League to continue working as a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government.



Have You Remembered Us?

Are we in your will or estate plan? If we are, please let us know of your plans. It helps us to make plans for the generations to come; it gives the League the opportunity to thank you for your generosity; and it allows you to set an example for others. When you let us know of your plans, we will express our gratitude to you by welcoming you into the *Legacy Circle*.

We would be happy to assist you in planning a bequest that says, "I believe in the future of our democracy, and I want to keep that democracy strong by supporting the League."

Throughout the years, the League has proven its effectiveness in making democracy work for everyone. Because the League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund will continue working for a participatory democracy, it will be around for many years to come.



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
MINNESOTA EDUCATION FUND

Printing contributed by Impressions, Inc.

Legacy
Circle

Legacy

Planned Giving Ideas
for

League of Women Voters
Members and Friends



Circle

League of Women Voters of Minnesota
Education Fund

Statement of Intent and Inquiry (This statement of intent and/or inquiry is not a legal obligation.)

☐ I/We wish to make the following statement of intent and/or inquiry:

☐ I/We have included the League in my/our _____ will _____ charitable annuity/trust _____ life insurance
_____ other _____

☐ I/We wish to discuss a planned gift with a League representative

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail to LWVMN, Attn: Development Director, 550 Rice Street, St. Paul, MN 55103

An Investment Committee provides supervision and guidance for the LWVMN and the LWVMNEF Board of Directors.

Estate Planning

Basic Questions, Basic Answers

Many aspects of our lives are well planned: our education, family, career and retirement. Estate planning may seem like a daunting task that can be put off until later when we are older and wealthier.

But, estate planning is not just for the very old or the rich. It is a lifelong process that is important for everyone. Estate planning includes building an estate and preserving it for tomorrow. It provides the opportunity to make sure that the distribution of our properties will be a lasting expression of our own particular lives and interests.

Is my estate gift tax-deductible? If your contribution is made to the League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund, yes it is. If it is made to the League of Women Voters of Minnesota, no, it is not tax-deductible. However, you may contribute to either organization.

Did you know that the League of Women Voters was launched with a bequest in 1919?

Since then, the League has drawn vital support from bequests of League members and friends who wished to ensure that the organization they loved would continue to flourish.

Share the heritage...
Invest in the future.

Why?

Planning your estate can:

- Assure that you determine precisely who will receive all the property that you have accumulated over your lifetime (cash, real estate including your home, insurance, investments, retirement savings, for example).
- Help you minimize or avoid estate taxes that may drain your estate of assets.
- Provide a contingency plan in case of mental or physical incapacity.
- Create a trust to manage assets for your children, spouse or other heirs.



When?

Many people first formulate estate plans when there is a major life change, such as marriage, job changes or promotions, births, adoptions, divorce, retirement, moving to a different state or country, or the death of a family member or friend.

If you have an estate plan, review it regularly to make sure it still accomplishes all your goals. And, be aware of changes in the law that can also affect estate plans.



Who (Can Help You)?

You can get help in estate planning from your attorney, accountant, insurance agent, stock broker, banker or estate planner.

What?

There are many tools you can employ to develop a sound estate plan.

- **Will** – Disposes of your assets at death. If you die without a valid will (intestate), then state laws will direct the distribution of your property.
- **Power of Attorney** – Gives someone else the authority to manage your affairs when you cannot do so.
- **Bequest** – Gives a gift or property by will.
- **Codicil** – Adds an amendment or addition to an existing will. Charitable gifts can easily be added to wills via codicils.
- **Trust** – Transfers cash or property to a trustee, who manages these assets for the benefit of those entitled to the trust's income or principal. A trust can be set up during your lifetime or in your will.
- **Probate** – Transfers property passing through a will and settles claims through the court. This situation can sometimes be avoided. The larger your estate, the more likely it will be probated.

How?



Give an outright gift

- **Cash** – You can give \$1,000 or more (to become a member of the Legacy Circle) but any size gift through your estate is welcome.
- **Securities** such as stocks or bonds.
- **Life insurance** – You can transfer ownership of a paid-up policy, or a policy on which you are still paying premiums, and name the League as beneficiary. Or, you can take out a new policy for the League's benefit.
- **Qualified retirement plans** (see information in the following section).

Bequests

Gifts through your will can be a particular amount, or a percentage of your estate. There are two types of bequests, either "Contingent" or "In Trust."

Contingent Gifts – Gifts that are contingent will benefit the League only if certain contingencies are met, such as the case of a beneficiary predeceasing you, for example.

Trust Gifts – Gifts that are made in trust provide income to named beneficiaries before going on to benefit the League.



BOARD MEMO



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
MINNESOTA

550 Rice Street • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103
Phone 612-224-5445 • Fax 612-290-2145
lwvmn@mtn.org
<http://freenet.msp.mn.us/ip/pol/lwvmn>

JULY 1999

Mini-Mailing to local League Presidents

We hope you're having a pleasant and restful summer. The enclosures in this mailing will give you a preview of League activities and resources available this fall.

What to do with this mailing:

- *Flyer re Member Open House at LWVMN Office, scheduled for 9/8/99: pass to your membership chair or discuss with your Board; round up a group and join us for a fun and informative evening.
- *Flyer re Benefit Dinner for LWVMNEF on 9/24 featuring Ray Suarez of MPR's "All Things Considered": put in your bulletin; members will receive individual postcards and invitations.
- *Initial Information re October Regional Meetings: topics and tentative locations and dates are included. Note for calendar planning purposes. More information will be mailed to you in August.
- *"How Can LWVMN Help Local Leagues? How Can Local Leagues Help LWVMN?" Discuss with your Board, keep as a resource.
- *Memo and article re LWVMNEF Annual Appeal from Claudia Dieter: pass to your bulletin editor.
- *Subscription form for *Presidents' Mailing* for 1999-2000: order extras for key leaders in your local League—Presidents already receive subscription automatically.
- **Program for Action, 1999-2001*: update of LWVMN program positions; keep on file.
- *Copy of mailing to local League Treasurers: ask your treasurer or membership chair to respond to this request if your League hasn't already done so. We want our membership lists to be as accurate as possible.



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

M I N N E S O T A

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (651) 224-5445 FAX (651) 290-2145

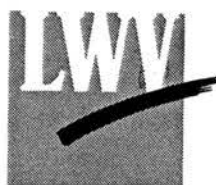
Date: July 30, 1999
To: Local League Presidents
From: Carol Frisch
Membership
Re: Member Open House

In response to requests from some local leagues for support in providing new member orientation, it was decided that LWVMN will hold an open house for any and all members and prospects on Wednesday, September 8 from 4:30 - 7:30 PM at the LWVMN Office and Conference Rooms of the Women's Building, 550 Rice Street, St. Paul. It will be geared to provide general information about membership and specifics about state program, services to local leagues and members, and opportunities for involvement at the state committee level. There will be representatives of membership, agriculture, immigration study circles, program, action, voter service, development, and LWVMN staff.

It will be an informal time to talk with leaders and other members, visit the office, become energized for the fall, and learn more about the League of Women Voters. Light refreshments will be provided. Please call Carol Frisch 612/829-0604, e-mail ckfrisch@aol.com or Laurie Boche 651/224-5445, e-mail lwvmn@mta.org for further information.

Enclosed is a copy ready invitation which you can personalize and send to your new members and prospects. We will be doing an every member postcard invitation in August.

As names of local league membership chairs were received in the LWVMN office I sent a postcard to each one giving them a preview of the above plans. I hope this has enabled some advance notice for other planning. **The date has been changed to September 8** since the postcard went out. Please inform your membership chair of this change. Thank you!



COME TO THIS SPECIAL OPEN HOUSE IN YOUR HONOR!!

LWVMN MEMBERSHIP OPEN HOUSE

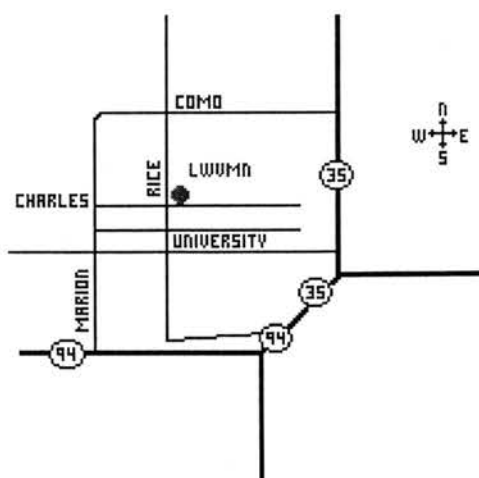
550 Rice Street, St. Paul

Wednesday, September 8, 1999

4:30 – 7:30 PM

Join us for a fun time with LWVMN Board and Staff to get better acquainted with the League and get a perspective on the activities of 1999-2000. You will spend time with neat people, tour the State Office, and enjoy socializing with other members while you get an insider's perspective for the LWV year. Light refreshments, too!

For further information contact:



League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund Public Policy Dinner

"Our New Neighborhood"

Ray Suarez, host of National Public Radio's "Talk of the Nation," and author of *The Old Neighborhood: What We Lost in the Great Suburban Migration*, is our featured speaker.

**Friday,
September 24, 1999**

Cocktails 5:30 p.m.

Dinner 6:30 p.m.

Doubletree Hotel,
7901 24th Ave. S., Bloomington

**Single Tickets: \$60
before August 20th and
\$75 after that day.***

*Purchasers of select tables
of \$1,000, \$1,500, or \$2,000
for 10 persons will receive
special mention in the
program.*

Reservations to
Jo Ann Strachan

Phone: 612-854-6526

Fax: 651-290-2145

Mail: LWVMN Education Fund
c/o Jo Ann Strachan
1875 Meadowview Road
Bloomington, MN 55425

American Express, MasterCard and Visa
accepted.

Checks payable to LWVMNEF.

*Any amount over \$25 per ticket is tax-deductible.



JOIN US FOR 1999 FALL REGIONAL WORKSHOPS*

Red Wing: Saturday, October 2, Lunchtime

Brainerd: Thursday, October 21, Evening

ROMAFH: Saturday, October 30, 10:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.

West Metro Alliance: Evening, date to be announced*

Topics will include:

- **ACTION:** learn how to take effective action in your community and how you can be part of LWVMN and LWVUS lobbying efforts.
- **Making Democracy Work:** hear about some local League programs and initiatives and contribute your own ideas!
- **Agriculture Study:** find out how to prepare your League community for this new LWVMN State Study.
- **How to Use Your Education Fund Money:** walk through the process of how to use your tax deductible contributions to pay for programs and projects that serve your community.
- **Nuts and Bolts:** learn how to be in League without it taking over your life.

*Watch for further information in the August *Presidents' Mailing*.

HOW CAN LWVMN HELP LOCAL LEAGUES?

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota has resources, which are available to local leagues through the Field Service Coordinator, Laurie Boche. If there is something on this list which might be of benefit to your league, let us know.

1. Field Service Coordinator is available for brainstorming, creative problem solving, listening to questions about issues such as non-partisanship; membership recruitment and retention; how to broaden diversity of your League's membership by age, ethnicity, economic status; visibility; how to do a local study; working in coalitions; workload management; ideas for programs and resources; addressing leadership problems.
2. Board training is available. (See President's Notebook, Section VII, 1 for Board Training Opportunities from LWVMN)
3. Assistance with calendar planning for local League year. (See Outlook Calendar for 1999 – 2000 for significant dates, and President's Notebook, Local President's Planning Calendar)
4. Assistance with finding appropriate resources – people, speakers, written materials – from state, other local Leagues and LWVUS.
5. Planning help and assistance with new member orientation, member recruitment and membership events.
6. Field Coordinator can send member information to prospects upon request, and will alert local Leagues to prospects and new members in their areas.
7. Assistance in organizing regional alliances such as the West Metro Leagues, and helps organize new local Leagues or state units.
8. Field Service Coordinator coordinates regional meetings as well as State Convention/Council and ideas are welcome. She can also assist local Leagues in putting together meetings or events.

HOW CAN LOCAL LEAGUES HELP LWVMN?

LWVMN also manages the member-at-large program at the state level, as well as overseeing the membership database and rosters from local Leagues.

1. In order for all of us to better serve League members and the community, local Leagues need to update their rosters regularly and send these changes to LWVMN promptly.
2. Local Leagues can also help by keeping LWVMN informed of their projects so that other Leagues can benefit from your ideas. This can be done by sending in two copies of your *Voter* to the state office, as well as copies of your board minutes.

For help in any of these areas, or if you have other questions or concerns, contact the League office (651) 224-5445, (800) 663-9328, or by e-mail at lwvmn@mtn.org.

TO: Local League Presidents

FROM: Claudia Dieter
Development Assistant/Annual Appeal Coordinator

RE: Voter article

DATE: July 23, 1999

Attached is a suggested article for your Voter introducing and promoting this year's Annual Appeal.

Please forward it on to your Voter editor so that it meets the deadline for your September publication.

Thank you for your assistance and support for the annual campaign for the Education Fund.

1999 ANNUAL APPEAL

Watch your mail! Early October will mark the kick-off of the 1999 League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund's Annual Appeal. Letters are planned to go out the first week of that month requesting your assistance in keeping the Education Fund financially viable.

The State League's Education Fund is the source of funding for critical election year projects such as debates, Voter Information Hotlines and Voter Guides. The Education Fund also supports in depth studies addressing state-wide issues and concerns, such as the most recently completed analysis of the election of judges and the new study on agriculture policies and their impact on the viability of rural communities.

While the League is at its heart a volunteer organization, voter service and citizen education efforts require financial resources. We are asking for your support. When you receive the request we hope that you will pledge what you can.

Remember....contributions to the Education Fund are tax deductible and if you are able to pledge \$50 or more, 25% of your contribution can be directed to your Local League's Education Fund.

BOARD MEMO



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
MINNESOTA

550 Rice Street • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103
Phone 612-224-5445 • Fax 612-290-2145
lwvmn@mtn.org
<http://freenet.msp.mn.us/ip/pol/lwvmn>

TO: Local League Presidents and Board Members
FROM: Judy Duffy, President
RE: Board Memo and DPM subscriptions for 1999-2000
DATE: July 30, 1999

It's time to order your League's subscriptions for Board Memos and DPMs. As local League President, you do not need to order the Board Memo for yourself; however, each local League will receive only two copies of the Board Memo. One is for the use of the President and one will be included in the Presidents' mailing and is to be separated and distributed to other Board members. This is a very important League resource. Please consider entering a subscription for each Board member. As President, you will receive a President's Mailing automatically. **Co-Presidents will also receive a President's Mailing.**

Please list all subscriptions for Board Memo and Duplicate President's Mailing on the spaces below and return the form to the LWVMN office, 550 Rice Street, St. Paul, MN 55103 no later than Aug. 30, 1999.

Board Memo subscriptions cost \$7.50 year for six issues mailed 1st class directly to the subscriber's home. **If a member wishes to receive the Board Memo via e-mail, the cost is \$7.50 (place e-mail address on address line).**

The Duplicate President's Mailing, consisting of Board Memo, selected enclosures and one complimentary copy of each new LWVMN publication, costs \$15/year for six issues. DPMs are **not** available via e-mail.

Subscriptions for 1999-2000:

LWV of _____

Total number of Board Memos ordered _____ x \$7.50 = \$ _____

Total number of additional DPMs ordered _____ x \$15 = \$ _____

Check # _____ in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed.

(Please circle either BM or DPM)

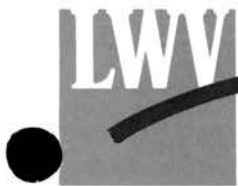
Name & Address or e-mail: _____ BM DPM

Name & Address or e-mail: _____ BM DPM

Name & Address or e-mail: _____ BM DPM

Name & Address or e-mail: _____ BM DPM

Name & Address or e-mail: _____ BM DPM



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS

M I N N E S O T A

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (651) 224-5445 FAX (651) 290-2145

Date: July 14, 1999
To: Local League Treasurer/Membership Contact
From: Sally Sawyer
Executive Director
LWVMN
Re: Database Update Project

Greetings! Enclosed please find a list of your local league's current membership, according to our database at the state office. We are currently working on a thorough update of our membership database. The more accurate our records are, the better we can serve you and your local league.

Please look over your league's membership list carefully and return it with any corrected or additional information. **Please return the corrected list to the state league office by August 15.** We're hoping to have this project completed before the summer comes to a close.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please call the League office at 651/224-5445. Thank you for your cooperation with this endeavor!

cc: Local League President



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
MINNESOTA

Program for Action 1999-2001

A Summary of Positions of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
LEAGUE PRINCIPLES	2
PROGRAM AT A GLANCE	
LWVMN	2
LWVUS	4
CRIMINAL JUSTICE	
Judiciary	6
Corrections	6
Selection of Judges	7
EDUCATION	
Equal Opportunity	8
Financing of Education	8
Collective Bargaining and Tenure	8
Library Funding	9
GOVERNMENT	
Citizen Rights	10
Policy on Reproductive Choices	10
Election Laws	11
Campaign Practices	11
Open Meetings and Records	12
Organization of Government	13
Initiative, Referendum and Recall	13
Financing State Government	14
Government Spending	15
FIREARMS	16
NATURAL RESOURCES	
Water Resources	17
Air Quality	18
Solid Waste	18
Land Use	18
SOCIAL POLICY	
Equal Opportunity	19
Family and Child Issues	20
Family Violence	20
Child Support	20
Child Protection	20
Child Health	20
Child Care	20
Teen Pregnancy	21
Housing	21
Health Care	21
Mental Health	21
Prevention of Violence	22
Alcohol and Tobacco Use	22

Program: Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL	25
HOUSING	25
HEALTH	25
FUNDING/FINANCING	26
Fiscal Disparities	26
Financing Metropolitan Services	26
SCHOOL INTEGRATION/DESEGREGATION	26
HOUSING/HEALTH CARE FOR THE AGING	26
LAND USE AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY	27
Environment	27
Solid Waste	27
TRANSPORTATION	28
COUNTY GOVERNMENT	28

INTRODUCTION

To the League of Women Voters, *Program* means those issues chosen by the members for study and action. At each level of the League--national, state or local--Program includes items adopted for current study, and carefully worded, study-based consensus positions which lead to action.

State Program is selected by League of Women Voters of Minnesota (LWVMN) members in individual units through proposals to their local boards of directors, who send the proposals to the state Board. The state Board then formulates a recommended Program of old, new and/or amended items consisting of those most frequently mentioned. All items, whether recommended or not, may be discussed, amended and adopted or rejected at the biennial state Convention.

Following adoption of the Program, research committees are formed to prepare study information on new items. In small units and at large meetings, members weigh the pros and cons of issues to reach consensus on each study item. The state Board receives the consensus reports from the local Leagues, determines areas of agreement, and formulates position statements. Only after consensus is reached and a position is formed can League take action. The state Board also evaluates specific legislation and decides what action should be taken. There are two kinds of action: 1) developing public support for League positions; 2) supporting specific measures and policies which promote a League position or opposing those which threaten it. The process works similarly for the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL), except that the Program items have regional significance and are chosen and studied by members in the metropolitan area.

Leagues at all levels may "concur" with a position of another League either within Minnesota or in another state. A possible concurrence study is considered at state Convention in the same manner as any other Program item. Study materials developed for the original study may be used and are supplemented by the committee overseeing the concurrence study. The LWVMN position on Prevention of Violence, for example, was originally adopted by the LWV-Minneapolis and concurred with by Leagues throughout the state.

Included in this booklet are summaries of the 1999-2001 Programs of the LWVMN, of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS), and of the CMAL, which consists of the local Leagues in the seven-county Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area. For each LWVMN Program item on which a position has been reached, you will find:

- a summary of the position, along with a brief statement of the relevant LWVUS position, if there is one (all in boldface);
- details of the LWVMN position, including the date when consensus was reached on each section; and
- a history of League and governmental action on the topic.

LWVMN positions have been grouped according to LWVUS classifications: Social Policy, Natural Resources and Government. Exceptions to these groups are Education and Criminal Justice, which LWVMN retains as separate categories. To emphasize the fact that the state League often acts on national positions, summary statements of LWVUS positions have been included where appropriate. For more complete information on the Program of the League of Women Voters of the United States, the reader should see *Impact on Issues*, 1998-2000 (Publication No. 386, LWVUS, 1730 M Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036, \$5.00 plus postage and handling).

League members throughout the state promote public support for positions by talking with legislators and community leaders; attending precinct caucuses and participating in the political process; and using the media, public meetings and personal contacts to tell their story. Local Leagues may take action themselves if the action is consistent with national, state and/or CMAL positions; their membership is informed and in general agreement; and, when the action affects other Leagues, they confer prior to taking action.

The state Board takes official action in the name of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. This action may consist of writing letters, personal lobbying of members of the Legislature or executive agencies, testimony at legislative hearings, holding press conferences, or any other measure deemed useful by the Board. Individual Leaguers speak for themselves only and not as League members unless directed to do so by state, national or local League boards.

The League of Women Voters strongly endorses citizen involvement in the political process. It encourages League members to participate in the political party of their choice. The League itself is nonpartisan; LWV, as an organization, does not support candidates or political parties. State Board members are restricted to low-level partisan political activities and may not run for party-designated public office.

LEAGUE PRINCIPLES

In addition to the items adopted for LWVUS and LWVMN Programs, League Principles may be the basis for state and local League actions. The Principles have served two functions according to LWVUS Bylaws: 1) as authorization for adoption of national, state and local Program, and 2) as a basis for taking action at the national, state and local levels. Action to implement the Principles is authorized by the appropriate League board once it determines that member understanding and agreement exist and that the action is appropriate.

League Principles are as follows:

- The League of Women Voters believes in representative government and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States.
- The League of Women Voters believes that democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens and requires that governmental bodies protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.
- The League of Women Voters believes that every citizen should be protected in the right to vote; that every person should have access to free public education which provides equal opportunity for all; and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic or administrative discrimination.
- The League of Women Voters believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government.
- The League of Women Voters believes that responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people; should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation; promote the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest; share in the solution of economic and social problems that effect the general welfare; promote a sound economy; and adopt domestic policies that facilitate the solution of international problems.
- The League of Women Voters believes that cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solutions to world problems, and that the development of international organization and international law is imperative in the promotion of world peace.

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

Program Adopted by League of Women Voters of Minnesota

I. CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Judiciary: Support of a judicial system with the capacity to assure a speedy trial and equal justice for all.

Corrections: Support of a correctional system responsive to the needs of the individual offender and of society. Support of sentencing decisions based on circumstances in relation to the crime, the offender and the effect on public safety, made by the judge within legislative guidelines.

Selection of Judges: Support present system of selection and retention of appellate and district judges with certain modifications. Oppose allowing candidates to accept and use endorsement by political parties.

II. EDUCATION

Equal Opportunity: Support of increased state responsibility in creating equal public educational opportunities for all Minnesota children through measures to correct racial imbalance and insure adequate financing of public schools.

Financing of Education: Support of equal access to a good public education for all Minnesota children. State funding for education should be at a level that makes programs of comparable substance and quality available to all. A student's access to a good education should not depend on the wealth of his or her school district.

Collective Bargaining and Tenure: Support of improvements in the collective bargaining and tenure laws of the state as they apply to K-12 teachers only.

Library Funding: Support for increased and restructured funding for public libraries.

III. GOVERNMENT

Citizen Rights: Support of improvements in election laws regulating election procedures, voting and school district elections. Support of improvements in election laws regulating campaign practices.

Organization of Government: Support of improved structure and procedures for the Minnesota Legislature and Executive Branch; support of an improved process for amending the Minnesota Constitution; support of regular and equitable reapportionment based substantially on population of congressional districts and of all elected state and local governmental bodies.

Initiative, Referendum and Recall: Support of the continuation of legislative initiative and compulsory voter referendum on constitutional amendments; and support voter approval by a majority of those voting on the question.

Oppose most forms of voter initiative and referendum and recall of members of the legislature and state constitutional officers.

Oppose term limits for members of the legislature and state constitutional officers.

Financing State Government: Support of a balanced and diversified revenue system which relies on broad-based taxes and user fees. Support of an evaluation of all individual revenue sources to determine if it is competitive with other states, efficient, equitable, progressive, reliable, responsive and simple. Support of a broad-based sales tax with exemptions for essential items. Support of an equitable property tax as the primary source of financing services provided by local governments and a partial funding for education. Support of a corporation franchise tax competitive with other states. Support of achieving social goals through open and visible expenditures rather than by granting deductions, exclusions and credits. Support of the principle that state legislation mandating local government action should identify sources of revenue. Support of long-term financial management, budget projections and budget reserve.

State Government Spending: Belief that a long-term vision as well as immediate concerns should guide state spending decisions. Support of the following broad goals, in order of priority: provide high-quality K-12 educational opportunities; provide basic level of health and human services; protect natural resources; encourage economic self-sufficiency; provide for public safety; provide high-quality post-secondary educational opportunities; and preserve open spaces. Support of the use of specific criteria when faced with the need to limit spending, i.e. curtailing subsidies for sports teams and convention centers, maintenance of existing infrastructure over increased infrastructure, tax relief targeted to low-income households and providing services first to the most needy.

Firearms: Action to support restrictions on the sale, possession and use of firearms by private parties in the state of Minnesota. Opposition to an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution granting an individual right to bear arms. Support for the ability of local municipalities to regulate ownership and possession of firearms and ammunition more strictly than state law allows.

IV. NATURAL RESOURCES

Water Resources: Support of a state role in the preservation and management of Minnesota's water resources through protection, allocation, conservation, pricing and interbasin transfer policies protective of Minnesota's current and future needs.

Solid Waste: Support of measures to reduce generation of solid waste and ensure safe treatment, storage and disposal of all wastes.

Air Quality: Support measures to reduce air pollution from vehicular and stationary sources.

Land Use: Support of an overall land use plan with maximum cooperation and implementation at the regional and local levels, with state help in developing and exercising land use management, with opportunity for maximum local decision making, and with regional planning and regulation for matters of more than local concern.

V. SOCIAL POLICY

Equal Opportunity: Support of policies to insure equality of opportunity in employment, real property, public accommodations, education and other public services for all persons. Support of administrative enforcement of antidiscrimination laws. Support of state responsibility for and responsiveness to Indian citizens

FAMILY ISSUES

Family Violence: Support for improved procedures for agencies dealing with family violence; support for improved services for the victims.

Child Support: Support of stricter enforcement of court-ordered child support payments.

Child Protection: Support of adequate staffing and resources for child protection services.

Child Health: Support access to comprehensive prenatal and child health care.

Child Care: Support of coordinated public policies and funding to ensure safe, affordable, quality child care throughout the state.

Teen Pregnancy: Support prevention efforts to lower the rate of teenage pregnancy.

Housing: The League believes that all people have a right to housing. The public and private sectors should work together to ensure that everyone has access to adequate, decent, affordable housing. Support an active state role in providing long-term decent and affordable housing for very low-, low-, and moderate-income households. Support of incentives to local units of government to promote a mix of housing opportunities. Support of disincentives to local units of government that do not promote a mix of housing opportunities. Support of

revision of the tax system to narrow the tax disparity between rental and owner-occupied residential property; reduction of the tax rate on rental property available to very low-, low-, and moderate-income households; encouragement of maintenance of rental property available to very low-, low-, and moderate-income households.

Mental Health: Support of a comprehensive and coordinated system of programs and services for mentally ill adults and emotionally disturbed children and adolescents (hereafter referred to as "persons with mental illness"). Priority should be given to persons with serious and persistent mental illness and/or acute mental illness. Minnesota public policy and funding should sustain an array of community-based services which are available and accessible to persons with mental illness. Administration of that policy should provide clients with appropriate and adequate services.

Violence Prevention: Support for violence prevention programs in Minnesota.

Alcohol and Tobacco Use: Support statutes, ordinances, enforcement efforts and public funding designed to promote chemical health and reduce illegal use of alcohol and tobacco.

Support educational programs to improve chemical health and prevent illegal use of tobacco and alcohol starting in elementary school and continuing in middle and high school.

Program Adopted by League of Women Voters of the United States

I. GOVERNMENT

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable, and responsive; that has a fair and adequate fiscal basis; that protects individual liberties established by the Constitution; that assures opportunities for citizen participation in government decision making; that provides sound agricultural policy; and that preserves public health and safety through gun control measures.

Agricultural Policy

Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.

Citizen Rights

Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation:

Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision making.

Individual Liberties

Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

Public Policy on Reproductive Choices

Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

Congress and the Presidency

Congress: Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision-making capability and effective performance.

The Presidency: Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation

Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and representation in both houses of Congress.

Election Process

Apportionment: Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.

Campaign Finance: Improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process.

Election of the President: Promote the election of the President and Vice-president by direct popular vote and work to abolish the electoral college; support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections.

Fiscal Policy

Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax; promote responsible deficit policies; support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability and health insurance.

Gun Control

Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons.

Voting Rights

Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.

II. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Promote peace in an interdependent world by cooperating with other nations, strengthening international organizations, fostering long-term development, negotiating arms control measures and encouraging the successful resolution of conflicts through nonmilitary means.

Arms Control

Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

Military Policy and Defense Spending

Work to limit reliance on military force; examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

Trade

Support systematic reduction of tariff and nontariff trade barriers and support broad long-range presidential authority to negotiate trade agreements.

United Nations

Support measures to strengthen the United Nations, in recognition of the need for cooperation among nations in an interdependent world.

U.S. Relations with Developing Countries

Promote US policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.

III. NATURAL RESOURCES

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest by recognizing the interrelationships of air quality, energy, land use, waste management and water resources.

Resource Management

Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.

Environmental Protection and Pollution Control

Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with the maximum protection of the public health and environment.

Public Participation

Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.

IV. SOCIAL POLICY

Promote social and economic justice, secure equal rights for all, achieve universal health care coverage at reasonable cost, promote the well being of children, and combat discrimination, poverty and violence.

Child Care

Support programs, services and policies at all levels of government to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.

Early Intervention for Children at Risk

Support policies and programs that promote the well being, development and safety of all children.

Equality of Opportunity

Support equal access to education, employment and housing. Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.

Health Care

Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of care for all US residents and controls health care costs.

Meeting Basic Human Needs

Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

Urban Policy

Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.

Violence Prevention

Support violence prevention programs in all communities.

Whatever the issue, the League believes that government policy, programs and performance must meet these criteria:

- **competent personnel with clear responsibilities;**
- **coordination among agencies and levels of government;**
- **adequate financing;**
- **effective enforcement;**
- **well defined channels for citizen input and review.**

For more complete information on the Program of LWVUS, see Impact on Issues, 1996-98 (Publication No. 386, LWVUS, 1730 M St. NW, Washington DC 20036, \$5.00 plus postage and handling).

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

JUDICIARY

LWVMN Position: Support of a judicial system with the capacity to assure a speedy trial and equal justice for all.

Details

Support of:

- administrative reforms that expedite justice: establishment of a unified court system, an intermediate appellate court, and procedures to strengthen and streamline judicial administration; additional staff for prosecution, public defenders and legal services when such needs are established; statewide guidelines on bail-fixing process; standardization of forms and procedures; use of technology in administration; use of juries in civil cases only by request.
- methods to improve judicial quality: a nonpartisan selection with a commission to propose names for all appointments to the bench; mandatory training for all judges; adequate salary increases for judges and related revision of retirement benefits.
- procedural reforms that ensure individual rights and access to due process of law: reform of bail process to recognize methods other than monetary to ensure appearance of accused at trial; strict guarantees to ensure protection of the defendant and society in the use of plea bargaining; sentencing alternatives; methods to reduce disparity in sentencing; no-fault divorce procedure using irremediable differences as grounds for dissolution; guarantees to witnesses in grand jury proceedings re: counsel in proceedings, availability of information to defense counsel and restrictions on waiving immunity in later trials; retention of age 18 for persons under jurisdiction of juvenile court; mandatory first appearance in juvenile court for all persons under jurisdiction of such court; requirement for formal transcript of commitment hearings with a rule or regulation protecting privacy of such records.
- the development of community alternatives as an adjunct to the judicial system: alternatives for sentencing; alternatives for handling behavior now defined as "status offenses" and "social (or victimless) crimes." (1973)

CORRECTIONS

LWVMN Position: Support of a correctional system responsive to the needs of the individual offender and of society. Support of sentencing decisions based on circumstances in relation to the crime, the offender and the effect on public safety, made by the judge within legislative guidelines.

Adult Corrections Position Details

Support of:

- correctional options which will protect society from the offender.
- provision for a continuum of correctional options available according to the needs of the individual offender. The continuum should range from maximum security to facilities and services in the community.
- treatment and rehabilitative programs for all offenders. Among the programs should be those of mental health, education, job preparation, employment assistance and counseling. There should be appropriate incentives to encourage offender participation in programs.
- recognition of the offender as an individual with basic human rights commensurate with constitutional rights except as necessary for the protection of offenders and society. These rights include, but are not limited to, healthful conditions and due process.
- ongoing programs of evaluation and research as an aid in setting program priorities. Included within the scope of the program are need identification, data collection and retrievability, and the use of scientific methods in designing the evaluation plan.
- education programs aimed at increasing citizen knowledge and awareness of all facets of corrections.
- up-to-date personnel procedures including, but not limited to, training, compensations plans, grievance procedures. (1975)

Juvenile Justice Position Details

Support of:

- a program of evaluation of the juvenile justice system in Minnesota.
- continual evaluation of all existing programs for juveniles and their families funded and/or used by public agencies.
- the availability of a complete continuum of services for troubled, delinquent, abused and neglected youth and their families. This includes quality community-based corrections in all geographic areas as an alternative to the traditional institutional setting in an attempt to assure the most successful rehabilitation and prevent further offenses. It does not deny the value of secure institutional treatment for some. We define quality as including proper supervision, standards, inspections and screening of residents.
- maximum effort directed toward finding adequate alternatives to detention, juvenile court processes and institutionalization.
- diversion of juveniles to community alternatives from the formal judicial process at all levels.

- the consideration of confidentiality in efforts to coordinate services for juveniles.
- constitutional protections for juveniles equal to those for adults, including due process of law, and protection from invasion of privacy and unwarranted removal from their families. (1975)

Sentencing Position Details

Support of:

- a presumptive sentencing model, but not indeterminate sentencing, the presumptive sentencing model to be fixed by administrative or judicial staff.
- consideration of mitigating and/or aggravating circumstances.
- the use of diversion and contracts between offenders and authorities.
- sentencing based on both the seriousness of the crime and the needs of the offender.
- sentencing taking into consideration:
 - ⇒ the need for drug counseling;
 - ⇒ whether the offender has a marketable skill;
 - ⇒ academic training of the offender;
 - ⇒ need for psychiatric treatment;
 - ⇒ restitution when appropriate;
 - ⇒ the availability of a residence and/or employment;
 - ⇒ resolution of the causative situation.

No consensus was reached on plea bargaining, sentence length, time off for good behavior, or determinate or legislatively-fixed models. (1976)

SELECTION OF JUDGES

LWVMN Position: LWVMN supports the present system of selection and retention of appellate and district court judges with certain modifications. LWVMN strongly opposes allowing candidates for appellate and district judge to accept and use endorsements by political parties.

Details Selection of Judges

- A candidate for judge at the appellate or district court level should have at least five years experience as a practicing attorney;
- The state government should be required to publish voter information on all candidates running for judicial office;
- The governor should be required to appoint appellate and district court judges from among the nominees provided by the selection commission;

- LWVMN strongly favors retaining the incumbency designation on judicial ballots. (1999)

HISTORY OF STATE ACTION

Judiciary: In 1971-72 Local Leagues observed the various levels of the Minnesota court system and studied their constitutional and statutory requirements. Consensus was reached in March 1973. In 1982 the Legislature passed a proposed constitutional amendment for a new state court of appeals. League lobbied successfully for the passage of this amendment, and enabling legislation was passed in 1983. League action continues to emphasize court unification, alternatives for handling behavior now defined as "status offenses" and "social (or victimless) crimes," guarantees of protection to witnesses in grand jury proceedings, and support of community alternatives as an adjunct to the judiciary system.

The League adopted at the 1997 convention a study of the election of judges in Minnesota. The goal of the study is to examine the present system and look at alternative proposals for appointing judges. The study will educate League members in how the system now functions and how it might be improved.

Corrections: In 1973-74 League examined correctional institutions, programs and personnel on the local, county and state levels. The adult corrections consensus and concurrence with the consensus of the LWV of Minneapolis on juvenile corrections were reached in the spring of 1975. After the 1981 state Convention passed a call to action urging immediate funding for a new Minnesota Correctional Institution for Women, League lobbied in support of it during the 1983 legislative session, and a bonding bill was passed providing for funding of a new facility.

LWVMN members have lobbied in favor of uniform standards and equal treatment of prisoners in all county jails. They have also lobbied for support of the mutual agreement program, a greater use of community corrections, frequent and regular evaluations, drug education programs, consideration of physical or psychological disorders when specifying treatment or work expectations, the concept of inmate rights, preventive programs for juveniles and corrective training.

Sentencing: Aware that sentencing was likely to be an issue in the 1977 Legislature, the LWVMN Corrections Committee asked for a mini-study and consensus on sentencing in fall 1976. Members supported presumptive sentencing, under which the Legislature would set minimum and maximum outer limits and a "presumed" sentence somewhere in between. The judge could vary the sentence within the limits, based on mitigating or aggravating circumstances defined by the Legislature.

Committee members monitored the progress of bills on determinate sentencing during the 1976-77 legislative session, while the Legislature continued to study the matter before recommending changes in Minnesota's indeterminate system. The 1978 Legislature passed a "guideline" determinate sentencing law which calls for a specified sentence based on the crime, allowing a 15% variance. The law created a ten-member commission appointed by the Governor to set the guidelines which became effective in July 1980. The League testified in favor of those portions of this law consistent with our position and did not support or oppose the rest of the provisions.

EDUCATION

(See Social Policy section for additional positions.)

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

LWVMN Position: Support of increased state responsibility in creating equal public educational opportunities for all Minnesota children through measures to correct racial imbalance.

Details

- Support of correction of racial imbalance in the schools. The state should have the power to investigate, to set and enforce standards, and to give extra financial help to achieve these standards. (1967)

FINANCING OF EDUCATION

LWVMN Position: All Minnesota children should have equal access to a good public education. State funding for education should be at a level that makes programs of comparable substance and quality available to all. A student's access to a good education should not depend on the wealth of his or her school district.

Details

Support of:

- the concept of the foundation formula program (general education revenue). Any revisions in the current education financing system should support:
 - ⇒ provision of adequate funding to meet the real costs of education (1983); until the State of Minnesota can ensure consistent and adequate funding of education throughout the state, the LWVMN supports the continuation of local excess referendum levies to raise additional money from property taxes; (1991)
 - ⇒ state funding of the following cost differences between students: pupil unit weighting, poverty, special education for various handicapping conditions, gifted and language differences (ESL and LEP); (1991)
 - ⇒ state funding of the following cost differences between school districts: scarcity, training and experience, desegregation and transportation; (1991)
 - ⇒ using the income tax as the mainstay of school funding; (1983)
 - ⇒ encouragement of financial efficiencies; (1983)
 - ⇒ requiring school districts to raise money from property taxes for building construction and debt service with local bond referendum levies. Such expenditures must be approved by the state Department of Education; (1991)
 - ⇒ allowing local districts to raise a limited amount of additional funds for supplemental programs through

local levies, to maintain local choice and ensure local accountability; (1983)

- ⇒ reorganization of school districts with extremely low enrollments; (1983)
- ⇒ the gradual phasing out of supplemental revenue; (1991)
- ⇒ maintaining most social and recreational services now offered at schools but seek alternative funding sources for many. (1983)

Opposition to:

- continuation of the current Minnesota private school tuition tax deduction; (1983)
- state funding of cost of living differences between districts. (1991)

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND TENURE

LWVMN Position: Support of improvements in the collective bargaining and tenure laws of the state as they apply to K-12 teachers only.

Details

Support of:

- collective bargaining for teachers, with changes in Minnesota's collective bargaining law to:
 - ⇒ require that teacher bargaining agents and school boards publish first offers and all subsequent written offers during the negotiations.
 - ⇒ require that arbitrators hearing teacher contracts know school law and procedures.
 - ⇒ allow a limited number of school board bargaining strategy sessions that are closed to the public.
- the present bargaining law provision that allows parties to negotiations in each district to determine for themselves which items they consider negotiable. If necessary, the district court would make the final decision.
- the school board as the representative of the public in the negotiation process. Neither parent-community advisory committees nor representatives on the negotiation team should be required by the state.
- Tenure/Continuing Contract laws for teachers, with changes in the current state law to:
 - ⇒ require periodic review and evaluation of tenured teachers' performance, leading to remedial help when indicated.
 - ⇒ retain teacher probationary periods, but lengthen the probation period of Continuing Contract teachers. (Continuing Contract does not apply to first class cities.)
 - ⇒ require school boards to consider factors in addition to order of employment when they must make staff dismissals due to reduction of positions. Such factors include recent teaching experience in the field of certification, program needs of the

district, and special expertise of the individual faculty member.

- retention of state laws defining fair dismissal procedures. (1978)

LWVMN does not support extension of the right to strike.

LWVMN opposes *mandatory* negotiation of procedures for reducing staff.

LIBRARY FUNDING

LWVMN Position: Support for increased and restructured funding for public libraries.

Details

Support of:

- increased funding of Minnesota public libraries by means of a combination of substantial local funding, an increase in state funding, and a moderate increase in special-purpose federal funding. LWVMN considers the 1978 funding proportions--85% local government, 6% other local funds, 6% state, 3% federal--to be inequitable in that funding depends predominantly on the local property tax.
- substantial local funding (more than the 30% proposed by the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science (NCLIS) but less than the current 91%), in the belief that local control ensures sensitivity to local needs.
- an increased level and greater proportion of state funding for public libraries (but not to the 50% proposed by NCLIS), believing that public libraries, like public schools, share significantly in the education of the state's citizens.
- an increased level and moderately increased proportion of federal funding for public libraries (but less than the 20% proposed by NCLIS).
- distribution of state and federal funds to Minnesota public library systems according to a formula based largely on population, but also taking into account square miles of area served and the inverse of assessed adjusted valuation, so as to achieve the most equitable and satisfactory distribution of funds.
- four goals of the Minnesota Long Range Plan for Library Service, ranked as follows: (1) making services accessible to all citizens; (2) fostering a system of shared resources; (3) developing multi-county regional systems; (4) establishing libraries in areas without them.
- the sharing of resources; using trained and supervised volunteers; and charging fees for time-consuming research and special materials, programs, equipment and services.

LWVMN opposes cutting services and/or hours. (1979)

HISTORY OF STATE ACTION

Equal Opportunity: In 1966, in conjunction with the national study of Human Resources, LWVMN examined equality of opportunity in education in Minnesota. LWVMN supported the consolidation of the state's 850 common school districts (those not having a high school), the State Board of Education's efforts to achieve racial balance, and increased transportation aid to achieve that goal.

In 1980 LWVMN published What's the Score in Minnesota, a project to monitor equality of opportunity for women in athletics in public schools. In 1995 and 1996 LWVMN joined several other organizations in a letter to the Legislature opposing making danceline an interscholastic sport.

LWVMN supported the 1985 legislation which introduced student/parent enrollment choice for 11th and 12th graders, based on the League's support of equal access to education and increased state responsibility in creating equal public educational opportunities. In 1988 we supported expansion of the program statewide and to all students providing there were safeguards to assure compliance with desegregation plans.

In 1993 LWVMN lobbied in support of maintaining measurable standards to determine racial imbalance. LWVMN opposed the wholesale repeal of many education rules and mandates which was proposed during the 1993 session. We urged an interim review to assure that no loss of equality of opportunity resulted. We continued to support human relations training for school staff and programs for health and violence prevention. Legislative rules that we advocated retaining included gender equity in sports and the Inclusive Educational Program Rule which requires each school district to create a plan for multicultural, gender-fair, disability-sensitive curriculum. The League was instrumental in developing the latter rule.

Finance: During the 1971 legislative session, many League positions supported the education finance statute: the shift from local property tax to increased state aid for support of local operating costs; change to use of average daily membership for computing state aids; increased AFDC pupil payments in districts with relatively high proportions of these children; expansion of handicapped aids to include trainable mentally retarded children. Later, a graduated scale of payments as numbers of AFDC students rose, increased support of the cost of educating handicapped students (including the learning disabled), and the formation of the Council on Quality Education were enacted with LWVMN support.

The 1976 consensus enabled LWVMN support of legislation which helped offset the cost of enrollment fluctuation. In 1979, LWVMN, working with a broad-based coalition, lobbied successfully for state aids for gifted and talented students.

Since the 1983 consensus on financing education, LWVMN has closely monitored changes in the school finance formula. We supported the creation of the "training and experience index" as a way of recognizing the cost of mature and highly trained staff. In 1989 we supported expanding the index to apply to all districts.

In 1987 the legislature combined many formerly categorical aids into a general revenue formula. LWVMN expressed concern that attention to programs such as gifted and talented would be lost without the dedicated funds. We have urged local Leagues to monitor the impact of the new formula on local programs.

LWVMN opposed a limited demonstration voucher plan which could be used for private or independent schools because of our concern that use of public money for private K-12 education erodes the financial support of public education. In 1996 the LWVMN actively opposed school vouchers for K-12 education; the League believes the focus of state resources should be on continuing to improve the system that serves all children.

During the 1989 session LWVMN supported the Alliance for Commitment to Education in their proposal for school funding. We opposed shifting more of the burden for the cost of special education onto the local districts as proposed in the Governor's budget. During the Special Session called in September 1989 to consider property tax reform, LWVMN supported the increased state responsibility for school funding as a way to assure less reliance on local property wealth for school programs.

Financing education was restudied in 1991 and the consensus updated. During the 1991 session the LWVMN's goal was to support funding at an adequate level. We also supported supplemental funding to correct racial imbalance. We opposed funding alternative education in non-sectarian schools. In 1992 we supported the American Indian post-secondary grants and the school breakfast program.

The League lobbied in 1997 in support of legislation to expand programs for reading readiness. The bill required early reading instruction to be a mandatory part of curriculum for teacher candidates and provided challenge grants to schools for early intervention reading instruction. The legislation was rolled into the Omnibus Education Finance bill.

The 1997 bill was vetoed by the Governor because it did not include his requested increase in tax deductions and tax credit for education expenses. The League contacted the Governor urging him to sign the bill. A special session convened in June 1997 passed a bill including tax credits and doubling deductions for private school tuition.

In 1998 LWVMN opposed a proposed voucher plan for students in K-12. The plan did not pass. The 1999 legislative session considered abolishing the Profiles of Learning which LWVMN cautioned would be a retreat from meaningful statewide standards. The proposal failed.

Library Funding: In 1985 LWVMN supported increased funding for public libraries in Minnesota and supported the four goals of the Minnesota Long range Plan for library services.

GOVERNMENT

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable, responsive; that has a fair and adequate fiscal basis; that protects individual liberties established by the Constitution; that assures opportunities for citizen participation in government decision making; that provides sound agriculture policies; and that preserves public health and safety through gun control measures.

I. CITIZEN RIGHTS

LWVUS Position: Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate participation in government decision making. (1974, 1976)

PUBLIC POLICY ON REPRODUCTIVE CHOICES

LWVUS Position: Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices. (1983)

HISTORY OF STATE ACTION

Citizen Rights: In 1995 the LWVMN was a member of the Information Access Policy Discussion group which sponsored legislation to make it easier to access information via the rapidly emerging cable and phone line technology.

In 1996 LWVMN was very involved in a debate to continue the dual-track airport planning process so that citizen groups could provide input to the decision process. Legislation to abort the process was successful, despite League efforts.

Public Policy on Reproductive Choice: LWVMN has worked in coalitions to monitor state developments on reproductive choice. Following the July 1989 U. S. Supreme Court decision on *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services*, LWVMN participated in a news conference expressing concerns about the effect of restrictions on abortion services and the resulting patchwork of public policy as states enact dissimilar policies. In the fall of 1989 LWVMN became a member of the MN Alliance for Choice, encouraging local League members to help with a Choice Attitude Survey conducted by Planned Parenthood of Minnesota.

During the 1990 legislative session LWVMN focused on opposing legislation which would have made abortions illegal in Minnesota. During the 1991 session, League worked with the Alliance for Choice to emphasize preventing unintended pregnancies and reducing the abortion rate in Minnesota as set forth in the Minnesota Women's Consortium's Prevention, Not Prohibition campaign. This campaign was rated as an effective advocacy and educational tool.

The 1992 session offered the opportunity to lobby for the Family Planning Special Services Grant which increased funding to low-income people for abortions.

During the 1993 session LWVMN worked to pass the health clinic access bill assuring the right of unimpeded approach and departure from abortion clinics. In 1994 League's efforts were focused on ensuring that abortion and other reproductive services were included in the health care reform bill and opposing legislation intended to place restrictions on the right to abortion.

In 1995 the League was involved in deleting an amendment called the Woman's Right to Know from the Welfare Reform Bill. During the 1996 session the LWVMN closely tracked over 35 anti-choice bills waiting to attach as amendments to other legislation. Efforts to limit reproductive choice were proposed in both 1998 and 1999. LWVMN lobbied successfully against these proposals which were attached to important bills.

ELECTION LAWS

LWVUS Position: Promote the election of the President and Vice-president by direct popular vote and abolish the electoral college; support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. (1970, 1976)

LWVMN Position: Support of improvements in election laws regulating election procedures, voting and school district elections.

Details

Support of:

- centralized responsibility in the state government for achieving uniform election procedures and for training election officials. (1961)
- extension of mandatory voter registration prior to election day to cover more voters through inclusion of more municipalities through county-wide registration, or through state-wide registration. (1961)
- extension of election laws to cover school district elections, including uniform, mandatory voter registration. (1972)
- rotation of names of candidates for the same office on ballots. (1972)

HISTORY OF STATE ACTION

Election Laws: LWVMN began studying election laws in 1957. LWVMN supported a bill passed by the 1977 Legislature which provides for the mandatory training of election judges.

In 1973 an Omnibus Registration Bill passed with LWVMN support. This bill centralized responsibility for registration rules and regulations with the Secretary of State, established state-wide registration procedures, required counties to maintain permanent registration lists, and permitted postcard and election day registration. The League supported legislation in 1983 to facilitate absentee voting by requiring the county auditor's office to be open on the Saturday afternoon and Monday evening prior to a primary or general election.

In 1995 the League was asked to provide testimony on elections to the Election Division of the House General Legislation, Veterans Affairs and Elections Committee. The League testified on what is right and wrong with the current election process and the general position on elections and the campaign process. The Growe Commission, an 18-member bipartisan commission of which LWVMN President, Kay Erickson, was a member, published its report on Electoral Reform.

During the 1995 session the League testified in support of appropriating money to produce and mail 3 voter guides: to the caucus, to the primary and to the general election. The League assured the legislators that such guides can be produced in a non-partisan way, in a manner similar to our production of voter guides, and offered to produce the guides. Unfortunately, funding was not forthcoming.

In 1996 the LWVMN supported an unsuccessful attempt to authorize mail ballots in special elections for the increased accessibility to the voting process it provides in elections with traditionally low voter turnout.

School District Election Laws: League members reached consensus in 1972 and lobbied for a bill which passed in 1973, simplifying absentee balloting, requiring rotation of candidates' names on non-partisan ballots, and forbidding election day campaigning or solicitation of votes within 100 feet of a polling place.

Presidential Primary: In 1991 the League supported adding a presidential primary in addition to caucuses and supported a bill to clarify issues of candidate withdrawal to help elections be more "voter friendly." A primary was held in 1992, with League support and involvement at the polls. However, due to an insufficient voter turnout a primary was not held in 1996.

Term Limits: LWVUS Convention 1992 adopted a motion "to amend the Government position of the LWVUS national program to allow state and local Leagues to use national positions and principles to take action against term limits for state or local officeholders." At the January 1993 Board meeting, LWVMN voted to oppose term limits for the legislative branch of Minnesota state government. LWVMN in 1994 established an "opposition to legislative term limits fund" and worked in coalition with such organizations as Common Cause, AFL-CIO, League of Minnesota Cities and MEA to successfully oppose the placement of a term limits measure on the ballot.

In 1995 the League voiced its strong opposition to both national and state efforts to adopt term limits legislation. As an alternative to term limits, the League supported successful legislation to rotate committee chairs. Limiting the number of years a member can be chair allows new ideas.

Handicapped Access to Precinct Caucuses and Conventions: During the 1989 Legislative session LWVMN worked with other groups to enact a measure which requires handicapped access to party conventions and requires that convention and caucus materials be available to the visually impaired.

Permanent Absentee Voter Status: During the 1990 session LWVMN supported the enactment of a bill providing for permanent absentee voter status for eligible voters who are permanently unable to go to the polling place on election day due to illness or disability.

CAMPAIGN PRACTICES

LWVUS Position: Action to improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process. (1973)

LWVMN Position: Support of improvements in election laws regulating campaign practices.

Details

Support of:

- the public's right to comprehensive disclosure of all political campaign contributions and expenditures: mandatory, timely, uniform and complete reports of campaign contributions and expenditures should be made to a central authority responsible for disseminating such information to the public; responsibility for reporting contributions to the candidate's campaign and for reporting expenditures

by the candidate and those made on the candidate's behalf rests squarely on the candidate; penalties should be stringent enough to ensure compliance by candidates. (1961)

- judicious use of public resources to finance campaigns. (1972)
- reduction of the amount of money spent on campaigns. (1972)

HISTORY OF STATE ACTION

LWVMN has been active on this subject since 1961. In 1973 we worked in coalition for major campaign financing legislation which established the State Ethics Commission. LWVMN monitors this body, now called the Ethical Practices Board (EPB), and continues to review legislation affecting the EPB. In 1980, League supported and Minnesota voters passed a constitutional amendment raising campaign spending limits for candidates for executive and legislative offices and mandating public disclosure of campaign spending for all state candidates.

Beginning in 1983 the Legislature has considered bills designed to set campaign spending limits for congressional candidates who agree to accept public financing. During the 1990 session LWVMN supported passage of the bill establishing voluntary spending limits for candidates of the U. S. House of Representatives (\$425,000) and the Senate (\$3,400,000). A candidate who agrees to abide by the limits, but whose opponent does not, receives a "financial incentive" or subsidy of up to 25% of the limit and would not have to abide by the limit. Candidates must provide an equal match to the amount of subsidy received. If both candidates agree to abide by the limits, neither receives a subsidy. The subsidy is funded from the state's general fund. The statute urges Congress to enact additional regulations to limit contributions to candidates by political action committees.

LWVMN has supported efforts to limit fundraising events for legislators during sessions each year since 1985. The 1990 Legislature enacted a bill prohibiting principal campaign committees and "friends of" committees from holding fund-raisers during a regular legislative session.

During the 1995 session LWVMN lobbied hard to keep the current ethics law, and in the end was successful. There were several attempts to weaken the laws passed the previous year. In particular an attempt to create a loophole was monitored by League lobbyists.

The 1999 legislative session saw a renewed effort to relax the gift ban with other campaign finance changes. LWVMN testified in opposition and the measures failed to get out of conference committee. LWVMN supported a proposed measure to prohibit lobbying by former legislators for one year after leaving public office. The measure failed.

The League continues to work to make the federal election process more open and equitable. Recent national action has focused on support for legislation mandating public financing for congressional elections and placing limits on the size of donations that political action committees can give to candidates. Leagues continue to apply the position in working for campaign reform measures at the state and local levels.

In 1993 LWVMN supported action by the legislature to improve campaign finance laws in Minnesota. Working with a coalition formed by Common Cause, a reform measure passed which decreased financing from political action committees, lobbyists

and large donors for candidates for state office and encouraged increased participation by small donors and the general public. The measure also eliminated abuses of the system by prohibiting "friends of" committees, the transfer of funds between candidates, disallowed public subsidy for unopposed candidates and prohibited caucus fund-raisers during legislative session. Recognizing the incumbent advantage, first-time candidates for state office are permitted to increase their spending limit by 10%. For the first time contribution limits were placed on candidates for local office.

To provide funding for these changes, more emphasis was placed on public financing for state-office candidates. The check-off

system remains with an additional state appropriation. Small contributors may receive a one-time reimbursement from the state for a contribution to a candidate running for state office.

In 1996, in conjunction with Common Cause, local leagues lobbied US representatives in support of HR 2566, a comprehensive campaign finance reform bill in the House of Representatives: voluntary spending limits; reduced cost ways for candidates to communicate with the public; controls on "soft-money" contributions; limits on large individual contributions; and cuts in the amount of PAC donations.

The League issued a statement in 1997 regarding our position on campaign finance reform measures considered in Congress.

LWVMNEF moderated a town meeting on campaign finance (attended by Senator Wellstone, Representatives Gutknecht, Ramstad, Luther and Vento), where the League was able to present our position directly to some of our elected officials.

At the state level, LWVMN lobbied against the relaxation of a gift ban included in campaign reform legislation passed in 1994. We urged legislators to avoid the perception of undue influence at a time when the public is asking for continued reform.

OPEN MEETINGS AND OPEN RECORDS

LWVUS Position: Governmental bodies (should) protect the citizens' right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible. (Principles, 1974)

LWVMN continues to monitor all bills dealing with the Data Privacy Act. The League has resisted attempts to facilitate the classification of materials, since it impedes the public's right to know

HISTORY OF STATE ACTION

Open Meetings: Support for open meetings was first made explicit in the LWVUS 1972 U. S. Congress position; in 1973, Leagues were empowered to apply that position at the state and local levels. The 1974 Minnesota Open Meeting Law required all meetings of governmental bodies to be open to the public (except those of the Board of Pardons; the Corrections Board; and the Legislature, which sets its own rules) and that these bodies maintain records on their actions that are accessible to the public.

LWVMN testified for this law, and members continue to monitor compliance at state and local levels of government. LWVMN opposes any changes in the law, except it would support a limited number of school board bargaining strategy sessions closed to the public. The law continues to be subject to reinterpretation and application. The Minnesota Supreme Court in 1983 ruled that private discussions by school board members prior to a meeting

where a vote was to be taken were not in violation of the law, since those gatherings were conducted with less than a quorum present.

The 1983 Legislature passed an LWVMN-supported bill that requires pertinent materials on subjects discussed at an open meeting be made available to the public.

The 1990 legislature passed a bill which applies the requirements of the open meeting law to the Legislature. (Caucuses of members from the same party are excluded.)

Open Records: Ever since the 1974 Minnesota Legislature enacted the Data Privacy Act, LWVMN has monitored the action of the Legislature in the area of open records, balancing our desire for openness with the individual's right to privacy. In 1979, the Legislature passed a LWVMN-supported bill which defined the terms "public," "private," and "confidential," and stated that all government data will be open to the public unless specifically classified as confidential or private by state statute. LWVMN continues to monitor all bills dealing with the Data Privacy Act. The League has resisted attempts to facilitate the classification of materials since it impedes the public's right to know.

II. ORGANIZATION OF GOVERNMENT

LWVUS Position: Action to support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision-making capability and effective performance. (1972) Action to promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution. (1976) Action to support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population. (1966, 1972)

LWVMN Position: Support of improved structure and procedures for the Minnesota Legislature and executive branch; support of an improved process for amending the Minnesota Constitution; support of apportionment substantially on population of congressional districts and of all elected state and local governmental bodies.

Details

Support of:

- legislative reform through improved procedures for providing information, adequate research assistance, no increase in size (reduction in size is desirable), realistic compensation for legislators, improved organization of committees, legislative sessions of adequate length, and allowing the Legislature to call itself into special session. The Legislature should meet annually and should have the power to determine the time of meeting and length of session and should have the power to recess. (1955, 1968)
- a post-auditor appointed by and directly responsible to the Legislature. (1955)
- changes in executive structure characterized by clear lines of authority and responsibility, elimination of duplication and overlapping of agencies, a structure of organization designed to focus on current and emerging

problems, and a system of standard nomenclature. (1970)

- measures to change the process of amending the state Constitution by retaining a simple majority vote by the Legislature in proposing an amendment and requiring a simple majority of those voting on the question for ratification. (1947, 1962)
- regular and equitable reapportionment, with definite procedures established to ensure prompt redistricting by the Legislature or by a reapportionment commission; support of procedures which provide for:
 - ⇒ compact, contiguous districts giving advantage to no particular person or group.
 - ⇒ public accessibility to legislative or commission deliberations and action.
 - ⇒ prompt judicial review. (1979)

III. INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM AND RECALL

LWVMN Position: Support of the continuation of legislative initiative and compulsory voter referendum on constitutional amendment; opposition to most forms of voter initiative and referendum on statutes; opposition to recall by voters of members of the Legislature and state constitutional officers; support of strict procedural limits on any process of initiative, referendum or recall.

Details

Support of:

- the continued initiation of constitutional amendments by the legislative branch; opposition to all forms of voter initiative of such amendments (direct, indirect or advisory).
- the continuation of compulsory voter referendum on constitutional amendments.
- strict procedural limits on any form of initiative, referendum or recall considered or adopted in Minnesota, including restrictions on:
 - ⇒ time span for collecting signatures;
 - ⇒ eligibility requirements for persons signing and collecting petitions;
 - ⇒ percentage of signatures required, geographic distribution of signers, and verification of signatures;
 - ⇒ size of vote required for passage;
 - ⇒ procedure for repeal or amendment of a successful initiative or referendum;
 - ⇒ contributions to and spending for ballot issue campaigns. (1980)

Opposition to:

- direct initiative and advisory initiative on statutes; no agreement on indirect initiative on statutes.

- optional and compulsory referendum on statutes; no agreement on petition referendum on statutes.
- voter recall of members of the Legislature and state constitutional officers; no agreement on voter recall of judges or appointed officials.

HISTORY OF STATE ACTION

Legislative Reform: Organization of State Government was adopted for study in 1967 with an overall look at the Minnesota Legislature and the executive branch. Consensus positions reached in 1968 and 1970 incorporated earlier LWVMN positions on support for annual flexible sessions, legislative post-audit, reapportionment, and changing the amending process; some of these positions date from League's 1947 study of the State Constitution. Minnesota now has a two-year flexible session. The legislative process has become more open to the public, more research assistants have been hired, and information about the Legislature and copies of bills are easier to obtain. Organization of committees continues to improve, although reducing the number of committees has substantially increased the number of subcommittees. The 1975 Legislature voted to provide lodging expenses in addition to per diem and also to allow travel expenses within a legislator's district.

Amending the Constitution: The 1947 LWV State Constitution study showed the need for changing the amending process. Ratification of a constitutional amendment requires a majority vote of all those voting in the election. Thus a voter who fails to vote on the amendment automatically casts a "no" vote. LWVMN believes that the requirement for ratification should be changed to a majority of those voting on the question. In 1974 LWVMN supported a constitutional amendment allowing amendments to be passed by a 55% majority of those voting on the question; the amendment was defeated by the voters.

Reapportionment: LWVUS has supported reapportionment based on population since 1966. The 1979 LWVMN Convention revised the state position to make it responsive to the issue of reapportionment in the 1980s. In 1980, League supported a constitutional amendment establishing a bipartisan commission to draw new legislative and congressional districts. The amendment failed.

During the 1991 session, LWVMN worked with a coalition to support timely redistricting of the state legislature. As in previous redistricting efforts the legislative process was contentious and the resulting plan controversial, thus reinforcing the need for a bipartisan redistricting commission.

Initiative, Referendum and Recall: LWVMN opposed a constitutional amendment proposed in the 1980 general election that would have provided for initiative and referendum. The League joined a coalition, Citizens for Representative Government, and formed a ballot issues fund to finance the opposition campaign. The amendment was defeated since it did not receive a majority of the votes cast in the election even though pre-election polls indicated it was supported by 75 to 80% of the electorate. In the 1999 session a constitutional amendment to establish Initiative and Referendum for both statutes and constitutional amendments passed the House but died in the Senate. LWVMN joined a coalition to defeat the amendment and will continue to monitor in 2000.

The League Action Committee and the State Board reiterated its 1979 position against recall. A bill, including enabling legislation, passed during the 1996 session, to place on the November ballot a question to include recall as part of the constitution.

IV. FINANCING STATE GOVERNMENT

LWVMN Position: Support of a balanced and diversified revenue system that is equitable, competitive with other states, progressive and reliable. Support of long-term financial management, projections and a budget reserve. (1995)

Support of:

- a balanced and diversified revenue system which relies on a combination of broad-based taxes and user fees.
- the following criteria for evaluating individual revenue sources and the overall revenue system:
 - ⇒ **Competitiveness:** Allows Minnesota to compete with other states and nations as a location of economic activity, recognizing that the revenue system is only one of many factors involved in location choice and that the level and effectiveness of public services affects competitiveness.
 - ⇒ **Efficiency:** Maintains a reasonable relationship between administration and compliance costs and the amount of revenue generated.
 - ⇒ **Equity:** Imposes a similar revenue burden on taxpayers in like circumstances.
 - ⇒ **Progressivity:** Requires that those with a greater ability pay a larger percentage of their income in taxes.
 - ⇒ **Reliability:** Provides a stable source of revenue.
 - ⇒ **Responsiveness:** Adjusts to changes in economic conditions and reflects long term growth.
 - ⇒ **Simplicity:** Is understandable to the taxpayer.
- a progressive **individual income tax** with a graduated rate schedule.
- a broad-based **retail sales tax** with exemptions for essential items to reduce the impact on low-income persons.
- the use of an equitable **property tax** as the primary source of financing for services provided by local governments and a partial source of financing education. (See the Financing Education position.)
- a **corporation franchise tax** which is competitive with other states providing a comparable level of public services. The LWVMN supports a corporation franchise tax which equitably taxes all corporations earning profits from their business activities within the state.
- the use of **other sources of revenue**, such as user fees and special assessments, for funding specific activities and projects. These charges should be assessed with a sensitivity to the criteria established to judge the overall revenue system.
- achieving social policy goals through open and visible expenditures rather than by granting deductions.

exclusions and credits. If deductions, exclusions and credits are granted, they should be:

1. Evaluated on the basis of their compliance with the criteria established to judge the overall revenue system;
 2. Determined to be the most cost-effective means of achieving the intended purpose;
 3. Reviewed periodically to justify continuance.
- the distribution of state-collected revenues to local governments based upon the following principles:
 - ⇒ It is appropriate for state and local governments to share in the cost of services provided by local governments that benefit all Minnesotans.
 - ⇒ If necessary, state funding may be used to assure that local community services are available on an equitable basis.
 - ⇒ The state should not impose statutory limits on local governments' ability to raise and spend revenue for local community services.
 - ⇒ Programs which distribute state-collected revenues to local governments should enhance that equity, progressivity and efficiency of the overall revenue system.
 - ⇒ Once enacted, promised distributions of state-collected revenues to local governments should be a reliable source of revenue to local governmental units.
 - the principle that state legislation mandating local governments to provide specific services should identify adequate and appropriate revenue sources.
 - long-term financial management of all state government funds.
 - long-term projections of revenue and expenditures should be considered when making budget decisions.
 - an adequate budget reserve should be established during good economic times to be used in recession years to sustain expenditures for necessary services.

HISTORY OF STATE ACTION

Since the mid '50s the LWVMN has studied the financing of state and local governments. Early studies focused on the property tax, resulting in LWVMN support of property tax reform. In 1969 LWVMN lobbied successfully for legislation permitting counties to establish county assessor systems; all assessors must be professionally accredited. In keeping with its education position, LWVMN supported a shift in 1971 away from property tax and toward greater state funding of education. LWVMN again studied financing state government in 1975-77 and adopted an expanded position. In 1979 this position and the existence of a state surplus enabled LWVMN to lobby for decreased taxation and to support reducing individual income tax rates by changing the tax brackets. The 1979 Legislature passed a comprehensive tax relief law which included adjusting income tax rates by indexing income tax brackets for inflation.

The early 1980s saw great problems arise with financing state government. The economy lagged, with high unemployment and low revenue collections. In response to the economic situation

and attempts to alleviate it, in 1983 the governor appointed a tax commission to analyze Minnesota's overall economic situation and the tax structure. The commission, whose findings League monitored, made comprehensive recommendations for the economy of the 1980s.

In the October 1989 Special Session, the Legislature enacted a property tax reform bill which began to restructure state-local finances. The goal is for the state to fund state-mandated programs and for property tax to support local programs. For example, starting in 1991, the state funded income maintenance programs formerly paid for by state and local money. In 1990 the state also assumed district court administration and certain other court costs. Other features of the bill were changes in property tax rates, a decrease in the number of rates, and more detailed property tax statements. LWVMN supported the bill's effort to break the link between local property tax and state mandated services.

In 1999 the Legislature had to determine what to do with large surpluses. LWVMN lobbied the legislative leadership and the Governor to retain a healthy reserve and invest in long-range programs for Minnesota citizens rather than returning all the surpluses to the taxpayers. LWVMN also lobbied to use the one-time tobacco lawsuit funds for tobacco cessation and medical programs.

V. GOVERNMENT SPENDING

I. Broad Goals

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota (LWVMN) believes long-term vision as well as immediate concerns should guide state spending decisions. The League strongly supports the following broad goals: (by priority)

1. Provide high-quality K-12 educational opportunities for Minnesotans;
2. Provide for a basic level of health and human services for all Minnesotans;
3. Protect the state's natural environment;
4. Encourage economic self-sufficiency;
5. Provide for the public safety;
6. Provide high-quality post-secondary educational opportunities for Minnesotans; and
7. Preserve the state's open spaces (i.e., parks, state buildings).

LWVMN also supports the following goals:

1. Ensure that all Minnesotans receive a basic level of local public services without regard to individual or community wealth;
2. Maintain a viable state-wide transportation system, including public transit;
3. Create a business climate that will allow MN businesses to compete nationally and internationally; and
4. Ensure timely resolution of court cases.

LWVMN does not support the goal of limiting state and local expenditures to a legislated percent of personal incomes.

Spending Priorities

LWVMN believes that the highest priority areas for state spending are the following:

1. K-12 (regular) education,
2. Health Care, and
3. Environmental protection.

When considering specific proposals requiring choices, the League believes that some components of state spending should be given higher priority than others.

Relative Priority

Regular education over vocational education
 Vocational education over special education
 Special education over community education and recreation
 Health care and family support over nursing home care
 Environmental protection over parks and recreation
 Roads and transit over highway patrol
 Job-related economic security over business incentives
 Property tax relief related to income over Homestead and
 Agricultural Credit Aid (HACA)
 HACA over Local Government Aid
 The court system and law enforcement over correctional
 institutions

III. Criteria for Limiting Spending

When the state finds it necessary to limit spending, LWVMN supports use of the following criteria: (by priority)

1. State subsidies for sports teams, convention centers, and similar projects should be among the first items to be curtailed;
2. Maintenance of existing infrastructure should take precedence over expenditures to increase the infrastructure;
3. Property tax relief programs should be directed to those with lower household incomes;
4. Services should be provided first to the most needy citizens; and
5. Eligibility guidelines for public services should be adjusted to increase individual responsibility.

The League opposes the following:

1. Making across-the-board cuts first, as a way to allocate funds;
2. Placing more reliance on non-government organizations (such as churches and not-for-profit organizations) to deliver services;
3. Reducing state funding for higher education and increasing reliance on tuition; and
4. Allowing services for the elderly to take precedence over those for children.

IV. Efficiency

The League supports enhancing efficiency and cost effectiveness in the provision of quality government services. To this end, the League strongly supports:

1. Emphasizing prevention over treatment of problems,
2. Encouraging inter-governmental cooperation.

The League also supports:

1. Providing funds/grants to individuals to allow them to select providers of child-care services and housing assistance;

2. Giving government employees more flexibility and incentive to manage the way they do their jobs;
3. Using performance-based budgeting to emphasize outcomes over inputs and to hold government officials responsible for results; and
4. Encouraging competition (private-private, public-private and public-public) to enhance efficiency.

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota does not support providing funds/grants to individuals to allow them to select providers for K-12 education.

VI. FIREARMS

LWVUS Position: Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons. (1990)

LWVMN Position: Action to support restrictions on the sale, possession and use of firearms by private parties in the state of Minnesota. (1990)

Details

Support of:

- licensing of long guns, hand guns and assault weapons.
- registration of long guns, hand guns and assault weapons.
- a waiting period for the purchase of long guns, hand guns and assault weapons.
- a waiting period as preferable to an instant computer background check.
- a ban on the manufacture, sale and importation of assault weapons and assault weapon parts.
- mandatory firearm safety training before the purchase of a firearm.
- the concept of gun owner liability when others are harmed due to the owner's negligence.
- stiffer and/or mandatory penalties for people who commit crimes with firearms.
- the ability of local municipalities to regulate ownership and possession of firearms and ammunition more strictly than state law allows.

Opposition to:

- an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Minnesota granting an individual the right to bear arms.

LWVMN does not support or oppose an instant computer background check.

HISTORY OF STATE ACTION

Following the adoption of the LWVMN position in 1990, LWVMN members played a key role at the LWVUS Convention in the adoption of a gun control position through concurrence with the Illinois position.

In January 1991, LWVMN joined "Citizens for a Safer Minnesota," a coalition of organizations and individuals dedicated to: supporting legislation regulating availability of military assault weapons and handguns; educating Minnesotans about the causes of and solutions for gun-related violence; promoting awareness that gun-related violence is not just a crime issue, but also affects public safety, child protection, health and the educational climate as well.

The Coalition lobbied successfully in 1992 for legislation that would prohibit handgun permits being granted to persons with a history of domestic assault; and in 1993, for the Omnibus Crime Bill which enacted a statewide ban on carrying rifles in a public place, a ban on kits that would convert semi-automatics to full machine guns, and legislation that would permit municipalities to regulate gun shops through zoning laws. The Child Accident Protection Bill passed which requires adults store loaded weapons away from children and enhanced penalties for guns in schools and drive-by shootings.

The League, as part of Citizens for a Safer Minnesota, lobbied unsuccessfully in 1996 to raise the age from 14 to 18 as the threshold for adults to store loaded weapons away from children.

In 1993 LWVMN leadership and lobbyists successfully lobbied members of Congress for passage of the Brady Bill after several years of effort. In 1995, League lobbied their representatives to stop the repeal of the Brady Bill.

League lobbyists were active in opposition to a proposal to place a "Right to Bear Arms" amendment on the ballot. LWVMN worked to counteract the NRA's argument that the Second Amendment gives everyone the right to own a weapon. Leaguers pointed out that the Supreme Court has ruled 6 times that the Second Amendment only deals with state militias -- not an individual's right to own arms.

In 1996 the League actively lobbied against an amendment to the Omnibus Crime Bill which would ease the restrictions to obtain a permit to carry a concealed weapon.

During the 1997 session the League closely followed two bills proposing a weakening of the concealed weapon legislation. Neither bill actually passed out of committee, but threatened to be attached as an amendment to other legislation. Leaguers interested in firearms issues were ready to take action, but in the end, the amendments were unsuccessful.

In 1999 LWVMN lobbied successfully against an expanded right to carry concealed weapons and to limit local control of gun shop zoning.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest by recognizing the interrelationships of air quality, energy, land use, waste management and water resources.

LWVUS Position: The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that natural resources should be managed as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems. Resources should be conserved and protected to assure their future availability. Pollution of these resources should be controlled in order to preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of ecosystems and to protect public health. (1986)

WATER RESOURCES

LWVMN Position: Support of a state role in the preservation and management of Minnesota's water resources through protection, allocation, conservation, pricing and interbasin transfer policies protective of Minnesota's current and future needs. (1985)

Details

Support of:

- state water policies which emphasize planning for supply, use and quality, and effective coordination of agencies and levels of government with responsibility for water resources. Support for statewide, comprehensive planning to protect both ground and surface water. Support for policies which:
 - ⇒ recognize regional differences in supply and use.
 - ⇒ integrate both ground and surface water management.
 - ⇒ integrate quality and quantity management.
 - ⇒ provide for research on hydrogeology and best use of water resources.
 - ⇒ consider future use (of water resources).
 - ⇒ promote data acquisition to characterize quality and quantity.
 - ⇒ provide for maintenance and repair of water facilities.
 - ⇒ distinguish between withdrawal and consumption.
- a state water conservation plan which emphasizes preservation and efficient use of water resources. The plan should, at a minimum:
 - ⇒ continue to develop the protected stream flow and aquifer-safe yield programs.
 - ⇒ provide for education and technical assistance.
 - ⇒ require specific conservation plans from those who propose interbasin transfers.
 - ⇒ provide incentives for recycling and reuse.
- water-pricing policies which include full costs of production and delivery in water prices. Support for rate structures which encourage conservation. Support for user fees or taxes to cover costs in state water management.
- interbasin transfers (both intrastate and interstate) only if water remaining in the basin would be sufficient for present, future and instream needs. Decisions to transfer water should consider environmental effects,

future water needs of basin of origin and conservation practices of the receiving basin.

- clear legislative definition of the decision-making process for interstate and interbasin transfers. This process should include at least an advisory role for local governments affected by the transfer and a regulatory role for state government. Each of the following options should be considered:
 - ⇒ Minnesota legislation governing interbasin transfers.
 - ⇒ uniform legislation among Great Lakes states.
 - ⇒ federal legislation requiring basin-of-origin state approval.
 - ⇒ interstate compacts with authority for transfer decisions.
 - ⇒ increased state and province participation in International Joint Commission procedures

AIR QUALITY

LWVMN Position: Support measures to reduce air pollution from vehicular and stationary sources.

SOLID WASTE

LWVMN Position: Support of measures to reduce generation of solid waste and ensure safe treatment, storage and disposal of all wastes.

Details

Support of:

- state government's taking measures to reduce the generation of municipal solid waste through research and development of alternatives to sanitary landfills.
- measures to discourage the use of nonreturnable beverage containers.
- flexibility in the establishment and enforcement of standards in solid waste management to allow the state to adopt more stringent standards than federal standards. (1973)

LAND USE

LWVMN Position: Support of an overall land use plan with maximum cooperation and implementation at the regional and local level, with state help in developing and exercising land use management, with opportunity for maximum local decision making, and with regional planning and regulation for matters of more than local concern.

Details

Support of a state plan that should:

- be tied closely to integrated planning (e.g., human services, highways).

- be coordinated with plans and policies of local and regional agencies.
- require local government to exercise at least a minimum level of planning and control.
- recognize fragile or historic land, renewable resource lands, and natural hazard lands as critical areas and subject them to at least minimum control.
- require impact statements of major public and private development.
- provide financial aid for research, technical assistance and state data for local and regional governmental units.
- provide authority to local and regional governmental units to exercise innovative planning and regulatory techniques such as land banking, planned unit development, transfer of development rights, timed development ordinances
- provide for an appeals board to arbitrate conflicts among governmental bodies and between citizens and governmental bodies. (1975)

HISTORY OF STATE ACTION

Water: Since the national study of water resources in 1956, LWVMN has supported state participation in interstate commissions to provide comprehensive planning for boundary waters. Many water quality bills supported by LWVMN were enacted in 1973: mandatory shoreland zoning in incorporated areas, broadened definition of public waters to include wetlands, mandatory flood plain zoning, strict drainage controls, and statewide water inventory. LWVMN participated in the Federal 208 Water Quality Study and in the Upper Mississippi River Basin Commission's GREAT I Study on future uses of the Mississippi. In 1978 and 1979 emphasis on noncontamination of potable water became one of LWVMN's concerns.

Legislation in the '80s concerned the managerial aspects of water. LWVMN has used the 1985 consensus to work with the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) on determining direction and issues to be covered under the EQB's ten priority issues.

In 1995 the League closely monitored some legislators attempts to relax Wetlands restrictions. The session ended without changes. In 1996 the LWVMN actively participated with the Wetlands Coalition to monitor the changes to the Wetlands Protection Act. The League wanted to keep the "no-net loss" policy on drainage ditch repair and construction..

Air: In 1971 LWV members reached national consensus on air quality. LWVMN supported mandatory vehicle emission inspection and the disbursement of dedicated highway trust funds to municipalities for mass transit. In 1976 LWV supported legislation banning fluorocarbon aerosol containers. Since 1981 LWV has worked to strengthen and readopt the National Clean Air Act; a bill passed in 1990. In 1982 LWVMN testified at regulatory hearings for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on maintaining or strengthening ozone and sulfur dioxide standards for the state. As a result of the hearings standards were somewhat tightened.

LWVMN has supported acid rain controls at both the state and national levels, and continues to monitor the acid rain situation both in Minnesota and other areas of the country.

Solid Waste: Following both state and national consensus on solid waste management in 1973, LWVMN has lobbied for bills discouraging the use of nonreturnable beverage containers (rejected by the Legislature in 1978 and 1979) and establishing regional resource recovery centers. LWVMN has supported legislation creating a deposit for beverage containers. In 1982 the League promoted the filing of a bill at the Legislature to establish a deposit law in Minnesota. The bill was considered in committee in 1984 and turned down; it was not introduced in 1985. In the 1988 session LWVMN, in coalition with other environmental groups, made a major push for deposit legislation. It failed.

In 1977 LWVMN joined other environmental groups in requesting that Reserve Mining Company be required to meet existing air and water quality standards in its disposal of taconite wastes. During the 1989 session LWVMN supported passage of amendments to the waste management statute fostering an integrated waste management system through reduction and reuse, waste recycling, yard waste composting and resource recovery. A portion of the fees charged for disposal of solid waste is used to assist counties in their waste reduction efforts. LWVMN also

supported proposed ordinances in Minneapolis and St. Paul requiring that food packaging be returnable, degradable or recycled, and was represented in the Advisory Committee on implementing these ordinances.

From 1990 to 1993 LWVMN continued to support legislation designed to reduce packaging waste through fees including container deposit. We also supported provisions which had mandatory recycled content requirements for products.

In 1991 we opposed the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Citizens Board's granting of a permit for the Dakota County's incinerator based on LWVUS' seven minimum conditions necessary to support an incinerator.

Hazardous Waste: LWVMN supported the adoption by the state Legislature of the Waste Management Act of 1980, and has continued to support citizen action as the Waste Management Board seeks to site waste facilities.

Since 1984 when Minnesota became a part of the Midwest Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact, LWVMN has joined with other midwest state Leagues to monitor siting of a low level radioactive waste disposal site.

In 1997 and again in 1999 LWVMN and other states opposed the transport of nuclear wastes through the heavily populated areas of the state without a clear nuclear waste disposal program from the federal government.

LWVMN opposed the Northern State Power Company's request in 1992 to the Public Utilities Commission to grant a Certificate of Need for dry cask storage of high-level radioactive waste at the Prairie Island facility based on Minnesota Statute Sec. 116C.72, which requires legislative consent to create a high-level radioactive waste facility in Minnesota. In 1993 a Minnesota Appeals court upheld that position. Our opposition was based on the process rather than the facility. LWVUS has granted permission for LWVMN to oppose the storage facility as proposed by NSP.

Land Use: State and national positions on land use were reached in 1975 after two years of study. In 1977 and 1979, LWVMN testified in Minnesota and Washington, DC, in favor of full wilderness status for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area (BWCA), which was established by Congress in 1978. Since 1975 LWVMN has supported efforts to enact a state comprehensive land use plan.

In 1997 the League lobbied for mandatory state planning which would require the units of government to coordinate their plans with neighboring communities. A softer version of the bill was passed, merely recommending planning and providing assistance to those localities who choose to do it.

Energy: In 1977 LWVMN received a grant from the US Energy Research and Development Administration to train local League members as resource people in their communities to teach energy-saving techniques and to publish an Energy Information Directory. The LWV continues to support conservation and development of alternatives to fossil fuels.

SOCIAL POLICY

Promote social and economic justice, secure equal rights for all and combat discrimination and poverty.

I. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

LWVUS Position: Support equal access to education, employment and housing. Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.

LWVMN Position: Support of policies to ensure equality of opportunity in employment, real property, public accommodations, education and other public services for all persons. Support of administrative enforcement of antidiscrimination laws. Support of state responsibility for and responsiveness to Indian citizens.

Details

Support of:

- the principle that the state is responsible for all its citizens on an equal basis and should work to ensure equal treatment for all citizens by all levels of government. (1951)
- antidiscrimination legislation as a necessary means of eliminating discrimination. (1957)
- the principle of fair housing and antidiscrimination laws governing transactions of all real property, regardless of whether the financing is public or private. (1961)
- adequately financed enforcement of antidiscrimination laws dealing with employment, housing, real property, public accommodations, education and other public services. (1961)
- state legislation to ensure services for Indian citizens which are equal to those provided for other citizens. Where Indians are singled out for special attention, that attention should be directed towards solving existing jurisdictional conflicts in order to guarantee equal treatment of Indian citizens by all levels of government. Programs should have the explicit recognition that the basic decisions regarding Indian lives and property are to be made by the Indians themselves. (1963)

- a state agency of Indian affairs which meets the following criteria: acceptable to the Indians themselves; permanent; staffed by professionally qualified people, authorized to act in setting up, carrying out and coordinating programs; empowered to use the services of other existing agencies and provided with adequate funds. (1963)
- the correction of racial imbalance in the schools. (1967)
- life-long access to public education for expanded job opportunities and personal enrichment to achieve education equity for all citizens. (Convention 1983)

II. FAMILY AND CHILD ISSUES

FAMILY VIOLENCE

LWVMN Position: Support for improved procedures for agencies dealing with family violence. Support for improved services for the victims.

Details

Support of:

- a multi-disciplinary approach in dealing with child abuse.
- more advocates to protect the interests of victims of family violence.
- more shelters for battered women.
- a complete and continuing system of data collection on incidents of family violence to aid in planning and evaluation of services.
- a continuing program of mediation as an alternative to criminal prosecution in resolving domestic disputes.
- provision of immediate legal remedies for victims of family violence.
- a coordinated training program for all legal and human services professionals to address the problems of family violence. (1980)

CHILD SUPPORT

LWVMN Position: Support of stricter enforcement of court-ordered child support payments.

Details

Support of:

- efforts to make support collections and enforcement services equally available to non-public assistance families.

- efforts to adequately publicize available services.
- providing adequate staff to enforce child support in an efficient and expeditious manner. (1982)

CHILD PROTECTION

LWVMN Position: Support of adequate staffing and resources for child protection services. (1986)

Details

Support of:

- the assignment of a high priority to state and county level Child Protection Services to ensure adequate staffing and sufficient resources to provide meaningful services to families experiencing abuse and neglect.
- a Children's Trust Fund to support programs aimed at preventing the abuse and neglect of children.
- funding programs to promote good parenting and to provide support for parents, especially those in high risk groups, in order to prevent child abuse and neglect.
- modifications of juvenile and criminal court proceedings in cases of abuse and neglect, reducing the trauma to the child victim while still protecting the rights of the alleged abuser.

CHILD HEALTH

LWVMN Position: Support access to comprehensive pre-natal and child health care. (1987)

Details

Support of:

- public policies that provide access to comprehensive pre-natal and child health care because we are convinced of the cost effectiveness of preventive health care for pregnant women and children.
- publicly supported health insurance for pregnant women and children with family incomes up to at least 200% of the poverty level.
- publicly and privately sponsored programs that ensure adequate nutrition for pregnant and nursing mothers and young children.
- ensure adequate care for children with disabilities and chronic illness.

CHILD CARE

LWVUS Position: Support programs, services and policies at all levels of government to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it, in order to increase access to employment and to prevent and reduce poverty.

LWVMN Position: Support of coordinated public policies and funding to ensure safe, affordable, quality child care throughout the state. (1987)

Details

Support of:

- adequate funding of a child care sliding fee program to ensure quality child care for low income children.
- public policies and adequate funding at the state and county level to create and sustain quality programs, including grants and loans and resource and referral services to meet the demand.
- policies in the public and private sectors that recognize the value of the child care professional and provide adequate wages and benefits to trained child care workers.
- providing an unpaid leave of absence for the parent of a newborn or newly adopted child.

TEENAGE PREGNANCY

LWVMN Position: Support prevention efforts to lower the rate of teenage pregnancy. (1988)

Details

Support of:

- the Minnesota Department of Education requiring school districts to collect data on drop-outs for reasons of pregnancy or adolescent parenting.
- increased prevention efforts in the public schools in order to lower the rate of teenage pregnancy.
- a prevention curriculum that includes the legal and financial responsibilities of male teenage parents.
- health care providers publicizing the necessity of pre-natal care and the locations of free and low cost health services.

III. HOUSING

LWVMN Position: The League believes that all people have a right to housing. The public and private sectors should work together to ensure that everyone has access to adequate, decent, affordable housing.

Details

Support an active state role in providing long-term decent and affordable housing for very low-, low-, and moderate-income households. Specifically support programs that:

- increase a community's capacity to provide a full range of housing opportunities;
- preserve and expand the existing affordable housing stock;
- prevent homelessness;
- promote rental housing subsidies.

Support incentives to local units of government to promote a mix of housing opportunities including home ownership and rental housing for people of all ages with very low-, low- and moderate- incomes. Support disincentives to local units of government that do not promote such a mix of housing opportunities.

Support revising the tax system to:

- narrow the tax disparity between rental and owner occupied residential property;
- reduce the tax rate on rental residential property available to very low-, low- and moderate- income households;
- encourage maintenance of rental property available to very low-, low- and moderate- income households.

IV. HEALTH CARE

LWVUS Position: The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that a basic level of quality health care at an affordable cost should be available to all US residents. Other US health care policy goals should include the equitable distribution of services, efficient and economical delivery of care, advancement of medical research and technology and a reasonable total national expenditure level for health care. (1993) (See 'National Program At a Glance' for full position.)

V. MENTAL HEALTH

LWVMN Position: Support of a comprehensive and coordinated system of programs and services for mentally ill adults and emotionally disturbed children and adolescents (hereafter referred to as "persons with mental illness"). Priority should be given to persons with serious and persistent mental illness and/or acute mental illness. Minnesota public policy and funding should sustain an array of community based services which are available and accessible to persons with mental illness. Administration of that policy should provide clients with appropriate and adequate services. (1989)

Details

Support of:

- adequate and consistent funding for services for persons with mental illness. Public funding should be flexible, following the client's needs, yet accountable to the public.
- a range of appropriate housing options for persons with mental illness.
- a commitment process which ensures prompt and appropriate treatment for persons with mental illness while protecting their civil rights. The commitment process should enable the commitment of persons so gravely disabled by mental illness that they cannot meet their basic human needs.

- a coordinated system of quality assurance (including standards, mechanisms to monitor and the ability to take corrective action) for programs and services for persons with mental illness with an emphasis on evaluating outcomes and consumer response.
- continuing state financial responsibility for improved intensive treatment programs and adequate living conditions for persons currently served in regional treatment centers.

VI. PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE

LWVUS Position: Support violence prevention programs in all communities.

LWVMN Position: Support for violence prevention programs in our community.

Details

Support of:

- educational programs that emphasize self-esteem, healthy sexuality, problem solving, positive expression of emotions, non-violent conflict resolution and respect for others to prevent violent behavior. This would include support for:
 - ⇒ government sponsored parenting and early childhood classes;
 - ⇒ local or state government mandating or encouraging such education programs in school curricula;
 - ⇒ use of public money to train teachers and administrators to use non-violence curricula;
 - ⇒ training for child care providers.
- a requirement that adult educators, including coaches, participate in prevention of sexual harassment and violence education programs, and that public money be provided for adequate training.
- the use of public money for a statewide public information and communication campaign designed to prevent violent and sexually violent behavior; i.e., to promote healthy sexuality, non-violent conflict resolution, and gender and racial equality.
- efforts of state and local government to develop and coordinate programs dealing with primary prevention of violence.
- allocation of public moneys in governmental programs to combat violence through reducing substance abuse and poverty, and by identifying and responding to individuals who have been violent or are at risk for violent behavior.
- the following social institutions taking an active role in preventing violent behavior: religion, business, law, medicine, media, civic and recreational organizations.
- efforts to encourage the media industry to exercise self-restraint in the promotion of violence.

- efforts to encourage the pornography industry to exercise self-restraint in the promotion of sexually-violent pornography.

VII. ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO USE

LWVMN Position: LWVMN supports educational programs that advance improved chemical health

Details

- Ongoing programs, starting in the elementary school and continuing in the middle and high school.
- Regular, continuing education for adult educators, coaches and school administrators
- Alternatives to suspension for alcohol and tobacco violations in the schools.
- Allocation of public funds for state and community initiatives to prevent illegal alcohol and tobacco use.
- Consistent city and school guidelines for adults who chaperone youth activities.
- State laws, city ordinances and law enforcement efforts designed to promote chemical health and reduce illegal alcohol and tobacco use. (Convention 1999)

HISTORY OF STATE ACTION

Antidiscrimination and ERA: In 1949, LWVMN began a broad study of civil rights in Minnesota. During the 1950s LWVMN focused on employment based on merit and worked with other groups to secure passage of the Fair Employment Practices Act (1955), which was incorporated into the State Act Against Discrimination in 1961. During the 1960s LWVMN continued investigating employment practices, discrimination in housing and public accommodations, the special problems of Minnesota Indians, and two factors contributing to inequality of opportunity in education (the common school district and racial imbalance). LWVMN supported formation of the Department of Human Rights in 1967 and the 1973 legislation which extended the Department's jurisdiction to all cases of discrimination based on sex, marital status, physical disability or status as a recipient of public assistance. In 1977 members supported extending coverage to age and sexual preference.

The 1972 national Convention supported the Equal Rights Amendment to the US Constitution. In 1973 LWVMN (as a member of the state Coalition to Ratify the ERA) successfully supported ratification of ERA by the Minnesota Legislature.

Since 1975 LWVMN has continued to interpret the ERA and to work to prevent rescission. In 1983 the League vigorously supported a Minnesota ERA and opposed irrelevant amendments to the ERA.

Other anti-discrimination issues supported by LWVMN, both alone and in coalition, include: pilot centers to assist displaced homemakers; reinstatement of Medicaid funding for abortions; and elimination of discriminatory inheritance tax and insurance laws.

In 1993 LWVMN joined the coalition "It's Time Minnesota" which lobbied successfully for the inclusion of sexual preference in Minnesota's anti-discrimination legislation. A LWVMN lobbyist served on Governor Carlson's 1994 task force on gays and lesbians, instrumental in passing the Human Rights Amendment.

Merging National and State Positions on Equality of Opportunity:

The LWVUS began its study of human resources in 1964. Because the positions of the LWVUS and LWVMN are so similar, they have been merged for state action purposes on welfare, housing supply, tenants' rights, and support of anti-poverty programs. In 1967 LWVMN worked to extend opportunities for education of children receiving Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). During the 1973 legislative session LWVMN supported measures to abolish the township system of general relief, apply state standards and provide 40% state reimbursement for general relief.

The LWVMN then, and in each session since, has urged various supplements for income maintenance programs and a level of payment that would help recipients' income keep pace with escalating living costs. In 1978 LWVMN supported a sliding fee scale subsidy for child care services for low and moderate income families and continued to work for it in 1983 and 1985, as well as supporting continuation of the child care tax credit.

In 1980, LWVMN wrote and supported legislation for job sharing in state government. The League continues to support flexible employment hours and shared job positions in government and private industry. Beginning in 1983 LWVMN supported pay equity legislation. Forming the Coalition for Pay Equity with other women's and labor groups, the League acted successfully to prevent weakening of the present law.

During the 1990 session LWVMN lobbied in favor of clearer definitions of an equitable compensation relationship, provisions for reviewing and accepting plans by the Department of Employee Relations, and penalty provisions. The revised measure was passed and signed into law.

In 1975 and 1977 LWVMN supported the concept of integrated human service systems in the state, to give clients better access to services. Since 1969 LWVMN has supported tenants' rights legislation, a state uniform building code, establishment of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, and enabling legislation for agencies which assist in planning and developing housing.

Family Violence: The league lobbied for legislation incorporated in a 1996 crime prevention bill to fund nurseries and home visits. The visits provide early intervention in abusive situations, recognizing that the number one indicator of criminal behavior is child abuse.

Child Support: In 1982 Leagues throughout the state concurred with the LWV Minneapolis position on stricter enforcement of court-ordered child support payments. In subsequent years LWVMN has supported child support legislation to make services more equitable for non-Public Assistance families and to withhold income automatically for court-ordered support.

Child Protection: Since achieving consensus in 1986 and 1987, LWVMN has worked to support adequate staffing and resources for Child Protection Services at the county and state level.

Child Health: League took action in support of the Children's Health Plan and expanding pre-natal health care services. In 1997, the League strongly supported a bill to restrict the sale of tobacco to minors by licensing retailers and setting criteria for display of tobacco products. The legislation was passed and signed into law.

In 1999 LWVMN supported adolescent health clinics.

Child Care: In a coalition the League helped to found Child Care WORKS, LWVMN has aggressively worked for expansion of the Child Care Sliding Fee Program for low-income parents and development grants to increase the supply of quality child care. League supported legislation to guarantee an unpaid parental leave.

The League supported a proposal to expand the basic sliding fee program to subsidize low- and middle-income Minnesotans who pay child care expenses. The bill was incorporated into the Omnibus Human Services legislation. The League lobbied for the appropriation of money for crisis nurseries and home visiting programs.

In 1997, the League successfully lobbied for expansion of child care in the welfare reform legislation. One provision of the package was to exempt parents with babies under one year from the immediate work requirements. The parents will receive a portion of the child care subsidy and be allowed to stay at home with their infant.

Teenage Pregnancy: In 1988 Minnesota Leagues concurred with LWV Minneapolis' position in support of prevention efforts to lower the rate of teenage pregnancy. LWVMN testified in 1994 for the inclusion in the Omnibus Education Finance Bill for money to fund a program to teach male responsibility to teen fathers.

Housing: LWVMN lobbied in 1993 in support of a bill that would provide "comprehensive choice" in housing throughout the metropolitan area. The vision was to distribute a full range of housing throughout the metro area enabling very low-, low-, and moderate-income people to live near the new entry level jobs opening up in the outer ring suburbs.

In 1997 the League followed with interest legislation to increase affordable rental housing through no-interest mortgages or deferred loans. The program received \$16.4 million for the biennium.

Health Care: The national Health Care position arrived just in time to allow crucial lobbying by LWVMN for the establishment of Minnesota's HealthRight legislation in 1992 (now called MinnesotaCare). The League continued monitoring its development in the 1993 legislative session and also monitored rulemaking by the Minnesota Health Care Commission and Department of Health. A primary concern is that the consumers' point of view be included in Commission decisions.

LWVMN is also working with the Health Care Reform Project, a national coalition to promote health care reform at the federal level. Included in any plan the Project supports are: universal coverage and mandatory employer participation; serious cost containment; comprehensive benefits for all; and reform now.

The League concentrated its health care lobbying efforts in 1995 to prevent the erosion of the 1994 MinnesotaCare bill and to seek funding for universal coverage, a LWVMN goal to achieve by Jan. 1, 1997.

The League took action on several health care issues in 1997, including a Prescription Drug Fair Competition bill to negotiate lower drug prices for independent pharmacies. The Governor

used a line item veto to eliminate the funding to allow the Department of Administration to negotiate on behalf of the pharmacies. Also, a weakened Patient Protection Act passed and was signed. We had hoped the bill would include an independent appeals process and a strong patient advocacy program, but it certainly is a good beginning.

In 1999 LWVMN wrote to the legislators asking that funds from the tobacco lawsuit be used to establish endowments for the health care of Minnesotans and not be used for tax rebates.

Mental Health: The LWVMN Mental Health position was adopted in early 1989.

During the 1989 Legislative Session the League monitored refinements of the 1987 Comprehensive Mental Health Act. The Legislature approved a plan to shift care for mentally retarded Minnesotans from regional treatment centers (RTC's) to community-based group homes. LWVMN lobbied for community-based services for mentally ill persons as well. We supported the Legislature's direction to the Commissioner of Human Services to develop plans for downsizing RTC facilities that will not adversely affect the proper care of residents. League lobbied for appropriations for employment counselors for the mentally ill.

During the September 1989 special session LWVMN supported the concept of state funding for the major portion of the cost of state-mandated mental health services.

During the 1993 session the League supported refinements of the Comprehensive Mental Health Act. LWVMN lobbied for community-based homes for persons with mental illness. League has consistently supported increased funding for community services. We also supported the Anoka Alternatives, a fund to find housing for difficult-to-place persons at Anoka Regional Treatment Center. We supported the closing of Moose Lake Regional Treatment Center and increased funding for community services for those clients. LWVMN also supported innovative employment programs in the community which will be an ongoing concern.

In 1995 the League provided testimony in support of a bill to create delivery system pilots which would pool the resources of regional treatment centers with community dollars. In 1996 the League lobbied successfully for the continued funding for five Coordinated Employment Projects whose funding would run out on January 1, 1997. The projects provide job counseling for persons with mental illness. In 1997, the League lobbied for the additional employability projects whose funding runs out in 1998.

Bridges, a temporary housing program for persons with mental illness, was expanded in the 1997 after strong lobbying from the League. Other mental health issues that arose during the 1997 session included a cost of living increase for mental health employees, and additional funding for the relocation of Regional Treatment Centers staff into community services.

Legislation to implement the recommendations of the Supreme Court Civil Commitment Task Force was successful in 1997. Funding was made available for a civil commitment training and resource center.

In 1998 and 1999 LWVMN again lobbied for expansion of the Bridges Program and the Employability Program.

Prevention of Violence: In coalition with the Minnesota Attorney General the Violence Against Women Coalition, the Citizens Council, the Battered Women's Coalition and other groups, LWVMN has lobbied successfully for violence prevention

programs at the Legislature. Minnesota now has among other innovations: anti-violence curricula in its schools with funding provided to districts that offer such curricula in grades K-12; an Office for a Violence Free Minnesota, which coordinates state-wide efforts in violence prevention; foundation grants specifically targeted to violence prevention programs; and in Ramsey County, an urban, county-wide Community Action Plan using a multi-faceted approach to end family violence. Delegates to LWVUS Convention in 1994 concurred with LWVMN violence position in its essentials following a campaign led by Minnesota delegates.

Minnesota American Indians: LWVMN supported creation of the Indian Affairs Commission in 1963 and lobbied in both 1967 and 1976 to retain its independent status when bills were introduced to merge it with the Department of Human Rights. In 1967 and 1976 legislative proposals recommended major changes in the composition of the Indian Affairs Commission in an attempt to adequately address the needs of both reservation and urban Indians. In both instances LWVMN worked with Indian groups and assisted in interpreting their needs to legislators.

In 1971 and 1973 LWVMN lobbied for legislation to return to the Indians their hunting, fishing and ricing rights guaranteed by early treaties. LWVMN also testified in favor of a revolving fund for Indian business development financed by 20% of a new state tax on severed mineral rights. In the 1975 Legislature LWVMN supported retrocession for the Chippewa reservation. Both in 1975 and 1977 LWVMN supported legislation to create pilot bilingual education programs in the public schools.

In 1984 and 1985 LWVMN took action in support of the Minnesota Indian Child Welfare Act, addressing the need for increased Indian involvement and decision-making in child foster care placement. In 1985 LWVMN published the fourth edition of *Indians in Minnesota*, documenting the contemporary experience of urban and reservation Indians. In 1997 a fifth edition is being prepared.

In the 1993 session LWVMN supported legislative ratification of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians agreement regarding the 1837 Treaty rights to hunting, fishing and gathering by the band. Legislative ratification would have honored the rights of the Ojibwe, protected the environment and avoided a costly court fight. The Legislature failed to act and the agreement was sent to trial. The federal Court of Appeals has ruled in favor of the band following an appeal by the State of Minnesota of the federal district court's ruling also in the band's favor.

Alcohol and Tobacco Use: The 1999 LWVMN Convention adopted by concurrence with the Edina LWV the Alcohol and Tobacco Use position.

COUNCIL OF METROPOLITAN AREA LEAGUES

The Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL) was established in 1962. It is an interleague organization composed of all the local Leagues in the seven-county metropolitan area which includes Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington counties. Through CMAL, League members work to address governmental issues of metropolitan concern.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

CMAL Position: Support of the development of the Metropolitan Council as the decision-making body for metropolitan needs in accordance with these criteria: efficiency and economy, equitable financing, flexibility, citizen control and responsiveness to the electorate. CMAL supports provision for coordinated metropolitan services focused through the Metropolitan Council. CMAL supports retention of an appointed Metropolitan Council with greater use of its existing powers. (1969, 1976, 1993)

Details

CMAL supports:

- retention of an appointed Metropolitan Council.
 - ⇒ The appointed Council is seen as less parochial, less subject to special interests, and better able to adopt and maintain unpopular positions for the good of the entire area.
 - ⇒ The appointed Council is responsible to our elected state Legislature and watched over by our elected local officials. (1969, 1976, 1993)
- an open appointment process including publicized vacancies; increased citizen, local government and legislative influence on appointments; formal qualifications for office; establishment of a removal procedure for members of the Council and district apportionment based on population.

In the event that it appears that the Council may become an elected body, CMAL supports nonpartisanship of candidates, with availability of public financing, with selection of the chair made by the council members from among their number; maintaining population as the basis for districts, election of Council members at the same time as local officials (assuming passage of the Uniform Election Law), continuance of a part-time Council and of the per diem basis for compensation. (1976, 1993)

HOUSING

CMAL Position: Support of the Metropolitan Council as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority acting as an administrative agency providing technical assistance to communities requesting service. CMAL opposes an independent regional body separate from the Council to own and operate subsidized housing. (1981)

HEALTH

CMAL Position: Support of the continuation of health planning and coordination at the metropolitan level with state and/or regional funds, if federal funds are reduced. (1981)

HISTORY OF CMAL ACTION

The 1967 state Legislature established the Metropolitan Council, giving it broad assignments in areawide planning and some specific problems to work on, notably solid waste, sewage (waste water) disposal, and parks and open spaces. Its one person-one vote representation formula was strongly supported by CMAL, which also supported its role as overall planning and coordinating agency for the area, with operational boards supervising day-to-day operation of area services and local government involvement in decisions affecting them.

Since its inception the Metropolitan Council has been concerned with overall growth pattern in the metropolitan area, recognizing that areawide coordination of urban services is needed and that public investment should be channeled to achieve areawide goals. These goals and policies were incorporated into the Development Framework Guide prepared by the Council in 1974-75 with CMAL assistance; CMAL has supported legislation needed for its implementation.

In 1975 CMAL restudied and updated the governmental decision-making position, looking closely at the question of an elected or appointed Council and assessing the relationship of the Council to other local governing bodies. A survey of attitudes of local officials toward the Metropolitan Council was published in December 1976.

In 1977 CMAL supported open appointments legislation and retention of an appointed Metropolitan Council. CMAL opposed elected Metropolitan Council legislation in 1978, noting that a popularly elected body representing more than half the population of the state could not continue in the same relationship with the Legislature. In reviewing the Council's role in the Family Housing Program in 1978, CMAL expressed its concern about the Council acting as an operating agency, not as an overall planning and coordinating body.

In 1982, 1983 and 1993 CMAL testified before the Joint Legislative Commission on Metropolitan Governance in support of an appointed Metropolitan Council functioning as a regional planning and coordinating agency and the involvement of citizens and local government officials through advisory committees and task forces. This testimony supported local jurisdictions and counties as the administrators that implement and enforce regional policy. It also supported regional services operating agencies as day-to-day providers — the implementers of policy plans adopted by the Council.

In 1997 a bill to elect the Metropolitan Council passed both houses but was vetoed by the Governor.

FUNDING/FINANCING

FISCAL DISPARITIES

CMAL Position: Support for area-wide sharing of fiscal resources, to move towards the solution of problems created by fiscal disparities and to finance services which benefit the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area as a whole or affect the lives of all its citizens. (1970) The integrity of the area-wide pool used in the sharing of fiscal resources should be maintained with no exceptions. (1997) Loans from the pool should be discouraged and if made should not be forgiven. (1997)

FINANCING METROPOLITAN SERVICES

CMAL Position: Support for operating and maintaining the metropolitan systems and services with a mix of funding sources specific to each service (federal, state and local funds and user fees). If a supplemental fund is created, CMAL supports additional user fees, new or increased, appropriate to the service. (1985)

Details

CMAL supports:

- improved accountability of metropolitan agencies by:
 - ⇒ uniform reporting and submittal dates of agency development programs to the Metropolitan Council.
 - ⇒ a responsible, uniform system of administrative procedures for all metropolitan agencies.
- improved accountability of the Metropolitan Council by:
 - ⇒ the establishment of a permanent legislative committee/commission for metropolitan affairs.
 - ⇒ regular reports to the legislature on regional programs for financing.
 - ⇒ regular reports and discussion sessions with local elected officials.
 - ⇒ responsible administrative procedures.

HISTORY OF CMAL ACTION

Fiscal Disparities: A major barrier to areawide development has been the multiplicity of local government units—more than 300 in the metropolitan area—each competing for tax monies. In 1971 CMAL supported the “fiscal disparities” bill which provided for sharing 40% of the growth in commercial-industrial tax base among local units of government in the metropolitan area. Nationally the bill was a first, and though it was challenged in the courts, it was found to be constitutional. Implementation occurred in 1974 and was reflected in taxes collected in 1975.

The 1979 CMAL update paper, “The Response to Fiscal Problems in the Seven-County Area,” reviewed existing and proposed programs that deal with problems created by the differences in

taxing capabilities among communities in the seven-county metropolitan area. Another update, “Fiscal Disparities: An Overview,” appeared in the January 1985 CMAL Quarterly. The CMAL reviewed the issue, in 1997 and completed a study, “Re-Study of Fiscal Disparities”.

In 1975 CMAL supported the Metropolitan Investment Framework before the Metropolitan Council’s Physical Development Committee because it furthers the goal of areawide sharing of fiscal resources to finance metropolitan services and aids in the solution of the problems of fiscal disparities. CMAL also stressed that it was a means of systematically evaluating the economic responsibilities of metropolitan government. The Investment Framework was adopted by the Council in 1977.

SCHOOL INTEGRATION/DESEGREGATION

CMAL Position: Support the following measures to achieve school integration/desegregation in the metropolitan area: mandatory participation by the school districts; voluntary participation by students; combination of student exchanges, magnets and incentives; combination of incentive plans for school districts and individuals funded by state money; redrawing of school district lines (as necessary). (1991)

HOUSING/HEALTH CARE FOR THE AGING

CMAL Position: Support for local planning for the housing and service needs for the elderly and disabled in the community. Support for the preparation of a local “Blueprint for Action.” (1989)

Details

CMAL supports:

- the provision of a single telephone number at the local level for information and referral for senior housing and services available in that area. (CMAL supports the city as the most appropriate provider of this service.)
- local ordinances which allow for the provision of housing and services necessary to meet the needs of the aging.
- the provision of additional health, home care, and housing support services as they become necessary. CMAL supports flexibility in the provision of these services. Providers can be in the private sector (profit or non-profit), the county, city, school district, community center, the informal network, or any combination of these.

LAND USE AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

CMAL Position: CMAL recognizes that increased pressures for development in the entire Twin Cities area indicate the need for a strong public voice in land-use decisions. CMAL supports metropolitan-level planning, programs and policies directed toward channeling development in ways that will: (1) preserve and enhance the natural environment; (2) use public investment to the best advantage; and (3) provide area residents with diversity in choice of facilities and amenities. (1972) (Also see LWVMN and LWVUS positions.)

Details

CMAL supports

- channeling growth so that necessary public services are provided in an efficient, orderly pattern.
- preserving the natural environment to the extent possible by protecting land and water during and after development, and from development where necessary, and preserving open space for recreation, protection and amenities.
- using land in the seven-county area to implement social goals, such as a full range of housing choices, adequate transportation, parks and the necessary facilities and amenities to enhance the quality of life.
- the Metropolitan Council should be authorized to develop the policy tools necessary to implement these goals, provided local governments are involved in decisions affecting them.

ENVIRONMENT

CMAL Position: Support for a requirement that local governments adopt implementation ordinances for protection of environmental quality for review and approval by the Metropolitan Council. (1981)

CMAL Position: Support the Metropolitan Council as the agency to plan and coordinate the water supply needs of the region. (1995)

Details

CMAL supports:

- water supply as a regional system with Metropolitan Council review and approval of local plans and implementation of the water supply system through local water utilities.
- Consideration of water supply availability in shaping the growth of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area and the Metropolitan Council should have the authority to deny approval of development in areas with limited water supply availability through approval of amendments to land use plans.
- Protection of water supply resource, emergency response, and water conservation as high priorities in a

regional water supply plan with plans for alternative sources of water a slightly lower priority.

- Water supply becoming a regional operating system only if implementation of local water supply plans is ineffective and threatens the water supply of the region, or major regional investments are needed for interconnections to provide for the water supply of the region, and/or if supplies of water must be brought in from outside the region.
- Metropolitan Council having a role in educating the public.

SOLID WASTE

CMAL Position: Support for the establishment by the Metropolitan Council of a system for controlling the flow of solid waste for recycling and resource recovery. (1981)

HISTORY OF CMAL ACTION

Land Use Planning: CMAL published *The Land Use Puzzle* in 1972, sponsored conferences on innovations in government in 1973 and 1974, and in 1975, encouraged legislators to recommend enabling legislation for the Metropolitan Council Development Framework Guide. Specifically, CMAL asked that local planning be made mandatory and that those plans be coordinated through the Metropolitan Council. CMAL also supported 1975 legislation that provided funds for communities throughout the state to do comprehensive land use planning and established the mechanism for the Metropolitan Council to review the mandated local comprehensive plans.

Water Resources: In 1975 CMAL addressed the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to support designation of the Metropolitan Council as the agency to assist local units of government in identifying critical water areas and in implementing steps to protect them. That year CMAL also supported designation of the Mississippi River as a Critical Area, and in 1977 supported the Upper Mississippi River Basin Commission's Level B Study Report on water quality and conservation.

The Metropolitan Council adopted a Surface Water Management Plan amendment to the Development Guide in 1982, which CMAL, in general, supported. It places responsibility for management plans and implementation at the local level with broad regional guidelines. CMAL adopted at its 1993 convention a study of Regional Government Structures and Management Efforts to Provide an Adequate, Safe Water Supply. Their report, *Water Supply: A Regional Perspective*, was released in January 1995.

Solid Waste: In 1985 CMAL testified before the Metropolitan Council and State Legislature. It supported mandatory source separation, cautioned against total reliance on high tech solutions to waste management, and supported the 1990 deadline for cessation of landfilling of unprocessed mixed municipal wastes. Subsequent legislation mandated the 1990 deadline, but source separation remains voluntary unless mandated by individual metropolitan counties.

Parks and Open Space: With CMAL support, the 1974 Legislature passed the Parks and Open Space Bill authorizing the Metropolitan Council to set priorities for acquisition of open space in the metropolitan area. In 1975 the Council released its Development Guide chapter dealing with parks. CMAL testified

before the Metropolitan Council in 1976 in support of the Five-Year Capital Improvement Program for parks and open space. In 1977 CMAL supported the Regional Special Use Policy Plan and Regional Trails Policy Plan. In 1978 CMAL encouraged the Council to amend the Development Guide to include the Trails Policy; the Council completed this in November 1978. In 1979 CMAL supported legislation that authorized \$27 million in bonds for acquisition and betterment of regional parks in the metropolitan area.

TRANSPORTATION

CMAL Position: Support of the Metropolitan Council as the single metropolitan agency to plan and coordinate a diverse transportation system, meeting varied needs, and to have approval authority over this system's major capital expenditures. New funding sources should be service related. (1983) (Also see LWVUS position.)

Details

CMAL supports:

- various modes of transportation, both public and private: ridesharing, carpools, vanpools, paratransit, buses and deregulated taxis. A light rail transit mode can be supported if assured high ridership, economic feasibility and integration into the total transportation system.
- transportation service for the handicapped, fringe parking, and feeder services; High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes, bikeways, walkways and selected reduced fares.

HISTORY OF CMAL ACTION

The 1983 position supersedes a position from 1967. In that year massive highway construction with federal funding and a privately owned bus system that was consistently losing ridership focused Twin Cities area interest on mass transit and encouraged CMAL to work for establishment of the Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC). In subsequent legislative sessions and interims, CMAL pressed for condemnation powers for MTC (1969) which made it possible to purchase privately owned bus companies in the metropolitan area; and adequate financing for MTC (1971) which quadrupled MTC's fiscal resources, making possible route improvements, fare subsidies, and significant progress toward a new transit system. The Legislature concluded that an extensive fixed guideway system was not economical at that time. In 1985 CMAL supported the transfer of fare-setting authority from the Legislature to the Regional Transit Board (RTB), which passed; and supported replacing local regulation of taxis with an independent metropolitan taxicab commission under the RTB, which failed.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

CMAL Position: Support of measures to ensure accountability and visibility of county government. Support of measures to improve cooperation and communication between the Metropolitan Council and county government within the metropolitan area. (1975)

Details

- Accountability of a governmental body is obtained by the effective communication of its policies and procedures to residents of its jurisdiction. While accountability to the citizenry is recognized as a responsibility of all governments, CMAL also recognizes the responsibility of citizens to become adequately informed and involved as well as to participate in the election process. Accountability of county government would be increased by the following (but not limited to):
 - ⇒ public access to the budget process where priorities and policies are set, including, for example, citizen review of revenue-sharing allocations and funding for public services and citizen review of methods of setting budget priorities.
 - ⇒ systematic and objective evaluation of county programs.
 - ⇒ creation of a public information system to ensure not only public access to meetings of the county board and advisory committees but also more understanding of the issues being considered by the county board, by ample publication of location, time, date and agenda of meeting; dissemination of information on the procedures for citizen appointments; and publication of background information prior to the decision-making time when policy is set.
 - ⇒ regular communication between county and municipalities and other levels of government.
 - ⇒ full disclosure of campaign financing by every candidate in county elections.

The Metropolitan Council is viewed as the regional planning and coordinating body, while the counties are viewed as administrators, implementers, and enforcers of regional policy. CMAL believes that counties should be involved in the initial planning and policy-making stages of Metropolitan Council activities in order for counties to carry out their eventual implementation.

HISTORY OF CMAL ACTION

In 1973 CMAL began a study of counties in the Twin Cities area and their role and relationship to the Metropolitan Council. Consensus was reached in 1975. This study resulted in two publications: CMAL'S Seven Counties in Transition: A Study of the Evolving Role of the County in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, and the Hennepin County Leagues' in-depth study, Hennepin County. In 1982-83 CMAL supported counties as implementers of regional policy before the Legislative Commission on Metropolitan Government.

June 1999

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA

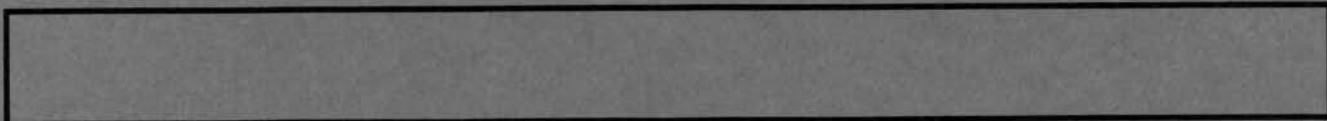
550 Rice Street

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103

Phone: (651) 224-5445

Fax: (651) 290-9415

E-mail: lwvmn@mtn.org





THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA EDUCATION FUND

PRICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (651) 224-5445 FAX (651) 290-2145

PRESIDENT

Judy Duffy

ADVISORY BOARD

Ralph Burnet
CEO
Coldwell Banker Burnet

Ned Crosby
Chair
Jefferson Center

Isabel Gomez
Judge
Hennepin County District Court

Joan Anderson Growe

Joan A. Grzywinski
President/District Manager
St. Paul and South Metro Minneapolis
Norwest Bank Minnesota, N.A.

Roger L. Hale
Chairman & CEO
Tennant Company

Jean L. Harris, M.D.
Mayor
Eden Prairie

Josie R. Johnson
Senior Fellow
College of Education
University of Minnesota

Steven D. Ladwig
President
Data Storage Products & Technologies
Imation Corporation

Sheila Leatherman
Executive Vice President
United HealthCare

Peggy Lucas
Partner
Brighton Development Corp.

Laura McCarten
Director of Community Services
Northern States Power Company

Vivian Jenkins Nelsen
President and CEO
International Institute for
Interracial Interactions:
INTER-RACE

James A. Roberts
Vice President, Corporate Relations
Minnesota Power

G. Edward Schuh
Professor
Hubert H. Humphrey
Institute of Public Affairs
University of Minnesota

Laura Waterman Wittstock
President
MIGIZI Communications, Inc.

Mark G. Yudof
President
University of Minnesota

TO: Local League Presidents

FROM: Janet Gendler, Chair, "Changing Faces, Changing
Communities project"
Community circles on immigration sponsored by the League
of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund

DATE: June 8, 1999

Are you looking for increased visibility in your community? Do you want to learn about a new tool for addressing an important public policy issue? Would you like to find a new way to add to community life and perhaps to recruit new members in the process? Are you interested in cooperating with other Leagues in your area on a timely and relevant local issue with regional as well as statewide implications?

If so, you're invited to participate in "Changing Faces, Changing Communities," a community circles project on immigration sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund.

Community Circles are a means of small-group deliberation developed in 1990 as a project of the Topsfield Foundation, a nonprofit, nonpartisan foundation whose goal is to improve the quality of public life in the United States.

For the Minnesota project, groups of 8 - 12 people representing a cross-section of their communities will meet to discuss immigration and how it affects their community, to get to know one another, to consider different points of view, and suggest solutions for problems. They will use a discussion guide which was developed in cooperation with the Study Circles Resource Center (part of the Topsfield Foundation) by a committee led by the LWVMN to help focus serious and broad public conversation among a range of voices: conservative and liberal; young, middle-aged, old; new and not-so-new immigrants as well as Native Americans; leaders as well as followers; skeptics and believers.

The LWVMNEF is the lead sponsor of this project in Minnesota. Local government, community organizations, church groups, ethnic groups, and media organizations serve as members of the steering committee and as coalition partners.

What will the LWVMN provide participating communities? All participating Leagues will receive organizer and facilitator training; assistance in connecting with diverse populations; easy-to-use, tested discussion guides for facilitators and participants; and general on-going support.

In addition, local Leagues may apply for a grant which would help cover the cost of childcare, refreshments, transportation, room rental, translators (if needed), publicity and advertising; office costs; costs for rental of audio/video equipment, or other miscellaneous costs incurred by the local Leagues. The amount of the grant could be as much as \$2,700. You may also apply to use your League's tax deductible dollars on deposit with LWVMN Ed Fund (form enclosed).

If you are interested in participating in this Community Circles project, please return the enclosed application by July 15, 1999. If you have questions, please call project chair Janet Gendler (tel:612/920-3567) or project director Susan Anderson (tel: 612/331-1117).

AGREEMENT

The local League/grant recipient will:

- designate at least one individual to participate in a training workshop sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund.
- organize at least one community circle* consisting of eight to twelve individuals representing a broad range of people from the community who will meet once a week for five weeks from mid-February to late March 2000. (Community circles must be held by April 2000.)
- devote special attention to bringing together as diverse a group as possible, i.e., old immigrants and new, Native Americans (if appropriate in the given community), a variety of religious and political views, old and young, business people, local government officials, unemployed, etc.
- assist in identifying a facilitator for each community circle organized.
- arrange for room rental, refreshments, and childcare, transportation, translators as needed for each community circle.
- contact local print and broadcast media to arrange for coverage of the community circles and/or to encourage other news articles or editorials related to the topics to be addressed by the community circle(s)
- communicate regularly with the "Changing Faces, Changing Communities" project chair and/or project director.
- at the end of the project, submit receipts and invoices and prepare a final report documenting the expenditures included in the grant request.

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund will provide:

- organizer and facilitator training for each participating community (at a location and time to be determined)
- discussion guides for community circle facilitators and participants
- assistance in connecting with diverse populations in participating communities
- general on-going support and counsel
- timely payment of all grant requests

* Each local organizer is committed to establishing at least one community circle but may form as many as ten circles (or more) depending on the level of interest in the respective community.

Grant Application and Agreement

APPLICATION

Name of local League _____

Person responsible for this application

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Community/Communities which will be involved in the project _____

Amount requested as grant stipend \$ _____

(Attach a separate page with a description of the grant request and budget line items.)

If awarded a grant, I, _____, fully understand and agree that this money may in no way be used to further any League activities that advance or promote membership programs or advocacy programs or issues.

One half of the grant will be distributed upon approval of the grant application in January 2000. The next 45% will be distributed when the community circles convene in mid-February/early March and the final 5% will be awarded upon submission of the financial report

Signature _____ Date: _____

Please submit this application no later than July 15, 1999 to: Janet Gendler, Project Chair, "Changing Faces, Changing Communities," LWVMNEF, 550 Rice Street, St. Paul, MN 55103

Please call Janet Gendler, project chair (tel: 612-920-3567) or Susan Anderson, project director (tel: 612-331-1117) with questions or requests for assistance.

LOCAL LEAGUE APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL TO DO A PROJECT*

To: LWVMNEF
550 Rice Street
St. Paul, MN 55103
651/224-5445
Fax: 651/290-2145
lwvmn@mtn.org

From: LWV of _____
Name/Treasurer: _____
Address _____

Phone: _____
Date: _____

Who is responsible for the project? _____ Portfolio _____

Title and Date of the Project: _____

*Please note: this application must be submitted at least three weeks before the project is begun.

Type of Project:

- _____ Conference Attendance
_____ Publication
_____ Meeting to Educate the Public on an Issue
_____ Candidate Forum
_____ Voter Reimbursement
_____ Other (please specify: _____)

Note: **Publication** applications should include contents, authors, timetable and distribution. **Meeting** applications should include the planning committee, participants, program and materials. For applications to distribute publications other than LWVMNEF, include a sample copy and the distribution plan. For **Voter reimbursement**, calculate the percentage of column inches devoted to citizen education and voter service.

Purpose of the Project: (Why are you doing this project? What is the need in the community?)

Details of the Project (please be specific):

Who is the project designed to serve? Who will benefit from the project?

Project Budget: (Basic Outline)

Income

\$_____ in your Ed Fund Account
\$_____ to be raised

Expenses

\$_____ Total

Date of Local League Board Approval: _____

Changing Faces, Changing Communities
Community Circles on Immigration in Minnesota
The League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund (LWVMNEF)

Budget Per Community	Amount Requested
Project Coordinator/Manager	\$
Publicity and Advertising	\$
Room Rental	\$
Facilitator honorarium	\$
Office costs	\$
Refreshments	\$
Rental of audio/video equipment	\$
Travel	\$
Child Care	\$
Translators	\$
Other	\$

Please note that we have a limited amount of available grant money . Whenever possible please use donated space, child care etc. and remember you may have money available in your LWVMNEF account (form included)

1999-2000 ANNUAL APPEAL

TO: Local League Presidents

FROM: Claudia Dieter
Development Assistant/Annual Appeal Project Director

DATE: June 8, 1999



Calling all Local Leagues interested in "Dialing for Dollars!"

It's good company---good fun---AND---a good cause!

As you know every year the state LWV conducts the Annual Appeal to solicit contributions from members and friends for the state League's education fund. One of the tools that is in the Annual Appeal toolbox is the Phonathon—and it's been a very effective tool in great part because of Local League volunteers.

A Local League's participation in the Phonathon earns its treasury "hard money" as well as dollars for its Education Fund account. Last year fourteen Local Leagues volunteered phoners and clerical assistance for Phonathons and follow up work earning as much as \$750 for their accounts. Just for a few hours work. **And now it's your chance to sign up for this fall's Appeal!**

With the Fall Fundraiser being held at the end of September, the Annual Appeal will be operating within a very tight schedule. Because the mailing won't go out until October, the Phonathon is planned for early to the middle of the month of November. This condensed time frame will require planning and focus so that our time is used as efficiently as possible, both at the Phonathon sites and in the clerical help that will be needed at the state League office. And to do that **we need your help**.

As in the past each participating League will need to determine a Phonathon location (or hold their Phonathon at the LWVMN office) and provide callers and clerical help. Calling cards and scripts for the callers will be provided. The more contributions raised by your callers the more your Education Fund will benefit.

We look forward to your League's cooperation in contacting our generous supporters. A successful effort will help sustain our state and local Leagues' abilities to continue our well-respected work of providing unbiased and timely information for all Minnesotans.

Please contact me, **Claudia Dieter**, with your intent of interest as well as any questions, comments or suggestions you may have. I can be reached at the state League office (651-224-5445) or FAX (651-290-2145). Also, in August I will send you an article promoting the Annual Appeal for your September Voter. If you need it earlier than that for your printing deadline please let me know.

Hope to hear from you **before the end of July!**

BOARD MEMO



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
MINNESOTA

550 Rice Street • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103
Phone 612-224-5445 • Fax 612-290-2145
lwvmn@mtn.org
<http://freenet.msp.mn.us/ip/pol/lwvmn>

To: Local League Presidents, Contacts
From: Judy Duffy, President, LWVMN, & LWVMN Office
Date: May 28, 1999

What's in this Mailing? (and what do I do with it?)

1. *Outlook Calendar for 1999-2000*: use this calendar as a tool for planning your League's program for the coming year. Please note that the *Board Memo* calendar will serve to update you as we confirm times and dates.
2. *Portfolio Updates for 1999-2000*: each local League President/Contact will receive two copies. One is for the president's reference (insert in The President's Notebook); the other is for distribution to appropriate chairs (Voter Service, Membership, etc.).
3. *FutureTrek*: Summary, Background and Grid and an order form for the full strategic plan are enclosed. Use this plan to guide your League's planning process.
4. LWVMN Board list: keep for reference.
5. Local League Presidents List: keep for reference; check your League's listing to make sure we have correct information. We have not heard from all local Leagues about current local President and Treasurer, so let us know if you have had a change in either of those positions.
6. Local League Board List form: enclosed is a form for your local League Board members. Please fill it out and return it to the LWVMN office as soon as possible.
7. Duplicate Presidents' Mailing subscription form: every local League President receives a *Board Memo* and *Presidents' Mailing* automatically and at no charge. If you wish other members of your League Board to receive them, please fill out and return the enclosed subscription form to the LWVMN office.
8. *The President's Notebook* update for 1999-2000: this reference was distributed to local Leagues attending the April 16 & 17, 1999 LWVMN Convention. We are sending a copy under separate cover to local Leagues not represented at Convention. If your League does not get or have a copy, please let the LWVMN office know and we will see that you get one.

You do not need an engraved invitation to

Join a state League Committee! We are eagerly looking for members for Voter Service, Action, Member Resources, Development, Budget, State Study on Agriculture, Technology, "Changing Faces, Changing Communities" project, Communications, Benefit Dinner . . . Just call the LWVMN office at 651/224-5445 or 1-800-663-9328 to sign up!

OUTLOOK CALENDAR

1999 - 2000

Note: MWB means Minnesota Women's Building, 550 Rice Street, St. Paul; the LWVMN office is there; meetings are frequently held in Women's Building meeting rooms.

+ Watch for further information in Presidents' Mailing.

May, 1999

MAY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

5 LWVMN/EF Board Orientation

15 deadline for full pmp payment for 5% discount

18 Changing Faces, Changing Communities Community Discussions demonstration; 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. – SOB

"Changing Faces" Committee Meeting; Noon-2:00 p.m., MWB
Communications Committee; 6:00 p.m.; LWVMN office

19 Member Resources Committee; 9:00 a.m.; MWB

20 CMAL Annual Meeting;

31 Memorial Day, LWVMN Office closed

- + Mailing to local Leagues with revised calendar for 1999-2000 & Portfolio Updates
- + Development, Communications, Voter Service, Action, Member Resources, Office Management Committees set meeting schedules and timelines for year
- + New state study on sustainable agriculture committee forms; watch *Board Memo* for dates; committee needs members! We may have an accelerated timeline with local League study/consensus in spring of 2000.
- + Review of LWVMN positions; revision of Program for Action over the summer

June, 1999

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

- 1 - First Quarter PMP due from local Leagues to LWVMN
- 11 Leaders of Today and Tomorrow(LOTT); 9:00 – 11:00; SCV Girl Scouts
- 12-14 LWVUS Council, Washington, D.C.
- 21 Changing Faces Changing Communities Steering Committee Meeting; Noon-2:00 p.m., MWB
- 24 CMAL Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m., MWB ?
- + Mailing to local League Presidents as needed
- + LWVMNEF Annual Report for 1998-99
- + Community Circles on Immigration Project Steering Committee and sub-committees to meet over summer; RFP(request for proposal) to local Leagues re participation in local community circles
- + ***Voter, Issue #1, out this month***

July, 1999

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- 2 or 5 - Holiday; LWVMN office closed
- 29 - CMAL Board Meeting, 9:30, MWB?
- Mini- Presidents' Mailing if needed

+ committees to meet as needed

Local League members are encouraged to serve on LWVMN Committees: Action,

Voter Service, Agriculture Study, Membership, Development & Fundraiser,

Communications, Budget, Technology. Call the office to sign up!

August, 1999

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

- 2 - Action Committee Meeting, if needed
- 13 Leaders of Today and Tomorrow; 9:00-11:00 a.m.; MWB
- 18 - LWVMN/EF Board Meeting; 9:00 a.m. - Noon; MWB
- Voter* deadline (issue #2)
- 23 - Presidents' Mailing to local League Presidents/subscribers
- 26 - Women's Equality Day
- CMAL Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m., MWB?

September, 1999

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

- 1 - Second Quarter PMP due to LWVMN
- Annual Appeal letter mailed?
- 6 - **Labor Day; LWVMN Office closed**
- 10 - Leaders of Today and Tomorrow; 9:00-11:00 a.m.; MWB
- 13 - Action Committee Meeting, if needed
- 14 - **Primary Election Day**
- Presidents' Mailing to local Leagues as needed
- 16 - CMAL Quarterly Meeting ?
- 24 - **LWVMNEF Benefit;** Featured Speaker, Ray Suarez, NPR, host of "Talk of the Nation"
- 30 CMAL Board Meeting?

+ *Voter* (issue #2) mailed

+ LWVMNEF Annual Appeal launched: September, October, November

+ Annual Appeal training for local Leagues in September or October

Watch for opportunity to earn \$\$ for your League from the Annual Appeal

+ **Regional Workshops in Sept./Oct.:** info on new study, other training

+ Voter Service Committee begins meeting in earnest; find Media partner(s), announce debates; MN Compact Coalition to begin meeting

OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

October, 1999

- 4 - Action Committee Meeting, 1:00 p.m.; MWB
- 8 - Leaders of Today and Tomorrow; 9:00-11:00 a.m.; MWB
- 4-24 - **Annual Appeal Phonathons** (timing a conflict with dinner? May be later)
 - Regional Meetings continue
- 12 - Columbus Day observed; office open; no mail delivery
- 13 - LWVMN/EF Executive Committee, if needed
- 19 - *President's Mailing*, if needed
- 22 - CMAL Board Meeting, 9:30, MWB
 - U.N. Day?

- + Development Director at Indiana School of Fundraising Training; 10/18-22
- + Training workshops for facilitators/community organizers for community circles

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

November, 1999

- 1 - Action Committee Meeting; 1:00 p.m.; MWB
- 2 - **General Election Day**
 - *Voter* (issue #3) deadline
- 12 - Leaders of Today and Tomorrow; 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.; MWB
- 10 - LWVMN/EF Board Meetings, 9:00 a.m. - noon, MWB
- 16 - Presidents' Mailing to local Leagues
- 25 - Thanksgiving Day; LWVMN office closed
- 26 - LWVMN office closed

- + Annual Appeal continues
- + Citizens in Action Workshops planning/details/brochure
- + Pilot Changing Faces, Changing Communities Community Circle—Pilot group runs through entire 4 to 5 week discussion.
- + Training workshops for community circles facilitators/community organizers
- + Focus on Unicameral Legislature? Watch for information!

DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

December, 1999

- 1 - Third Quarter PMP due to LWVMN
- 6 - Action Committee, 1:00 p.m.; MWB
- 6,13 - Legislative Intern training likely on these days
- 8 - LWVMN Executive Committee, if needed
- 14 - Mini Presidents' Mailing to local Leagues, if necessary
 - Legislative Interviews optional for local Leagues
- 20-24 - LWVMN office closed for holidays
- 31 - LWVMN office closes at 1:00 p.m.

- + Citizens in Action workshops flyer mailing sometime this month
- + Annual Appeal clean-up for 1999
- + *Voter* (issue #3) mailed by mid-December include Legislative preview; "Citizens in Action" info.
- + Prepare computers for Y2K

January, 2000

JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

- 1 - HAPPY NEW YEAR! (Y2K is upon us!)
- 12 - LWVMN/EF Board Meetings, 9:00 a.m. - noon, MWB
- 13 - CMAL Quarterly Meeting?
- 14 - **Deadline for return of your League's membership count for FY 2000-2001**
 - Leaders of Today and Tomorrow Seminars?
- 15, 22 or 29 - LWVMN Citizens in Action Workshop. Tentative
- 17 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; LWVMN office closed
- 18 - President' Mailing to local Leagues with Council Info
- 27 - CMAL Board Meeting, 9:30, MWB
- + Citizens in Action Workshop in greater MN. location?
- + Legislature convenes
- + Local Leagues should schedule program planning for LWVUS this month or next

Voter Service Committee gears up for Election 2000 projects: Hotline, *VOTER GUIDES*, Congressional, U.S. Senate Debates

February, 2000

FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29				

- 7 - Action Committee Meeting; 1:00 p.m.; MWB
- 9 - LWVMN/EF Executive Committee Meeting, as needed
 - *Voter (issue #4)* deadline (Convention issue)
- 11 - Leaders of Today and Tomorrow; 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.; MWB
- 15 - Mini-Mailing to local Leagues
- 21 - Presidents' Day; office open; no mail delivery
 - Women Come to the Capitol
- 24 - CMAL Board Meeting?, 9:30, MWB
- + Community Circles project Kick-off event
- Local League schedule League or community meetings re precinct caucuses and the Election Year? Optional!

March, 2000

MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- 1 - Fourth Quarter PMP due to LWVMN Office
- 6 - LWVMN Action Committee Meeting
- 7 - **Precinct Caucuses?**
- 8 - LWVMN/EF Board Meetings, 9:00 a.m. - noon, MWB
- 14 - Presidents' Mailing to local Leagues
- 16 - CMAL Quarterly Meeting?
- 23 - CMAL Board Meeting, 9:30?, MWB
- 31 - LWVMN/EF fiscal years end
- + If accelerated timeline for state study, Study materials, publications to local Leagues, members; possible public meeting
- + *Voter (Issue #4)* mailed by end of March
- + Mid-February-Mid-March, Community Circles held statewide

April, 2000

APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

- 3 - LWVMN Action Committee
- 12 - LWVMN Executive Committee if needed
- 27 - CMAL Board Meeting, 9:30, MWB?

- + Legacy Circle luncheon in April or May
- + LWVMN Council in April or May
- + Local Leagues schedule meetings for Agriculture Study in April or May
- + Community Circle Action Forums

May, 2000

MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

- 1 - LWVMN Action Committee Meeting
- 10 - LWVMN/EF Board Meetings; possibly in conjunction with a retreat
 - Voter (Issue # 5) deadline
- 18 - Presidents' Mailing to local Leagues
- 25 - CMAL Annual Meeting?

June 2000

JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

17-20 - LWVUS Convention in Washington D.C.

Plan to send your delegation—it's a great experience!!

Portfolio Updates

**LWVMN Board
1999-2000**

**To access LWV Management Tips from LWVUS check out the website at
<http://www.lwv.org/internal/manage.html>**

(Resources for Managing Your League Work)

- ◆ How to propose Amendments to the LWVUS Bylaws
- ◆ 1998 President's Packet
- ◆ New Pub Sales Ordering Information
- ◆ Designing a Voter Education Website
- ◆ LWVUS 1998 Bylaws
- ◆ LWVUS Member Roster Calendar
- ◆ The League Online: Listserves and the Grassroots Lobby Corps
- ◆ The M & Ms of Mentoring
- ◆ September 1998 Leaders' Resource Calendar
- ◆ 1998 Publications Catalog
- ◆ LWVUS/LWVEF Editorial Style Sheet
- ◆ Grammar Review
- ◆ Tips for calendar planning
- ◆ Tips for successful meetings
- ◆ Tips for secretary
- ◆ Tips for the treasurer
- ◆ Tips for membership growth
- ◆ Tips for achieving diversity
- ◆ Tips for membership chair
- ◆ Tips for the voter service chair
- ◆ Tips for the action chair
- ◆ Tips for the newsletter editor
- ◆ Tips for the public relations chair
- ◆ Tips for financing the League
- ◆ Tips for the finance chair
- ◆ Tips for a successful annual meeting

CONTENTS

I. President.....	1-2 ✓
II. Secretary.....	3-4 ✓
III. Treasurer.....	5-7 ✓
IV. Member Resources.....	8-9 —
Field Service	10 —
Membership	11-12 ✓
Program	13-14 ✓
V. Nominating Committee.....	15 ✓
VI. Finance/Development	16-19 ✓
VII. Budget	20 ✓
VIII. Media Relations/Marketing	21-22 ✓ (PR)
IX. Bulletin.....	23-24 ✓
X. Action.....	25-27 ✓
XI. Government Issues	28-29 ✓
XII. Voter Service.....	30 ✓
XIII. State Study.....	31 —
XIV. Curriculum	32 ✓
XV. Technology & Telecommunications.....	33
XVI. League Future Trek.....	34
XVII. Changing Faces, Changing Communities.....	35

NOTES

This Portfolio Update is meant to be a resource for the president (please keep a whole set) and the Board (take the parts that relate to your job). Some portfolios are new and others redefined - so please scan them all now. Then file it away for reference.

The Presidents' Mailing, including the Board Memo will provide information to supplement this on an ongoing basis.

PRESIDENT

Judy Duffy

505 Lake, Birchwood, MN 55110-1631 651/429-9703 GandJDuffy@aol.com

As your local League president, you are in a unique position to make a meaningful contribution to your community. Whether it is in educating or registering voters, producing a public forum, publishing citizen information or being a resource for other groups or individuals, your presence enhances the life of your community. Sometimes we get so involved in what we are doing that we lose sight of the big picture and what our own vitality means to our community. We are seeing many Leagues struggling and some even disbanding. It is a very sad day indeed when we receive the notice that one of our own is giving up. We know that our communities need us more now than ever and if you are a struggling League, please call on us--we're not miracle workers but we want to help as best we can.

It is becoming more apparent that membership recruitment must become a priority for the entire board. If you are fortunate enough to have a membership director, she/he needs a lot of support. Everyone needs to think about inviting friends, colleagues, family and neighbors to come to a League meeting and think about joining. Without constantly building our reserves, our future will be jeopardized.

Where do we start?

- Prioritize. No League has to do everything. What issues are important to your members and your community? A school issue? A city issue? A regional concern? Social service issues? Voter service? The state study?
- Choose two or three areas and spend your time on those. Your members can volunteer to participate in fewer things, but derive satisfaction from doing a good job when they do.
- To save time and resources use LWVUS AND LWVMN positions and publications whenever appropriate to your priorities. Ask for help from your state board.
- Cooperate with neighboring Leagues whenever possible so that you don't duplicate efforts - consider doing the state study, candidate events, membership events, and public meetings together.
- Time spent planning is time well spent. Think about your projects and divide the jobs into small, well-defined pieces. Members who cannot do a large job, may do a smaller one very willingly and well.
- Do publicize your meetings and make sure that it is public knowledge that anyone is welcome to attend and to join the League. Membership is a top priority and the responsibility of the *entire* Board. Encourage potential members to see joining as an opportunity to serve the community whether they can give time, interest, and money or be just one of those to support the League effort.

What to do with all the paper and information?

- You have already received a President's notebook with information and basic resources for local League presidents. Use the resources, but don't be afraid to try new ideas either. If you have questions about what the basics are for a League, please call the state office for a board training session or advice.
- Use the *Outlook Calendar* as you plan your local League calendar, and refer to it often for dates of events, deadlines for responses, etc.
- This Portfolio Update and the Board Memo together provide suggestions for how to get the League job done and current information from state Board members. Please look at them when they arrive. Since the state may have portfolios and program areas that your League does not have, pick out the information that applies to you.

- **Open mailings promptly.** Scan the material, save what applies to your League, note what needs prompt attention and get that to the appropriate person, toss the rest! Let us know what material is helpful and what you need and use. Believe it or not, we do try to keep the mail to a minimum.
- **Ask us.** The state Board members are here to help whenever we can. Please remind your Board members to contact their counterparts at the state level when they have questions.
- **Tell us.** The forms we send requesting information from your League are designed to help us serve you better. We will use the information to plan our work, to share with other Leagues and to get new ideas from you on programs, procedures, and policies. Please respond even if you think the deadline has passed. Good, relevant information is always appreciated!

Have fun! League members are serious about their work, but we have a good time doing it! Remember to include new members in both projects and parties. Communities need both and so do we.

RESOURCES

(Check your League files and the president's Notebook. You should have these, if you don't, call the LWVMN office to request a copy.)

LWVMN: *Outlook Calendar - available June, 1999*
Portfolio Updates - available June, 1999
State Board List
President's Notebook
Program for Action
LWV in Action
League-L-Ese
LWVMN Bylaws and LWVMN Policies
Sample Local League Board Agenda and Meeting Minutes
Annual Meeting Planning Guide
How to Use Your LWVMN Education Fund: A Guide for Local Leagues
Tips on Filing
A Guide for the Nominating Committee
Guide to Local Program Planning
Guidelines for LWV Sponsored Candidate Debates - new edition in 1998; one copy mailed free to each local League. Extra copies \$8.00 from LWVMN office.
Member handbook

LWVUS: LWVUS Board List, address and phone number of LWVUS office
 Publication ordering information is included under General Information in the President's Notebook.
In League (CL #275)
Impact on Issues (CL #386)
Meaningful Meetings (CL #319) - essential for program chairs
Simplified Parliamentary Procedures (CL #138)
Developing Program: Fresh Approaches (CL #369)
 Presidents' Packet (mailed in summer)
LWVUS Bylaws (CL #381)

Local LWV:	Board List	Calendar for the year
	Membership Roster	Committee List
	Job Descriptions	Programs Positions
	Board Policies	Expense Vouchers
	Budget	
	Bylaws	

SECRETARY

Jeannette Lang

2320 E Third Street, Duluth, MN 55812-1851 218/724-4754
74024,727@compuserve.com

As Secretary of your local League, you're in charge of League traffic -- one of the most essential of League jobs. Your primary responsibility is to record Board meeting minutes and keep the official file of them. Minutes reflect the Board's workings at its most critical times -- during meetings. They should be accurate enough to serve as historical records for future Boards. Board minutes may be referred to years after a decision is made to determine when and by what rationale the decision was made.

While you are Secretary, you are also a Board member and should participate in discussions and vote on motions. You may be asked to write letters and send out notices, carry on other duties such as notification of changes in Board members and addresses. These are needed to keep mailing lists current.

If you are unable to attend a meeting, you are responsible for arranging for a substitute.

Following are suggestions for taking accurate minutes.

Heading: Always identify your League on minutes and include the date, time and place of the meeting.

TIP: Numbering your pages and putting a header with your Board's name and date assures that the minutes are fully identified should they become separated from the first page.

Attendees: List present and absent Board members, using their full or last names in the listing. This indicates the size of the Board and identifies the quorum of the meeting. Don't forget to identify yourself as Secretary.

Content: Minutes reflect action taken by the Board -- what was done, not what was said. Remember to include the reasons decisions were made -- not just outcome.

Use the exact wording of motions made, with the name of the mover, a brief summary of the discussion (pros and cons) and the final decision. Motions are **required** to accept *Minutes, the Treasurer's Report, Board appointments, committee assignments; to change local policy; to approve consensus reports; and for recommendations for spending money.*

TIP: If a motion is important, long or complicated, have the mover give you a copy of the motion. Also, highlighting motions makes them easy to spot, if you're looking for them later.

Ask for copies of materials being discussed so that you can participate in the meeting and can recount the material accurately in the minutes, or it is permissible to list them as "Attachments" and staple them to the final draft of the minutes.

TIP: Attachments save a good bit of time when searching for supporting materials long after a meeting is forgotten.

If an issue came up several times, you may pull all the information together in one place.

If your agenda is specific as to content of the meeting, keep an agenda with your minutes. It helps track unfinished items for future meetings.

Distribution: If minutes are sent to Board members before the next meeting, they can be reviewed before hand and the reading of the minutes eliminated. The president asks for corrections. **The minutes are approved, with changes carefully noted in the current meeting minutes. (I am currently sending corrected minutes in to the State office so that a corrected copy of the minutes is in the permanent file.)**

TIP: Sending minutes with the next meeting's agenda saves time, postage and keeps all the meeting-related materials together.

Send two copies of your minutes to LWVMN as soon as possible. The president should read the minutes before they are copied and sent out.

After the Annual Meeting, the outgoing secretary, unless otherwise designated, sends to LWVMN the Annual Meeting minutes, adopted budget, Bylaw changes, list of officers and directors and adopted local program.

RESOURCES

LWVMN: *Sample local League Board Agenda and Meeting Minutes*LWVUS: *Simplified Parliamentary Procedures* (CL #138)

Local LWV: Bylaws

TREASURER

Connie Hondl

5209 Tifton Dr., Edina, MN 55057 612/944-1229 hondlc@aol.com

Per Member Payments (PMP)

The Per Member Payment for the support of the 1999-2000 LWVMN Budget is \$18.00. It is based on your League's membership as of January 1, 1999. Household members (two members living at the same address) are charged \$9.00 each.

Due dates for quarterly payments for Per Member Payments to LWVMN are:

June 1, 1999
September 1, 1999
December 1, 1999
March 1, 2000

If your League wishes to pay the entire PMP by May 15, 1999, the amount due will be discounted by 5%. Your League may also choose to contribute the 5% discount to LWVMN. When a League pays in full as early as possible, it helps cash flow at the state office during the summer months.

PMPs are paid separately to LWVMN and LWVUS. Your job is to ensure that your League's PMPs are paid on time. The national League sends your League a payment schedule for LWVUS PMPs. The state League will mail a quarterly statement to you, the Treasurer. If you have any difficulties with LWVUS or LWVMN PMP payments, contact the LWVMN office immediately. We can help you. If you have questions, please call or write me.

Partial Payment of PMP with Tax-Deductible Money

Each local League has the **option** to raise up to 25% of its per member payment (PMP) in the form of tax-deductible contributions to the LWVMN Education Fund, a 501(c)(3) organization.

Funds that have been raised for specific educational projects and deposited in your Ed Fund account cannot be used to pay your PMP obligation. Newly raised funds must be used. Your League must explain to the donors that their contributions will be used for "general unrestricted purposes, including payment of PMP." **A copy of this explanation to donors must be sent to the state office before we can establish a PMP Ed Fund Account for your League.**

Steps for Making Partial Payment of PMP with Tax-Deductible Money

1. Ask your donors to make their checks payable to LWVMNEF. Explain that their contribution will be used for general unrestricted purposes, including payment of PMP.
2. Send donor's unrestricted contributions to LWVMNEF. Your LWV thus acts as a transmittal agent.
3. Send a statement with the check(s) indicating that payment of PMP is intended.

If a donor mistakenly writes a check to your LWV rather than to the LWVMNEF, be sure not to deposit the check into your bank account. Ask the donor either to reissue the check to the LWVMNEF or to provide you with a written statement authorizing its deposit into the LWVMNEF account. If you mistakenly deposit such a check into your LWV's bank account, you may write a check to the LWVMNEF for the sum of the contribution, but it must be accompanied by a written statement from the donor that the funds should be transferred to LWVMNEF.

Your Treasurer must keep accurate records of each donor's name, date of check, amount received and date transmitted to the state office. All money received from contributors and designated for the LWVMNEF should be recorded in a separate account in your Treasurer's books. It is the responsibility of the local League to acknowledge such contributions with receipts and thank yous. Any legal questions that may arise in conjunction with donation records, amounts, and/or payment records will be handled by the local League involved.

A call to the state Treasurer is highly recommended if you decide to pursue this method of fund raising.

Vouchers

Encourage members to turn in vouchers for gas, child care, meals, etc., even if they do not want to be reimbursed. You will get a clearer picture of the cost of running your League. Non-cash contributions are as important to League operations as hard cash and are a good selling point during your finance campaign.

Membership List Deadlines

Monthly	All drops, transfers, and new members to LWVMN & LWVUS
November, 1999	LWVUS sends local League printouts of their membership rosters for correction
January 14, 2000	Corrected printout to LWVUS and copy to LWVMN
	Membership count to LWVUS and copy to LWVMN to determine PMP for FY 2000 - 2001

Sales Tax

File sales tax forms when required. The general rule is that local Leagues pay sales tax on publications purchased by them for distribution or resale. *Tax is paid on the final sale price.* LWVMN maintains a file of local League sales tax numbers in the state office.

RESOURCES

LWVUS: *Ledger-de-Main for Local League Treasurers* (CL #248)
Each local League Treasurer must have copy.

TIPS FOR THE TREASURER

(from LWV Management Tips: <http://www.lwv.org/internal/management.html>)

The treasurer serves as the chief financial officer of the League.

General

- For a new League group, establishes management systems that assure fiscal responsibility is maintained when personnel changes.
- Manages money and keeps records in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations and in keeping with generally accepted accounting procedures.
- Is aware of the League's liability and assures that fiscal management procedures can pass the "prudent person" test.
- Collects and disburses all League funds as directed by the board, allocating funds to budget categories.
- Oversees all League financial records. Assists board members with financial information as needed.
- Makes periodic reports to the board and membership on the League's financial status (at least quarterly).
- Keeps books that provide a systematic record of all income and expenditures.
- Closes books at the end of the fiscal year.
- Provides complete records for audit or review.
- Prepares a report for the annual meeting.
- Prepares required reports for state LWV and state and federal government.
- Keeps financial records for at least five years.
- Serves as an ex-officio member of the budget committee.
- With the membership chair, maintains an up-to-date membership list and sends out dues notices.
- Submits membership reports to the LWVUS and state League unless this responsibility is assigned to the membership chair.
- Forwards PMP to the LWVUS and state League in a timely manner.
- Deposits tax-deductible funds with the state League Education Fund or with the national-level Education Fund.

Techniques

- Obtain all materials from the previous treasurer and review them together.
- When you take office, register signatures, yours and the president's, at financial institutions where the League has accounts.
- Promptly deposit receipts (dues, contributions, sales) and pay bills to keep your League's credit good. Keep up with the paperwork.
- Anticipate large expenses to avoid cash flow problems.

MEMBER RESOURCES

Jeanne Matlock

1128 Montana Avenue West. St. Paul, MN 55108 651/488-0458 FAX 651/488-1406
jmatlock@pro-ns.net

Member Resources includes the functions of Field Service, Membership and Program. The committee is charged with the overall coordination of LWVMN's relationship with local Leagues. Our responsibilities include:

- providing overall coordination of LWVMN's relationship with local Leagues
- providing field service to current local Leagues
- developing new Leagues
- encouraging and evaluating communications between local Leagues and LWVMN, between neighboring local Leagues and between LWVMN and MALs
- planning Council, Convention and regional workshops
- planning and coordinating workshops for local Leagues
- providing membership ideas, materials, and workshops
- serving as a resource to local Leagues in planning community projects and programs
- encouraging local Leagues to work with each other in regional groupings when appropriate

Our committee represents a commitment by the entire state Board to the local Leagues. We continue to evolve and welcome your suggestions. We want to be useful to local Leagues both individually and collectively. We can and will call upon the whole Board for assistance, but the immediate committee includes:

FIELD SERVICE	Laurie Boche - staff	651/224-5445 1-800/663-9328 lwvmn@mtn.org
MEMBERSHIP	Carol Frisch 7025 Comanche Ct., Edina, MN 55439	H 612/829-0604 W 651/774-9105 carolf@thinkmhc.org
PROGRAM	Gabi Brockelsby 3593 Kosec DR., Red Wing, MN 55066	H 651/388-7971 W 651/388-4003 FAX 651/385-9050

MEMBER RESOURCES DIRECTOR

Coordinator of LWVMN Board relationships with local leagues and members-at-large (including new and provisional leagues).

- Chair the Member Resources Committee which has the responsibility of planning and coordinating efforts to provide assistance and services to local leagues. The director's job includes setting and mailing an agenda and the minutes of the meetings.

Regular members include Program, Membership board and staff members, Field Service board and staff member, Community Outreach staff person (if and when funded) and members from local leagues.

The committee would work with the Community Outreach / local league resource staff person to develop and oversee that program.

The committee may call upon the assistance and advice of the whole board, especially PR, Communications, Voter Service, Action, Citizen Information, Voter editor and Development, as needed.

- Plan Council, Convention and regional workshops (Fall & Spring) with the Field Service staff person.
- Work with Field Service board member and staff to coordinate workshops requested by local leagues. Any of the board portfolios may be requested to give a workshop in their area, e.g. Action, Voter Service, the current study, PR, Membership, Field Service, Technology, Development, etc.
- Work with the Communications and Technology directors to evaluate LWVMN communications with local leagues and to initiate lines of two-way communications.
- Work with the whole committee to identify local leagues and / or members who share a problem or an interest in action, candidates, program issues and community problems and encourage them to work together.
- Serve as a resource for the nominating committee.

FIELD SERVICE

Laurie Boche (Staff)

651/224-5445 1/800/663-9328 Fax: 651/290-2145

Field Service is the portfolio specifically concerned with the health of local Leagues and state units. We read the minutes and newsletters sent to the state office to get an idea of what is happening in your League and welcome your questions or comments at any time. Our traditional services include Board orientation and regional workshops, but we also like to visit just to get to know you.

Laurie Boche keeps the membership and Board lists up to date. Let her know if you have a new member who needs to be on the mailing list or a current member who is not getting mailings for some reason.

Board Orientation sessions are available upon request. These working sessions offer an opportunity to prepare your leadership to carry out the functions that provide stability and credibility for the League. They generally last from 1 to 1½ hours and cover the general duties of the Board, the role of individual portfolios, nonpartisanship policies, and calendar planning. If you have specific problems, questions, or requests, we will try to address those as well. Call Laurie at the state office to set up a date.

New Member Orientation is needed because the League of Women Voters is a relatively complex organization for new members to understand. We have three levels - a dual mission of education and advocacy - studies and consensus - a nonpartisanship policy at all times even though we are political in advocacy. Not knowing or misunderstanding League policy is likely to lead to frustration for new members and perhaps trouble for your League. The ideal practice is for experienced members to serve as mentors for newer ones as they learn the ropes, but at the very least we need some plan to support and encourage them.

The Member Resources Committee is looking at the possibility of writing some new training material and also at the possibility of offering training sessions to which you may send your new members. Please watch for information in the coming Board Memos under either Member Resources or Field Service.

Regional Meetings planned for Fall 1999 are a workshop on the new State Study on Agriculture and Sustainability will be included, so plan to attend. Watch for dates, schedules, places in future Board mailings.

MEMBERSHIP

Carol Frisch

7025 Comanche Ct., Edina, 55439 612/829-0604 (h) 651/774-0105 (w) carolf@thinkmhc.org

Congratulations on becoming Membership Chair for your local League. You have a very important job, and it is not yours alone. Start now to build support by asking for help from your Board and from your entire membership. Membership is everyone's business.

There are many ways in which you can carry out the membership function. If you recruit a committee or just ask individuals to help be sure to divide up the tasks. The tasks that are important to accomplish are:

1. Membership cultivation
2. Membership recruitment
3. Membership support/mentoring
4. Diversifying membership

Develop a membership strategy that involves the tasks outlined above. Where will you get new members? What support will you give potential or new members? How will you make them feel welcome?

The membership committee is in the process of seeking advice from local Leagues about what assistance would be most useful from LWVMN. In the meantime here are some steps for membership growth.

10 Steps to Membership Growth

1. **Set a goal.** How many new members would you like to see join this year? Your goal should be realistic and attainable. Celebrate your successes and evaluate your strategies.
2. **Cultivating for membership:** Make sure people in your community know about the League and that they can join and become part of a nonpartisan organization that promotes and enhances democracy. Personal invitations to join are the most powerful. If you have PTA's, women's professional organizations, businesses that have women's groups, see if you can make a presentation and then follow up with one-to-one calls with anyone who expresses interest. When cultivating for membership, be sure to invite people of different cultures and races to be a part of League. Remember, many people do **not know** that they can be a part of League.
3. **Plan events** with substance that show what League can do for the community as well as the potential member. People have very little time today, so they will only become part of organizations if there is something of value for them, their family or their community. League can provide value in all categories.
4. **Call back on prospects.** Many times people express an interest, but they never hear from a Leaguer again. Following up on potential members is critical to the success of the membership drive.
5. **Orientation** Have an orientation for new and prospective members. Ask a few of your members to talk about current studies and activities. Stress **all levels** of involvement are welcome. Many people think League takes too much time, so you need to dispel this myth. Give examples of how people can be involved. LWVMN is thinking about offering a membership-orientation session at the state League office – call if you're interested and watch for information.
6. **Retention:** Keeping current members is also of critical importance. Call current members once or twice a year to see how they like League. Ask for feedback about anything they have on their mind. (You can ask other members or some of the Board to help you with this project.) Look at old membership rosters and be sure to invite former Leaguers to events and activities. Again, a personal phone call will get the best results.
7. **Exit interviews:** When people leave, do a personal phone call or personal visit with the member and again get their feedback about the League. You will want to ask them for the League's strengths and weaknesses.

8. **Evaluate:** continuously look at your successes and near successes to see what worked and what did not. **Please share with me** so I can pass on your tips to other Leagues.
9. **Have fun** while encouraging others to become a part of an organization that you believe in.
10. **Thank you** for increasing League membership.

If you are interested in serving on a state membership committee, please contact me or Sally Sawyer or Laurie Boche at the LWVMN office, and please call me with any questions or suggestions.

RESOURCES

Local LWV: Go through your own League's "membership box."

LWVMN: Membership brochure

New Member Handbook

This 8.5" by 5.5" booklet is designed to give new members a brief background about the League. In ten pages it briefly covers League history, organization, what we do, how we reach positions; nonpartisanship; a glossary of terms, and a place for phone numbers. It can be ordered from the state office for \$2.00 a copy.

This basic information needs to be supplemented with your own League roster, policies, and local positions.

New Member Orientation

This 8 1/2" by 11" booklet is intended for use in a group orientation session. It includes a brief history, an overview of the structure, and an explanation of what the League does --- study, educate, advocate, and voter service. This booklet has more detail about program and includes state and national positions in brief. It also has a glossary of terms. It is available from the state office for \$3.00 a copy.

LWVUS: Membership Video *Take Back the System!* Membership marketing and recruitment

Pub. #943 \$10.00

Membership Cards (free) Pub. #227

Add your Voice brochure Pub. #1017 \$.15

PROGRAM

Gabi Brockelsby

3593 Kosec Dr. NW, Red Wing, 55066 651/388-7971

As Program Chair for the LWVMN, the most important job is to serve local Leagues and provide assistance when requested for Program related activities. Helpful to an understanding of Program as used in the League is the following sentence quoted from the Introduction to *Program for Action, 1995-97*: "To the League of Women Voters, *Program* means those issues chosen by the members for study and action."

For local Leagues, the following activities accomplish Program:

1. **Calendar Planning** - takes place during the summer. The local League Program Chair as well as chairs of study committees should be included in the calendar planning process. Updated calendar information, when available, will be supplied by LWVMN Program Chair.
2. **Study Committees** - they organize and meet regularly to research information, plan unit meetings with Board approval, and present information objectively for members to arrive at consensus. A local Program Chair, if there is one, serves as the liaison between study committees and the local Board. State Program Chairs can assist with names of speakers, planned meetings by neighboring Leagues, tapes, cassettes, videos available and names of study chairs who might be willing to share resources and members.
3. **Lively Issues** - meeting which takes place usually in December or January to determine which current action positions should be retained or dropped and to elicit the members' suggestions for studies for the next one or two years. LWVMN Program chairs provide "Program at a Glance," a listing of state League positions for use in deciding which positions to retain or drop; also they send out a list of Minnesota issues to serve as spurs to local members discussions.
4. **Convention/Annual Meeting** - local, CMAL, state and national Program adopted at these meetings. Current positions are reaffirmed or dropped and new positions adopted when consensus was reached after a study. New studies are proposed, discussed and accepted or rejected. LWVMN Program Chairs can assist local Leagues who want to contact other Leagues proposing the same or similar studies.
5. **Local Program** - at their local Annual Meetings, Leagues choose one or more local issues for study. When they notify the LWVMN Board of their choice, a list is kept of which Leagues are studying which issues. This list is a tool for use by local Leagues in contacting other Leagues with similar studies and coordinating activities. LWVMN Program Chairs tabulate the list and make it available through Board mailings.
6. **Action** - after approval by the appropriate Board, action is taken to support or oppose legislation. Local Leagues are asked to write letters to their legislators and to newspapers. Each year the LWVMN and Common Cause co-sponsor Citizens in Action Workshops at the State Capitol. Local League members are encouraged to become lobbyists for League positions at the State Capitol by enrolling in the League Legislative Intern program. Also, local League members interview their state representatives and senators, asking questions framed by the LWVMN Action committee, to find out if the legislators support or oppose League positions. LWVMN Program Chair attends meetings of the state Action Committee to keep informed of LWVMN lobbying efforts and new issues that might be appropriate for League study and action.

The LWVMN recognizes that so many activities may place a heavy burden on Leagues with limited memberships and resources. Local Boards are encouraged to adapt to suit their members and LWVMN Program Chair will provide assistance and resources. Possible options for fulfilling Program include not only the traditional study committees and unit meetings, but also:

1. Regional public meetings with nearby Leagues
2. Sharing study committee members and meetings among neighboring Leagues
3. Use of tape recordings, video cassettes, cable TV broadcasts to inform League members and the public
4. Use of information, speakers and membership lists from organizations joined in coalition with LWVMN on specific issues.

Resources

LWVMN

Guide to Local Program \$3.50

LWVMN website at <http://www.freenet.msp.mn.us/ip/pol/lwvmn> - a list of 1 local League topics for study and unit meetings

LWVUS

Empowering Citizens: A Guide to Influencing Public Policy: \$5.00 (#1053). This guide is designed to help leaders in developing and implementing a compelling and inclusive local program that will build LWV membership, visibility, diversity and financial security.

Some of the sections are:

1. The Big Picture - an overview of the guiding principles that govern all aspects of the League's program work.
2. Choosing an Issue - suggestions for selecting issues that will engage your members and your community.
3. Determining the League's Role - questions to consider in deciding how to address an issue selected - whether study, community dialogue, citizen education or action.
4. Organizing for work on an issue - basic steps to follow in conducting any League program work.
5. Conducting a study - a step-by-step guide to conducting a League study.
6. Promoting community dialogue - techniques for bringing citizens together to resolve a community problem.

Creating Communities of Inclusion \$3.00 (#1077). Practical tips on how to reach out to diverse audiences and create broad-based partnerships to address community problems and goals. Includes in-depth case studies of successful get-out-the-vote efforts.

Meaningful Meetings \$6.00 (#319) - How to plan unit meetings.

LWVUS Website - <http://www.lwv.org>

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Joyce Blomquist, Chair
1980 W. Skillman, St. Paul, 55113 651/631-0688

Local League Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is an important League committee which, ideally, should function on a year-round basis, filling vacancies as they occur and identifying future League leaders. Beginning in September, the committee should develop a timeline which will assure adequate time to identify positions to be filled and to develop a good list of prospects. The committee should be familiar with Board responsibilities. It is helpful if the committee members visit Board meetings and represent all units.

League Board positions provide excellent opportunities for people to build leadership skills, develop resumes, explore potential career options or just become more proficient in the "how-tos" of getting things done. Use "opportunity" as your frame of reference instead of "filling slots." The nominating process will become more exciting and challenging for nominee and nominator alike!

LWVMN Nominating Committee

The LWVMN Nominating Committee is always looking for candidates for service on the state Board. Please submit your candidate/prospects/suggestions to me at home or in care of the LWVMN office.

In the Fall of 2000, the nominating committee will begin its search for nominees for the 2001-2003(!) LWVMN Board of Directors. Be on the look-out for talented people who might like an opportunity to serve on the LWVMN Board.

Rosemary Guttormsson, LWV Duluth, and Jean Tews, LWV Mahtomedi, were elected to the Nominating Committee at the 1999 LWVMN Convention. Two additional members from the LWVMN Board will be appointed by the Board this year.

The Nominating Committee also determines the recipients of the Hope Washburn Award, bestowed at Convention every two years on an individual for outstanding service to the League of Women Voters of Minnesota, and the Peggy Thompson Award, presented at Convention to an individual for outstanding service to a local League. Any member (or group) can nominate any other for these two prestigious awards. Look for the nomination forms in the Presidents' Mailing fall of 2000.

RESOURCES

LWVMN: *A Guide for the Nominating Committee*
Helpful in developing a timetable and performing this most important service.

LWVUS: *In League, Talent Scouts; the Nominating Committee*, PP. 5-1 to 5-5.

FINANCE / DEVELOPMENT

Elizabeth Nordling

415 Birchwood Ave., Birchwood, 55110 651/426-1238, Fax 651/426-6937 sing@minn.net

I. FINANCING YOUR LEAGUE YEAR

Finance Campaign

An annual finance campaign is a must for all Leagues. The campaign brings you visibility in your community as well as raising money for your League activities. That community presence will reap benefits in membership and public relations in addition to adding dollars to your bank account. Those dollars will allow you to do more for your community. Remember, you get a greater dollar return for less time and effort in a finance campaign than in any other kind of fundraising.

Steps to a Successful Finance Campaign

1. Get an enthusiastic Finance Chair.
2. Emphasize total Board support of the campaign.
3. Get a Finance Committee.
4. Set a goal and a deadline to wrap up the campaign.
5. Research and target prospective donors.
6. Begin with the most likely prospects--your Board, members, former and present donors, and those with League contacts.
7. Send a letter to donors and prospects requesting a specific dollar amount.
8. Train your volunteer solicitors.
9. Make phone and in-person follow-up calls.
10. Thank all donors.
11. Recognize all donors and solicitors.
12. Throughout the year, keep donors informed of League through your bulletin, meeting announcements and/or publications of interest to that donor.
13. Congratulate yourselves on your success.

Tips for a Successful Fundraiser

1. Research and plan a fundraiser that will appeal to your members to work on and support. Be sure that you have total Board support.
2. Be sure that it will appeal to your constituency (whoever is to attend, pay, etc.).
3. Keep your expenses low to keep risk of loss low.
4. Be sure that the dollar return will be worth the time and effort expended by members.
5. Don't forget the FUN in fundraiser.

The LWVMN Education Fund: Why and How to Use it.

Tax deductible dollars to the Education Fund are generally easier to raise than regular contributions to your League. Those dollars enable your League to do any Voter Service or Citizen Information project in your community.

To qualify to use Ed Fund money, your project must be:

- ♦ Objective and factual, not involved in League positions;
- ♦ Educational;
- ♦ Designed to serve the public;
- ♦ Approved by the LWVMNEF prior to starting the project.

Examples of Education Fund Projects

- Know your Community/Local Government and Community Services booklet
- Local Citizens in Action publication
- Local Election Hotline/Voters' Guide/candidates' meetings
- Bulletin reimbursement for percentage devoted to education
- Placemats for restaurants, posters, yard signs to get out the vote
- Town meetings/public meetings.

Fundraising Within Your Boundaries

The intent of this policy is to maximize the fundraising capabilities of all Leagues in Minnesota.

The LWVMN's policy for local Leagues on soliciting contributions is as follows:

Your local League should solicit funding from individuals (unless they have ties to your League) and businesses/corporations, civic and other groups who give financial support within your geographic boundaries. If you feel there is an overriding need to go beyond your geographic boundaries, please adhere to the following policy:

1. If you approach a corporate/business, civic or other group located where there is a local League chapter, call the president of that local League and inform them of your plans.
2. If you are soliciting funds of \$2,500 or more from **any** foundation or corporate giving program located in Minnesota, report your plans to the Director of Development at the State League Office.
3. The LWVMN will report to the local Leagues on fundraising solicitations made of Minnesota corporations and foundations.
4. Collaboration and cooperation among Leagues is encouraged. For major fundraising efforts a local League and the state League should consider joint approaches to foundations or corporate giving programs.

Please contact Andrea Lex, Director of Development, LWVMN at 651/224-5445. A local League President list is available from the state Office at 651/224-5445.

Partial Payment of PMP with Tax-Deductible Money

Each local League has the **option** to raise up to 25% of its per member payment (PMP) in the form of tax-deductible contributions to the LWVMNEF. LWVMNEF will establish a separate LWVMNEF PMP Account for each local League that requests to use a tax-deductible contribution to pay PMP.

Funds that have been raised for designated educational projects and deposited in your LWVMNEF account cannot be used to pay your PMP obligation. Specifically designated funds must be used: Your League must explain to donors that their contribution will be used for "general unrestricted purposes, including payment of PMP." See page 7 of *How to Use Your League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund: A Guide for Local Leagues*.

LWVMNEF Fundraising: Local League Participation

Annual Appeal - A Statewide fund drive is held every Fall. A letter is sent to members and non-members asking for a contribution. A phonathon is held as a follow-up to the letter. This is a great money-maker for local Leagues. Local Leagues are invited to participate and share the funds that are raised as a result of their efforts. A special mailing asking for local League participation will be sent to Presidents in the summer. **LWVMNEF Local League Sharing Policy:** 25% of individual gifts of \$50 and above are deposited in the local League Education Fund account when donors ask that their contribution be shared with the local League.

Corporate Fundraising - Minnesota corporations are solicited for contributions throughout the year both for unrestricted grants for general operating support and for grants to specific LWVMNEF

projects. **Local League Sharing Policy:** 10% of an unrestricted corporate gift of \$500 or more is deposited in the Education Fund account of the local League in that corporation's headquarters community.

Benefit - A dinner to support LWVMNEF will be held on **Friday, Sept. 24, 1999 at the Doubletree Hotel in Bloomington.** Ray Suarez, host of National Public Radio's "Talk of the Nation" will be the guest speaker at this gala event for the League's 80th anniversary. Watch for further information.

Planned Giving - Endowment funds for both LWVMN and LWVMNEF have been established as well as a planned giving program to provide long term financial support. Potential donors are advised that they have options for giving to various levels of League. **The Legacy Circle** - The Legacy Circle is a recognition society for all those who have made the state League a beneficiary in their wills or made arrangements for a planned gift or made an outright gift of at least \$1,000 to the Endowment Funds. A special luncheon is held annually to recognize all members of the Legacy Circle.

II. IRS RULES REGARDING NON-DEDUCTIBILITY OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Any solicitation for contributions **NOT** going to the Education Fund must contain a conspicuous and easily recognized statement that contributions to the organization are not tax-deductible. This includes contributions, **membership dues**, gifts, voluntary assessments, stock, securities, property or voluntary services. In soliciting these funds you must state their non-deductibility clearly and in a place where it will be noticed by the recipient.

Wording on solicitations to businesses can be slightly different because a business may choose to deduct a contribution as an ordinary and necessary business expense, e.g., public relations.

Sample wording for solicitations to businesses might be:

"Contributions to the LWV of _____ are not deductible as charitable contributions for tax purposes but may be deductible as an ordinary and necessary business expense."

Sample wording for solicitations to individuals might be:

"Contributions to the LWV of _____ (or dues for membership in the LWV of _____) are not deductible as charitable contributions for tax purposes."

III. IRS RULES ON DEDUCTIBILITY OF PAYMENTS BY PATRONS OF FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Local Leagues can use fundraising events to solicit deductible gifts for the Education Fund if they follow certain soliciting and reciting practices:

- > To be tax deductible, a payment must be an outright gift without tangible compensation. When a person buys an item, no gift has been made because the payment is the purchase price. To qualify as a gift, it must be shown that the payment exceeds the fair market value of whatever is received and that amount may be deducted.
- > An admission price is not tax deductible because the payment is not considered a gift. If the price is intended to be in part a gift and in part the purchase price of admission, you must state how much is fair market value and how much is a gift. This must appear on the solicitation and on any ticket or receipt.

- > Where the event is reasonably comparable to events for which there are established charges for admission, such as theatrical or athletic performances, the established charges should be treated as fixing the fair market value of the admission. If the amount paid is the same as the standard admission charge, there is no deductible contribution.
- > The amount of a payment exceeding the value of an event or article received is tax deductible. Even if the event and/or articles are donated they cannot be deducted if the rate charged equals their fair market value. If the price is higher than the fair market value, and this is made clear, then the difference is tax deductible.
- > To claim a deduction, the donor must be able to show a gift was made in excess of the fair market value of the goods or services received. The charity must disclose fair market value for each item and include it in a brochure or catalog if one is printed.
- > The price of a raffle ticket is not deductible, and the prizes are subject to income tax.

IV. REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

These requirements apply to contributions received on or after Jan. 1994:

- > A charity must provide a donor with a written acknowledgment for a contribution of \$250 or more to include with the individual's 1040 tax return. The acknowledgment must state the amount of any cash contribution, a description of any property contributed and whether the charity provided any goods or services in exchange for the contribution. If there was an exchange, the charity must also provide a good faith estimate of the value of those goods or services.
- > If a charity receives more than \$75 from a contributor and the sum is partly a contribution and partly a payment for goods and services provided by the charity, the charity must give the donor a written statement that includes a good faith estimate of the value of the goods or services and informs the donor of the actual amount which may be considered a charitable deduction.

RESOURCES

LWVMN: *How to Use Your LWVMN Education Fund: A Guide for Local Leagues*

LWVUS: *Dollars and Sense: the Art of Raising Money (CL #494)*
 Service for State and Local Grant Guidelines (CL #348)
 Corporate Fundraising (CL #305)

BUDGET

Kathy Kolb

3947 Aldrich Ave N., Minneapolis, 55412 612/522-4188(h) 612/728-5332(w)

The budget is an important part of League planning. In order to reach the objectives in study and action so vital to League, planning for covering the expenses is needed. An indispensable aid to local League budget chairs is the LWVUS publication, *The Art of Budget Building*. This gives the job description, timeline and local League budget planning form which clearly spells out your job responsibilities and facilitates your work.

The following is a suggested budget planning guide. Adapt this plan to meet the needs of your own League. Be sure to check your Bylaws for deadlines.

Calendar

- Summer: Board appoints budget chair and committee. Bylaws suggest at least two months before the annual meeting as a minimum.
- Fall: Committee reviews *The Art of Budget Building* and existing local League budget. Visit Board and unit meetings to listen to the members and Board on ideas and concerns about the budget.
- Winter: Committee studies state and national proposed budgets and meets to put ideas together and develop cost estimates. Committee proposes budget and presents to board. Board approves or revises.
- Spring (or one month before annual meetings):
 Present proposed budget and explanation in bulletin. Plan presentation to Annual Meeting. Chair presents budget at Annual Meeting. Membership revises and/or adopts. Print adopted budget in bulletin or member handbook. Send copy to LWVMN and LWVUS.

The state League Budget Committee welcomes input and assistance from all local League members and encourages any comment to be sent to the state Budget Chair at the LWVMN office. We would especially welcome the participation of local League representatives on the Budget Committee for 2001 – 2003 – this committee will begin meeting in early Fall of 2000, to prepare budgets for consideration and adoption at the 2001 LWVMN Convention. Let us know if you or anyone from your League are interested.

RESOURCES

LWVUS: *The Art of Budget Building* (CL #268)

COMMUNICATIONS and MEDIA RELATIONS

*Karen Gochberg, 9943 Jamaca Ct. N., White Bear Lake, 55110 651/429-8480
k_gochberg@hotmail.com*

Please call Andrea Lex, Director of Communications at the state office for assistance at 651/224-5445.

Communications and Media Relations are the links between your local League and your community. A key to media relations is nurturing a relationship with the staff of your local newspapers and your radio and TV stations. They can help you gain the visibility your League needs to increase attendance at meetings and events; and raise awareness of League issues and action. By keeping your community informed about League, you increase your ability to raise funds and gain new members. By showing that your League is active and concerned, you will also heighten your League's credibility.

Planning Your Year

- **Develop a media relations plan** around your League calendar. Decide which events to publicize: voter service, public meetings, unit meeting, candidate forums.
- **Find out the deadlines** for your newspaper and radio and TV stations. Also, find out who to contact. All press releases should be sent to an individual. Plan enough lead time to meet them.
- **Find out about cable access television.** If you need to get training to use equipment plan, arrange training in advance of the event you hope to cover.
- **Develop a list of media contact names and numbers.**

Press Releases in General

- **Send press releases in advance of media deadlines**, usually two weeks for newspapers and radio, to a few days for TV. Don't try to send your whole year's calendar at once. Make follow up calls to the appropriate reporter. Include only one news item per press release.
- **Customize or personalize each press release, or accompanying cover letter**, to the appropriate reporter (some have specific beats) or appropriate media source. Different papers cover different news. Remember, if your story isn't visual, you won't get any photographers or television camera crews interested.

How to Write a Press Release

- **Use the inverted pyramid method** that reporters use for writing your press release (**Who, What, When, Where, Why, How**). Write the release so that the most important information is in the beginning, and editors can cut off the last one or two paragraphs without affecting the content.
- **Provide a contact person for the reporters** to call with any questions. Give a phone number of the contact person for the day of the event, and provide a daytime phone and an evening phone to the reporter. If the contact can be reached by cellular phone, provide that number also.
- **Remember What Makes News:** Conflict; Prominence; Proximity; Impact; Timeliness; Surprise; Interesting People or Events; Something New; Trends; Evidence, Solid Facts; Experts; Diversity; Something Useful for the Audience.

Editorials/Letters to the Editor

Call the editor for editorial requirements if you want a longer (750 words) piece printed. Letters to the editor are more likely to be printed, especially by weekly papers. Submit them in the required format (if any) on time. Check with the editor about deadlines as they are often different from news deadlines.

LWVMN RESOURCES

- A 1999 copy of Minnesota Media Directories is available at the League office for reference.

Marketing

Eydie Kargas, who produces many of the State League's materials, is available for consultation. 612-473-8610, Fax 612-476-9338, ekargas@wavefront.com.

Think of marketing as outreach. Marketing puts League in contact with a variety of publics including: current members, community leaders, voters, potential voters, past funders, potential funders. Here are some marketing ideas.

Membership Brochures:

Every current member ought to have a few brochures that describe the benefits of membership and where to send dues. Current members are the best distribution channel for reaching new members. Encourage members to hand out brochures to their friends.

Newsletter:

The local League newsletter helps keep current members involved and excited about League activities. Mail your League's newsletter regularly to members, potential members, media contacts and funders.

Flyers, Announcements and Invitations:

Distribute special notifications to encourage attendance at special events such as public meetings, candidate forums or annual meetings. These can go to members, funders, schools, chambers of commerce, churches and/or other community organizations depending on the event. Some tips: Use one of the computer page layout programs to produce beautiful and trendy copies. Sharp looking paper provides a good impression. Recycled paper makes a hard working, no nonsense statement.

Catalogs:

The *Catalog* and *Catalog for Local Leagues* are mailed in President's mailing several times a year. Call for additional copies. Use the Catalog to introduce schools, libraries, colleges and junior colleges to our materials. Tell them that:

- **How to Make a Difference** is being used as a college text in several Minnesota Colleges.
- **We The People: Skills For Democracy**, our K-6 curriculum, fits the Minnesota Profile of Learning standards for People and Cultures and addresses the comprehensive goal of responsible citizenship in The Minnesota Graduation Standards.
- **We've Got The Power: Skills For Democracy**, our 7-12 curriculum, fits the Minnesota Profile of Learning standards for 9th grade People and Cultures and 12th grade Government, citizenship piece and it addresses all the comprehensive goals of the Minnesota graduation standards.

Use your Ed fund money to provide your district with copies.

Awards:

Give an annual award to a League member at your Annual Meeting. Photograph the event and publicize it. The League office has beautiful certificates to be used for awards.

Planning Your Year:

Advance planning will allow your League time to secure funding or in-kind contributions needed to produce marketing materials. Many (other than membership brochures) will qualify for Education Fund dollars, but requests must be sent to the state office for approval before expenses are incurred. Planning is also need to be sure your marketing materials are complete when they are needed. For example, schools often are willing to duplicate flyers announcing school board candidate forums and send them home with students as long as they have time to do so.

Distribution:

Mail is just one way to reach people. Consider getting a table at your next summer festival to distribute League materials. Make gifts of League videos, books and curriculum to schools, libraries and civic groups (invite the press). Leave League materials at the library, city hall, or post office.

BULLETIN

Mary Steen

716 St. Olaf Ave., Northfield, 55057 507/645-7274 msteen@stolaf.edu

Your bulletin, voter, newsletter—by whatever name—is often the one thing that all League members have in common. It is the glue that holds your League together, the cheerleader for programs and activities, the analyst that provides deep background on issues, the “people magazine” whose profiles help your members get acquainted, the spokesperson that gives your League its public face.

This may seem like a tall order, but is one that is possible to fill. Here are some things to consider in making your newsletter the best it can be.

Physical details:

- ✓ Try to make the type clear and easy to read. Your newsletter will look better if everything is in the same typeface.
- ✓ Leave white space around articles.
- ✓ Use graphics.
- ✓ Write lively headlines.
- ✓ Put something enticing on the front page.

Content:

- ✓ Vary the types of articles to include not only announcements and reports on current activities, but also background analyses, profiles of members, action alerts, opinion pieces, excerpts from interesting articles from other sources.
- ✓ Remember that people like to read about people, and League members have a special weakness for wanting to be informed on issues.
- ✓ Many voters include a President’s column, a calendar of events, and opportunities for volunteering.
- ✓ Be sure to include the name and phone numbers of the President, Membership Chair, and Editor in each issue.
- ✓ Try not to use League jargon and abbreviations, at least not without identifying them at first mention.

You will note that we sometimes publish things from local League newsletters in the *Minnesota Voter*. If your League organizes an interesting or unusual public meeting, is responsible for a grassroots action campaign, has a member who’s doing something especially significant, I’d like to hear about it.

If I can be helpful to you in any way, please contact me by phone, mail, or e-mail.

Regulations for Third-Class Mailing

1994 postal regulations ban advertising in nonprofit third-class mail for products and services "substantially unrelated" to the purpose of the organization. *If you sell ads in your bulletin to support your League, you are affected by these regulations.* You can continue to carry *business-card size* acknowledgments from contributing businesses or individuals within certain strict guidelines. If you think you may be affected, make sure to call the state office, or check with your post office.

Mail Extra Copies: In addition to preparing your bulletin, it is also your responsibility to see that copies are distributed within the League. It is important to all of us to keep this communication going!

Send **two copies** to: LWVUS, 1730 M Street NW, Washington, DC 20036

Send **one copy** to your LWVUS liaison, Mona Steele, 306 Yosemite Trail, Madison, WI 53705-2438.

Send **two copies** to: LWVMN, 550 Rice Street, St. Paul, MN 55103

Send **one copy** to:

The president or bulletin editor of each local League in **your exchange group**. You can also arrange to exchange bulletins with any other League as you wish. (Many editors find these very helpful. When the timing is right, many copy freely.)

Exchange Groups:

Bloomington, Richfield, Eastern Carver County, South Tonka, Northern Dakota County, Minnetonka/Eden Prairie/Hopkins

Rock County, Jackson Area, Mankato Area, St. Peter, New Ulm, Willmar

St. Louis Park, Golden Valley, Crystal/New Hope/East Plymouth, Robbinsdale, Wayzata/Plymouth Area, Edina, Brooklyn Center

Austin, Rochester, Red Wing, Northfield, Owatonna, Freeborn County, Cannon Falls, Winona

Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, Rochester

Bemidji, Cass Lake/Walker, Brainerd Lakes Area

St. Cloud Area, Anoka/Blaine/Coon Rapids, Buffalo/Monticello, Brooklyn Park/Osseo/Maple Grove, Fridley

New Brighton, Arden Hills/Shoreview, White Bear Lake/North Oaks, Mahtomedi Area, Roseville/Maplewood/Falcon Heights, Woodbury/Cottage Grove, St. Croix Valley

ACTION

Kay Erickson

6000 Wyngate Lane, Minnetonka, MN 55345 612/934-2991 fax: 612/934-5975
kerickson@visi.com

Jane McWilliams

901 W. First, Northfield, MN 55057 507/645-8423 jmcwilliams@microassist.com

The League "...wishes to be one of the minorities which agitate and educate and shape ideas today which the majority will adopt tomorrow." -- Carrie Chapman Catt

From the beginning the League has been at the forefront of legislative reform. Action is still the life-blood of the League. Your League can get involved in your community by using local, state and national positions to educate and lobby local councils, commissions and boards about issues of concern to your League.

First Things First:

Begin by getting acquainted with:

- *In League (LWVUS publication), Sections 2 and 10
- *Action Guidelines, LWVMN President's Notebook, section 10
- *Your local League's positions
- **Impact on Issues* (LWVUS positions)
- **Program for Action* (LWVMN positions).

Action in your community

1. Decide what issue is important to your community and focus your action on that issue. Determine the position you will use (It can be a local, state or national position.) Follow the Action Guidelines in determining if you need to work with other Leagues or the state and/or national Leagues. Form an Action Committee. Decide on your strategy and an evaluation process. Did community attitudes change? Was a law implemented or stopped? Did you make a difference?

Work with other organizations in coalition. It distributes the work, broadens the support and stimulates the dialogue. (See Coalition Guidelines in the LWVMN President's Notebook, Section 10.)

2. Recruit local Leaguers to regularly attend city, county and school board meetings—and wear the League button. Ask them for a written or oral report. Observing lets the governing body know League is interested in the process and the observer's information will be an important resource for your League.
3. Write letters to your community newspapers. Editors appreciate thoughtful, well-written letters from readers. When writing for the League, be certain that you have the approval of the board, that your letter is based on League positions, not your personal opinion, and that it is non-partisan.
4. Compile a list of elected officials and distribute to your local League members. Encourage them to write and call their elected officials.

Action at the state level

1. Please respond as soon as possible to **Action Alerts** and other requests for phone calls to legislators from the state League. When legislators get calls from around the state on issues we are lobbying for at the legislature they pay attention. Even better, organize a calling tree of Leaguers interested in making calls when requested.
2. Conduct **Legislative Interviews** using the material provided in the fall by LWVMN and LWVUS. They are a great way for your members to meet their legislators and learn their representatives' views on League positions.
3. Order *How to Make a Difference, A Citizen's Guide to State Government*, the state League's lobbying handbook. It contains practical advice on how to write effective letters to legislators, protocol for testifying before a committee, maps, phone numbers, addresses and general information about the Minnesota Legislature and U.S. Congress.
4. Join and encourage your members to join the LWVMN volunteer **lobby corps**. After two half-day training sessions in the late fall, our interns work with experienced lobbyists during the session. See the "Legislative Internships" section below for more information.
5. Encourage local League members to become **10-Minute Activists**. This "armchair" lobbying group responds to action alerts on LWVMN issues. (It is available on e-mail: lwvmn@mtn.org; see the Presidents Notebook, Section 10.)
6. Subscribe to *Capitol Letter*, LWVMN's lobbyists' newsletter on what is going on at the Legislature. This biweekly report is available for \$10 per year. (See the President's Notebook for the order form.) Call Senate Information (651/296-0504) and House Information (651/296-2146 or 1-800-657-3350) to subscribe to the *Briefly* and *Session Weekly*, published weekly during the session and available free.
7. Include action information in the *Capitol Letter*, *President's Mailings*, (Board Memo), and other information from LWVMN and LWVUS in your local bulletin.
8. Encourage your local League members to attend LWVMN's *Citizen in Action* workshops, held just prior to or early in the legislative session. These hands-on, learn-to-lobby sessions are held at the Capitol. Look for more information this fall.
9. Bring a your members to the MN Women's Consortium's *Women Come to the Capitol* in February. This annual event focuses on issues of concern to women and children and includes visits with legislators.

Legislative Internships

Become a member of the League's lobby corps by joining our intern program. You'll be paired with an experienced lobbyist in the area of your interest. After two half-day training sessions in the fall (probably Dec. 6 and 13) you and your mentor will work out a division of labor. Duties and activities of interns vary depending on the time available and the legislative agenda and could include: researching issues, following bills, meeting with legislators, and working with other groups. Work of the interns is guided by the mentors and the action chairs.

Although most of our lobbyists live in the metro area, we encourage members in greater Minnesota to participate in our lobbying efforts. The training sessions provide valuable understanding of how the legislature works and even minimal participation and occasional involvement is very helpful to our lobbying efforts.

RESOURCES

- LWVMN:** *Action Guidelines for Local Leagues:* Information about how to use local, state and national positions for local action. (In **Presidents Notebook.**)
- Coalition Guidelines for Local Leagues:* A how-to for temporary alliances for a specific purpose. (In **Presidents Notebook.**)
- How to Make a Difference:* \$10 per copy, \$12 includes postage & handling. A booklet (formerly titled Citizens in Action) containing everything you need to know to lobby, prepare testimony and write effective action letters. Contains directory of legislators, MN Executive Branch, summary of legislative process, how to get appointed to boards, etc.
- Program for Action:* \$4.00. Summary of LWVMN positions and background of League action. This is a must resource for local League President and Action Chair.
- Capitol Letter:* \$10.00 per session, published biweekly during the legislative session, this newsletter provides background on LWVMN priority issues, up-to-date reports on bill progress and concrete ways local members can help move League issues along. (Subscription blank in President's Notebook, Section 5)
- Handbook for Lobbyists and Lobbyist Principals;* full text from Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board; see **President's Notebook** for "Prohibitions"
- LWVMN** Internet Home Page <http://tcfreenet/ip/pol/lwvmn>
- LWVUS:** *In League:* \$11.00 + tax, postage & handling (#275) sect. 10-1 through 10-13. Background information on action.
- Impact on Issues, 1998-2000:* (#386) \$5.00. A summary of national League positions with background information on League action. As with LWVMN *Program for Action*, every president should have a copy.
- LWVUS Home Page <http://www.lwv.org>
- MN Legislature** (<http://www.leg.state.mn.us>)
- The Legislative Internet site, linked to LWVMN website, is a valuable resource for current and past legislation, bill tracking, house/senate journals and newsletters.

GOVERNMENT ISSUES

Susan Weisbrod

1840 Margo Ave. N., Lake Elmo, 55042 612/436-7528 SWeisb@aol.com

The LWV Government Program includes national and state positions. These positions can also be applied at the local level which gives local Leagues the opportunity to focus on what interests them. Local government chairs will want to become familiar with LWV government positions. They are described in *Program for Action* (LWVMN) and *Impact on Issues* (LWVUS).

Campaign Finance Reform

This is an issue on which LWV has a strong position and is acting on the national level. Several pieces of legislation have been introduced as vehicles of reform. No one bill provides all the reforms needed, therefore the League is pushing for a short-term goal of achieving incremental reforms to close the loopholes in campaign finance limits. Reform in this area is vital to the restoration of public trust in the campaign/ election process. If campaign finance reform legislation is to pass, our lawmakers must feel immense pressure to act. Each local League member can apply this grassroots pressure to her members of congress. It is time for reform and time to rebuild the public trust and reduce voter apathy.

See Voter Service for a description of LWVMNEF's Campaign Finance Reform survey project. Hopefully your League will participate to ensure a widespread, meaningful result.

Reapportionment

Many bills were introduced in the state legislature calling for redistricting, reduction in the size of the legislature, a change in the terms of legislators, and a unicameral legislature. Reapportionment bills are likely to surface as we near the close of the decade, and thus the census. LWVMN will be looking at this issue in depth before the next session. We have a strong position and a history of support of reapportionment along with procedures which provide for compact, contiguous districts giving advantage to no particular person or group.

Initiative and Referendum

This issue came up unexpectedly in the House during the 1999 session. LWVMN opposes most forms of I & R. Look for it to appear again in the 2000 session.

Good Government/Ethics

As always, LWV continues to monitor legislation designed to promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable, and responsive. We also monitor and take action on any legislation that attempts to relax the ethical standards already in place.

Unicameral Legislature

This issue is alive and well and will undoubtedly be on the Legislature's agenda in the next session. LWVMN has no position on this issue. We are considering sponsoring a public forum either in Fall of 1999 or early Winter of 2000. Watch for information.

RESOURCES:**LWVMN:***Program for Action**Capitol Letter*

Campaign Finance Reform file (available for viewing in the LWV Office

LWVMN Internet Home Page

<http://freenet.msp.mn.us/ip/pol/lwvmn>

LWVUS:*Impact on Issues, 1998-2000*

LWVUS Internet Home Page <http://www.lwv.org>

MN Legislature:

The Legislative Internet site is a valuable resource for current and past legislation, bill tracking, house/senate journals, and newsletters.

<http://www.leg.state.mn.us>

VOTER SERVICE

Stacy Doepner-Hove

514 Nicollet Ave. Suite 350B, Minneapolis, 55402 612/338-3205 mwl@mwlawyers.org

Our voters service work is often the first thing the public thinks of when they hear mention of the League of Women Voters. The basic principle of voters service is nonpartisanship—providing unbiased, factual information to help citizens make their own informed decisions on election day. It is always separate from advocacy.

For a full description of the voter service chair's job description, please see the LWVUS website <http://www.lwv.org/internal/tipsvoterserv.html>

The Voter Service Committee ran an extremely successful and exciting campaign season in 1998. Congressional/Legislative debates and candidate meetings were held; the gubernatorial debates became a highlight of the campaign season; the Voter Hotline was bigger, better, and busier than ever; over 300,000 Voter Guides were welcomed across the state as an invaluable tool for the informed voter; the Minnesota Compact continued to encourage candidates to conduct good, clean issue oriented campaigns; the Campaign Finance Survey was completed and the results will be out soon; and the Voter Service materials were made available to Leagues across Minnesota to help in local elections. All that and more was the product of countless time put in by the many fabulous League staff and volunteers. But, it's not over yet.

Campaign 2000 will be on us before you know it and the State Voter Service Committee needs your help! The Committee is looking for interested and excited volunteers to help coordinate and execute the strategy for the next election season. We need to get started early so we are ready to go as the candidates come out of the gates and are looking for forums where they can speak their minds. If any of the above projects sound interesting to you, or if you are the Voter Service Chair for your League and want to be sure you are up-to-date on the latest the League has to offer for the election season, join the Committee in its work. For more information, or to get involved on the ground floor of what promises to be the most exciting election season of the century, call the Voter Service Chair, Stacy Doepner-Hove at 612/338-3205 or e-mail her at mwl@mwlawyers.org and she will get you involved in whatever capacity you wish.

Don't wait until it's too late! The candidates are getting started and so must we. Join the Voter Service Committee and become a part of the action.

RESOURCES:

LWVMN: "The Road to Election Day" a 14 minute videotape and accompanying guide are available to help you navigate the election process in Minnesota. Purchase \$45.00; rental \$20.00 with \$45.00 deposit.

Candidate Forum Guidelines is a complete guide to producing local candidate forums; revised 1998; \$8.00 for members.

"Voter Information Packet" (VIP Kit) is a guide to voter registration; election and Get Out The Vote campaigns.

LWVUS/

LWVEF: *Face to Face a Guide to Candidate Debates* 1996, Pub. #830; \$8.00 for members
Get Out and Vote! Encouraging Voter Participation in Your Community; Pub. #1051, \$12.00 for members.

STATE STUDY

AGRICULTURE

Gertrude Ulrich

7601 Aldrich, Richfield, 55423 612/866-8171

The delegates at the LWVMN Convention last month adopted a new study on Agricultural Policies and their impact on sustainability. The study will examine state government policies, practices, regulations, subsidies and research as well as social, health, environmental and economic concerns involving agriculture.

The committee is now being formed; the first meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 3rd at 1:00 p.m. at the state office. Everyone is welcome to be a part of this study.

Traditionally, a study runs two years. The committee is formed, tasks delegated, research completed, publication produced, consensus questions developed, local League meeting and consensus reached. This topic is of some urgency and in keeping with recommendations from the Future Trek to act more quickly, could lend itself to a faster timeline.

At the Fall regional meetings we will offer a workshop on the study. Please plan to attend. At this time we advise local Leagues to reserve either April or May of 2000 for this topic. However, we will send you an update as soon as possible – by mid-June – since we know local Leagues are doing calendar planning now and over the summer.

CURRICULUM

Judy Covey

611 St. Olaf Ave., Northfield, 55057 507/645-8920 jcovey@rconnect.com

Curriculum

If you have anyone in your League whose interest is education - please pass this information to them.

Through a generous lead grant from the General Mills Foundation, the League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund contracted several nationally recognized curriculum writers to create a citizenship curriculum for school age children.

We the People is a civics curriculum for children in **grades K-6**. It is structured around the Preamble to the Constitution of the United States. It meets National Civics Standards and has an introduction written by Michael Hartoonian, President of the National Council for the Social Studies.

We've Got the Power, the League's civics curriculum for **grades 7-12** is in its 3rd edition and has been updated and reformatted, and is now available in both **English** and **Spanish**. It also meets the National Civics standards.

Brochures for each curricula, with more detail and costs, can be sent to you. Just call your request to the League office (612/224-5445).

We think you will be pleased to have a curriculum of this quality to offer the educators in your community.

Questions? Call the League office or Judy Covey, Project Chair (507/645-8920).

TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Diane Gibson

1297 Wyncrest Court, Arden Hills, 55112 651/683-5962(w) gibsond@freenet.msp.mn.us

Ady Wickstrom

1252 Silverthorn Dr., Shoreview, 55126-5637 651/780-5245 (h) 651/483-7806 (w)

FAX: 651/780-6086 adywickstrom@visi.com

Technology

As technology advances at a rapid pace and computers, cellular phones, modems, and cable TV change the ways in which we communicate, are we as individuals and the communities we live in taking advantage of what technology has to offer? What can be done to harness these technologies to make them work for all of us?

During the coming year, the Technology Committee will be working more closely with other program committees to find effective ways to apply technology to further each program's individual mission. We will also be working with state office staff in trying to better harness the benefits of technology to improve their efficiency and communicate with volunteers and local Leagues. In addition, we are in need of more committee members. You do not have to be literate in the technology to join. We appreciate all insights and ideas.

We have an e-mail list for League information sharing. All League members with an e-mail address are invited to join. Please send an e-mail message to:

listproc@mtn.org

In the body of the message type:

subscribe lwvmn-share [your first name] [your last name]

Don't put anything in the subject field. This e-mail list serves as a wonderful mechanism for interacting with other Leaguers on-line. We look forward to you joining

The Technology Committee is actively seeking feedback on the content of our Web pages and on LWV uses for this technology.

Ady Wickstrom is LWVMN's webmaster. If you have items for our web pages or would like advice and assistance in putting together your own web page, please contact her.

The League's Internet address is: <http://freenet.msp.mn.us/ip/pol/lwvmn/>, and the LWVMN e-mail address is: lwvmn@mtn.org.

The national League Internet address is <http://www.lwv.org>

FUTURE TREK

Kay Erickson

6000 Wyngate Ln, Minnetonka, 55345 612/934-2991

The long range planning process we've called *FutureTrek*, a project of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund, for the past two years is done-but in a sense it is also just beginning. As our consultant, Anne Hittler Grover of the Marketing Source has reminded us, the plan is a work in progress. It will be continually changed as it is used-and to make sure it is used we are now in the distribution and implementation phase of the project.

In a separate packet in this mailing you have the Executive Summary, the Grid (the shorthand version of the more detailed plan), trend information (research that was done in a variety of areas) and an order form (so you can order other parts of the plan or the whole thing).

In reviewing this document, please note that:

- the plan contains suggestions not mandates. (Especially in the sections that pertain to local Leagues, the state League is prepared to help if your League would like to make some of these changes, but they are not requirements.)
- the plan is a living document-it will change over time as local Leagues and the state board add their recommendations.
- the plan fills in the gaps. It doesn't list all the activities we're already doing, especially in Voter Service; in membership it notes the groups that we're missing in our profile. (We want, need and appreciate all of our members.)
- the plan was developed with the input of local Leagues through six regional meetings, a membership survey and Internet bulletin boards. In addition, the committee was composed of local League members from around the state.

The themes that emerged from the plan include a commitment to local Leagues, reaching out to communities, leadership training/capacity building, diversity, streamlining processes, and increasing use of technology. Board members are reviewing with their committees the sections of the plan that pertain to their portfolios. In the coming months they will use the plan to develop programs, set priorities and fill out the timeline.

You can use the plan to do long range planning in your League by:

1. Reviewing the trends with your board and/or other League members
2. Using the grid--adapt the goals for your League and come up with your own objectives, strategies and timeline.

The full plan contains an organizational description, a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis, the detailed goals, objectives and strategies and an appendix. To obtain all or parts of the plan, please send in the order form included in this packet or call the League office 651/224-5445. If you have questions, feel free to call me.

Community Circles Project on Immigration
Changing Faces, Changing Communities

Janet Gendler, Project Chair

3906 Zenith Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55410 612/920-3567 jhgendler@aol.com

There is evidence that immigration is one of the issues facing Minnesota's communities. The LWVMN Education Fund Board is proposing community circles as a tool for Local Leagues to facilitate discussion on this topic and to add to community life.

Community Discussion Circles--groups of 8-12 people from diverse parts of the community meeting once a week for five weeks to address a critical public issue in a democratic and collaborative way--will be held in **early Spring, 2000**. This will be an opportunity to bring together folks in your city who ordinarily don't interact. New connections can be made, and the sometimes challenging topic of immigration can be discussed in the safe and respectful environment for which the League has become famous. Best of all, participants don't have to be experts to take part. There's neither homework nor studying, but we all will learn a lot about being a citizen.

Our timeline:

June through September 1999 - Community sites and organizers around the state are identified.
 September through November 1999 - Organizing in local communities
 October/November 1999 - Training workshops for facilitators and community organizers
 November 1999 - A pilot project is held in one or more of the identified communities around the state. The pilot group runs through the entire four to five week discussion series.
 February 1, 2000 - Project kick-off event
 Mid-February through mid-March - Study circle sessions are held around the state (up to 100 community circles with 1000 participants).
 April 2000 - Action forums based on themes and ideas which emerge from the community circles
 May 2000 - Final report, evaluation

The project Steering Committee is well established and working to include more partners. We held a demonstration of community circles on May 18, 1999, at the State Capitol to help form the materials to use as a discussion guide. Participants included several Local League members, representatives of some of our coalition partners, and a diverse group of students from the Public Achievement program at Humboldt High School in St. Paul.

This will be an opportunity for individual League members to take part as well as for Local Leagues to act as sponsors. Look for the Request for Proposal for **pass-through grants to be sent soon**. These funds can be used to help eliminate the stumbling blocks to full community participation. You may want to pay for ASL signers, translators, day care, or light meals for participants. We will provide discussion guides, back-up materials, local coordinator support, facilitator training, and connections with coalition partners.

If your Local League might be interested in organizing Community Circles on Immigration or if you have questions, call Project Director Susan Anderson (612-331-1117) or LWVMN Chair Janet Gendler (612-920-3567).

PART I: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OVERVIEW

FutureTrek is designed to reinvigorate the League of Women Voters of Minnesota (LWVMN) and its Education Fund (LWVMNEF), so League in turn can meet its goal of reinvigorating the American system of democracy. To succeed, League must become more collaborative, responsive, flexible, action-oriented, aggressive, technologically savvy and representative. *FutureTrek* also reflects the shared conviction that the state League exists to serve and support the efforts of local Leagues. It can only be as strong as the local Leagues it comprises. Strategies are aimed at building the capacity and effectiveness of local Leagues.

FutureTrek identifies **several major goal areas** that need to be realized for the League to thrive in the next millennium. They are listed in order of priority, with the most attention devoted to the most critical areas – membership and visibility.

- Membership Size-- Reverse the declining membership trend by the year 2002.
- Membership Composition -- Diversify League membership to become more reflective of the population of Minnesota in the areas of age and ethnicity by the year 2002.
- Visibility -- Increase recognition of League as one of the most respected grassroots public policy organizations in Minnesota.
- Funding -- Diversify and increase funding to adequately support local and state League initiatives by the year 2002.
- Financial Stability -- Achieve financial stability and a predictable income flow.
- Public Policy -- Increase League's leadership role in shaping strong, inclusive communities throughout the state.
- Advocacy -- Increase League's capacity for advocacy.
- Voter Participation & Citizen Education -- Increase informed voter participation in the democratic process.
- Organizational Structure/Capacity -- Create a singular identity among local, state and national League organizations, and the Education Fund.

- Reaffirm League's core values while embracing a more flexible, action-oriented approach to shaping public policy and building citizen participation.

The plan specifically addresses critical issues of declining membership, relevancy, identity and positioning, relationships to the national League and local Leagues, funding, priority projects, volunteerism, communication messages, links between the League and the Educational Fund, and the evolving role of the Board. It also includes a situation analysis, target audiences, measurable objectives, specific strategies and tactics for achieving those objectives, a timeline and a resource budget. It is action-oriented and outcome-based. As a living document, it should be revisited and revised on a quarterly basis.

APPROACH

Planning Process

The *FutureTrek* planning process modeled the League's democratic, thorough approach to studying issues and reaching consensus. By seeking input from local Leagues, members, committee chairs, Board members and community leaders, it sought to build ownership and understanding among key constituencies. It also relied on external research, both primary and secondary, to check its assumptions and devise inventive ways of affecting change.

The *FutureTrek* plan took shape under the direction of a 19-member taskforce comprising members from around the state and chaired by former state president Kay Erickson. (Appendix A: *FutureTrek* Taskforce) Beginning in June 1997, the core group met monthly for 18 months.

The taskforce incorporated the research included in several past plans, including the major 1985 Long Range Plan. (Resource Library: Past Planning Resources) Once it had established the goals on the previous pages, it gathered strategy ideas directly from local Leagues during a series of six regional meetings held in Fall 1997. It tapped the expertise of committee chairs and used Internet bulletin boards to solicit creative solutions from Leaguers around the state. The group also conducted a perception survey of League and non-League members around the state, a phone survey of community leaders representing diverse subgroups and a quick audit of local Leagues. In addition, it gathered extensive trend literature to inform its findings.

Information Sources

- Survey of past long range plans and research, dating to 1985
- Regional brainstorming meetings
- Member perception survey
- Interviews with community leaders
- Trend literature search
- Focus group research conducted by LWVUS
- Local League audit
- Demographic/population trend analysis

ACTION TIMELINE, BUDGET & EXECUTION

Membership Recommendations

GOALS	OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES	TIMELINE	PERSON /GROUP	COST
Reverse the declining membership trend by the year 2002.	Stabilize membership in 1998-99.	Conduct quick viability audits of every local League.	June 1998		
		Consider consolidating smaller Leagues into fewer, larger regional Leagues.	Fall 1998		
		Convert the Winona and Brainerd Lakes Area state units into regional Leagues.	1999		
		Form loose collaborations or regional networks among local Leagues in close proximity. Use West Metro Alliance as model.	1999		
		Expand and augment "Building Better Communities" initiative to address the growth pains of the merged Leagues.	1999		
		Charter one new local League in Forest Lake. Re-approach Hastings.	1999		
	Increase total statewide membership by 11% to 2,700.	Ensure the long-term viability of smaller local Leagues by increasing the optimal minimum size to 30 members.	2002		
		Charter two new Leagues per year in counties with the highest projected growth rates of women.			

League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund
FutureTrek Long Range Plan
 Updated August 31, 1998

GOALS	OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES	TIMELINE	PERSON /GROUP	COST
		Create a "Virtual League" to reach unserved counties, overcome distance and time barriers, and to attract younger members.			
		Start corporate, in-house Leagues with the endorsement and support of major employers.			
		Build on League's strong correlation with college towns by establishing a pilot "college Leagues."			
Diversify membership to be more reflective of the state in the areas of age and ethnicity by 2002.	Make League more accessible, vital and responsive to people of color.	Make a concerted effort to understand issues, obstacles, desires and perceptions of people of color in Minnesota.	1998-99		
		Expand programs that serve communities of color and immigrant groups.			
		Seek multiple, grassroots approaches to involving people of color in public policy, action, voting activities.			
		Actively involve people of color in League programs, studies and leadership.			
	Make League more accessible and responsive to young women.	Make a concerted effort to understand issues, obstacles, desires and perceptions of these three groups of women.	1988-99		

League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund
FutureTrek Long Range Plan
 Updated August 31, 1998

GOALS	OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES	TIMELINE	PERSON /GROUP	COST
		Realign membership benefits and expectations to match the needs, interests and schedules of younger members.			
		Change the way that League communicates its message.			
		Actively recruit from other member organizations that women join.			
	Make League more welcoming and open to men of all ages.	Respond to confusion over the name by adding a permanent tag line to all League communications that encourages both men and women members.			
		Actively recruit male members within corporate settings.			
		Cross-recruit members of civic organizations who have a demonstrated commitment to community betterment.			
	Improve retention among young, new, non-traditional members.	Work with local League membership chairs to evaluate/ update new member recruitment and orientation materials to reflect emphasis on action, informality and collaboration.			
		Realign volunteer time expectations to accommodate busy schedules.			
		Institute exit surveys when members drop out of League. Track trends.	Immediate		

Visibility Recommendations

GOALS	OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES	TIMELINE	PERSON /GROUP	COST
Increase recognition of League as one of the most respected grassroots public policy groups in Minnesota.	Build public understanding and awareness of the two sides of League – voter service and public policy.	Launch a statewide visibility campaign using donated media and ads to leverage League's informed approach to issues into greater political clout	January 1999		
		Redesign/simplify membership recruiting materials.	1999		
	Make League the media's preferred source on issues of public policy.	Launch an aggressive media relations program targeted at state media with the help of a contracted media relations professional.			
		Coach and support local League efforts to garner media coverage.			
		Make better use of electronic and new media communications vehicles.			
	Reposition League to be more accessible, dynamic and personally rewarding.	Shed the stuffy, all-work image by shifting tone of communications from official "should do" language to friendly "want to do" language.			
		Position League as "the best training ground for community leaders."			

Financial Stability Recommendations

GOALS	OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES	TIMELINE	PERSON /GROUP	COST
Diversify and increase funding to adequately support initiatives in the decade to come.	Increase revenue from membership dues (PMP) by 10%.	Increase the number of dues-paying members and affiliates.	2002		
		Encourage local Leagues to increase the minimum dues to \$50, commensurate with other MN public policy organizations.			
		Coach local Leagues on ways to increase non-dues funding to support local initiatives.			
		Establish a premium-priced affiliate membership level for people who can't contribute time.			
	Increase total earned revenues by 10%.	Create ongoing revenue streams that fund administrative operations.	2002		
		Seek opportunities for entrepreneurial projects that relate to League's mission.			
	Increase program capacity without increasing its budget.	Increase solicitations of in-kind donations of products, supplies and services on behalf of both state and local Leagues to reduce overhead.	2002		
		Work with local Leagues to help them secure in-kind support and sponsorships.			
		Recruit non-traditional employees to augment the work of paid staff.			

League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund
FutureTrek Long Range Plan
Updated August 31, 1998

GOALS	OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES	TIMELINE	PERSON /GROUP	COST
		Continue to reduce operating overhead (especially printing, postage and distribution) by making better use of communication technology.			
	Increase total annual revenues by 10%/year.	Aggressively solicit donations from past and present members.	1999		
		Work in partnership with local League members to approach major MN corporations for program-specific support.			
	Increase grant income secured for programs and operations by 10%.	Focus grant requests on leadership training and community capacitating programs. Include pass-through grants in the prospect pool.	2002		
		Work with local Leagues to secure government grants for local projects that serve a strong community need.			
Achieve financial stability and a predictable income flow.	Fund the Ed Fund endowment, capital and program needs through the successful completion of \$1-2 million "New Century" campaign.	Build the public phase of the campaign around the launch of Voter Participation project.	2000		
		Greatly expand the League's planned giving initiative among members 50+.			

League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund
FutureTrek Long Range Plan
Updated August 31, 1998

GOALS	OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES	TIMELINE	PERSON /GROUP	COST
		Develop partnerships/ Sponsorships with technology associations and businesses to help identify needs, underwrite networked equipment and software, and provide training.			

Voter Participation & Citizen Education Recommendations

GOALS	OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES	TIMELINE	PERSON /GROUP	COST
Increase informed voter/citizen participation in the democratic process.	Increase voter registration to 85% of eligible population, and voter turnout to 85% of registrants in presidential elections.	Explore the viability of a multi-faceted voter participation project	2000		
		Consider holding study circles on immigration.			
		Improve the exchange of information with diverse populations.			
		Become a complete source of voter and candidate information on the Internet.			
		Team with other organizations to plan, sponsor and execute voter service to reach a broader constituency and stretch limited volunteer resources			
		Market "We've Got the Power" and "We the People."			

Public Policy & Advocacy Recommendations

GOALS	OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES	TIMELINE	PERSON /GROUP	COST
Increase League's capacity for advocacy.	Become a more effective advocate on issues of local, national & state importance.	Simplify and speed up the process of turning an issue into a study, a study into a position and a position into an action			
		Shift resources from <i>conducting studies</i> of local issues to <i>being involved in</i> local issues – including hosting forums, doing opinion polls, and hosting Internet chat lines.			
		Improve tools, resources and support to local Leagues wanting to study local issues.			
		Be more aggressive in promoting League positions.			
		Redefine League's role as a "public watchdog." Promote League's interest in accountability and inclusiveness.			
Increase League's leadership role in shaping strong, inclusive communities	Expand League's role and visibility as a leadership training ground.	Expand and promote existing, multi-tiered training programs – including classroom training/curriculum for high school students, public policy and campaign training for potential political candidates, and general leadership training.			
		Collaborate with other recognized leadership programs to serve a broader audience.			
		Host an annual Leadership Symposium for local Leagues and community organizations.			

League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund
FutureTrek Long Range Plan
 Updated August 31, 1998

GOALS	OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES	TIMELINE	PERSON /GROUP	COST
		Train discussion leaders for proposed study circle project on immigration.			
	Increase involvement by individual members and by local Leagues in the communities they serve.	Recommit to the Observer Program.			
		Encourage League members to be more responsive to issues of direct local interest.			
		Focus only on essential activities in light of declining volunteer resources and the need for a more action-orientation.			
		Partner with other community organizations to share the workload, build connections with other influential organizations and increase the reach and impact of activities.			
	Increase citizen participation in the political process.	Distribute materials that teach people how to run for office and get involved in the public sector. Adapt materials for Internet distribution.			
		Distribute the Citizen Checklist through the Minnesota Compact.			
		Establish a statewide toll-free number for citizen information.			

Organizational Structure & Capacity Recommendations

GOALS	OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES	TIMELINE	PERSON /GROUP	COST
Create a singular identity among local, State and National League levels and the Ed Fund.	Create a seamless organization in the eyes of the public.	Investigate viability of using League of Women Voters of MN as the public name; limit Education Fund references to internal communications, legal requirements and funding requests.			
		Develop boilerplate language that clarifies the relationship among the League levels and builds on the strong recognition of "the League."			
		Shelve discussions of changing the name until LWVMN is in a stronger financial and membership position			
	Build <i>internal</i> unity and understanding among all parts of League as a non-partisan group that works in the public interest.	Improve communication between the local Leagues and state League.			
		Recommit to the service and capacity building of local Leagues.			
		Improve accountability between local Leagues and the state office.			

League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund
FutureTrek Long Range Plan
 Updated August 31, 1998

GOALS	OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES	TIMELINE	PERSON /GROUP	BUDGET
	Restructure staff and volunteer roles to improve efficiency, take advantage of technology and enhance productivity.	Address the shortage of volunteer assistance, current work overload and need for revitalization by investing in paid staff positions at the state level -- including a field service membership rep, lobbyist and media relations rep.			
		Hire contractors or recruit loaned executives/faculty on an as-needed basis -- including web master and researchers.			
		Encourage local Leagues to organize work teams around specialized, project-driven goals of keen personal interest (instead of geographic-driven units).			
		Focus on simplifying, streamlining, eliminating non-essential activities, and redirecting resources to the most critical tasks. Take advantage of efficiency gains and cost savings provided by technology.			
		Conduct a staffing needs assessment -- including an organizational chart.			
		Explore alternative, non-cost ways of expanding staff resources.			

Organizational Culture Recommendations

GOALS	OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES/TACTICS	TIMELINE	PERSON /GROUP	COST
Reaffirm League's core non-partisan values while embracing a more flexible, action-oriented approach to shaping public policy and building citizen participation.	Emphasize and promote core League values of consensus building, thoughtful study of issues and focus on the public -- with greater focus on action and responsiveness.	Break out of the safe, conservative mode.			
		Clarify and convey the League "style" -- an articulate, balanced approach to issue study and advocacy, which respects diverse opinions.			
		Celebrate the diversity of backgrounds and opinions that make up League -- and accommodate different ways of addressing issues, taking action and reaching agreement.			
		Be flexible. Act more quickly.			
		Position League as "in the know" and "out front" on issues that directly affect communities.			
		Re-evaluate action benchmarks" to include more local action.			

ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW

FUNDRAISING TRENDS

Opportunities

Unless otherwise noted, the following trends were collected from a national survey of literature published in 1996-98: (Appendix Q: Trend Literature Summary)

- More non-profits are asking for an increase in the size of lead gifts. Opportunities exist to expand deferred giving, charitable giving and estate giving.
- The greatest percent of money given for charitable purposes in 1994 -- \$102 billion of \$124 billion -- was given by individuals. Religious institutions were the primary benefactor, with schools number two.
- Fund raising efforts are best spent on larger givers.
- The amount of money given for general operating support has dropped in half between the late 1970s and late 1980s. People prefer to give to special projects.
- Pew Charitable Trust's Public Policy Program is shifting its focus from promoting democracy and market reforms in Europe to funding programs that strengthen government performance and civic engagement in the US.
- The aging of the population means an impending asset turnover between generations and a redistribution of wealth.
- Opportunities for technology partnerships, strategic alliances, and corporate funding, underwriting and sponsorships are untapped. Targeted funding opportunities for both education and advocacy are becoming more plentiful.
- The strong economy creates a healthy environment for organizational growth and fundraising.
- Successful fundraising efforts rely on good staffing, the ability to show administrative efficiency, involvement by people of color in staff positions and the presence of a campaign director position.

- Companies are giving more non-cash contributions, narrowly focused gifts, gifts that provide a measurable return to the bottom line, challenge money, and donations from public affairs and marketing budgets.

Threats

- Foundations tend to favor project-specific grants; however, project grants too often cost an organization rather than support it.
- Continuous general operating support grants foster dependency and can trap funders into supporting an organization that has become obsolete or irrelevant.
- Competition for charitable giving is increasing, with over 800,000 non-profits competing for funds. It also takes 3-4 visits to secure a gift.
- Increasing focus on short-term profitability in businesses creates more bottom-line pressure, which in turn makes corporate funding more difficult to secure.
- Direct service providers that deliver basic social needs are in vogue among funders and individual donors. League is an indirect service provider, which seeks to improve people's lives by working for policy changes.

VOLUNTEERISM TRENDS

Opportunities

The following trends were culled from a recent Assessment of Volunteer Centers in the Twin Cities (Appendix P):

- Local demand for volunteers continues to increase. The largest gap is for long-term, ongoing needs. While demand increases, the nature of individual volunteers has been changing. There's a major trend toward "volunteer as consumer" -- meaning individuals are willing to volunteer, but only on their own terms. For some, there is less emphasis on volunteering simply to do good and more emphasis on meeting the needs of the volunteer.
- Convenience has become a critical factor for volunteers, but geographic convenience is less important, especially in the Twin Cities. For a growing number of volunteers, the issue of cause is more important than the specific neighborhood or location.
- Workplace volunteerism is on the rise, as is corporate recognition of the importance of volunteerism. Retiree volunteer programs are also on the rise. This represents "untapped potential for mobilizing volunteers and leveraging the connection between charitable giving and volunteerism."
- "Technology is playing an expanded role in volunteerism and may well be the key to future recruitment and referral efforts." A related trend is "virtual volunteering -- where people work from home with the aid of computers or technology."
- Informal volunteering, such as neighbors helping neighbors, is on the rise.

These trends were drawn from recent trend literature on volunteering, including a 1996 study on National Trends in Volunteerism (Appendix O):

- People in transition -- those who are moving, getting divorced, adjusting to life without a spouse, changing jobs -- are ripe for new volunteer opportunities.
- As the first of the baby boomers approach retirement age, a huge number of Minnesotans will leave the work force. Volunteerism will continue to rise as the number of mature women increases. Boomers are moving away from the "what's in it for me?" mentality.

- Organizations can keep or attract volunteers if they assign priority jobs to volunteers; provide the best possible staff assistance; provide good job descriptions and accurate time demands; provide training; monitor volunteers' workload; buddy up jobs; offer flexibility and short-term assignments; look for alternative ways to get the assignment done (e-mail instead of meetings); and provide opportunities for resume-building.
- People are seeking solutions to social problems through organizations rather than personal action. This bodes well for membership organizations committed to social change.
- More employees are doing volunteer work during sabbaticals.
- Volunteers respond positively to volunteer opportunities when they are asked by someone they know, they learn of an opportunity through an organization they belong to, or a family member or friend would benefit from their involvement.
- Giving and volunteering were on the rise in 1995 for the first time since 1989. (Source: Gallop's "Giving and Volunteering in the United States," 1996 edition.) The time is ripe for League recruitment.
- People of color need to have opportunities for training, association with peers, and advancement to get involved or stay involved in an organization.
- People will actively volunteer if they believe the organization makes a difference on community issues of vital interest. They need flexibility in how they can contribute, networking opportunities, new skills, and respect for individual contributions. (Appendix Z: LWVUS Future Plan)

Threats

- Companies giving time off for volunteer work do so primarily for routine hourly work such as working with children, hospitals, etc.
- People are spending more time on "recreational volunteerism." In 1995, Americans contributed more than 20 billion hours volunteering at theaters, museums and cultural institutions and serving on boards -- the largest area cited.
- Most organizations are willing to spend dollars on new equipment but only pennies on training. Without adequate training, the investment is wasted. Experts recommend an equipment-to-training ratio of 1:7. (Source: California State PTA Convention, May 1998)

DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

Opportunities

Age -- The number of older Americans is projected to double by the year 2025, with an average age expectancy of 75. Member expectations in an organization need to change as volunteers age.

- The number of Minnesota women in the 16-44 category will actually decline by several percentage points by the year 2020. The pool of 25 to 44-year-olds (current baby boomers) is shrinking faster than the 18-24 year olds (Generation Xers). (Appendix N: County Growth Trends)
- Organizations' approach to baby boomers (born 1946-62) and Generation Xers (born 1963-1981) needs to reflect their different outlooks.
- Boomers represent one third of the population and the largest consumer market ever. They have a real "value mentality." They are becoming more conservative. Most would welcome greater emphasis on traditional family ties and greater respect for authority. It's commonplace for them to change careers.
- Xers are more technically oriented, don't care about retirement/child care issues yet, are viewed as disrespectful of rules and "paying dues" but see themselves as merely "skeptical," lack employer loyalty, are used to taking care of themselves (as latch-key kids), and see themselves as original thinkers. They work well independently, but have difficulty working in groups.

Diversity -- Organizations that view diversity as a strategic, bottom-line objective, rather than a feel-good resource initiative, will prosper in the long run.

- The increase in immigrant populations and ethnic diversity in the U.S. creates a growing need for League's services and an urgency to "make democracy work." Rapid community change also creates a need for League's services and leadership.

Population Shifts/Growth -- People are increasingly moving to metropolitan areas. The influx is creating a polycentric city -- the ring of newer cities around the older core city. (Source: Trend research) This population shift means growth opportunities in the suburban areas.

- Minnesota's female labor force is expected to grow by 25.5% by the year 2020. All of the growth is slated for the 45+ age group, with the number of people over 65 growing by 130%! (Appendix N: County Growth Trends)

- A dozen local Leagues are located in high female growth counties (25%+). Seven are located in declining population areas, a cause for concern in the decade ahead. Potential exists to start new local Leagues in 11 high growth counties where there is not a League presence. (Appendix N: County Growth Trends)

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Opportunities

- Minnesota has more women in the workforce than any other state -- 70% of women 16+ vs. 59% nationwide, according to the Blandin Foundation.
- Women currently own one third of American businesses. Current growth in women-owned businesses is twice the national average.
- Women in business are more likely to seek advice and guidance when they need assistance than their male counterparts. Note: The networking and growth opportunities offered by League should appeal to them.
- Telecommuting -- spurred by the availability of affordable office technology -- is slow to grow. Many Fortune 500 companies have tried it on a pilot basis, but have resisted going company-wide. It's often still viewed as an accommodation to young moms.
- Matrix management is replacing old hierarchies. Women's tendency to be more team-oriented fits well in this new model. Note: So does League's participatory approach to problem solving.
- The second family income for a higher income family doesn't mean much improvement in the standard of living, especially during child-rearing years. However, spouses of working women appear to be happier.
- Workforce trends include tapping stay-at-home-moms for employment, employee rule by committee, extended transportation options as a means of diversifying the workforce, and telecommuting. Note: These could be modeled by local Leagues.
- Low-income women will often work unconventional hours because their occupations require "off-hour" labor. These occupations are expected to grow, driving a need for off-hour childcare
- Nearly two-thirds of baby boomers say their job is very important to them, and that it will become more important to them in the next five years.
- Many people want to retire early, but often take another job upon retirement. A third of boomers expect to retire before 50, another quarter before 55, and a quarter before 65.

LEISURE TRENDS

Opportunities

- Adults of the 1990s are HALTS (harried adults with limited time). This decade is a time of compression, with demands from dependents (young and old), careers and personal priorities stealing every free moment. In comparison, the 1980s were a time of obsession, with a focus on careers and postponed families. The 1970s were a time of expression, with postponed careers.
- Baby boomers devote much of their leisure time to self-improvement, both physical and mental. They also spend more time with children, friends, hobbies, recreation and religious endeavors than they used to. They are becoming less interested in "cheap thrill" (casinos, festivals) and more interested in "smart thrills" (cultural and educational activities).
- Working people combine business travel with pleasure trips. There's an increase in shorter weekend getaways to accommodate work schedules.
- Reports on free time are contradictory, explained in part by a blurring between work and play, a redefinition of "leisure," and the overwhelming media clout of busy boomers who create an "impression" of leisure scarcity.

A much-publicized Louis-Harris report said that Americans had more free time in the 1980s than in any time in the last 30 years. Men and women had almost the same amount, roughly 40 hours per week. And both worked 5-6 fewer hours than in 1965. The increase in leisure time was spent watching TV (15 hours), socializing (7 hours), reading (3 hours) and doing recreation (2 hours).

A 1989 report in *American Demographic* said that the average amount of leisure time dropped from 26.3 hours per week in 1973 to 16.2 hours in 1989.

TECHNOLOGY TRENDS

Opportunities

- The typical Internet user is a 35-year-old, college-educated male with a professional/managerial job. Men represent 66% of the users. The increase in female users and advent of user-friendly technologies are expected to boost Internet marketing opportunities. *Note: Opportunities for League use will increase accordingly.*
- Only 17% of the U.S. population 16+ has access to the Internet.
- Generation Yers (ages 16-24) are adopting new technology and varied modes of communication faster than Generation Xers. Both Xers and Yers spend far more disposable income on "connecting" than other age groups. Both understand that the future is not about working harder, but working smarter. (Source: Trend research)
- Americans have a great interest in using the information highway for election and public policy information, according to a *MacWorld* and Louis-Harris survey. (Source: Vision 2000)
- Communications technology and the Internet offer a promising means of directly linking local Leagues throughout the state and U.S.

PUBLIC POLICY TRENDS

Opportunities

- Public leaders overwhelmingly agree that one of the most important public challenges in the Twin Cities is elementary and secondary education. Race and diversity are close behind. (Resource Library: Citizen League Public Leadership Initiative, 1997)
- Coalitions will become more vital as the number and diversity of special interest groups increases. *Note: This opens up more opportunity for League collaboration with other organizations.*
- Organizations and individuals are refocusing on “building communities,” a goal of League for more than 70 years.
- American society is directing more of its attention to the needs and issues of girls and women.
- Citizen alienation from government creates more demand for League services, as does the public cry for government and campaign finance reform.
- Citizen education and curriculum development are in high demand among schools throughout the state.
- More than 80% of Americans believe government at all levels should encourage citizen involvement. (Source: Vision 2000)
- League leadership is sought in times of crisis or great community need.
- 72% of young adults think, “our generation has an important voice. But no one hears it.” (Source: 1996 Youth Voices study) The study suggests that young people are not apathetic. They simply don’t know how to get involved. (Resource Library: The Next Century Plan by FIRST)

Threats

The following trends were taken from the 1997 Citizens League Public Leadership Initiative (Resource Library):

- Public leaders are depending too much on public opinion polling, which identifies the public's concerns and mobilizes narrow constituencies, but fails to unite people around one

overarching message.

- Far too many issues get polarized and trivialized immediately as a result of media hysteria generated by interest groups.
- The media is thwarting public-spirited discussion.
- Today's schools are not providing basic civics education.
- Minnesotans are more concerned about fairness than ability and merit, are more oriented to accountability for process than for outcomes.
- "Politician" has become a professional career path, and that has diminished the quality of policy-making. Personal ambition is one of the main qualities of elected officials. This results in diminished quality of the Legislature, more politicized issues, a decline in support for regional and statewide issues, increased parochialism and a lack of vision
- The state is evolving from an agrarian community to a megalopolis, but rural interests still dominate the legislature.
- Corporations and businesses are considerably less involved in the hard work of public policy than they once were.
- The American public is disillusioned and disaffected with government, the political process and many mainline institutions. Cynicism abounds.
- People are cocooning. Membership in service organizations is declining and isolationism is evident in everything from pop psychology to urban policy.
- The proliferation of single-issue politics is expected to continue.

These trends were reported in the LWVEF Vision 2000 Strategic Plan (Appendix Y):

- There is widespread mistrust of government and alienation of citizens from the political process.
- People in communities are turning inward because of apathy or anger. Their focus is more on themselves than the needs of their communities.
- Communities are in crisis and conflict. Interdependent problems pit constituencies against each other as competitors for dwindling resources.

- The blurring of the distinctions between other public policy groups and League calls into question the issue of relevancy.
- Political posturing on all levels makes League's ability to present political debates more difficult. In addition, other non-profit and media organizations are presenting their own debates.
- Elected officials do not reflect the diversity in our society.
- At least six in ten Americans think the nation is losing ground on meeting its most urgent problems.
- Today's American electorate is much larger and more diverse than it has ever been.
- More than half of Americans think government policies hinder more than help families.
- In many communities, fear, anger and suspicion have replaced genuine dialogue.
- Five key indicators of the health of the American Democracy confirm that it is in trouble:

Voter Turnout – fell to less than 50% of eligible voters in 1996, reflecting a continued downward trend

Campaign Finance – The two major political parties tripled the amount of special interest contributions between 1992 and 1996.

Civic Education – Three-fourths of American believe they don't have enough information to vote.

Diversity of Representation – The percent of women and people of color in congress has stagnated at unacceptably low levels for years.

Civic Participation – An overall decline in trust has resulted in significantly less participation and attendance. (Appendix X: "Making Democracy Work")

INFORMATION TRENDS

Opportunities

- As chain ownership of newspapers becomes the norm and newspapers become more and more alike, local papers will turn to local news as their key to survival.
- In this era of rapidly changing technology, danger exists that less sophisticated, less "plugged in" voices might be lost amid the din of electronic communication. (Source: Vision 2000)

Threats

- People born between WWII and 1964 find newspapers to be nonessential to them. Baby boomers, especially working women, have little time to read newspapers. They are only interested in local news -- events calendars, honor rolls, club activities, civic awards, global news brought home, consumer information or news that empowers them to be active citizens.
- Newspaper readership is projected to further decline for women.
- Women are slower to embrace the Internet than men.
- Television ads and radio talk shows are increasingly serving as the public's source of voter information. (Source: Vision 2000)

VOTING TRENDS

Opportunities

The following trends were drawn from "New Women Voters in 1996 and Beyond," published by Lake Sosin Snell Perry & Associate American Viewpoint (Appendix V)

- Providing information about candidates, issues and the physical process of voting is one of the most effective tools in encouraging more women to vote.
- Messages that draw a connection between the political process and women's lives are effective motivators.
- Changes in their lives – having a child, buying a home, retiring – help women make a link to the political process.
- Women respond to messages asking them to vote for others – children, families and communities – better than messages asking them to vote for themselves.
- Younger women respond to messages that draw on concerns about children. Older women respond to messages of personal responsibility.
- The National Voter Registration Act will bring more than 20 million new registered voters into the system in the next few years -- the largest expansion of the franchise in American history. (Source: Vision 2000)

Threats

- Time is a significant obstacle in voting.

***FutureTrek* Order Form**

To order all or parts of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund long range plan, please fill out this form, fold it in thirds and mail it to the League office (address on the reverse side of this form.)

Please send the checked items to:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Local League: _____

The *FutureTrek* long range plan

- ☐ Executive Summary
- ☐ Organizational Background (description of the League)
- ☐ Identity Overview (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats)
- ☐ Environmental Overview (trend research in the areas listed below that impact the League (all 14 pages)
 - Just these sections of the Environmental Overview:
 - ☐ Fundraising Trends
 - ☐ Volunteerism Trends
 - ☐ Demographic Trends
 - ☐ Employment Trends
 - ☐ Leisure Trends
 - ☐ Technology Trends
 - ☐ Public Policy Trends
 - ☐ Information Trends
 - ☐ Voting Trends
- ☐ The complete long range plan (includes all of the above sections, plus sections on League Activities (Public Policy, Voter Services, Action, Education Fund Activities), Membership (Trends & Perceptions, Member Profile, Reasons for Joining), Budgets and Funding, and the detailed objectives and strategies.

Appendix Items (some of the reports and/or studies that you may find informative)

- ☐ LWWUS Focus Group report (diverse groups of members and non-members that met in Minneapolis as part of the LWWUS Future Plan)
- ☐ Growth trends in Minnesota counties
- ☐ Local League viability assessment
- ☐ Profiles of MN Women (from the MN Women's Foundation)
- ☐ New Women Voters in 1966 and Beyond (September 1997)
- ☐ Summary of the mail survey (survey of League members, 1997)
- ☐ Summary of the phone survey of community members (1998)

Other items

- ☐ Report of the "Quick Audit of Local Leagues" (Fall 1998)
- ☐ Report of the process used to develop the plan