

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.



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

SEPTEMBER 2000

League of Women Voters of Minnesota
Celebrating 80 years - A Voice for Citizens, A Force for Change
651/224-5445 ~ 800-663-9328 ~ Fax: 651/290-2145
lwvmn@mtn.org ~ www.lwvmn.org

Mission

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Diversity

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of Minnesota in its membership. . ..and strives to overcome barriers of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability in the activities of the organization.

CALENDAR

Sei	- 4	-	'	L	
10	nı		m	\mathbf{n}	-
20	-		ш	$\boldsymbol{\omega}$	

- 18 General Election Voter Guide in production this week
- 19 "Citizens in Action" Planning Committee Meeting, Noon-2:00 p.m.
- 27 9:00 a.m. LWVMN Member Resources Committee, MWB

October

- 2 9:00 a.m. LWVMN Action Committee Meeting, MWB General Election *Voter Guides* available this week
- 7 5:00 p.m. LWV Duluth, LWVMNEF U.S. Senate Debate in Duluth
- 9 9:00 a.m. LWVMN Voter Service Committee, MWB
- 14 Leaders of Today and Tomorrow: Junior Citizen Day, State Capitol
- 15 7:00 p.m. LWV Austin, LWVMNEF U.S. Senate Debate in Austin
- 26 7:00 p.m. LWVMNEF U.S. Senate Debate, Blake School, Hopkins

November

- 5 WCCO/League of Women Voters Hotline
- 6 1:30 p.m. LWVMN Action Committee, MWB 6:00 a.m. 11:00 p.m. LWV/WCCO Hotline
- 7 General Election Day
 - 6:00 a.m. 8:00 p.m. LWV/WCCO Hotline
- 15 9:00 a.m. LWVMN/EF Board Meeting

SAVE THE DATE! The League of Women Voters of Minnesota will be holding a holiday open house for all Leaguers on **Wednesday**, **December 6**th **from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.** at the League office. Details will be sent closer to the event, but keep your afternoon free to drop in, say hello, pick up League information, and enjoy the holiday season!

ENCLOSURES

(Mailed to local League Presidents and DPM subscribers)

- Agriculture Study Memo/Duffy
- "Harvest of Risk," reprint, Pioneer Press, 12/1999/Ulrich
- Membership Packet/Frisch
- 2000-2001 Annual Appeal Phone-a-thon and Voter Article/Tjernlund, Crary
- Campaign Finance Reform 2000/Erickson
- LWVMN Action Activities article for LL bulletins/Erickson
- "Clean Money/Clean Elections" brochure/Erickson
- Statewide Moderator list/Doepner-Hove, Boche
- "Get out the Vote" brochure/Doepner-Hove, Kargas
- "Spirit of Democracy Award" application/Matlock, Brockelsby
- Newly appointed members of the LWVUS Board memo/Duffy
- Regent Candidate Advisory Council letter/Duffy
- · Postcard on Stans Lecture, Rosalie Wahl/Duffy
- "Banking on Women Conference" information/Duffy

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Judy Duffy, 505 Lake, Birchwood, 55110 ~ 651/429-9703 ~ GandJDuffy@aol.com (Also enclosed)

Agriculture Study materials, which were to be in your hands at the end of August, will not be ready until mid- or late October. The materials will consist of the publication, a discussion guide, discussion/consensus questions and some supplementary background information. (We have enclosed *Harvest of Risk*, December 1999, published by the *Pioneer Press* to help get you started.)

If your League is among those with meetings scheduled for October and November, please contact Sally Sawyer at the LWVMN office for guidance at 1-800-663-9328 or 651/290-2145. We are extremely sorry for this inconvenience.

ACTION

Kay Erickson, 27930 Smithtown Road, Shorewood, 55331 ~ 612/474-7324 ~ kerickson@visi.com

Action just kept going this summer. Usually when the session ends our activity cools down-but not this year! In this mailing you will find a summary of League's Action activities and an article on campaign finance reform. Feel free to print either or both in your newsletter. Please encourage your members to be part of League's Action agenda. I hope your League has an Action Chair. If you have questions about how your League can get involved in action, please call me.

If you'd like to lobby from the comfort of home, join our **Ten Minute Activists** and respond to Action Alerts by phone, fax or e-mail. It only takes a few minutes but has incredible impact. You sign up for the areas you'd like to respond to and when the Action Alerts come (they have background information and numbers to call) you respond as soon as you can.

Citizens in Action Conference - Our annual lobbying conference will be held on Feb. 3 at the State Capitol. It is for anyone who is interested in learning about how to impact the legislative process - beginners and those who know their way around. Cost is reasonable and participants get the League's lobbying handbook.

Action Committee - Want to make a difference and have an impact on what happens in Minnesota? Join the Action Committee and follow an issue, be an intern to learn the lobbying process, participate in great discussions, learn what's going on from the inside. We meet the first Monday of the month at the League office in St. Paul. The first meeting is October 2.

Looking Ahead - Some of the issues we expect to see or will be working on include: election law changes (we understand that some of the rule changes the Secretary of State proposed then withdrew for the final draft will come up again), campaign finance reform, mental health, initiative and referendum, redistricting, property tax reform, choice, firearms, and revising the environmental review process statewide. And there will be some we don't expect as well!

MEMBERSHIP & DIVERSITY

Carol Frisch, 7025 Comanche Court, Edina, 55439 ~ 952/829-0604 ~ ckfrisch@aol.com

As the enclosed comprehensive guide reminds us, membership is a year round job. No matter the size of your local league or the scope of your people power, doing your year's planning without intentional membership blueprints, means omitting a crucial piece.

Please read, cull ideas, and share appropriately with your board this thorough packet. It was developed a few years ago so items in the tool list have been updated and methods of record keeping may be more automated, but the framework is timeless and the philosophy as sound as ever.

VOTER SERVICE

Stacy Doepner-Hove, 5917 Ridgewood Road, Mound, 55364 ~ 612/472-3970 ~ doepn002@tc.umn.edu

VOTER GUIDE 2000, Take a friend to Vote Posters and VIP Packets can all be ordered from the LWVMN office. There is still time to order your General Election VOTER GUIDES at a cost of \$.13 each. Place your order today. Included in this mailing is our brochure that was sent to about 800 businesses and libraries. The brochure cover shows our Take a Friend to Vote poster. We hope you will order posters for your election activities. They are \$4 each.

THANK YOU TO TARGET

In the past, Target stores have thrown out the Voter Guides rather than distribute them. Please let's not have this happen this year. Please assign a Leaguer to check the Target store(s) in your community.

- When VOTER GUIDES arrive in the Target stores for the primary and general election (September 24), please stop and talk to the manager and thank him for the service to the community.
- If a store does not display them prominently, ask the manager for a better display spot. They should
 be available at the entrance or at each checkout. The Take a Friend to Vote poster should also be
 displayed.
- If they have used their allotment let the office know, we will direct voters to other stores.

I hope each league will take the time to thank their local Target stores. It is a wonderful service to the community and is most generous. (From Eydie Kargas)

U.S. SENATE DEBATES

The U.S. Senate Debate schedule is set:

- ✓ Saturday, October 7, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., College of St. Scholastica, Duluth Broadcast by KBJR TV, Duluth and KMSP TV, Twin Cities and MPR
- ✓ Sunday, October 15, 7:00-9:00 p.m., Riverlands Community College Broadcast by KMSP TV, Twin cities and KBJR TV, Duluth and KSMQ TV Austin
- ✓ Thursday, October 26, 7:00 8:00 p.m., at Blake School, Hopkins Broadcast by WCCO-TV, Twin Cities

LWVMN's website www.lwvmn.org has a listing of League candidate forums around the state. Please verify its accuracy and completeness and send any corrections/additions to ady.wickstrom@visi.com.

ELECTION HOTLINE

Thank you to all who participated in the Election Hotline held at WCCO-TV before and on Primary Election Day. And to those of you from the LWV of St. Paul (and to Claudia Dieter who coordinated St. Paul volunteers) who answered phones in the state League office, a special thanks—it was a tremendous help.

We still need volunteers for the Hotline for the General Election—it will run Sunday, November 5, Monday, November 6 and Tuesday, November 7. Contact Linda Loomis (763/545-4759) for information about volunteer slots available. Remember, you can earn \$25 per shift per volunteer for your local League and have the satisfaction of helping voters get to their polling places on Election Day.

Election Hotline numbers are 612/330-2764 or for Greater Minnesota, 1-877-223-9226.

DEMOCRACY NETWORK (DNet)

Check it out at www.dnet.org! Thanks to local Leagues and to our DNet administrator, Ady Wickstrom, more than one hundred fifty Minnesota legislative candidates have been contacted to participate in this premier site for federal, state and local election information. If the candidates in your area are not participating, please urge them to do so. Have them contact Ady directly at ady.wickstrom@visi.com.

TECHNOLOGY

Ady Wickstrom, 1252 Silverthorn Drive, Shoreview, MN 55126 ~ 651/780-5245 ~ ady.wickstrom@visi.com

Keep current on League activities and projects and save LWVMN staff time in the process! LWVMN has a list-serve that is used to communicate information in between Presidents mailings and to send action alerts. Please make sure that several, if not all, of your board members are subscribed to lwvmn-share. Other members are welcome to join, too! It's easy and will keep you informed during this busy election season.

Here's how:

- Send a message to: listproc@mtn.org
- · Leave the subject blank
- In the message put (substituting your name of course!):
 subscribe lwymn-share YourFirstname YourLastname

You will get a message back saying your request has been received for processing and then you will receive a second message saying that you have been added. Please remember that if you change your email address, you need to re-subscribe.

Date: September 11, 2000 To: Local League Presidents From: Judy Duffy, President

Re: Agriculture Study

Agriculture Study materials, which were to be in your hands at the end of August, will not be ready until mid- or late October. The materials will consist of the publication, a discussion guide, discussion/consensus questions and some supplementary background information.

If your League is among those with meetings scheduled for October and November, please contact Sally Sawyer at the LWVMN office for guidance at 1-800-663-9328 or 651/290-2145. We are extremely sorry for this inconvenience.

eptember 11, 2000 al League Presidents udy Duffy, President riculture Study

ture Study materials, which were to be in your hands at the end of August, will eady until mid- or late October. The materials will consist of the publication, a on guide, discussion/consensus questions and some supplementary background information.

If your League is among those with meetings scheduled for October and November, please contact Sally Sawyer at the LWVMN office for guidance at 1-800-663-9328 or 651/290-2145. We are extremely sorry for this inconvenience.

Date: September 11, 2000 To: Local League Presidents From: Judy Duffy, President

Re: Agriculture Study

Agriculture Study materials, which were to be in your hands at the end of August, will not be ready until mid- or late October. The materials will consist of the publication, a discussion guide, discussion/consensus questions and some supplementary background information.

If your League is among those with meetings scheduled for October and November, please contact Sally Sawyer at the LWVMN office for guidance at 1-800-663-9328 or 651/290-2145. We are extremely sorry for this inconvenience.



Date: September 13, 2000
To: Local League Presidents

From: Robyn Tjernlund, Development Chair

Jessica Crary, Appeal Coordinated

Re: 2000-2001 Annual Appeal

Phone-a-thon & Voter Article



It's that time of year again! The League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund (LWVMNEF) Annual Appeal will be in full swing by the first week of October. Letters will be going out the last week of September requesting assistance in keeping the Education Fund financially viable.

Please find a sample *Voter* article to pass along to your bulletin editor to help spread the word in your local League.

The Annual Appeal Phone-a-thon is a great chance for your local League to earn money for your local League account as well as dollars for your Education Fund. Volunteers from your League call prospective donors in your community to follow up the solicitation letter. The session is usually 4 hours long and held on a weekday evening or Sunday afternoon in your community. We provide a phone script for the volunteers, so it's easy and it's fun!

If you're interested in having someone from LWVMNEF there to assist with the phone-a-thon, and do not want to arrange for a Site Leader, Wednesday or Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons are the best times to schedule the session. Sessions will be held between October 15 and November 15, 2000.

Here is a listing of what your League could earn:

•	Site Leader (If needed)	\$40 paid directly to the Local League
•	1 – 4 callers	\$25 per caller per Phone-a-thon session paid directly to the Local League <i>plus</i> 15% of resultant money pledged and received to the Local League's Education
•	5 + callers	Fund account \$25 per caller per Phone-a-thon session paid directly to the Local League plus 20% of resultant money pledged and received to the Local League's Education
•	Clerical	Fund account \$20 per volunteer per Phone-a-thon session or other four-hour session paid directly to the Local League (No more than one clerical per two callers)

To host a Phone-a-thon you must be able to provide a minimum of four callers. We ask that the local League find locations within their own communities that will provide usage of phones, i.e. a bank or office of a friend or spouse. If a location cannot be found, there is the option of hold the Phone-a-thon at the LWVMN office in St. Paul.

Please return the sign up sheet no later than the October 6th with a contact person's name, phone number, fax and e-mail address. Please call Jessica Crary at 651.224.5445 or toll-free at 800.663.9328 with your intent of interest as well as any questions, comments or suggestions you may have. I look forward to having you join us to help your local League while helping the State League!

Sample Voter article for 2000-2001 Annual Appeal

2000 Annual Appeal Voter Article

It's that time of year again! The League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund (LWVMNEF) Annual Appeal will be in full swing by the first week of October. Letters will be going out the last week of September requesting assistance from all our friends in keeping the Education Fund financially viable.

As you know, the Education Fund is the source of funding for all LWVMNEF projects. This year the lineup of projects includes:

- United States Senate Debates
- The Minnesota Compact on Campaign Standards
- Election Hotline
- Voter Guides
- Citizens in Action and How to Make a Difference
- Agriculture Study
- · Leaders of Today & Tomorrow
- Citizenship curriculum for K-12 students

While the League is at its heart a volunteer organization, voter service and citizen education efforts require financial resources. The League is asking for your support. When you receive this request, please pledge what you can.

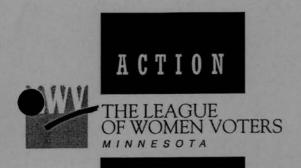
Check with your president to find out if your League will be participating in a phone-a-thon – it's a great way to earn money for your local League!

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.

PHONE-A-THON 2000 SIGN UP SHEET

LEAGUE OF	WOMEN VOTERS OF: _		
CONTACT N	AME:		
PHONE/FAX	/E-mail:		
LOCATION:			
DATE: FIRS	т Сноісе:		
SEC	OND CHOICE:		
	MONDAY THROUGH	THURSDAYS, 6:00 – 9:00	P.M. OR SUNDAY AFTERNOON
PHONERS:			
	Name	Address	PHONE
1			
·			
1			
CLERICAL:			
	NAME	Address	PHONE
1.			
(5-718-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1	
N 			
1			

EMAIL: lwvmn@mtn.org



550 Rice Street • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103 Phone 651/224-5445 • Toll Free 800/663-9328 Fax 651/290-2145 • lwvmn@mtn.org • www.lwvmn.org

Date: September 14, 2000
To: Local League Presidents
From: Kay Erickson, Action Chair

Re: NEW APPROACH TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(The League of Women Voters has pushed for campaign finance reform for years. During the last legislative session we continued to support reform in Minnesota because although Minnesota has some of the best campaign finance practices in the country, candidates still spend a great deal of time asking for money. The public perception is that money drives politics. In this article, Beth Fraser of the Minnesota Alliance for Progressive Action (MAPA) presents a new initiative that is gaining support in many states and Minnesota. The League of Women Voters of Minnesota is working with a group to devise policy and strategy for a campaign in Minnesota.)

2000 could be called the year of campaign finance reform. Never before has so much attention been paid to this issue, and we will most likely hear more about it in the next few months as candidate debates ensue around the upcoming elections.

The spectacle of record breaking fundraising during the presidential primary season and the national conventions have added to the growing momentum. The Washington Post reported that a national survey shows that the electorate is widely convinced that our political system is broken because big money is corrupting the process and giving unfair advantages to wealthy and well-connected candidates.

The poll also confirms that there is a strong and growing citizen's movement calling for the replacement of the current campaign finance system with what is known as a "clean money" system. At its heart, it provides candidates with the option of full public financing for their campaigns, if they agree not to do private fundraising and to abide by spending limits. It also includes caps on soft money contributions and matching money for candidates that are unfairly impacted by political advertising.

Clean Money systems have been passed in four states, have survived several court challenges, and are being implemented this year in Maine, Vermont and Arizona. According to the candidates who are using the systems in these states, it is already changing the way that politics works.

Jolene Lovejoy, a first time Republican candidate explains, " (Running as a Clean Money candidate) removes any stigma from the candidate - any feeling of, or actually being, indebted. My bottom line is this: I'm running to represent the people who live here, and keep an eye on the state of Maine. I'm not there for business, or unions, just the people."

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota supports the principles of Clean Money and is working with other organizations and individuals to develop such a system for the coming legislative session. Speakers are available for local Leagues. To learn more about how to get involved call Kay Erickson, 612/474-7324 or the state office, 651/224-5445.



550 Rice Street • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103 Phone 651/224-5445 • Toll Free 800/663-9328 Fax 651/290-2145 • lwvmn@mtn.org • www.lwvmn.org

Date:

September 14, 2000

To:

Local League Presidents From: Kay Erickson, Action Chair

Re:

LWVMN Action Update

League's Action activities continued beyond the legislative session. We were involved in the Secretary of State's rules changes, campaign finance, mental health issues and planning for next year.

ELECTION LAW RULES CHANGES

During rules process this summer the Secretary of State proposed a number of changes in election law rules and procedures, including one we were very concerned about which would have required a picture identification to register to vote on election day. We, along with others, requested a hearing before an administrative law judge. The League felt the proposed rules changes went beyond technical, housekeeping changes and were contrary to legislative intent. (Measures to restrict election day registration were expressly removed in committee during the last session.) The photo identification requirement and several of the measures we had concerns about were removed in a subsequent draft, but some remained.

We testified during the hearing on July 11, stating our concerns about where voter registration cards are available, access to computer systems on election day, and the issue of timing. (Because changes go into effect in August when election officials are in the middle of training election judges and staff, there would be little time for them to become familiar with the new rules and do the necessary training.) During the comment period after the hearing we expressed concern about deleting instructions to county auditors regarding exactly what should take place in the case of a deficient or late registration. The rulings issued by the Administrative Law Judge satisfied our concerns and many of those raised by others.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Last session we supported the Minnesota Alliance for Progressive Action's (MAPA) "Clean Money Bill" to move toward full public funding of campaigns. Systems that provide full public funding (after qualifying), and matching funds for independent expenditures have been adopted in Maine, Massachusetts, Arizona and Vermont. Although Minnesota has a better campaign finance system than most states, our elected officials still have to spend a great deal of time raising money. The public perception is that big money interests decide elections. This summer we have continued to work with a group of organizations MAPA has organized to devise strategy and policy for this initiative. When those decisions have been made we will determine how the League will be involved.

MENTAL HEALTH

State Representative Mindy Greiling has been working on legislation to change the legal standard for involuntary civil commitment from one based on a criminal model to one based on a medical one. Such a change would make it easier to get earlier treatment for persons with mental illness, treatment that may be necessary to prevent permanent and irreversible damage. At a meeting with Rep. Greiling, Pat Bugenstein, our lobbyist for Mental Health issues, and Barbara Flanagan, author of our mental health study, made suggestions for improvements to the legislation. We are trying to schedule a presentation for the November 6 Action Committee meeting with Rep. Greiling and the opponents of the legislation.

MODERATOR LIST

Ballinger, Lois 65 - 121 Ave NW Coon Rapids, MN 55448 612/754-9447 no e-mail

Bradley, Carol 15202 7th Ave NW Andover, MN 55304 612/421-1663 no e-mail

Buie, Joann 6640 Vernon Hills Road Edina, MN. 55436 612/933-3390 no e-mail

Cella, Cathy
7123 Topa Drive
Edina, MN 55439
612/829-5302
cac7123@aol.com

Cushing, Carolyn
3031 Simpson
Roseville, MN 55113
651/663-0602
cushing@ecology.uMN.edu

Duffy, Judy 505 Lake Ave. Birchwood, MN 55110-1631 651/429-9703 GandJDuffy@aol.com

Dyrstad, Joanell 910 W 6th St. Red Wing, MN 55066 651/388-6883 cornerrx@win.bright.net Gendler, Janet 3906 Zenith Ave S. Minneapolis MN 55410 612/920-3567 jhgendler@aol.com

Hanson, Gail 110 1st Ave. NE #1603 Minneapolis, MN 55413 612/676-1591 stugahanson@uswest.net

Hepokoski, Mary 6473 Westchester Circle Golden Valley, MN 55427 612/541-9801 Hepokoski@compuserve.com

Hicks, Joan 919 Brian Court St. Cloud, MN 56303 320/255-1353 no e-mail

Jindra, Deborah 420 Newton Ave. S Minneapolis, MN 55405 612/377-9626 deborah630@earthlink.net

Kelly, Rosemarie 2512 Garfield St. NE Minneapolis, MN 55418 612/789-6592 no e-mail

Kolb, Kathy
3947 Aldrich Ave N
Minneapolis, MN 55412
612/522-4188
Kathy@fraser.org

Larkin, Robin
7500 Hyde Park Drive
612/829-9323
no e-mail

Matlock, Jeanne 1128 Montana Ave. W St. Paul, MN 55108 651/488-0458 jmatlock@pro-ns.net

McCohnell, Marie 1873 Randolf Ave. #11 St. Paul, MN 55105 651/698-2770 no e-mail

McCulley, Kay 14431 Wolfram Ramsey, MN 55303-4530 612/427-3866 no e-mail

Micks, Marti 90 Louisiana Ave Mpls. MN 55426 612/546-7930 MAMicks@aol.com

Midtbo, Janet 2206 W.53rd St. Minneapolis, MN 55419 612/926-0954 no e-mail

Moormann, Alice 30 Luverne Ave. Minneapolis, MN 55419 612/827-1358 mmoorman@isd.net

Nordling, Liz 415 Birchwood Ave Birchwood, MN 55110-1802 651/426-1238 singminn.net O'Berry, Betsy 14723 Ramsey Blvd NW Ramsey, MN 55303 612/323-6775 betsyo@wavefront.com

Pluimer, Peggy 2020 Penn Ave S. Minneapolis, MN 55405 612/374-2807 pluim2020@aol.com

Poseley, Jude 2317 Bryant Ave S #2 Minneapolis, MN 55405 612/381-9339 poseleyj@aol.com

Recksiedler, Lila 3104 Victoria Street North Roseville, MN 55113 651/484-7782 no e-mail

Reinhart, Susan
5304 Garfield Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55419
612/827-6490
creinhart@aol.com

Ritter, Gladys 1690 Neal Ave N. Stillwater, MN 55082 651/436-1873 logos48@aol.com

Schak, Esther 2215 12th Ave S. Minneapolis, MN 55404 651/874-7817 no e-mail Scribner, Sue 5826 Oakview Circle Minnetonka, MN 55345 612/949-9582 no e-mail

Sekhon, Kathleen 6619 189th Ln NW Anoka, MN 55303 612/753-2976 no e-mail

Signorelli, Norma 1686 S. Ridgewood Lane Roseville, MN 55113 651/645-8425 no e-mail

Sprague, Florence 1890 Furness St. Maplewood, MN 55109 651/779-0349 misemer@uswest.net

Teleen, Pam 4053 Dupont Ave. S Minneapolis, MN 55409 612/823-3785 no e-mail

Van Leer, Jennifer LWVMpls Executive Director 612/333-6319 jvanleer@mtn.org

Weisbrod, Susan 1840 Margo Ave. N Lake Elmo, MN 55042 651/436-7528 Sweisb+@aol.com

Way, Zilla 528 Cross St. Anoka, MN 55303 612/421-2388 no e-mail

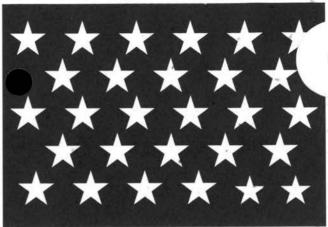


Here is what to do:

- ★ Provide your employees, students or customers with Primary and General Election VOTER GUIDES so they can become more informed voters. They will thank you for it. Send them in the office mail, use them as an fisert in company newsletter or leave them in stacks in lunch-room, lounge, at voter information table, reception desk or building entrance.
- ★ Display our Take a Friend to Vote Poster before the primary and general elections.
- ★ Use our Voter Information Packet. It contains the information you need to run a successful Get Out the Vote campaign and inform your public.
- ★ Show our Video—Road to Election Day.
- ★ Order by by August 1 for primary and by August 31 for general election to ensure availability.



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS MINNESOTA EDUCATION FUND 550 Rice Street, St. Paul MN 55103



Get out the Vote

Primary Voter Guides
General Election Voter Guides
Posters * Videos
Voter Information

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
ST. Paul, MN
Permit No. 2025



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
MINNESOTA EDUCATION FUND

Voter Guides

Citizens trust The League of Women Voters to provide the information they need to vote. Our Voter Guides are the only statewide nonpartisan publications to include, in one issue, all the candidates for statewide offices for all the major and registered minor parties.

Primary VOTER GUIDE

- * Photos, biographies and answers to questions for U.S. House and Senate candidates
- ★ Delivery on or about August 21

General Election VOTER GUIDE

- ★ Photos, biographies and candidate responses to our questions for U.S. House and Senate and statewide Judicial candidates
- ★ Minnesota voting information
- ★ Delivery on or about October 2

Questions for the candidates are based on the top concerns of Americans in recent polls

- * education
- ★ national economy
- ★ federal budget
- * crime
- ★ social security
- * health care
- * environment
- * gun control
- ★ foreign affairs

- * poverty
- ★ protecting Medicare
- * agriculture

VOTER GUIDE details

- ★ Three color newsprint, folded to 8½"x11½"
- ★ Delivered by UPS or by truck for Metro orders over 3000
- ★ Boxed and bundled in 50 or 100 copies Please order in multiples of 50 copies
- ★ Eight to twelve pages each, depending on the number of candidates

Poster



Take a friend to vote

Primary September 12

General Election November

With a powerful and effective message our eye catching poster encourages voting. 11" x 17" on heavy paper.

Voter Information Packet

The VIP is packed with information:

- ★ Who can vote
- ★ How to register to vote
- ★ How to run a voter registration drive
- ★ How the Minnesota election process works
- ★ How to Get Out The Vote
- ★ How to pick a candidate
- ★ How to watch a debate

Video

- ★ Road to Election Day Video runs 13 minutes
- ★ All the information needed to take you from Caucus to Election day

Order From



550 Rice Street St. • Paul MN 55103 Phone 651-224-5445 • Fax 651-290-2145 e-mail lwvmn@mtn.org • web site www.lwvmn.org

Order Form

Order by mail, phone or fax. Include check or credit card number

Primary Voter Guides	@\$.21\$	
General Voter Guides	@\$.21\$)(
Posters	@\$ 4.00\$	1
Voter Information Packet	@\$10.00\$	*
Video	@ \$45.00\$	
Add 6.5% sales tax *	\$	
Postage & handling for posters, V	TP and video \$	
TOTAL	\$	

*St. Paul orders: 6.5% for Voter Guides, 7% for Posters, VIP and Video Non-profit sales tax exempt organizations attach copy exempt certificate.

Postage & Handling for Posters, VIP & Video *0 -\$ 4.99 \$1.00 \$ 5.00-\$14.99 \$3.00 \$15.00-\$34.99 \$4.00 \$35.00-\$54.99 \$5.00 \$55.00-\$74.99 \$7.00 Over \$75.00 to be billed

Bill to:	Date
Name	
Organization	
Address	1
City	
State	
Zip	
Phone	Fax
☐ Payment Enclosed	☐ American Express
☐ Mastercard	□ Visa
Credit card #	
Exp. Date:	
Ship to address if different	
Name	
Organization	*
Address (no P.O. box)	

State

League of Women Voters

Memo

RECEIVED SEP 1 1 2000

To: State League Presidents

From: Danielle Brown, Executive Secretary, LWVUS

Date: 08/30/00

Re: Newly appointed LWVUS Board members

Greetings!

As you may already know, the 2000-2002 LWVUS Board of Directors is now complete.

On Sunday, July 23rd, the Board members elected at Convention met to consider candidates for appointment to the four open seats on the Board of Directors. Their choices were:

- Rosetta Davis of Nashville, Tennessee
- Linda McDaniel of Florissant, MO
- Rosie Stephens of Lake Oswego, OR

and

Olivia Thorne of Wallingford, PA

Attached you will find a template of the letter that was sent to Rosetta, Linda, Rosie, and Olivia shortly after they were appointed.



Regent Candidate Advisory Council

85 State Office Building Saint Paul, MN 55155 (651) 296-9002 (651) 297-3697 (fax)

Web site: www.commissions.leg.state.mn.us/lcc/rcac.htm

September 5, 2000

RECEIVED SEP 7 2000

Dear Friend of the University of Minnesota,

This letter is to request your assistance in generating a pool of well-qualified applicants for the University of Minnesota's Board of Regents. The Regent Candidate Advisory Council (RCAC) is charged by the legislature with the responsibility for recruiting and making recommendations of between two and four finalists for each open position on the Board of Regents. Four seats (two at-large, one representing the 5th congressional district, and one student seat) will be open for legislative appointment in the year 2001.

The University of Minnesota is the premier educational institution in the State of Minnesota. The university's graduates and its research programs have a major impact on the well-being of the state. It is important that skilled, experienced individuals from diverse backgrounds set the course for this distinguished public institution. Please take some time to consider persons such as yourself who would be qualified to fill these leadership positions. Among the attributes of good candidates are governance experience with complex organizations, knowledge of higher education, and an understanding of the transformation that is taking place in society as a result of technology. Terms are for six years. It is estimated that sitting regents spend, on average, at least 40 hours per month fulfilling board responsibilities. Regents serve without compensation.

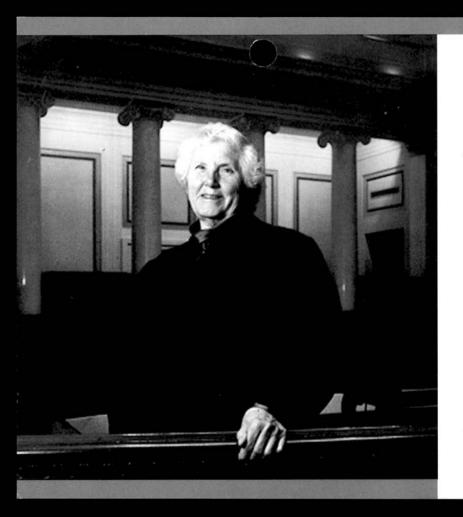
The deadline for application is December 1, 2000. Interviews will be held in January 2001. The legislature is expected to make final selections in February. To receive an application form and information packet, or to have one sent to someone you recommend, please contact Jennifer Ridgeway, RCAC staff person, at 651-296-9002 or access the RCAC Web site at www.commissions.leg.state.mn.us/lcc/rcac.htm. I would be happy to visit with you about the recruitment and selection process or to answer any other questions you may have. My phone is 507-282-9073; my e-mail address is nmwicks@aol.com.

Thank you for taking the time to assist the RCAC with the creation of a pool of talented candidates who stand ready to be tapped for the future leadership of the University of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Nedra Wicks, Chair

Regent Candidate Advisory Council



STANS LECTURE

Justice Rosalie Wahl
and the Minnesota Supreme Court

Tuesday, Sept. 197 p.m., Minnesota History Center Adjacent to the Cathedral of St. Paul





Justice Rosalie Wahl and the Minnesota Supreme Court

In 1977 Rosalie Wahl made history when she became the first woman appointed to the Minnesota Supreme Court. She will reflect on the challenges courts face in interpreting the law by focusing on several significant cases and her experiences leading the Court's Gender Fairness and Racial Bias task forces.

Tuesday, Sept. 19

7 p.m., Free 3M Auditorium Minnesota History Center 345 Kellogg Blvd. W. St. Paul

Auxiliary aids and services available with advance notice. For more information, call 651/296-6126 or TTY 651/282-6073.

This program is made possible with support from the Maurice Stans Lecture Fund.



345 KELLOGG BOULEVARD WEST SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102-1906 Non Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID St. Paul, MN Permit No. 854

Banking on Women

August 9, 2000

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

RECEIVED AUG 1 4 2000

Dear Judy:

The College of Saint Benedict invites you to join us at an exciting new conference and launch of a new initiative directed at women and economic development. The conference, "Banking on Women," will be held on Wednesday, October 11, 2000 at the College of Saint Benedict from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.

The College of Saint Benedict has stated its intention to become involved in the issues of access for and by women, both locally and globally, to education, credit, health care and technology. Therefore, with the support of the John H. Myers Chair in Management at Saint John's University, and the Star Tribune, the College of Saint Benedict is hosting the first of what may be a continuing series of conferences on these issues. The purpose of the first conference is to influence business and government to create programs to provide access to education, credit, health care and technology. In essence, we want to highlight and inform audience on microlending and the issue of poverty among women.

Speakers at the conference will include Patricia Delgado, former ambassador from Nicaragua to the Nordic countries; Esperanza Guerrero-Anderson, president and CEO of Milestone Growth Fund; Karol Emmerich, president of the Emmerich Foundation and former chair of the Women's Opportunity Fund; plus presentations from Fred de Sam Lazaro, executive producer at KTCA-TV; and a local reactor panel including Mihailo Temali, president of Western Initiatives for Neighborhood Development, Inc.; Meg Lewis, associate professor of economics, College of Saint Benedict; Fahima Aziz, chair and associate professor, department of management and economics, Hamline University; and Karol Emmerich. Panel to be moderated by Dee DePass, Star Tribune. The panel will narrow our discussion to local efforts to support access to women.

A fact sheet is included.

Cost of the conference is \$20 per person and includes a continental breakfast, lunch and bus transportation to and from the Twin Cities and St. Joseph. We hope that you and representatives/constituents from your organization will plan to attend. A registration brochure will be sent to you the first week of September.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (763) 541-9363. We hope that you will join us in the exciting and innovative initiative.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Bardins

Project Manager, Banking on Women

BANKING ON WOMEN

A half-day conference on the globalization of poverty among women

The challenge:

A 1998 UN Development Program report on worldwide poverty concludes that, relative to the poverty of men:

Women have a much higher incidence of poverty.

Women's poverty is more severe.

The incidence of poverty among women is increasing dramatically.

There is an education gap as well. Of the 900 million illiterate adults in the world, two-thirds are women.

Given the extended role that women tend to play in society, this is a formula for disaster. Women account for about half the world's population. If these trends continue, they would ensure that half of all the world's population – and their wards and dependents – would be doomed to a life of ignorance and abject poverty.

The solution:

To develop this human resource to the level of productive participants in the international economy, a well-funded "program of access" must be developed and widely embraced. Such a program would include:

- Access to education.
- Access to basic medical care.
- Access to technology.
- Access to capital.

Why St. Ben's?

The College of St. Benedict has stated its intention to become involved in the issues of access for and by women, both locally and globally, to education, credit, health care and technology. Therefore, with the support of the John H. Myers Chair in Management at Saint John's University, and the Star Tribune, the College of Saint Benedict is hosting the first of what may be a continuing series of conferences on these issues. The purpose of the first conference is to influence business and government to create programs to provide access to education, credit, health care and technology. In essence, we want to highlight and inform audience on microlending and the issue of poverty among women.

The conference for 2000 is entitled "Banking on Women" and will be held on Wednesday, October 11 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm on the CSB campus.

Banking on Women:

The conference agenda is as follows:

8:00 am - Registration and continental breakfast

9:00 am

Opening session

Welcome

Anne Ford Nelson, chair of CSB board

Ron Bosrock, SJU John Meyer's Chair in Management, chair, Banking on

Women Planning Committee

9:15 am

Fred de Sam Lazaro, Executive Producer, local documentary projects, KTCA TV.

Title of Presentation: The Grameen Perspective: A Video Montage

Mr. de Sam Lazaro's presentation will be a montage of pictures from Bangladesh and India, showing projects to uplift the status of women by bringing them into the economic and political mainstream.

9:30 am

Patricia Delgado

Patricia Delgado is the former Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Nicaragua to Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland and Iceland. During her six-year tenure, she distinguished herself as one Nicaragua's most accomplished ambassadors, increasing economic development assistance from the Scandinavian countries by 30%.

Ambassador Delgado has an extensive employment history including twelve years with the Central Bank of Nicaragua and international relations and fundraising experience with the Central American Institute for Business Administration. She is currently a private consultant working with international organizations and several Nicaraguan government institutions. She is also a university professor, currently teaching at the University of Mobile in San Marcos and St. Thomas More University in Managua.

Title of presentation: Banking on Women: The Challenge and the Opportunity.

Ambassador Delgado will provide an overview of the global economic condition of women and share some inspirational & successful initiatives from around the world. She will also encourage us to commit ourselves to improving the quality of life for women, so that every woman, regardless of her nationality, has the opportunity to become a productive participant in the international economy. The task is enormous, but each of us must make the effort to eradicate women's poverty & illiteracy and to provide access to financial means.

10:30 am Esperanza Guerrero-Anderson

Esperanza Guerrero-Anderson is the founder, president and chief executive officer of Milestone Growth Fund, Inc., a Small Business Investment Company (SBIC), providing small amounts of equity-type financing to minority businesses. She is an advocate of the free enterprise system and is passionate about the formation of capital in minority owned-businesses as a means to promote economic development and social stability. It is this vision that is the driving force behind Milestone Growth Fund's success.

Title of presentation: Access to Capital: A challenge for the small entrepreneur.

Today's entrepreneur has more access to capital than ever. Financing in the \$20 million plus range is very common today but finding small amounts of high-risk equity type financing is more difficult than ever. One successful program that attempts to fill this gap is the US Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) Act, of which Milestone is a participant.

11:30 am Lunch

12:15 pm Remarks, Mary Lyons, president of College of Saint Benedict Introduction of keynote speaker by Sue Lester, incoming board chair

Keynote address: Karol Emmerich

Karol Emmerich has extensive experience as a financial executive, corporate board member, philanthropist, non-profit "venture capitalist" and volunteer. Karol is president of The Emmerich Foundation and serves as a pro bono consultant to individuals and faith-based organizations on issues related to giving, governance, giftedness, women, work and faith. She is an Executive Fellow at the University of St. Thomas Graduate School of Business, and serves on the board of Slumberland. She also serves on numerous non-profit boards, including Royal Treasure, the Women's Opportunity Fund, the Gathering and Opportunity International.

Karol Emmerich has extensive experience as a financial executive, corporate board member, philanthropist, non-profit "venture capitalist" and volunteer. Karol is president of The Emmerich Foundation and serves as a pro bono consultant to individuals and faith-based organizations on issues related to giving, governance, giftedness, women, work and faith. She is an Executive

Fellow at the University of St. Thomas Graduate School of Business, and serves on the board of Slumberland. She also serves on numerous non-profit boards, including Royal Treasure, the Women's Opportunity Fund, the Gathering and Opportunity International.

Title of presentation: Breaking the Cycle of Poverty in the Third World: Helping Poor Women to Triumph

Ms. Emmerich's presentation will be about microcredit, as it emerged thirty years ago, as an innovative strategy to fight poverty. Poor entrepreneurs received the business loans they needed to succeed, but the majority of these loans went to small businessmen who had the collateral and the experience to "guarantee" repayment of their loans. The Women's Opportunity Fund was founded in 1992 to help those shut out from the market—the poorest of the economically active poor of which 70% are women. When combined with the training, support structures, and leadership development that are part of group-lending methods, loans make possible not just economic advancement but social and spiritual transformation. The Women's Opportunity Fund, as well as numerous other organizations around the world, has proven that poor businesswomen, with an average repayment rate of 98 percent, are good credit risks and that investing in their potential also reaps benefits for their families and communities.

12:45 pm

Local reactor panel discussion on issues presented during day as well as during keynote. Panel to include: Mihailo Temali, president of Western Initiatives for Neighborhood Development, Inc.; Meg Lewis, associate professor of economics, College of St. Benedict; Fahima Aziz, chair and associate professor, Department of Management and Economics, Hamline University; Karol Emmerich. Panel to be moderated by Dee DePass, Star Tribune.

The panel will narrow our discussion to local efforts to support access to women.

1:15 pm

Audience Q&A

1:45 pm

Call to action

2:00 pm

Adjourn

A continental breakfast and lunch is included in the registration fee. Transportation will be provided for attendees from the Twin Cities to the campus of CSB. A \$20 registration fee will be required of all non-campus related participants, and \$5 per student.

Target audience:

The audience will be composed of students and faculty from CSB and SJU as well as representatives from business and the many women's economic development organizations in the Twin Cities and St. Cloud. We expect 300 –500 attendees.



Date: September 13, 2000
To: Local League Presidents

From: Robyn Tjernlund, Development Chair

Jessica Crary, Appeal Coordinated

Re: 2000-2001 Annual Appeal

Phone-a-thon & Voter Article



It's that time of year again! The League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund (LWVMNEF) Annual Appeal will be in full swing by the first week of October. Letters will be going out the last week of September requesting assistance in keeping the Education Fund financially viable.

Please find a sample *Voter* article to pass along to your bulletin editor to help spread the word in your local League.

The Annual Appeal Phone-a-thon is a great chance for your local League to earn money for your local League account as well as dollars for your Education Fund. Volunteers from your League call prospective donors in your community to follow up the solicitation letter. The session is usually 4 hours long and held on a weekday evening or Sunday afternoon in your community. We provide a phone script for the volunteers, so it's easy and it's fun!

If you're interested in having someone from LWVMNEF there to assist with the phone-a-thon, and do not want to arrange for a Site Leader, Wednesday or Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons are the best times to schedule the session. Sessions will be held between October 15 and November 15, 2000.

Here is a listing of what your League could earn:

•	Site Leader (If needed)	\$40 paid directly to the Local League
•	1 – 4 callers	\$25 per caller per Phone-a-thon session paid directly to the Local League <i>plus</i> 15% of resultant money pledged and received to the Local League's Education Fund account
•	5 + callers	\$25 per caller per Phone-a-thon session paid directly to the Local League <i>plus</i> 20% of resultant money pledged and received to the Local League's Education Fund account
•	Clerical	\$20 per volunteer per Phone-a-thon session or other four-hour session paid directly to the Local League (No more than one clerical per two callers)

To host a Phone-a-thon you must be able to provide a minimum of four callers. We ask that the local League find locations within their own communities that will provide usage of phones, i.e. a bank or office of a friend or spouse. If a location cannot be found, there is the option of hold the Phone-a-thon at the LWVMN office in St. Paul.

Please return the sign up sheet no later than the October 6th with a contact person's name, phone number, fax and e-mail address. Please call Jessica Crary at 651.224.5445 or toll-free at 800.663.9328 with your intent of interest as well as any questions, comments or suggestions you may have. I look forward to having you join us to help your local League while helping the State League!

Sample Voter article for 2000-2001 Annual Appeal

2000 Annual Appeal Voter Article

It's that time of year again! The League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund (LWVMNEF) Annual Appeal will be in full swing by the first week of October. Letters will be going out the last week of September requesting assistance from all our friends in keeping the Education Fund financially viable.

As you know, the Education Fund is the source of funding for all LWVMNEF projects. This year the lineup of projects includes:

- United States Senate Debates
- The Minnesota Compact on Campaign Standards
- Election Hotline
- Voter Guides
- · Citizens in Action and How to Make a Difference
- Agriculture Study
- Leaders of Today & Tomorrow
- Citizenship curriculum for K-12 students

While the League is at its heart a volunteer organization, voter service and citizen education efforts require financial resources. The League is asking for your support. When you receive this request, please pledge what you can.

Check with your president to find out if your League will be participating in a phone-a-thon – it's a great way to earn money for your local League!

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.

PHONE-A-THON 2000 SIGN UP SHEET

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VO	TERS OF:	
CONTACT NAME:		
PHONE/FAX/E-MAIL:		
LOCATION:		
DATE: FIRST CHOICE: _		
SECOND CHOICE	:	
Monday	THROUGH THURSDAYS, 6:00 – 9:00 p.	m. <i>or</i> Sunday Afternoon
PHONERS:		
NAME	Address	PHONE
)—————————————————————————————————————		2
B		
7		
S		
CLERICAL:		
Name	Address	PHONE
18 -18-18-18-18-18-18-18-18-18-18-18-18-18-		
Ų -		
W -		
(<u></u>		
19		
Y		

EMAIL: lwvmn@mtn.org



550 Rice Street • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103 Phone 651/224-5445 • Toll Free 800/663-9328 Fax 651/290-2145 • lwvmn@mtn.org • www.lwvmn.org

Date: September 14, 2000
To: Local League Presidents
From: Kay Erickson, Action Chair

Re: NEW APPROACH TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(The League of Women Voters has pushed for campaign finance reform for years. During the last legislative session we continued to support reform in Minnesota because although Minnesota has some of the best campaign finance practices in the country, candidates still spend a great deal of time asking for money. The public perception is that money drives politics. In this article, Beth Fraser of the Minnesota Alliance for Progressive Action (MAPA) presents a new initiative that is gaining support in many states and Minnesota. The League of Women Voters of Minnesota is working with a group to devise policy and strategy for a campaign in Minnesota.)

2000 could be called the year of campaign finance reform. Never before has so much attention been paid to this issue, and we will most likely hear more about it in the next few months as candidate debates ensue around the upcoming elections.

The spectacle of record breaking fundraising during the presidential primary season and the national conventions have added to the growing momentum. The Washington Post reported that a national survey shows that the electorate is widely convinced that our political system is broken because big money is corrupting the process and giving unfair advantages to wealthy and well-connected candidates.

The poll also confirms that there is a strong and growing citizen's movement calling for the replacement of the current campaign finance system with what is known as a "clean money" system. At its heart, it provides candidates with the option of full public financing for their campaigns, if they agree not to do private fundraising and to abide by spending limits. It also includes caps on soft money contributions and matching money for candidates that are unfairly impacted by political advertising.

Clean Money systems have been passed in four states, have survived several court challenges, and are being implemented this year in Maine, Vermont and Arizona. According to the candidates who are using the systems in these states, it is already changing the way that politics works.

Jolene Lovejoy, a first time Republican candidate explains, " (Running as a Clean Money candidate) removes any stigma from the candidate - any feeling of, or actually being, indebted. My bottom line is this: I'm running to represent the people who live here, and keep an eye on the state of Maine. I'm not there for business, or unions, just the people."

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota supports the principles of Clean Money and is working with other organizations and individuals to develop such a system for the coming legislative session. Speakers are available for local Leagues. To learn more about how to get involved call Kay Erickson, 612/474-7324 or the state office, 651/224-5445.



550 Rice Street • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103 Phone 651/224-5445 • Toll Free 800/663-9328 Fax 651/290-2145 • lwvmn@mtn.org • www.lwvmn.org

Date: September 14, 2000

To: Local League Presidents

From: Kay Erickson, Action Chair Re: LWVMN Action Update

League's Action activities continued beyond the legislative session. We were involved in the Secretary of State's rules changes, campaign finance, mental health issues and planning for next year.

ELECTION LAW RULES CHANGES

During rules process this summer the Secretary of State proposed a number of changes in election law rules and procedures, including one we were very concerned about which would have required a picture identification to register to vote on election day. We, along with others, requested a hearing before an administrative law judge. The League felt the proposed rules changes went beyond technical, housekeeping changes and were contrary to legislative intent. (Measures to restrict election day registration were expressly removed in committee during the last session.) The photo identification requirement and several of the measures we had concerns about were removed in a subsequent draft, but some remained.

We testified during the hearing on July 11, stating our concerns about where voter registration cards are available, access to computer systems on election day, and the issue of timing. (Because changes go into effect in August when election officials are in the middle of training election judges and staff, there would be little time for them to become familiar with the new rules and do the necessary training.) During the comment period after the hearing we expressed concern about deleting instructions to county auditors regarding exactly what should take place in the case of a deficient or late registration. The rulings issued by the Administrative Law Judge satisfied our concerns and many of those raised by others.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Last session we supported the Minnesota Alliance for Progressive Action's (MAPA) "Clean Money Bill" to move toward full public funding of campaigns. Systems that provide full public funding (after qualifying), and matching funds for independent expenditures have been adopted in Maine, Massachusetts, Arizona and Vermont. Although Minnesota has a better campaign finance system than most states, our elected officials still have to spend a great deal of time raising money. The public perception is that big money interests decide elections. This summer we have continued to work with a group of organizations MAPA has organized to devise strategy and policy for this initiative. When those decisions have been made we will determine how the League will be involved.

MENTAL HEALTH

State Representative Mindy Greiling has been working on legislation to change the legal standard for involuntary civil commitment from one based on a criminal model to one based on a medical one. Such a change would make it easier to get earlier treatment for persons with mental illness, treatment that may be necessary to prevent permanent and irreversible damage. At a meeting with Rep. Greiling, Pat Bugenstein, our lobbyist for Mental Health issues, and Barbara Flanagan, author of our mental health study, made suggestions for improvements to the legislation. We are trying to schedule a presentation for the November 6 Action Committee meeting with Rep. Greiling and the opponents of the legislation.

MODERATOR LIST

Ballinger, Lois 65 - 121 Ave NW Coon Rapids, MN 55448 612/754-9447 no e-mail

Bradley, Carol 15202 7th Ave NW Andover, MN 55304 612/421-1663 no e-mail

Buie, Joann 6640 Vernon Hills Road Edina, MN. 55436 612/933-3390 no e-mail

Cella, Cathy
7123 Topa Drive
Edina, MN 55439
612/829-5302
cac7123@aol.com

Cushing, Carolyn
3031 Simpson
Roseville, MN 55113
651/663-0602
cushing@ecology.uMN.edu

Duffy, Judy 505 Lake Ave. Birchwood, MN 55110-1631 651/429-9703 GandJDuffy@aol.com

Dyrstad, Joanell 910 W 6th St. Red Wing, MN 55066 651/388-6883 cornerrx@win.bright.net Gendler, Janet
3906 Zenith Ave S.
Minneapolis MN 55410
612/920-3567
jhgendler@aol.com

Hanson, Gail 110 1st Ave. NE #1603 Minneapolis, MN 55413 612/676-1591 stugahanson@uswest.net

Hepokoski, Mary 6473 Westchester Circle Golden Valley, MN 55427 612/541-9801 Hepokoski@compuserve.com

Hicks, Joan 919 Brian Court St. Cloud, MN 56303 320/255-1353 no e-mail

Jindra, Deborah 420 Newton Ave. S Minneapolis, MN 55405 612/377-9626 deborah630@earthlink.net

Kelly, Rosemarie 2512 Garfield St. NE Minneapolis, MN 55418 612/789-6592 no e-mail

Kolb, Kathy 3947 Aldrich Ave N Minneapolis, MN 55412 612/522-4188 Kathy@fraser.org Larkin, Robin 7500 Hyde Park Drive 612/829-9323 no e-mail

Matlock, Jeanne 1128 Montana Ave. W St. Paul, MN 55108 651/488-0458 jmatlock@pro-ns.net

McCohnell, Marie 1873 Randolf Ave. #11 St. Paul, MN 55105 651/698-2770 no e-mail

McCulley, Kay 14431 Wolfram Ramsey, MN 55303-4530 612/427-3866 no e-mail

Micks, Marti 90 Louisiana Ave Mpls. MN 55426 612/546-7930 MAMicks@aol.com

Midtbo, Janet 2206 W.53rd St. Minneapolis, MN 55419 612/926-0954 no e-mail

Moormann, Alice
30 Luverne Ave.
Minneapolis, MN 55419
612/827-1358
mmoorman@isd.net

Nordling, Liz 415 Birchwood Ave Birchwood, MN 55110-1802 651/426-1238 singminn.net O'Berry, Betsy 14723 Ramsey Blvd NW Ramsey, MN 55303 612/323-6775 betsyo@wavefront.com

Pluimer, Peggy 2020 Penn Ave S. Minneapolis, MN 55405 612/374-2807 pluim2020@aol.com

Poseley, Jude 2317 Bryant Ave S #2 Minneapolis, MN 55405 612/381-9339 poseleyj@aol.com

Recksiedler, Lila 3104 Victoria Street North Roseville, MN 55113 651/484-7782 no e-mail

Reinhart, Susan 5304 Garfield Ave Minneapolis, MN 55419 612/827-6490 creinhart@aol.com

Ritter, Gladys 1690 Neal Ave N. Stillwater, MN 55082 651/436-1873 logos48@aol.com

Schak, Esther 2215 12th Ave S. Minneapolis, MN 55404 651/874-7817 no e-mail Scribner, Sue 5826 Oakview Circle Minnetonka, MN 55345 612/949-9582 no e-mail

Sekhon, Kathleen 6619 189th Ln NW Anoka, MN 55303 612/753-2976 no e-mail

Signorelli, Norma 1686 S. Ridgewood Lane Roseville, MN 55113 651/645-8425 no e-mail

Sprague, Florence 1890 Furness St. Maplewood, MN 55109 651/779-0349 misemer@uswest.net

Teleen, Pam 4053 Dupont Ave. S Minneapolis, MN 55409 612/823-3785 no e-mail

Van Leer, Jennifer LWVMpls Executive Director 612/333-6319 jvanleer@mtn.org

Weisbrod, Susan 1840 Margo Ave. N Lake Elmo, MN 55042 651/436-7528 Sweisb+@aol.com

Way, Zilla 528 Cross St. Anoka, MN 55303 612/421-2388 no e-mail

League of Women Voters

Memo

RECEIVED SEP 1 1 2000

To: State League Presidents

From: Danielle Brown, Executive Secretary, LWVUS

Date: 08/30/00

Re: Newly appointed LWVUS Board members

Greetings!

As you may already know, the 2000-2002 LWVUS Board of Directors is now complete.

On Sunday, July 23rd, the Board members elected at Convention met to consider candidates for appointment to the four open seats on the Board of Directors. Their choices were:

- Rosetta Davis of Nashville, Tennessee
- Linda McDaniel of Florissant, MO
- Rosie Stephens of Lake Oswego, OR

and

Olivia Thorne of Wallingford, PA

Attached you will find a template of the letter that was sent to Rosetta, Linda, Rosie, and Olivia shortly after they were appointed.



Regent Candidate Advisory Council

85 State Office Building Saint Paul, MN 55155 (651) 296-9002 (651) 297-3697 (fax)

Web site: www.commissions.leg.state.mn.us/lcc/rcac.htm

September 5, 2000

RECEIVED SEP 7 2000

Dear Friend of the University of Minnesota,

This letter is to request your assistance in generating a pool of well-qualified applicants for the University of Minnesota's Board of Regents. The Regent Candidate Advisory Council (RCAC) is charged by the legislature with the responsibility for recruiting and making recommendations of between two and four finalists for each open position on the Board of Regents. Four seats (two at-large, one representing the 5th congressional district, and one student seat) will be open for legislative appointment in the year 2001.

The University of Minnesota is the premier educational institution in the State of Minnesota. The university's graduates and its research programs have a major impact on the well-being of the state. It is important that skilled, experienced individuals from diverse backgrounds set the course for this distinguished public institution. Please take some time to consider persons such as yourself who would be qualified to fill these leadership positions. Among the attributes of good candidates are governance experience with complex organizations, knowledge of higher education, and an understanding of the transformation that is taking place in society as a result of technology. Terms are for six years. It is estimated that sitting regents spend, on average, at least 40 hours per month fulfilling board responsibilities. Regents serve without compensation.

The deadline for application is December 1, 2000. Interviews will be held in January 2001. The legislature is expected to make final selections in February. To receive an application form and information packet, or to have one sent to someone you recommend, please contact Jennifer Ridgeway, RCAC staff person, at 651-296-9002 or access the RCAC Web site at www.commissions.leg.state.mn.us/lcc/rcac.htm. I would be happy to visit with you about the recruitment and selection process or to answer any other questions you may have. My phone is 507-282-9073; my e-mail address is nmwicks@aol.com.

Thank you for taking the time to assist the RCAC with the creation of a pool of talented candidates who stand ready to be tapped for the future leadership of the University of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Nedra Wicks, Chair

Regent Candidate Advisory Council

Banking on Wom∈n

August 9, 2000

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

RECEIVED AUG 1 4 2000

Dear Judy:

The College of Saint Benedict invites you to join us at an exciting new conference and launch of a new initiative directed at women and economic development. The conference, "Banking on Women," will be held on Wednesday, October 11, 2000 at the College of Saint Benedict from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.

The College of Saint Benedict has stated its intention to become involved in the issues of access for and by women, both locally and globally, to education, credit, health care and technology. Therefore, with the support of the John H. Myers Chair in Management at Saint John's University, and the Star Tribune, the College of Saint Benedict is hosting the first of what may be a continuing series of conferences on these issues. The purpose of the first conference is to influence business and government to create programs to provide access to education, credit, health care and technology. In essence, we want to highlight and inform audience on microlending and the issue of poverty among women.

Speakers at the conference will include Patricia Delgado, former ambassador from Nicaragua to the Nordic countries; Esperanza Guerrero-Anderson, president and CEO of Milestone Growth Fund; Karol Emmerich, president of the Emmerich Foundation and former chair of the Women's Opportunity Fund; plus presentations from Fred de Sam Lazaro, executive producer at KTCA-TV; and a local reactor panel including Mihailo Temali, president of Western Initiatives for Neighborhood Development, Inc.; Meg Lewis, associate professor of economics, College of Saint Benedict; Fahima Aziz, chair and associate professor, department of management and economics, Hamline University; and Karol Emmerich. Panel to be moderated by Dee DePass, Star Tribune. The panel will narrow our discussion to local efforts to support access to women.

A fact sheet is included.

Cost of the conference is \$20 per person and includes a continental breakfast, lunch and bus transportation to and from the Twin Cities and St. Joseph. We hope that you and representatives/constituents from your organization will plan to attend. A registration brochure will be sent to you the first week of September.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, feel free to contact me at (763) 541-9363. We hope that you will join us in the exciting and innovative initiative.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Bardins

Project Manager, Banking on Women

BANKING ON WOMEN

A half-day conference on the globalization of poverty among women

The challenge:

A 1998 UN Development Program report on worldwide poverty concludes that, relative to the poverty of men:

Women have a much higher incidence of poverty.

Women's poverty is more severe.

The incidence of poverty among women is increasing dramatically.

There is an education gap as well. Of the 900 million illiterate adults in the world, two-thirds are women.

Given the extended role that women tend to play in society, this is a formula for disaster. Women account for about half the world's population. If these trends continue, they would ensure that half of all the world's population – and their wards and dependents – would be doomed to a life of ignorance and abject poverty.

The solution:

To develop this human resource to the level of productive participants in the international economy, a well-funded "program of access" must be developed and widely embraced. Such a program would include:

- Access to education.
- Access to basic medical care.
- Access to technology.
- Access to capital.

Why St. Ben's?

The College of St. Benedict has stated its intention to become involved in the issues of access for and by women, both locally and globally, to education, credit, health care and technology. Therefore, with the support of the John H. Myers Chair in Management at Saint John's University, and the Star Tribune, the College of Saint Benedict is hosting the first of what may be a continuing series of conferences on these issues. The purpose of the first conference is to influence business and government to create programs to provide access to education, credit, health care and technology. In essence, we want to highlight and inform audience on microlending and the issue of poverty among women.

The conference for 2000 is entitled "Banking on Women" and will be held on Wednesday, October 11 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm on the CSB campus.

Banking on Women:

The conference agenda is as follows:

8:00 am - Registration and continental breakfast

9:00 am

Opening session

Welcome

Anne Ford Nelson, chair of CSB board

Ron Bosrock, SJU John Meyer's Chair in Management, chair, Banking on

Women Planning Committee

9:15 am

Fred de Sam Lazaro, Executive Producer, local documentary projects, KTCA TV.

Title of Presentation: The Grameen Perspective: A Video Montage

Mr. de Sam Lazaro's presentation will be a montage of pictures from Bangladesh and India, showing projects to uplift the status of women by bringing them into the economic and political mainstream.

9:30 am

Patricia Delgado

Patricia Delgado is the former Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Nicaragua to Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland and Iceland. During her six-year tenure, she distinguished herself as one Nicaragua's most accomplished ambassadors, increasing economic development assistance from the Scandinavian countries by 30%.

Ambassador Delgado has an extensive employment history including twelve years with the Central Bank of Nicaragua and international relations and fundraising experience with the Central American Institute for Business Administration. She is currently a private consultant working with international organizations and several Nicaraguan government institutions. She is also a university professor, currently teaching at the University of Mobile in San Marcos and St. Thomas More University in Managua.

Title of presentation: Banking on Women: The Challenge and the Opportunity.

Ambassador Delgado will provide an overview of the global economic condition of women and share some inspirational & successful initiatives from around the world. She will also encourage us to commit ourselves to improving the quality of life for women, so that every woman, regardless of her nationality, has the opportunity to become a productive participant in the international economy. The task is enormous, but each of us must make the effort to eradicate women's poverty & illiteracy and to provide access to financial means.

10:30 am Esperanza Guerrero-Anderson

Esperanza Guerrero-Anderson is the founder, president and chief executive officer of Milestone Growth Fund, Inc., a Small Business Investment Company (SBIC), providing small amounts of equity-type financing to minority businesses. She is an advocate of the free enterprise system and is passionate about the formation of capital in minority owned-businesses as a means to promote economic development and social stability. It is this vision that is the driving force behind Milestone Growth Fund's success.

Title of presentation: Access to Capital: A challenge for the small entrepreneur.

Today's entrepreneur has more access to capital than ever. Financing in the \$20 million plus range is very common today but finding small amounts of high-risk equity type financing is more difficult than ever. One successful program that attempts to fill this gap is the US Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) Act, of which Milestone is a participant.

11:30 am Lunch

12:15 pm Remarks, Mary Lyons, president of College of Saint Benedict Introduction of keynote speaker by Sue Lester, incoming board chair

Keynote address: Karol Emmerich

Karol Emmerich has extensive experience as a financial executive, corporate board member, philanthropist, non-profit "venture capitalist" and volunteer. Karol is president of The Emmerich Foundation and serves as a pro bono consultant to individuals and faith-based organizations on issues related to giving, governance, giftedness, women, work and faith. She is an Executive Fellow at the University of St. Thomas Graduate School of Business, and serves on the board of Slumberland. She also serves on numerous non-profit boards, including Royal Treasure, the Women's Opportunity Fund, the Gathering and Opportunity International.

Karol Emmerich has extensive experience as a financial executive, corporate board member, philanthropist, non-profit "venture capitalist" and volunteer. Karol is president of The Emmerich Foundation and serves as a pro bono consultant to individuals and faith-based organizations on issues related to giving, governance, giftedness, women, work and faith. She is an Executive

Fellow at the University of St. Thomas Graduate School of Business, and serves on the board of Slumberland. She also serves on numerous non-profit boards, including Royal Treasure, the Women's Opportunity Fund, the Gathering and Opportunity International.

Title of presentation: Breaking the Cycle of Poverty in the Third World: Helping Poor Women to Triumph

Ms. Emmerich's presentation will be about microcredit, as it emerged thirty years ago, as an innovative strategy to fight poverty. Poor entrepreneurs received the business loans they needed to succeed, but the majority of these loans went to small businessmen who had the collateral and the experience to "guarantee" repayment of their loans. The Women's Opportunity Fund was founded in 1992 to help those shut out from the market—the poorest of the economically active poor of which 70% are women. When combined with the training, support structures, and leadership development that are part of group-lending methods, loans make possible not just economic advancement but social and spiritual transformation. The Women's Opportunity Fund, as well as numerous other organizations around the world, has proven that poor businesswomen, with an average repayment rate of 98 percent, are good credit risks and that investing in their potential also reaps benefits for their families and communities.

12:45 pm

Local reactor panel discussion on issues presented during day as well as during keynote. Panel to include: Mihailo Temali, president of Western Initiatives for Neighborhood Development, Inc.; Meg Lewis, associate professor of economics, College of St. Benedict; Fahima Aziz, chair and associate professor, Department of Management and Economics, Hamline University; Karol Emmerich. Panel to be moderated by Dee DePass, Star Tribune.

The panel will narrow our discussion to local efforts to support access to women.

1:15 pm

Audience Q&A

1:45 pm

Call to action

2:00 pm

Adjourn

A continental breakfast and lunch is included in the registration fee. Transportation will be provided for attendees from the Twin Cities to the campus of CSB. A \$20 registration fee will be required of all non-campus related participants, and \$5 per student.

Target audience:

The audience will be composed of students and faculty from CSB and SJU as well as representatives from business and the many women's economic development organizations in the Twin Cities and St. Cloud. We expect 300 –500 attendees.

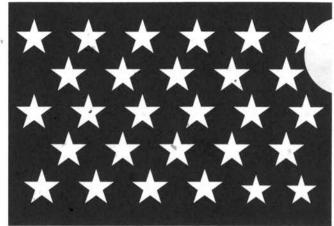


Here is what to do:

- ★ Provide your employees, students or customers with Primary and General Election VOTER GUIDES so they can become more informed voters. They will thank you for it. Send them in the office mail, use them as an insert in company newsletter or leave them in stacks in lunchroom, lounge, at voter information table, reception desk or building entrance.
- ★ Display our **Take a Friend to Vote Poster** before the primary and general elections.
- ★ Use our **Voter Information Packet.**It contains the information you need to run a successful Get Out the Vote campaign and inform your public.
- ★ Show our Video—Road to Election Day.
- ★ Order by by August 1 for primary and by August 31 for general election to ensure availability.



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
MINNESOTA EDUCATION FUND
550 Rice Street, St. Paul MN 55103



Get out the Vote

Primary Voter Guides
General Election Voter Guides
Posters ★ Videos
Voter Information

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
ST. Paul, MN
Permit No. 2025



Voter Guides

Citizens trust The League of Women Voters to provide the information they need to vote. Our Voter Guides are the only statewide nonpartisan publications to include, in one issue, all the candidates for statewide offices for all the major and registered minor parties.

Primary VOTER GUIDE

- ★ Photos, biographies and answers to questions for U.S. House and Senate candidates
- ★ Delivery on or about August 21

General Election VOTER GUIDE

- ★ Photos, biographies and candidate responses to our questions for U.S. House and Senate and statewide Judicial candidates
- ★ Minnesota voting information
- ★ Delivery on or about October 2

Questions for the candidates are based on the top concerns of Americans in recent polls

- ★ education
- ★ national economy
- ★ federal budget
- * crime
- ★ social security
- * health care
- * environment
- ★ gun control
- * chynolinich
- A guil con
- ★ foreign affairs
- * poverty
- ★ protecting Medicare
- ★ agriculture

VOTER GUIDE details

- ★ Three color newsprint, folded to 81/2"x111/2"
- ★ Delivered by UPS or by truck for Metro orders over 3000
- ★ Boxed and bundled in 50 or 100 copies Please order in multiples of 50 copies
- ★ Eight to twelve pages each, depending on the number of candidates

Poster



Take a friend to vote

Primary September 12

General Election November 7

With a powerful and effective message our eye catching poster encourages voting. 11" x 17" on heavy paper.

Voter Information Packet

The VIP is packed with information:

- ★ Who can vote
- ★ How to register to vote
- ★ How to run a yoter registration drive
- ★ How the Minnesota election process works
- ★ How to Get Out The Vote.
- ★ How to pick a candidate
- ★ How to watch a debate

Video

- ★ Road to Election Day Video runs 13 minutes
- ★ All the information needed to take you from Caucus to Election day

Order From



550 Rice Street St.• Paul MN 55103 Phone 651-224-5445 • Fax 651-290-2145 e-mail lwvmn@mtn.org • web site www.lwvmn.org

Order Form

Order by mail, phone or fax. Include check or credit card number.

Primary Voter Guid	des	@\$.21\$
General Voter Guid	des	@ \$.	.21\$
Posters	2	@\$	4.00\$
Voter Information Pac	@\$10.00\$		
Video	in .	@ \$4.	5.00\$
Add 6.5% sales tax *			\$
Postage & handling for p	posters, V	IP and vide	eo \$
TOTAL			S

*St. Paul orders: 6.5% for Voter Guides, 7% for Posters, VIP and Video Non-profit sales tax exempt organizations attach copy exempt certificate.

Postage & Handling for	Posters, VIP & Video
0 —\$ 4.99	\$1.00
\$ 5.00—\$14.99	\$3.00
\$15.00 \$34.99	\$4.00
\$35.00—\$54.99	\$5.00
\$55.00—\$74:99	\$7.00
Over \$75.00 to be b	oilled

Bill to:	Date
Name	1
Organization	
Address	
City	
State	
Phone	Fax
☐ Payment Enclosed	☐ American Express
☐ Mastercard	□ Visa
Credit card #	4
Exp. Date:	

Ship to address if different:

Name			
Organization			
Address (no P.O. box)		7	
City			-
State			
Zip			



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 MINI-MAILING

League of Women Voters of Minnesota
Celebrating 81 years – A Voice for Citizens, A Force for Change
651/224-5445~800-663-9328~Fax: 651/290-2145
lwvmn@mtn.org~www.lwvmn.org

Mission

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in governm,ent and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Diversity

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of Minnesota in its membership. . . and strives to overcome barriers of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability in the activities of the organization.

CALENDAR

Note: Local Leagues have scheduled dozens/hundreds of candidate forums. Check out our website at www.lwvmn.org for specific races, places, dates and times.

October

- 14 9:00 a.m. LOTT: Junior Citizen Day, State Capitol
- 22 7:00 p.m. U.S. Senate Debate, Austin; broadcast by KMSP-TV
- 25 9:00 a.m. LWVMN Member Resources Committee Meeting, MWB
- 26 7:00 p.m. U.S. Senate Debate, Blake School, Hopkins; WCCO-TV
- 27 9:00 a.m. LWVMN Office Management Committee; MWB
- 30 Agriculture Study and materials mailed this week

November

- 5 WCCO/League of Women Voters Hotline
- 6 6:00 a.m. 11:00 p.m. WCCO/League of Women Voters Hotline
 - 1:30 p.m. LWVMN Action Committee; MWB
- 7 6:00 a.m. 8:00 p.m. WCCO/League of Women Voters Hotline GENERAL ELECTION DAY
- 15 9:00 a.m. noon LWVMN/EF Board Meetings; MWB

December

6 4:00-6:00 p.m. - Holiday Party at LWVMN office—all invited!

ENCLOSURES

- Ten Minute Activist form/Erickson
- Invitation to December 6th Holiday Party/Matlock
- Memo from LWVMN Nominating Committee re Officers/Directors for 2001-2003/Tews

- "Stay in Touch with Leaguers from around Minnesota!", camera ready for your bulletins/Wickstrom, Gochberg
- Spirit of Democracy Awards/Matlock
- "League Members to Receive Policy Briefings on Health Care, Transportation, Energy," camera ready for your bulletin/Tjernlund
- Travel Concepts newsletter "Placerville Post"

President

(Judy Duffy, 505 Lake, Birchwood, 55110, 651/429-9703~GandJDuffy@aol.com)

Agriculture Study: We are working as hard as we can to give you a publication that will be useful for you as you discuss this very complex issue. We understand that the lateness of the study materials is posing significant problems for local Leagues and we apologize for the delay. We hope to have the publication and other materials in the mail to local Leagues the week of October 30th. Please call the state League office if you have questions.

Membership

(Carol Frisch, 7025 Comanche Court, Edina, 55439, 612/829-0604~ckfrisch@aol.com)

On Wednesday, December 6th pile your League of Women Voters friends and prospects in the car and come for a holiday party. Seldom do we get the chance to simply socialize with new faces and renew old acquaintances in the LWV. This is it and we'll be excited to see you. Light refreshments will be served by LWVMN Board members and staff.

Please bring a toy or food item to be donated to a shelter program.

ACTION

(Kay Erickson, 6000 Wyngate Lane, Minnetonka, 55345, 952/474-7324, kerickson@visi.com) **Ten Minute Activists:** League action is only strong and effective when members from across the state make our voice heard on the issues we care about. We need your help. In this mailing you will find a 10 Minute Activist form. It is an easy way to lobby and it makes a huge difference. It would be terrific if you could: 1) publish it in your newsletter 2) talk about it at your League meetings. It only takes a short phone call to your legislator to say you support or oppose a piece of legislation. All anyone has to do is call and say "I oppose" or "I support" a particular bill, and give the bill number. We provide the background information. Folks can lobby via phone or e-mail.

Looking ahead: The action committee has been gearing up this fall. Issues on our agenda that we expect, or are likely to see come up at the Legislature include: education (specifically the Governor's new proposal for K-12 funding), redistricting, campaign finance reform, Initiative and Referendum, unicameral legislature, term limits, election laws, mental health, affordable housing, transit, health care, choice, firearms and revising the environmental review process.

We're Available if you have questions about lobbying in your community.

ACTION

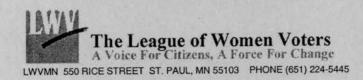
10 MINUTE ACTIVIST



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 2001 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:	#110111 2-2-3-3-3-3-1				
Address:					
State: Zip: Con	ngressional District: Leg	islative District:			
Phone: Fax:_	E-mail:				
I prefer to be contacted by: Phone / Far	x / E-mail (Circle one)				
Issu	ues 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: 1	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.)					



To: Local League Presidents

From: LWVMN Nominating Committee: Jean Tews, LWV Mahtomedi, Chair; Rosemary

Guttormsson, LWV Duluth; Kay Erickson, LWV South Tonka; Susan Weisbrod, LWV of St. Croix

Valley

Re: 2001-2003 LWVMN Officers and Directors

Date: October 5, 2000

The LWVMN Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers and directors to the LWVMN Convention on May 4, 2001. Six officers, eight directors, the chair plus two members of the nominating committee and the chair of the budget committee will be elected by the delegated body. In addition, up to eight directors may be appointed by the LWVMN Board.

We are asking your input both as to your own availability and desire to serve on the state board for the next two years, and your recommendations of others with talent and commitment whom you may have noticed during your tenure. Please take a moment to fill out this form and return it to me at the address below.

Name		Local League
Phone		
Are you available	e to serve on the LW	/V Board in the 2000-2001 Biennium?
	Yes	No
Is there a particu	lar portfolio that inte	erests you?
Are there other to like to recommen	alented individuals v	whom you have observed during your tenure that you would the board?
Name		LWV of
Address		LWV of Phone (home):
		(work):
League interest	area/position recom	mended:
Name		LWV of
Address		Phone (home):
		(work):
League interest	area/position recom	mended:

Please return to:

Jean Tews

49 Birchwood Road Mahtomedi, MN 55115



Stay in touch with Leaguers from around Minnesota!

Join the lwvmn-share list serve. It's easy and will help you keep up on League activities and let you ask questions and get answers from many Leaguers.

Here's how to join:

· Send an e-mail message:

To: listproc@mtn.org
Subject:
subscribe lwvmn-share Firstname Lastname
(nothing in the subject line, substitute your first and last name in the message area)

- 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.)
- Soon after that, you will receive a confirmation that you have been added to lwvmn-share with your name and e-mail address.
- To send a message (after you receive confirmation) address it to: lwvmn-share@freedom.mtn.org

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.

Every member of the League is encouraged to be on the list if you have Internet access – it is the easiest way to stay in touch with what's happening around the League in Minnesota!

League of Women Voters of Minnesota

Spirit of Democracy Awards 2000-2001

Spirit of Democracy Awards

The *Spirit of Democracy Awards* program is designed to provide achievable goals for local Leagues. By achieving these goals Leagues will have some guide lines which will promote healthy Leagues and also be granted recognition for achieving these goals.

It is our intention that every League who chooses should be able to be recognized. Ideally, <u>every</u> League would be recognized. Because of the diversity of both size and health of local Leagues, there are three categories of awards.

Pioneer of
 Democracy

Has achieved at least 8 goals in four

different categories.

Leader of Democracy Has achieved at least 15 goals in seven

different categories.

3. Champion of Democracy

Has achieved at least 25 goals in ten

different categories.

Leagues will be contacted throughout the year for status reports. Bulletins will also be reviewed to determine qualification for an award.

The final report is simple. Just write a *brief* description of the event or attach a lengthier report or sample of a product to the worksheet. (Make sure to indicate which category and the corresponding item number. If there is press coverage please attach a copy of any articles as well.) If the category involves conventions or meetings, just list the names of the League members who attended.

Deadline for the final report: March 31, 2001

Good Luck and Kave Fun!!

Spirit of Democracy Final Report 2000-2001

BRIEF DESCRIPTION & DATE OF ACTIVITY OR EVENT

ACTION

- Hold training to either establish an Observer Corps or recruit new participants.
- 10% of membership is signed up as a 10-Minute Activist.
- Conducts Legislative Interviews and turns in to LWVMN office.
- 4. Recruits a Lobbyist Intern for state level.
- 5. Has a system in place to respond to "Call to Action" alerts.
- 6. Lobbies/works on local issues

AGRICULTURE STUDY

- 1. Invites community to participate in ag study program.
- Hold local League meeting on issue with speakers.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION & DATE OF ACTIVITY OR EVENT

COMMUNICATION

- 1. Publishes a newsletter.
- 2. Sets up/updates a web site.
- Establishes relations with local media about League events.
- 4. Is broadcast or published via local media, excluding local bulletin.

CIRRICULUM

- Promotes use of LWVMN civics curriculum in local school(s).
- 2. Conducts in-service for teachers on curriculum.

DEVELOPMENT/FINANCE

- 1. Participates in fund-raiser for state.
- 2. Raises funds for local Ed Fund.
- Does an annual fund-raising drive/ event for local League.
- 4. Is creative in finding new ways of fundraising.
- 5. Has a comprehensive financial plan.

GENERAL

 Has at least one member active on a state committee (Action, Voter Service, Development, Study, Member Resources, etc.).

BRIEF DESCRIPTION & DATE OF ACTIVITY OR EVENT

GENERAL (continued)

- Conducts diversity training for board members.
- Members attend LWVMN training sessions.
- 4. Conducts a board orientation.
- 5. Works with other groups (or Leagues) on a regional event.

LEADERSHIP

- Captures and involves new members on committees.
- Encourages board participation by a broad spectrum of members.
- Limits or staggers board terms to Promote participation by broader membership base.
- 4. Has a youth member on board.
- 5. Has board meeting to discuss leadership issues with facilitator.

L.O.T.T. (Leaders of Today and Tomorrow)

- 1. Has reviewed the meaning and purpose of L.O.T.T. with membership.
- Has encouraged or enabled a young woman to participate in the L.O.T.T. seminar.
- 3. Has held a fund-raiser for L.O.T.T.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION & DATE OF ACTIVITY OR EVENT

L.O.T.T. (continued)

4. Provides a scholarship for a L.O.T.T. participant.

MEMBERSHIP

- Holds diversity training for all membership.
- 2. Increases membership by 10%.
- Conducts a new member orientation/training.
- Conducts focus groups regarding membership and inclusiveness.
- 5. Has a membership plan in place to increase and retain membership.

PROGRAM

- 1. Holds one meeting regarding health care reform initiative.
- 2. Representatives attend Council.
- 3. One or more delegates are sent to state convention.
- 4. Conducts Lively Issues.
- Conducts and/or publishes one local study.
- Holds at least one program which encourages youth involvement in government/civics.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION & DATE OF ACTIVITY OR EVENT

PROGRAM (continued)

- Sends one or more delegates to LWVUS convention.
- 8. Participates in one state and one LWVUS program.
- Holds at least three public meetings (in public settings), excluding candidate forums.
- Incorporates diversity strategies into programs.

VOTER SERVICE

- Conducts at least two candidate forums.
- 2. Conducts a voter registration drive.
- Registers voters at local high school, college, and/or technical school.
- 4. Participates in d-net program.
- Collaborates with school to hold mock elections.
- Has at least one registered moderator available to area Leagues for their candidate meetings.
- 7. Members volunteer for LWVMN Election Hotline.

League Members to Receive *Policy Briefings*On Health Care, Transportation, Energy

League Members will soon be receiving monthly *Policy Briefings* from the St. Paul Legal Ledger as result of LWVMN's becoming charter member of the Legal Ledger's Policy Advisory Board.

This Board will help select topics to be featured in the Policy Briefings and will recommend experts to write articles on topics including health care, business climate, tourism, transportation, education, and energy.

Politics and public policy are the main focuses of the twice-weekly St. Paul Legal Ledger, whose readership includes government policy-makers as well as leaders of business, industry, and non-profit organizations.

The Policy Briefings will be mailed free of charge to all LWVMN members as inserts in the St. Paul Legal Ledger, just as regular subscribers receive them. The front page of the Legal Ledger will alert readers to the presence of the Policy Briefing inside.

"We are happy to make possible this benefit of League membership," said Robyn Tjernlund, LWVMN Board Member, "but we want to assure everyone that at no time is the League's mailing list out of the League's possession."

The League is joined on the St. Paul Legal Ledger Policy Advisory Board by other organizations including the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, Center for Rural Policy and Development, Minnesota Taxpayers Association, and the Federal Reserve.

Together We Can Make It Happen

Clean Money Campaign Reform is taking hold around the country. In states as different as Arizona, Massachusetts, Maine and Vermont, citizen coalitions have passed clean elections reforms. In Minnesota, we can too.

Support is strong among all sectors of the public and across the political spectrum. Minnesotans want a political system that allows candidates to raise issues, not money; that bases the strength of parties, candidates and interest groups on numbers of supporters, not dollars; that provides access to the political system to voters, not donors; that gives the average citizen a chance to be heard.

MAPA Can Work With You

If you want to work for true campaign finance reform, MAPA can help. We offer expertise and information including:

- Information and educational materials on the pros and cons of various reform measures and how a Clean Money system works;
- Analysis of how "Money in Politics" has affected your issues, above and beyond access to our extensive database via our campaign finance web site, www.opensecrets.org/mn;
- Participatory "Elections not Auctions" workshop for your community or organization, to show how money is distorting the political process and what we can do to change this.

Together, we can use this information to confront our political leaders and demand that they stop listening to dollars and start hearing the voices of all citizens. Then we will begin to make laws that put people ahead of dollars.

Get Involved

MAPA is committed to Clean Money/Clean Elections reform. But cleaning up politics is everyone's business. Join us in working for real reform. Contact:

MAPA

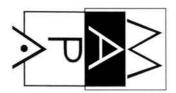
1821 University Avenue Suite S-307 St. Paul, MN 55104

Phone: 651/641-4050. E-mail: staff@mapa-mn.org

MAPA is a coalition committed to expanding the limits of achievable social change. We look forward to working with you.







Suite S-307
St. Paul, MN 55104

CLEAN MONEYCLEAN ELECTIONS



Clean Money/Clean Elections is a publication of the Minnesota Alliance for Progressive Action



The Imbalance of Power

Money is distorting and subverting our political process, causing monied interests to have extraordinary access and influence over government policy. The proof of this influence is evident everywhere in the kinds of policies developed by our government.

- •In 1996, health care interests gave \$94,000 to Minnesota legislative leaders in the DFL party and \$77,000 to Minnesota legislative leaders in the Republican party, through their legislative caucus political committees. Citizen efforts that year to pass strong new health care protections were successfully opposed by health care industry lobbyists.
- •Minnesota political parties received \$259,540 from banking and finance in 1996. Several bills have since been introduced to curb or eliminate ATM costs, but none have been allowed to come to a floor vote.

It has become all too commonplace to find that the powerful forces have made significant investments in politics, investments that certainly appear to tilt the public policy playing field in their favor.

Former Minnesota State Representative Don Ostrom describes the influence of big money on legislative decisions in the following way: "It seems in both parties certain well-heeled forces that don't necessarily have popular support have their way at critical points in the legislative process. Sometimes it happens on very public issues...[and] on other issues it happens very quietly, such as when anti-tobacco legislation just disappears at critical points."

"There are two things that are important in politics.

The first is money
and I can't remember what the second one is."

U.S. Senator Mark Hanna, 1896



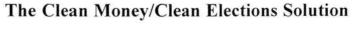
Our Common Issue

Every time citizens exercise their right to influence public policy they are battling the balance of power, and fighting entrenched interests. Whatever the issue -- housing, employee rights, a clean environment, resources for schools and children, access to health care, or any aspect of corporate accountability-- as citizens we are always struggling against the same problem:

Those who contribute the most money to candidates, political parties and legislative caucuses have a disproportionate amount of influence over what policies become law.

Political and legislative leaders cannot help but consider the sources of this money when they decide which candidates to support or which bills to hear, as well as during other critical junctures in the legislative process. Political parties, legislative caucuses and candidates spend so much time raising money that they inevitably spend much of their time with, and therefore listening to, contributors. The larger the contributor, the more eagerly they are cultivated and the more loudly they are heard, at the expense of the rest of us. Dollars have become more important than people.

Voters are fed up with an electoral system in which their voices are drowned out by large contributors. Those who benefit the most from this system claim that political contributions are simply a form of free speech. But, our "free" speech is limited by our ability to pay.



For several years now MAPA has researched the impact of big money in Minnesota politics and options for reform. Our goal is to make our political system more accountable to the voters and, therefore, more truly democratic. We believe that an important step toward this end is to create a campaign finance system that is based on the following principles:

- People should have access to elected officials because they vote, not because they pay.
- ·Candidates should raise issues, not money.
- •The strength of parties, candidates, and interest groups should come from numbers of supporters, not numbers of dollars.
- •Your voice should really make a difference.

The solution is comprehensive and simple:

In order for our government to better serve the interests of the public, elections of government officials must be financed by the public.

Candidates and elected officials must have the freedom to consider a broad range of ideas, and to make decisions and take action in the public interest without regard to repercussions on future campaign funding. In order for the government to belong to us, we must be willing to pay for it.

The best mechanism for achieving such comprehensive and fundamental reform is the creation of a new system which:

- 1) Provides candidates with the option of full public financing if they agree to forego nearly all private contributions;
- 2) Places limits on the size of contributions individuals and PACs can give to political parties and legislative caucuses;
- 3) Reduces unfair advantages caused by independent expenditures; and
- 4) Encourages grassroots participation in the political process.



Affordable Housing? Not with the current campaign finance system

The state of Minnesota is facing a severe housing shortage. The Greater Minnesota Housing Fund estimates that in 1996 alone, 12,477 housing units were needed in Greater Minnesota, while only 8,837 were built. Especially severe is the affordable housing shortage in the Twin Cities area. Vacancy rates for apartments in the Twin Cities have fallen from over 6% in 1990 to a mere 1.6% in 1999. In order to achieve the healthy level of 5% vacancy, 11,000 units would have to be built at a cost of over \$1 billion. The problem has been exacerbated by the failure of incomes to keep pace with rising housing costs. Between 1974 and 1993, rents climbed 13% in real dollars, but renters' real incomes actually declined by 8%. Single-parent families in lower-wage and service sector jobs are now finding it extremely difficult to afford housing.

Over the years the federal government has drastically reduced its support for affordable housing and has left it up to the states to make up the difference. Yet in 1999, in spite of a \$1.2 billion surplus, lawmakers could not find more than an extra \$46 million for housing -- far from adequate funding -- while spending the bulk of the surplus on a one time sales tax rebate and permanent tax cuts.

Why such an exclusive focus on the tax rebate?

The answer, in large part, is that the business community shaped the debate long before the legislative session began. The question became, "How much will we get back?, rather than, "What would be the best use of the surplus?"





How did the business community influence the debate?

Most state house candidates agreed to the prescribed \$24,083 campaign spending limit, in order to qualify for state campaign funds. The business community on the other hand, reached into their deep pockets and spent at least \$318,000 on direct mail, billboards and radio advertising, to get their tax cut message out during the '98 election cycle. This money had a huge impact not only on the outcomes, but also in defining the issues in targeted races. They were able to create such great tax rebate expectations, it became politically unpopular for state law makers to do anything else in the '99 session.

Is there any solution?

While politicians jostle to take credit for the tax rebates, critical social programs, including those for affordable housing, continue to go by the wayside. Was the \$389 average tax rebate per tax payer really in the public's best interest? Or did we miss a rare opportunity to make a direct investment in Minnesota's future?

Under our current campaign finance system, business executives can use their wealth to shape the public debate to their benefit. We need a campaign finance system that will give other interests an equal chance to be heard. We need a clean money system.

This information is based on reports filed with the Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board and analysis done by the Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing (MICAH), the Greater Minnesota Housing Fund (GMHF), and the Minnesota Alliance for Progressive Action (MAPA).



TM Fees and Clean Money

Automated Teller Machines have become a staple of modern American life, and many customers now deal with their bank mainly through ATMs. Introduced in the 1970s and 1980s, ATMs were originally free to customers. Now banks, especially the biggest banks that own most of the ATM networks, charge customers for the privilege of withdrawing money from their own checking accounts. Customers now pay an average surcharge of \$1.27 on each ATM withdrawal, equating to an average cost of \$155 each year in ATM fees. Yet each ATM transaction usually costs banks less than 25 cents (compared to \$2.93 for transactions processed by human tellers). For the banking industry, this amounts to a major source of profit, currently \$1.9 billion per year and growing. How does the industry protect this stream of profit against repeated citizen efforts to reform these practices?

Let's take a look at the US Congress:

ment sponsored by Senator Al D'Amato (R-NY) which would have banned banks from charging non-customers for use of their ATMs. ough 80% of Americans favor such a change, the amendment was set aside in a vote of 72-26. Nine of the top ten recipients of the banking and thrift industries' campaign contributions voted against taking up the amendment, as did numerous Senators in key positions whose campaign coffers saw large receipts from commercial banks. These Senators included Senator Phil Gramm (R-TX), Chairman of the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee, who received \$373,350 from commercial banks, William V. Roth Jr. (R-DE), Chairman of the Finance

On September 17, 1998, the US Senate was presented with an amend-

Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-MS), who received \$548,535 from the banking/finance sector. The D'Amato amendment, like similar efforts in the Senate and House, never had a chance.

Committee, who received \$213,249 from commercial banks, and Senate



Minnesota has faced a similar fight over the fate of ATM fees.

There have been numerous bills introduced in both the Minnesota House and the Minnesota Senate in recent years to curb or eliminate ATM surcharges. In the 1998-99 session, two bills were introduced, but neither made it to a floor vote -- key legislative leaders saved their colleagues the embarrassment of having to vote against the interests of citizens to preserve the interest of the bankers. Is it simply a coincidence that the 1998 election cycle also saw the banking industry contributing \$477,685 to campaigns, political parties and legislative caucuses?

The case of TCF bank stands out in particular:

TCF reported a record \$41 million in earnings in the second quarter of the 1999 fiscal year, 40% of which came directly from increases in fee income, including, of course, ATM fees. Individuals affiliated with the TCF Financial Corporation gave \$316,725 in contributions in the 1998 cycle, accounting for over two-thirds of all money that came from the banking industry! Bill Cooper, CEO of TCF Bank and former chairman of the Republican Party of Minnesota, and his wife contributed a whopping \$305,000 in the '98 cycle.

"One Person, One Vote"? If one of those people can offer over a quarter of a million dollars, they won't need to vote; legislators will certainly look after their concerns.

We need a campaign finance system that returns dignity and power to our democracy, where voters are more important than dollars. We need a system that works.

This information is based on reports filed with the Federal Elections Commission and the Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board and analyses done by the Center for Responsive Politics, Public Campaign and the Minnesota Alliance for Progressive Action.



Prescription Drugs and Clean Money

Citizens in Minnesota and across the nation have been trying for years to get affordable pricing and fair policies from the pharmaceutical and health care industries. The price of prescription drugs continues to grow faster than the inflation rate, and premiums are rising at an ever-increasing pace. The Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, for example, recently announced an increase in premiums for those aged sixty and over <u>and</u> that they would no longer offer unlimited prescription drug coverage. The burden has become overwhelming, and citizens are desperate, so why don't elected officials hear their pleas?

Here's an example of what we've witnessed on the federal level:

One of the top allergy drugs in America, Claritin, is protected by a patent until the year 2002. Should the patent expire, other drug companies would be permitted to produce generic drugs similar to Claritin and compete by selling them at a lower cost. The Claritin patent is held by Shering-Plough, the pharmaceutical giant that made \$201,376 in campaign contributions to Congress in the present election cycle. The top recipient of their money was Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), who received both a contribution from Shering-Plough's PAC and a personal sheck from the company's CEO. Representative Connie Mack (R-FL) was the second highest recipient. Recently, these same two elected officials co-sponsored a provision that would allow brand name pharmaceutical manufacturers to apply for three-year extensions on their patents. If the Lautenberg-Mack provision passes and succeeds in restricting access to much needed generic drugs, it will equate to an estimated aggregate cost of \$550 million a year to consumers and a treasure chest for the pharmaceutical companies.

Prescription drugs are especially hard to come by here in Minnesota. A federal price study conducted by the House of Representatives Government Reform Committee found that older consumers from the St. Paul area who purchase their own prescription drugs pay around ten times more for their drugs than preferred customers, such as large insur-





ance companies, HMOs and the federal government. It comes as no great surprise then, that insurance companies and other parts of the health industry have been generous in contributing to the campaigns of Minnesota's state legislators in recent years and highly successful in getting the laws passed that they want. In the latest election cycle, insurance professionals and the health industry (which includes pharmaceutical manufacturers) were among the largest giving sectors in campaign contributions. These sectors accounted for strategically-placed sums of money to legislators in the committees and caucuses that determine their fate.

They made the following contributions:

Minnesota House Health & Human Services Policy Committee	\$29,611
Minnesota Senate Health & Family Security Committee	\$24,115
Minnesota House and Senate Legislative Caucuses*	\$301,473
Minnesota DFL Party	\$14,932
Republican Party of Minnesota	\$150,250

^{*}Caucuses are the legislative leaders' PACs

Clearly the health care and insurance industries wield undo influence in a political system where money is so vital. The new "Senior Drug Program" provides another apparent example. Given the option of actually curbing drug prices, the state legislature chose to subsidize them with state revenues instead. Rather than adopt a plan endorsed by the Minnesota Senior Federation that would have limited drug prices, the new program, which was originally proposed by the drug company lobbyists, lowers costs to seniors by using tax payers' dollars to pay the spiraling cost increases. The program does provide a break for qualified senior consumers, but so far has only helped a fraction of those seniors in need. Some Minnesotans, such as the disabled community and those who take drugs whose manufacturers haven't endorsed the program, will be left with unbearable prices.

We will continue to fight until we get the health care and prescription drug reforms we need: access for all to affordable prescription drugs, fair and efficient medical coverage and adequate long-term care for seniors.

And that fight depends on replacing the present campaign finance system with a system that allows democracy to work.



WINTER 2001

ANCIENT CITIES OF PERSIA

This will be the third year we've offered Iran, a destination which never fails to astound even the experienced traveler. Yes, ladies must cover up, but it is all part of the mystique of visiting a forbidden country. Don't let the idea of traveling to Iran bewilder you. Forty of us are going this November! The 13-day trip highlights include a stay in a caravanserai in Isfahan, Shiraz, Kerman, the desert citadel of Bam and the palaces and museums of Tehran including the Peacock Thone.

November 4 - 15 • \$2980 from New York

TUSCANY & CAMPANIA

Two wonderful weeks with only one change of hotels. How perfectly convenient! Our home base is Montecatini, a famous health spa. Day excursions explore Florence, Siena, San Gimignano, Pisa, Lucca and eternal Rome. For the second week drive south through Naples to Sorrento where you'll enjoy excursions to Pompeii, the Amalfi Coast, Positano, and the fabled Isle of Capri. Airfare from Newark via Alitalia, superior tourist class hotels, all meals, all excursions, ALL INCLUDED. WHAT A VALUE!

November 3 - 18 • \$2298 from Newark

Looking Ahead

We're always exploring new and exciting destinations! How about Khazakhstan in Central Asia or the remote Kamchatka Peninsula? Mention these in the "other" line for advance notice. We're securing space now for Cherry Blossom Time in Japan 2002.

THANKSGIVING IN RUSSIA

S pend Thanksgiving in a Winter Wonderland, when the theatre comes alive and the onion domes of St. Basil's Cathedral sparkle against the snow. Explore the many wonders of Moscow and St. Petersburg. Travel between cities on the Red Arrow Express overnight train where tea is served from samovars. We'll continue our dialogue with our friends at the Women's Union of Russia. Yes, the price DOES include airfare, sight-seeing and most meals. Helsinki and Finnish Lapland optional extension.

November 19 - 26 · ONLY \$1250 from New York

NEW YEARS IN EGYPT

Plan ahead. Start thinking now of a holiday celebration which is specially geared for single travelers. Right after Christmas, we'll be off to Egypt for a New Year you'll never forget. We're booking space now for the prime season to the Land of the Pharaohs. Sail in comfort on a Nile Cruise from Thebes to tranquil Aswan. Our Nabila cruise ship features spacious suites. Fly to the fabled Abu Simbel, Ramses the Great's entrance to Upper Egypt. In Giza, see the legendary Pyramids and Sphinx. Enjoy the best of company! As always, we'll try to match singles to avoid the supplement. Features deluxe hotel in Cairo.

December 27 - January 5, 2002 · \$3140 from New York

PLEASE NOTE: Dates and rates are as of September 2000 and subject to revision with currency fluctuation and airline schedules.

TRAVEL CONCEPTS INTERNATIONAL

5500 BUCKS BAR ROAD PLACERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95667

Return Service Requested



Fall 2000 Edition

Placerville Post

Tour Update from Travel Concepts International, Inc. • Fall 2000 Edition

15 YEARS AND GOING STRONG!

It really doesn't seem possible that over fifteen years have passed since I offered that first tour to the Soviet Union as a modest fundraising project with the League of Women Voters of New York State. How time has flown... along with many miles traveled. We've built a loyal clientele of adventurous women and men, and I consider it a great honor to be a part of making dreams come true. The business has grown beyond my wildest expectations. Perhaps it is because others like me share the League of Women Voters position, "to promote peace in an interdependent world." It inspired me to do that first trip to the Soviet Union and continues to inspire me to offer unusual destinations such as Iran, Mongolia, China, Bhutan and Indonesia.

What makes our trips different? Our cultural trips are well-priced, often much MUCH LOWER than other trips to exotic destinations. And our tours offer MANY MORE FEATURES. Though travel with the league began exclusively as a League of Women Voters project, our travelers, thanks to word of mouth endorsements, extends beyond LWV to include AAUW, UNA, Peace Links and friends of those who travel again and again. We share experiences, good humor, and a love for history and culture which I believe is unparalleled.

Many of our trips feature counterpart meetings and embassy visits. Of course, as League members, spouses or friends of the League, men are more than welcome. The composition of the groups is usually about half couples and half singles -not all of whom are women. If you don't have a travel companion, let us try to match you with a suitable roommate.

Our precious travelers have an attitude.... a good one...and it is an inspiration! You honor us by being a part of our business and we'll work very hard to live up to your trust and confidence.



Last Call EGYPT NILE CRUISE

S tep back into time. Journey into the past. Visit the Land of the Pharaohs. Let us take you in grand style for a cruise wonder on the Nile to visit the Valley of the Kings and Queens, Thebes and tranquil Aswan. In Giza, see the legendary Pyramids and Sphinx. Fly to the fabled Abu Simbel, Ramses the Great's entrance to Upper Egypt. Our Nabila cruise ship features spacious suites. Enjoy deluxe hotels in Cairo and explore Upper Egypt with a leading Egyptologist and our capable tour manager. U.S. Embassy briefing.

November 10 - 19, 2000 • \$2670 from New York

VIETNAM & CAMBODIA

Twenty five years have passed since the end of the war. Isn't it time to see Vietnam as it is today? Visit Hanoi with its French colonial architecture, Halong Bay, Hue, Danang and Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon). Continue on to Cambodia and explore the magnificent Angkor Wat! If you have an interest in humanity, culture and architecture, along with a healthy curiosity, this trip is for you! If you missed this before, now's the time to join our small group. Enroute home, stop in Hong Kong for the Lunar New Year.

January 7 - 20 • \$2380 from LA • Cambodia Jan 20 - 26

MEXICO CITY WITH FRAN

Why haven't we ever made a trip to Mexico, one of our closest neighbors? With the national elections and heightened interest, now is the time. And who better to lead the group than one of the Grand Ladies of the League? Fran Richardson of LWV Falls Church VA, has had a long time interest in international relations. You'll have the benefit of her contacts when you travel with her to Mexico City. During the week long trip, eat traditional food and listen to Mariachi musicians as well as enjoy a briefing at the Embassy and meetings with city officials. Fun and informative.

February 16 - 23 · Very reasonably priced from D.C.

CHINA SILK ROAD EXPEDITION

Follow in the footsteps of Marco Polo. Come with us for a remarkable expedition in the excellent company of our beloved Sam Su. For the adventurous of spirit, this soft adventure is for all ages. Fly to Beijing and on to the remote and fascinating Xinjiang Province of western China. Meet the colorful and charming Uighur people, and see the famous Mummies of Ürümchi. We'll be in Kashgar for the huge New Year's Day in the famous market. Marvel at the exquisite Buddhist grotto art of the Mogao Caves near Dunhuang; ride a Bactrian camel in the sand dunes of the mysterious Taklimakan Desert; climb to the westernmost gate of the Great Wall in Jiayugauan Fortress; travel by train to Lanzhou and through the Gansu Corridor; go deep inside the Tibetan Labrang Monastery. See recent finds in Xi'an (Chang'an). Unexpected delights every day!

March 1 - 22 • 23 days from San Francisco • Only \$3390

TO THE END OF THE CONTINENT

We're heading to South America, where the seasons are reversed. It's a perfect time to explore the glorious scenic beauty of Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego. Travel from the Andean Highlands and the Lake District of Chile to Punta Arenas and Ushuaia. Enjoy boating and walks through spectacular Torres del Paine, Lapataia and Los Glaciares National Parks. As a change of pace, enjoy a fiery tango show in Buenos Aires.

March 2 - 17 · \$3284 from New York

TRAVEL CONCEPTS INTERNATIONAL . 5500 BUCKS BAR ROAD . PLACERVILLE CA 95667

CRAFTS OF IRAN WITH LLOYD HERMAN

Travel with Lloyd Herman, curator and museum consultant. I whose experience as founding director of the Smithsonian's Renwick Gallery, will offer you the added delight of seeing the handicrafts of Iran in the best of company. Visit the ceramic center in the Hamadan, a village as old as history itself; Kashan whose very name means ceramics. Learn about the famous hand-made textiles called Termeh in Yazd, the second oldest city in the world architecturally, according to UNESCO. In Naeen, the desert city famous for textiles, we'll visit the workshops producing aba and be the guests of a famous family known for its unique carpets. Copper, silver and gold artisans will show us their techniques. On to the Caspian Region for a visit to Chalus where handmade wooden furniture is crafted. Of course there's time for a caviar dinner, tea parties, and bazaar visits. This trip is one Persian delight after another. You need to see the complete itinerary! Of course, we'll also visit Shiraz, a city of poetry and gardens: Darius the Great's Persepolis; Isfahan, a veritable museum town ,whose intricately cut mosaics have enthralled visitors since the 17th century. And as of April 2000, you can bring home a Persian carpet! Lloyd's next Crafts trip with be South India in 2002. March 1-20 • \$ 3530 from many U.S cities via NW and KLM

TURKISH DELIGHTS

Here is our best Turkey trip -EVER! Fly to Istanbul and on to Ankara for a Parliament visit. Have a good look at Cappadocia, before continuing to the Turquoise Coast and Antalya. In Pamukkale enjoy a spa bath in the mineral waters and tour Aphrodisias enroute to Kusadasi where you'll walk down the marble streets of Ephesus to the famous library of Celsus just as Cleopatra did. We'll visit Pergamon where parchment was invented and then drive to Bursa, first capital of the Ottoman Empire. In a nearby mountain village of Mecidiyeköy we'll be special guests for the Children's Day celebration. As you ferry up the Sea of Marmara, incomparable Istanbul and the Golden Horn will come into view! Besides all the wonders of Topkapi, Hagia Sophia and the Covered and Spice Bazaars, we'll meet with the Turkish-American University Association.

April 10 - 26 · Only \$2990 from New York

GOLDEN TUNISIA & SICILY

This is the first of our Mediterranean series. Let's begin in North Africa at Tunis, with its Carthaginian history, a prized possession of the Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines. Our guide will unlock the history hidden in the enthralling Roman mosaics and ruins of Gafsa and Sbeitla. Cross the Sahara sands and meet the Berbers in our desert adventure to Matmata. Take in the Holy Islamic City of Kairouan. Then it is on to Palermo to learn the legacy of the Normans and Arabs. Step even further back in time as you behold the Doric Greek Temple atop Mt. Barbara. The Greeks really knew how to capture those awesome views. Also Enrice, Selinunte, Agrigento, Siracusa and the captivating resort town of Taormina. Small group.

April 20 - May 5 • \$ 3350 from New York via Alitalia

ART OF BARCELONA AND THE BASQUE COUNTRY

We're off on a nonstop Iberia flight to Barcelona, the Cataluny capital of northern Spain. Enjoy an artistic focus on Gaudí (of course), Picasso, Dalí and Miró. Journey up the Costa Brava, to the little town of Figueres. Then Bilbao, where we'll spend five wonderful days basking in Basque culture. The highlight is the new Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, but we'll also have a special visit to artists' studios, and excursions to Gernika; the fishing village of Bermeo; Haro, the capital of famed Riojan wine; the erstwhile royal retreat of San Sebastian; and the medieval town of Hondarribia on the french border. Dine elegantly and enjoy top notch accommodations. Change hotels only once!

May 13 - 24 • \$3370 from New York

Or, continue on for 10 days in PROVENCE with travel writer and photographer, George Nevin.

INTIMATE PROVENCE

Picture springtime in Aix-en-Provence where Cézanne immortalized the stunning countryside. Matisse and Picasso enjoyed the sunny days in Nice and you will too. Fly to Marseille. Spend four nights in Aix-en-Provence at the Hôtel Mercure Paul Cézanne, from which to explore Cassis, Ventabren, Arles and St. Rémy. On to the Côte d'Azur and four nights in Nice. We won't miss Avignon, Ansouis, and Monaco. Partake of exquisite cuisine, small hotels and personalized attention from professional travel writer and photographer Mr. George Nevin of Intimate France. Sixteen persons only.

May 24 - June 2 . \$ 2465 from New York via Air France

CROATIA & SLOVENIA

We're planning another trip to Croatia and neighboring Slovenia on the sunny side of the Alps. Bled, with its lakeside setting, is straight from a fairy tale. Opatija is grand, in an elegant turn-of-thecentury Austrian style. Explore the caves of Postojna by underground electric train, Plitvice and Split, with its 4th century Diocletian's Palace. Capture the Pearl of the Adriatic, Dubrovnik. Small group of 16. First class hotels. Most meals. Interested? Let us know, and we'll keep you informed.

May • \$ 2840 from New York

RUSSIAN WHITE NIGHTS CRUISE

Enjoy FINNAIR finesse on the flight to Moscow via Helsinki. In the capital of Russia, go inside the Kremlin to see the Armory collection. Red Square and the Tretyakov Gallery are not to be missed. Settle into the river cruiser, and sail north along the Moscow Canal. Our ports of call include the beloved Golden Ring towns of Uglich, Kostroma and Yarolslavl on the mighty Volga River. The elegant architecture of the onion domed monasteries and churches will captivate you. Continue through the lakes and locks northward as the days become even longer. Sail to the Kareliyan town of Petrozavodsk and Kizhi Island on Lake Onega, and to Lake Ladoga before entering the Neva River reaching St. Petersburg. The Hermitage of course is included. Activities and lectures on board make for a relaxed but fulfilling vacation of discovery.

June 15 - 30 from New York via Finnair

BALI, PARADISE FOUND

Summer 2001

Vibrant culture, unique art and mystical ceremonies! Come with our small group to the Island of the Gods! Because it's so much a part of everyday life, we'll encounter the rituals and pageantry wherever we go. From the very simple offerings of flowers that scatter the roadside to the colorful processions, rituals, folklore and fables are woven into the fabric of life on this magical island. Our adventure takes us to Denpasar, Sanur, Munduk Village, Lovina beach to visit Bratan Lake and the Lake Temple. Drive to Gitgit Waterfalls passing through Singaraja, the former capital of Bali. We'll also visit Pamuteran, Tulamben, Candidasa, and the famous artwork town of Ubud.

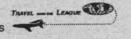
June 30 - July 14 • \$2275 from San Francisco

NAADAM IN MONGOLIA

Dating from the time of Genghis Khan, horsemanship, archery, wrestling and pageantry make the annual 3-day Naadam Festival a magnet to adventurers and those who have been most everywhere else. Picture yourself in a comfortable ger (yurt) on the endless steppe under a brilliant starry sky...and exploring the Great Gobi Desert where wildlife abounds. Spin a prayer wheel inside a richly gilded Buddhist temple where few foreigners venture. Marvel at exquisite pagodas filled with precious thangkas. We'll meet with Women for Social Progress (WSP) to learn of their remarkable efforts for democracy, patterned after the League of Women Voters. Exceptional musical performances round out the program. Stop in Beijing and climb the Great Wall. Be a part of the exclusive few to have visited Mongolia. Soft Adventure!

June 30 - July 14 • \$3290 from San Francisco

All tours listed benefit participating state and local League of Women Voters



TRAVEL CONCEPTS INTERNATIONAL, INC. IS REGISTERED WITH THE OFFICE OF THE CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY GENERAL AND ALL CLIENT'S PAYMENTS ARE HELD IN A TRUST ACCOUNT. CALIFORNIA SELLER OF TRAVEL # 2005743-40

KINGDOM OF BHUTAN

A dventurers Club take note! We are off to Bhutan nestled below the lofty ridges eastern Himalayas, between Tibet, Sikkim, Assam and West Bengal. If you loved the film Lost Horizon, this trip is for you. Sip tea in Darjeeling, watch the sunrise over the Himalayas, visit monasteries and watch Bhutanese religious festivals and dances. We have built our exciting program around the great festival, the THIMPHU-TSECHU. The people of Bhutan are deeply religious without being fanatical, and it is said the goal of country is to increase the gross national happiness! Our unique tour includes northeast India. There is so much to see in Calcutta and it truly belongs to the Raj. Kalimpong was a part of Bhutan until 1815 and it is a very pleasant hill station with monasteries of the Bhutanese style and a good introduction to Bhutan. We'll also explore Paro, Thimpu and Punakha, where the ancient way of life is preserved.

September 16 - October 1 • \$4525 including airfare

FLYING TIGERS' SHANGRI-LA

Perhaps we should call this tour Golden Autumn in South China or Scenic Wonders. All are apropos. From Yellow Mountain, arguably the most scenic mountain of all China, we fly to Kunming to see the remarkable karst Stone Forest. In Dali, we'll meet the Bai people, descendants of an ancient Tibetan tribe. On to Lijiang, a legendary remote county, home of the Naxi culture. At the Wolong Panda Preserve, established by the WWF of the UN (though not usually for tourists), you can hold a baby panda. Ask any American Flying Tiger, and they'll know about Zhongdian - Shangri-la. From Chengdu, we go to Jiuzhaigou, a place blessed with terraced lakes, Tibetan monasteries and beauty all around. Find yourself in a town of the 16th century countryside as we visit Wenchuan and the Qiang people. There's much more. Just inquire. The tour can be shortened to 18 days, but you'll miss Guilin, Xi'an and Beijing. Led by Sam Su.

October 3 - 28 • \$4590 from San Francisco

			THE PLUC WILLIAM SECTION					
0	Tal	1 520 621 2007	- Tallfron	1 000 760 4016	- Eav 4 Ean 604	2017 - Email	Curon Envoced@computeronia con	m
	161	1-330-021-3007	10IIIIee	1-000-102-4210	- Lay 1-220-051	-SUIT EIIIAII	GwenErwood@compuserve.com	ш

To order brochures and complete details, please clip and send this coupon to:

Travel Concepts International • 5500 Bucks Bar Road • Placerville, CA 95667

Your address should be on the reverse side. Please check and make any necessary corrections.

- ☐ Egypt and Nile Cruise November 10 19, 2000
- ☐ Vietnam January 7 20 Cambodia January 20 26
- ☐ Mexico City with Fran Richardson February 16-23
- ☐ Great China Silk Road Expedition March 1 22
- ☐ To the End of the Continent, South America March 2 17
- ☐ Crafts of Iran with Lloyd Herman March 1 20
- ☐ Turkish Delights April 10 26
- ☐ Golden Tunisia and Sicily April 20 May 5
- ☐ Barcelona & the Basque Country of Spain May 13 24
- ☐ Provence, France with George Nevin May 24 June 2
- ☐ Croatia & Slovenia May
- ☐ White Nights Russian Cruise June 15 30
- Bali, Paradise Found June 30 July 14
- Naadam in Mongolia June 30 July 14
- ☐ Kingdom of Bhutan September 16 October 1

Flying Tigers' Shangri-la,	South	China •	October 3 - 28
Tuscany & Campania, Ital	lv .	Novemb	per 3 - 18

- ☐ Ancient Cities of Persia November 4 15
- ☐ Thanksgiving in Russia November 19 26☐ New Year's in Egypt December 27 January 5☐
- Other

League of Women Voters member?	Affiliation?
Phone Number_	

- Please remove my name from the mailing list
- ☐ Please send an update to my friends (continue on reverse):

1919	100	TRACT	Page 1			113
				FOR A		61
200						



To:

Local League Presidents

From:

Jean Tews, Nominating Committee Chair

Date:

November 21, 2001

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2001 HOPE WASHBURN AWARD

Members of your League are invited to submit nominations for the 2001 Hope Washburn Award for outstanding service to the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. This award will be presented at the LWVMN Convention in New Ulm May 4-5, 2001.

The award was established in 1956 to honor the service Hope Washburn gave to both her local League, St. Paul, as well as all Minnesota Leagues. It is presented every two years at Convention or Council to a Leaguer who has performed outstanding service to the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. In other words, the nominee could be someone who has been active on the local level as well as the state and/or national levels.

Any member may nominate another member (except those serving on the current LWVMN Nominating Committee). The nominee does not need to be a member of the nominator's League. A member who has been nominated in previous years, can be renominated by resubmitting the name with just an update of their League activities. Please call or email Rosemary Guttormsson at 218/728-4037, rosemary@chartermi.net, if you have any questions. You may submit your nomination either by mail or electronically.

- * The deadline for nominations is March 1, 2001.
- * Please read this Call for Nominations to your Board. You will be seeking suggestions for a nominee plus someone to write up the nomination and submit it by the deadline date.
- * Publish it in your Bulletin. Explain to your membership how both the Hope Washburn Award and the Peggy Thompson Award bring great honor to the person as well as their League.

The criteria for the Hope Washburn Award are:

- · Outstanding Service to LWVMN;
- · Community Service;
- · Enthusiasm and Innovative Ideas;
- · Staying Power;
- Use of League principles and/or positions as motivation to serve/enhance the League as a statewide organization.

Your Nominating Committee members greatly appreciate your attention to these awards. They are: Jean Tews, Chair, LWV Mahtomedi Area; Mary Dinneen, LWV Edina; Rosemary Guttormsson, LWV Duluth; Kay Erickson (LWVMN Board), LWV South Tonka; and Susan Weisbrod (LWVMN Board), LWV St. Croix Valley.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2001 HOPE WASHBURN AWARD

Name:	
League:	
Your name:	Ph/email:
Please give reasons why this person is nominated. possible. (Attach extra sheets as necessary.)	Relate the reason to one or more or the criteria, if
List nominee's League activities and positions held	i.
List other community activities and awards.	
Other comments you would like to make:	

Please return by March 1, 2001 to:
Rosemary Guttormsson
3715 Greysolon Road
Duluth, MN 55804
218/728-4037
rosemary@chartermi.net



To:

Local League Presidents

From:

Jean Tews, Nominating Committee Chair

Date:

November 21, 2000

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2001 PEGGY THOMPSON AWARD

At the LWVMN Convention, May 4-5, 2001, the League of Women Voters of Minnesota will present the Peggy Thompson Award which recognizes League members who have been nominated for "outstanding service to their <u>local</u> League." Peggy Thompson has a record of commitment to strengthening local Leagues. Therefore, this award focuses special recognition on Leaguers who have been instrumental in strengthening and/or stabilizing their local Leagues through varied actions which might include sustained enthusiasm, motivation of others or innovative ideas which have brought strength to both your League and perhaps your community and its citizens.

Attached is a form for your convenience. It is meant to give you an idea of the kind of information the Nominating Committee believes is essential. You may create your own format or send additional information. You may nominate more than one person. Please phone or email Rosemary Guttormsson at 218/728-4037, rosemary@chartermi.net, if you have any questions. You may submit your nomination either by mail or electronically.

- Please read this Call for Nominations to your Board.
- * Publish it in your Bulletin. Explain to your membership how both the Hope Washburn Award and the Peggy Thompson Award bring great honor to the person as well as their League.
- * You will be seeking suggestions for nominees plus someone to write up the nomination and submit it by the deadline date. Your Board may want to decide how many to nominate, who to nominate for which award; who is to write the nominations but it does <u>not</u> need to approve the final written application to be submitted.
- * The deadline for nominations is March 1, 2001.

In summary, the criteria are as follows:

- Outstanding service to local League;
- Instrumental in strengthening or stabilizing local League;
- Initiated ideas, activities that have kept/made local League strong;
- Used League principles or positions as motivation to serve/enhance local community/citizens.

Your Nominating Committee members greatly appreciate your attention to these awards. They are: Jean Tews, Chair, LWV Mahtomedi Area; Mary Dinneen, LWV Edina; Rosemary Guttormsson, LWV Duluth; Kay Erickson (LWVMN Board), LWV South Tonka; and Susan Weisbrod (LWVMN Board), LWV St. Croix Valley.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2001 PEGGY THOMPSON AWARD

Name of Nominee:	
League:	
Your Name:	Ph/email:
Please give reasons why this person is nominated. Rela possible. (Attach extra sheets as necessary.)	te the reason to one or more of the criteria, if
List nominee's League activities and positions held:	
List other community activities and awards:	
Other comments you would like to make:	
Please return by March 1, 2001 to:	

Please return by March 1, 2001 to Rosemary Guttormsson 3715 Greysolon Road Duluth, MN 55804 218/728-4037 rosemary@chartermi.net To: LWVMN Board, Off-Board Chairs

From: Jean Tews, Chair, LWVMN Nominating Committee*

Re: 2001-2003 LWVMN Officers and Directors

Date: November 2, 2000

The LWVMN Nominating Committee is beginning its work to prepare a slate of officers and directors for 2001-2003 to present to the LWVMN Convention on May 4, 2001. Six officers, eight directors, the chair plus two members of the nominating committee and the chair of the budget committee will be elected by the convention delegates. In addition, up to eight directors may be appointed by the LWVMN Board.

We are asking you to indicate your own availability and desire to serve on the state board or as an off-board committee chair for the next two years and in what capacity you would like to serve. We would also appreciate your recommendations of others with talent and commitment who you may have noticed during your tenure on the state board.

Please take a moment to fill out this form and return it to me by Monday, November 13th at the address below or you may e-mail me your responses at jeant@thinkmhc.org. We would like to have your responses and suggestions for the first meeting of the Nominating Committee on Tuesday, November 14th.

Name	Local League		
Current Position		Phone (h)	
Phone (w)	e-mail		
Are you available to serve	on the LWVMN	Board for the 2001	-2003 Biennium?
	Yes	No	
Is there a particular portfol	io that interests y	ou?	
Are there other individuals	you would like	to recommend for r	nomination to the board?
Name		_LWV of	
Address		_ Phone (h)	(w)
League interest area/positi	on recommended		

Please return by November 13th to: Jean Tews, 49 Birchwood Road, Mahtomedi 55115 or by e-mail to jeant@thinkmhc.org.

^{*}Mary Dinneen, LWV Edina; Kay Erickson, LWVMN Board; Rosemary Guttormsson, LWVDuluth; Susan Weisbrod, LWVMN Board



RICE 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 Founder 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.

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

Josie R. Johnson President Josie R. Johnson & Assoc.

Steven D. Ladwig President

Data Storage Products & Technologies in 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 Internacial 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 November 2, 2000

To: Local League Agriculture Study Committees

From: Judy Duffy and Gertrude Ulrich, Agriculture Study Committee Chair

Enclosed is the Agriculture Study publication. We know the delay has caused you concern for the completion of your work. We apologize for the delay; however, we believe this has allowed us to prepare a more useful resource for you.

The Committee has been hard at work finalizing this document. The consensus questions are yet in draft form and will need final approval from the LWVMN Board. We are trying to call a special meeting of the board for next week and will forward the questions to you at that time.

For now, here is the publication for you to begin. If you have any questions, please give us a call. We will get the consensus questions to you ASAP. Thank you for your patience!

MINNESOTA FARMING 2000

A Report of the Agriculture Study Committee of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota

INTRODUCTION: CHANGES IN FARMING

It is a truism to say that farming is changing. Farming has been changing for decades. But it is the accelerating pace and the profound nature of the current changes which have caught the attention of the public.

One indicator of change: The percentage of families earning their living from the soil has dropped steadily since the mid-1930s (LWVUS 8). In Minnesota from 1980 to 1995 the number of farms decreased by 20%, with about 5% of state citizens living on farms in the early 1990s (Minnesota, Corporate Farm Task Force 24; von Sternberg A30). "Currently, Minnesota is losing approximately four farms a day. These are mostly small, family-run farms" (MPCA, Feedlot).

This decline in small and medium sized farms has been caused by many factors: droughts, large farm loans, poor harvests, over-abundant harvests, low commodity prices, U.S. grain embargoes, restricted opportunities to market crops, increased production in foreign countries, young people unwilling or unable to enter the business, policies and laws that benefit big producers more than small producers, economic advantages of scale.

Nevertheless, economically, agriculture is still very important to Minnesota. The state is seventh in the nation in income, \$8.2 billion, derived from agriculture (Minnesota, Dept. of Agriculture. *Producers' Guide* 3). One-third of rural jobs are directly affected by agriculture, while 22% of all state jobs are in some way involved with it (Minnesota, Dept. of Agriculture. *Agricultural Profile* 1). The present study represents an effort to understand the impact of agricultural policies, regulations and practices on the long term health of agriculture and rural communities.

BACKGROUND

What is a farm?

Family farm. Commercial farm. Small Farm. Corporate farm. Hobby farm. Minnesota farms vary greatly, as does the terminology applied to them.

A land holding is considered a "farm" in Minnesota if it has a gross agricultural income, including government payments, of at least \$1,000 (Minnesota, Dept. of Agriculture. Agricultural Profile 1). The federal government has for statistical purposes divided farms into three groups: 1) large operations, grossing \$250,000 or more per year, 2) medium-sized farms, grossing from \$100,000 to \$249,999 per year, and 3) hobby farms or small commercial farms, grossing \$100,000 or less in farm income (U.S., USDA 29).

The National Commission on Small Farms, in the USDA report A Time to Act, categorized all farms with gross receipts under \$250,000 per year as "small farms." Under that definition small farms comprise 94% of all farms in the U.S., represent 75% of total productive agricultural assets (mostly in land), and account for 41% of total agricultural earnings (U.S., USDA 28).

The "average" Minnesota farm in 1998 contained 361 acres and grossed \$119,420, with a \$15,754 net return ("Rural" 4A). This portrait is derived from a large number of very small farms with gross incomes from agriculture of \$50,000 or less, a significant number of farms with gross incomes up to \$250,000 per year, and a small number of farms with gross incomes of \$250,000 or more a year. At present there are 81,000 farms in Minnesota, covering, in 1998, 59% of Minnesota's total land.

In the United States as a whole approximately 6% of farms earn almost 60% of agricultural income (U.S., USDA 28). In Minnesota around one fourth of the largest farms are at present responsible for 80% of the state's agricultural output (Runge).

Who is farming?

As of 1992, 90% of Minnesota farms were held in individual or family sole proprietorships, a very high level of independent ownership (Minnesota, Corporate Farm Task Force 22).

In addition, there are family farm corporations, along with authorized farm corporations and partnerships. Some farmers are forming cooperatives--not for grain elevators or electric power as in previous times, but for making ethanol out of corn, processing soybeans into products, canning local vegetables, or raising hogs.

Hobby farms may be operated by a transplanted urban family living on a farm and growing a garden, caring for horses and chickens, maybe working a small field or two. Other small farms may be operated by farmers who live entirely on the income of their farms. Some of these constitute a segment of the rural poor. They may be old or be young parents (or a single parent). Perhaps they live on a reservation and have substandard land. Almost certainly they do not have a cushion of capital.

Some farmers also work off the farm, sometimes driving many miles back and forth to work because their immediate rural area has few off-farm jobs. Somewhere between 40 to 60% of family income for these farms comes from off-farm employment.

As existing farmers grow older and retire, fewer farms are being passed along to the next generation. (The average age of commercial farmers in Minnesota was 50 in 1998 (Minnesota, Dept. of Agriculture 3)). Some young people, of course, want non-farm careers, but it may be difficult for even young people interested in farming to inherit family operations, despite years of "sweat equity," because of high taxes, high prices for land, or their parents' lack of financial security for retirement.

Making a living

Historically, the average farmer's income has been below that of the average city dweller (LWVUS 11). According to a recent study by the Center for Rural Affairs, for the years 1988-95, in the six Midwest states studied (which included Minnesota), one out of three households in rural counties made less than \$15,000 a year. In the same region's cities one of five households had equally low incomes ("Rural Areas"1A). It is not unusual for a farmer to gross \$200,000 in farm income, but to be left with \$15,000 to \$18,000 for the family to live on for the year (Hanners 6A).

There is a saying about farmers: They are the only businesspeople who buy retail and sell wholesale. This may apply to other businesses as well, but it is true that farmers need to purchase many things to conduct business--seeds, fertilizer, machinery, agrochemicals, animal feeds, antibiotics--and these items are expensive. They need to borrow to buy machinery or to put in a crop, and they need to finance buildings for their livestock and their grain storage. Yet when it comes time to sell what they produce, they may have to sell it cheaply. For example, in late 1988, it cost on average \$100 to raise a 250-pound pig--a pig that sold for \$20. A bumper crop of corn can cause the selling price to fall below production costs.

Farming is a risky business, and always has been. There is always the weather to frustrate farmers. If it is too wet, they can't get into the fields to plant, or they get the crop planted, but then it rots in the ground. If it is too cold, the seeds do not germinate, or after they germinate the plants are killed by frost. If the weather is too dry, the crop does not grow, or it grows poorly, and there is not enough hay for the animals. Hail may come and destroy farmers' crops. Disease may hit, such as the wheat scab of the Red River Valley in recent years. Even floods are a possibility.

These days, too, farmers are competing in a global market, and one in which, for the past few years, there has been a combination of excess supply that pushed commodity prices down, and Asian and Russian financial crises that reduced the market for both grain and meat (Zielenziger 5). In the global marketplace some countries can produce

goods at a lower price than the United States in part because they impose fewer environmental restrictions. Others, like the European Union countries, place restrictions on imports. Wage disparities from country to country are wide, and are affected by currency exchange rates, differences in labor laws, and local cost of living.

Getting bigger

To raise anything at all, of course, farmers need land, long the largest capital expense in agriculture. There have been pressures to get bigger, to own more land, since at least the end of World War II. At that time, when manufacturers no longer needed to produce war machines in great numbers, they turned to peacetime uses for their industrial capacity, including production of large, specialized farm equipment. This equipment became available at the same time as pesticides and herbicides that made it easier to control insects and weeds, and chemical fertilizers that increased yields. Fossil fuel was also cheap, so it could be used to make these chemical products as well as to power farm vehicles.

Farms were thus able to grow larger, amortize the cost of machinery over a larger crop, and still be worked by the same number of people, or even fewer. In some ways this became a cycle: more land required more machinery, and more machinery needed more land to justify its expense.

This push to get bigger continues today, driven in part by the global economy. As some farmers have taken on more and more land and turned increasingly to mechanization and technology to help them handle the work, they have borrowed money to expand. What happened in the early 1980s provides an example of the risks in so doing. From 1975 to 1982, as farmers attempted to modernize their equipment and add land to their holdings, total U.S. farm real-estate debt doubled. Banks encouraged borrowing, and the price of land shot up. By the early 1980's interest payments on debt exceeded net farm income (Ritchie and Ristau 7).

On Oct. 6, 1979, the Federal Reserve raised the cost of borrowing money, attempting to control inflation. This had immense consequences. From 1981-1986, the value of U.S. farmland fell more than 40% in the Midwest and Plains states. In addition, land, which was being used as collateral on the farm loans, was suddenly not worth what it had been a short time before, and farmers found themselves vastly overextended in the eyes of their lending institutions. Despite government bailouts and loan forgiveness, numerous farms failed, as did many small town banks.

Renting land enables some farmers to gain the benefits of size without the burden of debt. Frequently, however, competition for land produces high rents, which can be fixed at the beginning of the season--long before anyone knows what the crops will be like or what price crops will bring. As a recent farm study in southwest Minnesota revealed, rural landlords can make more money than can the farmers to whom they rent (Levins, *Swift* 5).

Coping strategies

Many farmers have taken steps to improve their operations. They have studied agriculture at technical colleges and universities, read farm publications, talked with extension agents, made farm financial plans, purchased a computer, put their records on it, and hooked up to the internet to get the most recent farm information. Perhaps they have an accountant and a lawyer. In many cases both husband and wife are deeply involved in the business of the farm.

Factory farming

Some farmers have turned to economies of scale. Beginning in 1970, when Congress, at the urging of agribusiness and pharmaceutical companies, passed legislation excluding farm animals from the Animal Welfare Act, farmers began raising large numbers of chickens or hogs in a small space. These large animal-confinement operations, or factory farms, put as many as 12,000 pigs or 100,000 egg-laying hens together in a single building under controlled conditions (Adcock 1-5).

Industrialized animal agriculture began with chickens and spread to cattle, which no longer went from pasture to slaughter, but were shipped to distant feedlots where they were fenced together by the tens of thousands, feeding intensively in preparation for slaughter. In Minnesota the decade of the 90's saw rapid growth in large animal feedlots, particularly swine facilities. From 1964 to 1997, the number of swine in Minnesota increased from 3.4

million to 5.5 million, while the number of farms decreased from 55,000 to 10, 800 (Minnesota. Office of the Legislative Auditor).

Such practices have yielded a uniform product at low costs for the consumer while maximizing efficiency, productivity and profits for corporate agriculture. The intense confinement of animals, however, is considered by its critics to be both cruel and unhealthy for the animals. Moreover, human health may also be endangered by factory farming practices: Industrial-style farms increase the risk of water pollution, and may yield noxious if not toxic air in their vicinity.

Sustainable farming

Some farmers have turned in another direction. They have attempted to earn at least a partial living with sustainable agricultural techniques--techniques that do not require massive amounts of fertilizer, insecticides, and herbicides, techniques that can result in up to 35 times less soil erosion and contamination runoff from pasture land. Such practices also reduce the use of petroleum and single-purpose machinery.

Sustainable farms generally are diverse operations, with a variety of crops and animals. In a sense, sustainable farmers have gone back to the best of agricultural practices from the first half of the 20th century and continued to add to that knowledge with new techniques, growing perennial forages and grasses, diversifying and rotating crops.

They are raising free-range chickens, small numbers of hogs (perhaps 50) living outdoors, and moderate numbers of dairy cows (maybe 50-60) that are allowed out to pasture when the milking is done. Hoop housing (a special method of housing hogs that involves outdoor shelters and plenty of straw), controlled pasture grazing, and other such "natural" methods are used by these farmers.

It has been established that sustainable operations can be efficient and productive. In recent years, the problem has been finding a profitable market for these operations, because they tend to be small, whereas traditional buyers generally want to buy from large producers. However, there are niches for sustainable farmers, such as organic products, and animals raised for antibiotic- and hormone-free meat. As consumer demand for these products has increased, for some farmers sustainable methods have proved profitable.

Contract farming

Yet another means of coping with the changing nature of farming has been for farmers to enter into contracts with large companies, contracts in which the farmers agree to grow the companies' chickens or hogs, or to sell fruits, vegetables, and grains to them. It is estimated that nationally about 90% of the chicken industry is under contract, 65-70% of the hogs, about 40% of the fruits and vegetables, and approximately 10% of the grains ("Contracts" 11). Dairy cow operations are not under contract yet, but Gene Hugoson, Minnesota Commissioner of Agriculture, believes a lock-in price will also become common for them in the future (Nistler 18).

The majority of the contracts, called marketing contracts, specify simply that farmers deliver a certain quantity and quality of produce to the buyer on a certain date for a specified price or specified price range, depending on quality. If farmers lock in a price that assures a fair profit and an amount that they can deliver, such contracts can be helpful, giving farmers some assurance of the price they will receive for what they produce. Also having a contract may help farmers borrow money from the bank to produce their crops.

If, however, they have a poor harvest and cannot deliver as much as they have contracted for, they may have to purchase whatever is contracted for from others to satisfy the agreement, perhaps at a significantly higher price than they are going to be paid.

Under another legal agreement, the production contract, farmers raise animals or fowl for a big company. The farmers finance and construct new buildings to the company's specifications, raise livestock by the company's methods, feed and vaccinate by the company's plan (perhaps using the company's feed and medications). Then at a specified time, the chickens, turkeys or hogs are delivered to the buyer for the price in the contract. Sometimes producers are paid a bonus if the quality is particularly high. The buyer does all weighing and grading.

Dick Gladly, chief economist and vice president of public affairs for ConAgra, a large agribusiness based in Omaha, Nebraska, cites the potential advantages of contracts for his company. With production contracts, his company can control the type of animals they are getting, making for a uniform product (lean breeds of hogs, for example), and they know that on any given day they will have enough supply to keep their large packing plants going. They also know how much they will have to pay the farmers and can more easily make the financial calculations necessary to running a successful business (Nixon 12).

For the farmer, a production contract means--for the duration of that contract--an assured buyer and price for the livestock he raises. But it also means dependence on continuing contracts to help pay off loans for building the necessary chicken or hog barns and the risk that the company will withdraw from an area whenever it is a good business decision to do so. In 1997, for example, the Campbell Soup Company closed its chicken processing plant in Worthington, leaving 36 area contractors with half-paid-for barns and no chickens to raise (De Vore 10). A final disadvantage is that under most production contracts the farmers have no rights to question the companies' assessment of quality. There is no governmental oversight.

Rural communities

Both Minnesota policy and public opinion value rural communities and their way of life. The emphasis on preserving family farms is partly historical, stemming from the belief that a nation of small landowners is a healthy society, where families can feed themselves, sell some of their produce to others, and live a good life. The early colonists came from Europe, where large landowners controlled the means of production, and where nearly everyone else was a serf, artisan, small shopkeeper, or household help. Early political leaders saw this idea of wide land ownership as a means of promoting democracy.

Yet many rural communities are going through very hard times. For one thing, out-migration is increasing, an effect evident in the 1980s, when non-metropolitan counties lost an average of 11% of their population; among 18-34 year-olds, the loss was 17% (Amato 39-40). Businesses have been abandoned or moved elsewhere; schools have closed or consolidated. Though some counties showed a little growth in the 90s, the projections are for continued decline in counties outside the Twin Cities suburban area (Minnesota, Minnesota Planning). It will take some major changes for many rural communities to become good places to live again.

One group less likely to leave the small town is the retirement-age population. Although some older people choose to move to warmer climates or more urban locales, many do not. From 1980 to 1990, this population grew 18 percent in rural areas and only 15 percent in metro areas. It is projected that this group will continue to grow faster in the rural areas than in the metropolitan areas, with a concomitant need for services such as transportation, health care, senior housing, social services, and long-term care. Yet the tax base to provide them is decreasing (Minnesota, Minnesota Planning).

Most rural counties' gross income used to come largely from agricultural sources; today, however, agriculture provides only a small percentage of county income. A study in Swift County provides one example: In 1975 farmers and farm employees earned 30 percent of the total personal income for the county. In 1995 it was 1.63%. (Levins, "Swift" 3). The picture is similar for many counties. Even in good years much of the money farmers receive leaves the county to pay seed companies, landlords, equipment dealers, and chemical companies beyond the borders of the county. As farms become larger, this trend is exacerbated. In 1991 University of Minnesota economists John Chism and Richard Levins found that the percentage of money spent within a twenty-mile radius of the farm declined dramatically with an increase in the size of the operation (Chism 2-3).

Additionally, as large corporations take over the food industry, farmers and middlemen see the disappearance of agricultural institutions: livestock auction barns shut down, local grain elevators closed, local slaughter plants empty. Creameries leave, while small vegetable factories shut their doors. Much of the local market that farmers once depended on vanishes, leaving only a few customers for the farmers' products.

Economist John Ikerd says that "on balance, industrialized livestock operations destroy more jobs than they create. Different studies report estimates of from 1 1/2 to 3 jobs lost for every job created" (Ikerd 4). New industries wishing to come into the rural area--industries like large industrialized farms, food-processing plants, or slaughter houses--are, unfortunately, likely to offer jobs at low wages under poor working conditions. These businesses,

desiring numerous low-paid workers, may recruit immigrant workers, who now constitute 10 to 20 percent of the population in some counties. Over 20 languages, for example, are spoken in Pelican Rapids, a community of 1,800 (League of Women Voters of Minnesota 41).

The influx of these immigrant groups into low-paying jobs, combined with the increasing proportion of older citizens, increases the need for educational and social services at the same time as fewer businesses and residents are left to pay for them. In addition, the communities must continue to provide clean water, good roads, and proper garbage and sewage disposal.

The Internet may also have the ability to drain dollars away from local business. Almost anything can be purchased there, even farm products such as animal feed, fertilizers, chemicals, and seeds. On the other hand, technology could be an answer to the problems of rural communities. People could live in country areas and, through the Internet, do their business, take their college courses, and communicate with others. The rural villages could become as global as the largest urban center.

Agriculture and the environment

Agriculture can provide benefits to the environment such as enhanced soil and water quality, green corridors for rivers, habitat for wildlife, and beautiful landscapes. But while many farmers are good environmental stewards, others employ practices which cause, for example, contamination of water and erosion of the soil; in the past many filled in wetlands, a practice which we now understand can have harmful consequences for the entire environment.

The rapid increase in industrial agriculture in Minnesota has focused attention on the relation between farming and the environment, particularly agriculture's effect on water and air. In 1998, as a result, the Minnesota legislature created a task force to prepare a Generic Environmental Impact Statement on Animal Agriculture (final report expected in 2001). A background report on water prepared for this task force provides this assessment:

In Minnesota, about 60% of the surveyed or monitored rivers and streams, and 17% of the surveyed or monitored lakes were classified as being impaired. Agriculture was identified as the cause of 90% of the impaired river miles, and 64% of the impaired lake areas. It is unknown to what degree various types of agricultural activities . . . caused the impairment. In the Minnesota River basin, it is estimated that from 50-100% of the assessed tributary river miles . . . do not adequately support aquatic life. . . . (University G/5)

The environmental effects of Minnesota agriculture go well beyond our state's borders. Nutrients from farm runoff--from the monoculture farming of corn and soybeans and from animal waste--are linked to the formation of an approximately 7,000 square mile "dead zone" in the Gulf of Mexico, an area of low oxygen where aquatic organisms cannot survive. According to the U.S. Geological survey, 1.7 million tons of nitrogen are flushed down the Mississippi into the Gulf each year, 6-8% coming from Minnesota (Meersman 18).

The increase in factory farms has enormous implications for both water and air quality because it means large concentrations of manure. According to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota's estimated 45,000 feedlots produce animal wastes that exceed the amount of human waste produced by a population of over 40 million people (MPCA, *General*).

Manure is a valuable resource when applied to the land appropriately. But it can become an environmental poison when it is not carefully controlled. Because manure from large feedlot operations is typically held in lagoons (basins), which can stretch the length of one or more football fields, the surrounding environment is at risk. Lagoons may leach, rupture, overflow. A worker may fail to close a valve properly. Or the lagoon itself may be poorly constructed. There may be illegal dumping of manure. Finally, there are natural occurrences, such as floods or underground sinkholes. A recent study by Iowa State University found that more than one-third of the lagoons studied leaked beyond the amount allowed by state standards (Clean Water Network 12).

It is common management practice to remove liquid manure from a lagoon and spray it onto fields as fertilizer. However, according to a report prepared by the University of Minnesota, "if manure is over-applied, applied at the wrong time in the growth cycle, applied unevenly, allowed to experience losses in storage, handling, and application, then it can degrade water and/or air quality" (University J/6). Putting manure on the land where it cannot be absorbed causes runoff, which creates an extensive and unregulated source of water pollution.

The percentage of contaminated wells in Minnesota affected by animal agriculture is unknown, although it is known that roughly 7% of drinking water wells in Minnesota exceed the Maximum Contaminant Level set by the EPA for nitrates in drinking water (University G/7). Minnesota Pollution Control reports that feedlot runoff contains roughly ten times as much phosphorus as untreated domestic waste, and that only one pound of phosphorus produces over 500 pounds of weeds and algae in a lake, which depletes the water of oxygen and suffocates fish and other aquatic life. Manure poses additional problems, as it also carries bacteria, viruses, heavy metals, and other harmful pollutants.

In Minnesota, animal waste remains one of the most prevalent causes of fish kills. In June 1997, 100,000 gallons of raw manure from a hog operation in Renville County spilled into a nearby creek, killing nearly 605,000 fish (Minnesota. Dept. of Natural Resources). (The farmer whose facilities and/or procedures failed was punished by jail and a fine. The company for which he was growing the hogs, one of the nation's largest pork producers, was deemed to have no legal responsibility for the accident (De Vore 9)). Manure or feedlot pollution was responsible for ten of the 12 agriculture-related fish kills from 1995 through 1998, and led to more fish kills than either industrial or municipal pollution (Minnesota. Dept. of Natural Resources).

Agriculture's effect on air quality depends to a great extent on the area and concentration of manure. The noxious odor from large concentrations of manure is well described in the following account of a corporate hog operation in Oklahoma:

It's the ever present stench--the overpowering smell from Seaboard's 40,000 hogs closely confined in 44 metal buildings, where exhaust fans continuously pump out tons of pungent ammonia, mixed with tons of grain dust and fecal matter, scented with the noxious odor of hydrogen sulfide... (Barlett, 58).

Air emissions from feedlots also can be dangerous to health--of the animals, workers, and rural neighbors. Recently the Minnesota Department of Health linked the results of air monitoring for hydrogen sulfide at a Minnesota farm to physiological symptoms, and concluded that the monitored levels were high enough to pose a potential threat to human health (Minnesota, Dept. of Health). Twenty to 30 percent of workers in large-scale swine facilities are known to have respiratory problems (Thu 12). Exposure to high ammonia concentrations can be fatal to humans. In 1997 a link was established between waste from poultry farms in Maryland and Virginia and outbreaks of *Pfiesteria piscicida*, a toxic microbe that kills fish and causes skin irritation, short-term memory loss, and other cognitive problems for humans exposed to it. In 1993 a pathogen, crystosporidium, in Milwaukee's water made 400,000 people sick and led to the deaths of more than 100 people. The suspected source: dairy manure (Duskin 14). (See also *Danger on Tap*, and Satchell, "The Cell from Hell.")

Airborne contaminants from animal agriculture, including gases, odor, dust, microbes, and insects, may be produced or emitted inside and near animal production facilities and can also drift when waste products are applied on the land. The environmental and health effects of these airborne contaminants are only beginning to be investigated. Long-term impacts on ecological systems and people are not known (University H/1).

Agriculture and food

Pesticides, antibiotics, growth hormones, and food-borne pathogens

We spend about 11% of our income for food at present, an amount significantly lower than in any other part of the industrialized world. Japan spends approximately 18%, Australia, 14.6%, and France about 15% (Minnesota Farm Bureau 1). But along with this productive efficiency come some potential risks to human health. These stem from pesticides getting into food and water, from the use of antibiotics in livestock, from administration of growth hormones to livestock, from the risk of food-borne pathogens, and perhaps from genetically modified organisms.

Ten years ago, the League of Women Voters of the United States published a Citizens Guide entitled America's Growing Dilemma: Pesticides in Food and Water. That study pointed out the fragmented authority of federal regulatory agencies, and questioned the effectiveness of their processes for setting tolerances, assessing risks, and enforcing regulations. To a great extent these concerns remain.

Approximately 40% of all antibiotics used in the U.S. are used in livestock. Most are used in sub-therapeutic doses to promote rapid growth. The remainder are used to prevent or treat diseases, which can spread rapidly among crowded and stressed animals.

The Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences began to question this practice in 1989. Evidence has mounted throughout the nineties that the routine use of antibiotics in livestock may diminish the drugs' power to cure infections in people, as resistant bacteria are passed on from the meat of animals to people who eat it. Health authorities, including the World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Academy of Sciences have called for banning sub-therapeutic uses of certain antibiotics with animals, as European countries have already done. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has now begun a major revision of its guidelines regarding the use in this country of antibiotics for animals.

A further safety concern in industrialized animal agriculture is the administering of growth hormones, because long-term exposure to high residues of natural and synthetic hormones in meat products may pose risk of breast and reproductive cancers in humans (Gabler 38). Finally, food-borne pathogens transmitted from animals to humans-salmonella in poultry, eggs and meat; *campylobacter* in chicken; *E.coli* in hamburger; and *listeria* in meat and dairy products--all can result from the cramped confinement and feed contamination associated with factory farming.

Genetically modified organisms

The use in agriculture of genetically engineered, or genetically modified (GM), organisms has stirred much debate. In genetic engineering, small fragments of genetic material are transferred from one (usually unrelated) organism to another for the purpose of adding a new trait to the recipient organism. The resulting organism is called "transgenic."

All crops are in fact genetically different from their wild predecessors, through long periods of natural selection, domestication, and controlled breeding (Transgenic). Genetic engineering differs, however, from conventional plant breeding (hybridization and crop selection) in several ways: 1) there is genetic exchange between organisms that would not occur in nature; 2) the genetic engineering process introduces other foreign material (bacteria and viruses necessary to ensure successful transfer); 3) genetically engineered plants can be developed more rapidly and with more precision than in traditional breeding programs.

GM crops were first grown commercially in the mid-1990s. By 1999, almost 100 million acres world wide had been planted, the largest acreages being in the U.S., Argentina and Canada. In the United States in 1998 65% of cotton, 57% of soybeans, and 38% of corn were GM crops, followed by canola and potatoes. The U.S. and/or Canada also grow GM flax, squash, papaya and tomatoes. GM crops currently in the field-testing stage include alfalfa, apples, cucumbers, melons, rice, strawberries, sunflowers, walnuts and wheat. In Minnesota, test crops include corn, soybeans, canola, potatoes, sugar beets, wheat (Barrett 2-3).

Most GM crops have been developed for agronomic (ease of growing) purposes: about two-thirds for tolerance to herbicides such as Roundup and one-third for insect and virus resistance (Barrett 2-3). A small number of crops have been modified for quality traits such as altered oil production in canola or delayed ripening in tomatoes. Crops containing vaccines and vitamin supplements are in the wings. For example, rice is being genetically modified to include beta carotene, a precursor of Vitamin A; such "golden rice" may help millions in developing countries whose diets are based on rice and are now deficient in Vitamin A (a major cause of blindness in children (Transgenic).

Those with doubts about genetically modified crops urge caution and more long-term study, particularly carefully controlled field study. They note that the evidence of benefits--increased yields, decreased use of chemicals, increased farmer profits--is inconclusive. USDA data from 1996-98 showed positive results in some cases and negative results in others (Barrett 2-3). Opponents also fear health problems--particularly allergic reactions--

resulting from unwittingly encountering an allergen in a GM food. A project to enhance the protein in soybeans with a protein gene from brazil nuts was stopped when testing showed that people allergic to brazil nuts also reacted to the altered soybeans (Transgenic). And, opponents say, GM foods may be addressing the wrong problem. The real problem today, according to Catherine Bertini, Executive Director of the U. N. World Food Program, is not a crisis of food supply, it is a crisis of poverty, inequality and lack of access (International).

Of greater concern are potential environmental effects. Once new genes are released into the environment, there is no way to take them back. Gene transfer through pollen from GM crops to related weeds has occurred from, for example, GM canola to wild mustard, and from GM wheat to jointed goatgrass (Transgenic). Environmental scientists and farmers have identified additional concerns including eventual insect resistance; possible harm to nontarget insects such as ladybugs and monarch butterfly larvae; harm to beneficial soil organisms; and the development of new plant pathogens.

Organic farmers, among others, worry about genetic engineering's use of bacillus thuringiensis (Bt). Bt is a self-limiting, organically approved, non-chemical alternative for insect control. Used only as necessary, Bt spray has been a very important resource of last resort for organic farmers. Through GM technology, Bt genes are now being inserted in crops such as corn, cotton and potatoes, transferring the insecticidal trait into every cell of the plant and at much higher levels than the spray. Future plans include many other crops. Such heavy use of Bt is likely to accelerate resistance in insects, thereby causing a loss of major proportion to organic farmers. Organic farmers stand to lose as well through accidental cross-pollination. Farmers who grow and market non-GM corn and soybeans lose their market when contamination from neighboring GM crops occurs.

Finally, GM technology gives rise to food security concerns among some people, in that almost all GM crops are owned by private sector corporations. Patents on GM technologies by seed and chemical companies have placed the control of crop production into very few hands. Recent corporation mergers have combined seed, chemical, processing, and pharmaceutical companies into powerful entities.

The proponents of genetic modification make a number of arguments. Foremost is that transgenic crops have the potential to feed the world without requiring additional land (such as rain forests) to be opened up to agriculture. Currently developed GM crops, they point out, are good for the environment, in that they use a lower level of pesticides and herbicides; transgenic crops under development will increase the productivity of degraded soils. Farmers can use a variety of planting strategies to mitigate potential negative effects like cross-pollination and reduction of milkweed on which monarch larvae feed. The public has been eating transgenic soy and corn products for some time and as yet no adverse health effects have been reported (Transgenic). Finally, proponents point out that the U.S. competitive position in the world as a major exporter of food products and as a leader in the biotech industry will be enhanced.

Agribusiness

In the U.S. the food business, like virtually every other industry from finance and media to computers and auto making, is increasingly dominated by a limited number of large companies. William D. Heffernan and his colleagues at the University of Missouri keep track of these concentrations. As of January 1999, four major businesses controlled 79% of the U.S. beef slaughter: IBP, ConAgra, Cargill, National Beef (16). Seventy-five percent of pork slaughter is controlled by six businesses: Smithfield, IBP, ConAgra, Cargill, Farmland, and Hormel (16). In flour milling, there are four big producers: ADM Milling Company, ConAgra, Cargill Food Flour Milling, and Cereal Food Processors, Inc. (17). (In each case the companies have been named from largest to smallest.)

Big companies also own elevators, which buy farmers' crops. Cargill is first, followed by ADM, Continental Grain, and then Bunge. According to Heffernan, four firms control processing of at least 40% of all the major commodities produced in the Midwest (2). There is concern, therefore, that not only do these companies have vast segments of individual markets under their control-produce the most chickens, slaughter the most beef cows, mill the most flour--but they also are powerful in many areas, not just one or two. They own seed corn, produce fertilizer, have interests in pharmaceutical companies, prepare food products.

These companies also aid their farm customers through marketing and risk management programs, research into techniques for greatest profitability, and development of specialty grain markets. And they earn large profits for

their shareholders and private owners. According to Heffernan, the food sector is second only to the pharmaceutical sector in producing returns on investments (U.S., USDA 72). Richard Levins, an agricultural economist, comments that it is common for these large companies to earn 17-20% on their equity (their net worth) each year. In comparison, farmers during the 1990s earned 2.39% on their investment of land, machinery, livestock, etc. (Food 9).

Nevertheless, one might ask whether this field of giants is good for U. S. consumers. Heffernan says that if four or fewer firms control 40% or more of a sector of a market, healthy competition is no longer present (1). This concentration has certainly happened in agriculture, as it has in many other economic sectors, even though over the years the U.S. has enacted various laws that are designed to allow healthy competition in the marketplace; two of these most often called upon in agricultural matters are the Packers and Stockyards Act and the Sherman Anti-trust Act. Critics of the increasing concentration in our food system charge that these laws are being ignored at both federal and state levels.

Getting big is one thing that helps a company survive in the midst of other giants; mergers and acquisitions have become a familiar feature of contemporary life. The small, independent corner grocery store is almost gone, as is the independent hardware store. Kraft Foods is now a unit of Philip Morris. Such large companies require modern transportation, communication, record keeping, and accumulation of capital. They also need a global market to make a large company possible and profitable.

Mid-size farmers need global markets as well. Since this state is blessed with fertile soil and favorable climate along with skilled farmers, Minnesota produces much more than its citizens consume, and in fact today exports one-third of the wheat, one-third of the corn, and half of the soybeans grown in the state. The growing economies and populations of, particularly, Asia seem attractive markets for the these products. (Currently, in order of size, our five largest markets are Japan, Canada, Mexico, Taiwan, and Korea.) Minnesota food and agricultural exports total \$12 billion (28% of our total agricultural production) and support more than 44,000 jobs (Minnesota, Dept. of Agriculture. Agricultural Profile; Schommer).

The global marketplace, however, can be challenging. While there are new markets to reach with a product, the competition may be intense, not only from other U.S. corporations, but also from corporations in Brazil, Argentina, France, Mexico. Risks are equally dramatic. Markets that once were good can quickly and unexpectedly dry up. A whole group of economies can go into a slump, as happened in Asia in the 90s; other countries can not only improve their ability to meet their own needs, but increase their exports, as Brazil is doing with soybeans (Zielenziger 5). The U.S. government can embargo a product for political reasons, as it did with wheat sales to Russia. Sales are also influenced by the trade barriers that still exist in the world market. Size can provide the necessary flexibility and capital to weather such sudden changes; where size does not avail, government may need to step in.

THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN AGRICULTURE

Because a country's people must have food, and because farming is so risky a business, modern nations have paid particular attention to their agriculture and have taken steps to insure that it would survive. In the U.S. there have been direct payments to farmers, public research in agriculture at the land-grant universities, extension service help for individual farmers and their families, construction of roads and waterways to move food, special insurance programs for farmers, and other programs.

Besides ensuring that the United States has had enough food and Minnesota has retained its healthy agricultural economy, there have been additional goals. One has been to preserve medium-sized family farms, as indicated by the preamble to the Corporate Farm Law, enacted in 1851 by the Territory of Minnesota and revised frequently over the years: "to encourage and protect the family farm as a basic economic unit, to insure it as the most socially desirable mode of agricultural production, and to enhance and promote the stability and well-being of rural society in Minnesota and the nuclear family." This preamble is retained in the current version of the law.

In addition, the U.S. and, to a lesser degree, Minnesota have been willing to subsidize agriculture because of the importance of producing great volumes to sell abroad. A sufficient number of farmers producing bumper crops has led to low prices, allowing the U.S. to be competitive in the global marketplace. Foreign sales have been good for

the U.S. as well as for farmers, who have earned 30-40% of their income in recent years from exports (Strauss 2B). Of course Minnesota, being a major agricultural state, has wanted its share of this trading prosperity.

Federal government assistance: a brief history

While weather, new technology, and market conditions are always important to farming, the federal government has also significantly influenced agriculture's fate since the depression of the 1930's. The 1933 Agricultural Adjustment Act, enacted during President Franklin Roosevelt's administration, was intended to assist farmers only during the difficult Depression period. But federal assistance has continued to this day, assistance that has always been controversial and almost always expensive.

The goals of this legislation were to increase farm income, ensure a stable and cheap national food supply, and conserve farmland. Non-recourse government loans--loans that allowed farmers to turn these crops over to the federal government if the market price was lower than the loan rate--were introduced on a limited number of crops (among them corn, wheat, rice, and cotton), providing in effect a national floor below which prices would not fall. The federal government thus acquired, stored, and eventually distributed (often to food shelves and school lunch programs) large supplies of some commodities. Control requirements--limits on what individual farmers could grow under the program--were also enacted.

This federal help was welcome relief to farmers, enabling many to remain in farming. Ironically, though, since government help was based on acreages and production, much of the aid went to the largest and most successful farmers, who were then able to buy new machinery, purchase neighbors' land, and become even more productive and more wealthy. Another effect (which continues today) was that farmers were in this way encouraged to continue growing what was subsidized, not necessarily what the market needed.

Republicans, as a group, were from the beginning extremely unhappy with Roosevelt's farm program, believing that market forces ought to be allowed to work in agriculture just as in other businesses and that the nation ought not to be supporting farmers at the expense of the taxpayers. After World War II, when Republicans gained control of the presidency under President Dwight Eisenhower (1953-61), his secretary of agriculture, Ezra Taft Benson, retired some programs and initiated policies to encourage farmers to increase production for a world market. The government loan rate for farmers (which created the floor for domestic farm prices) was dramatically lowered, and getting bigger was encouraged. Much of the farm support program, however, was left intact.

National policy continued to encourage increased production all through the 1970s and '80s, promoting international sales, which were particularly good for the U.S. balance of payments. U.S. agriculture products enjoyed strong demand abroad during these years, partly caused by a weak dollar. Earl Butz, secretary of agriculture during the Nixon administration, advised farmers to "get big or get out." Farm income, land prices, and farm debt all escalated. Inflation ran rampant.

At the same time (1970's), Congress created a two-tier farm program, which still had a non-recourse loan program (but rates were low). In addition, Congress set a target price for specific crops and paid farmers deficiency payments (direct income supplements) when the market was below target price. Finally, in 1985 President Ronald Reagan signed a bill that basically kept the old system, although it sharply lowered the federal loan rate, and at the same time increased deficiency payments to farmers. This kept agricultural products inexpensive for the export market and the consumer. The cost to taxpayers soared, reaching \$26 billion in 1986 (LWVUSEF 5).

The following year, 1986, the Tax Reform Bill became law. Previously, non-farmers had acquired agricultural land with large incomes as a tax shelter. Tax reform repealed or reduced the tax advantages, thereby freeing up agricultural land for purchase by farmers.

The most recent major farm legislation constituted a dramatic change. Called the Freedom to Farm Act, it went into effect in 1996, eliminating federal commodity subsidies and production quotas. It called for continued payments to farmers for seven years, which would allow them to adjust to free markets. But in 1997 an economic crisis shook Asia, and it could no longer import agricultural products, such as U.S. pork, as it had in previous years. In August

1998 Russia devalued its *ruble*, and could no longer afford U. S. grain. In addition to all of this, much of the U.S. had abundant crops in 1998, the surplus leading to depressed prices. Some farmers chose to store their grain, hoping for better markets later. Hog prices hit record lows.

In response to all of this pain, Congress approved, and President Bill Clinton signed, a special \$6 billion farm relief bill, plus \$1 billion in agricultural tax cuts. In total, the federal government paid farmers and owners of farmland about \$12.1 billion in 1998. Unfortunately, 1999 proved to be another hard year. This time Brazil devalued its *real*, making grain purchases by that country unlikely; the Asian and Russian markets were still down; the harvests were again abundant; and prices again low. Hogs, once a reliable source of income, remained rock bottom, due in good measure to overproduction resulting from factory farming operations

The harvest of 1999 was generally a good one in the Midwest, so there was no shortage of food for sale. In addition, numerous farmers were still holding grain from the year before, and a continuing large volume of hogs was ready for market. Consequently prices were very low. Again the federal government came to farmers' aid with nearly \$9 billion in additional payments, for a total of \$22.7 billion in farm aid, 40% of farmers' net cash income for the year (Hershey). (In the spring of 1999, the Minnesota legislature also approved \$70 million in farm relief.)

State policy and programs

Minnesota agricultural policy is largely determined by five groups. First, there is the legislature, primarily through the House and Senate Agriculture and Rural Development committees. In the executive branch are two agencies, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Department of Agriculture. Both have regulatory powers; the Department of Agriculture, however, is charged with both regulating and promoting agriculture. The University of Minnesota College of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences, as well as the Minnesota Extension Service, influence the direction of policy through research and education. Finally, farm organizations like the Farm Bureau and the Farmers Union, as well as agribusiness groups such as Minnesota Pork Producers and the Minnesota Agri-Growth Council develop policy proposals and lobby the legislature.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the University of Minnesota are strong proponents of biotechnology in agriculture and affirm its existing and potential benefits to the state's economy. According to Agriculture Commissioner Gene Hugoson, "A lot of what we're doing as a state government is trying to assure and reassure an often skeptical, uneducated and not-necessarily-wanting-to-be-informed public that biotechnology is safe" (Star Tribune). And according to Dean Charles Muscoplat of the University of Minnesota College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Science, Minnesota should increase its public investment in food-related biotechnology to prepare for the intensity of global competition and for its role in feeding the world.

Minnesota also has a variety of programs to provide instruction and assistance for farmers. The Department's Organic Certification Cost-Share Program assists with costs of certifying crops as "organic." The Energy and Sustainable Agriculture Program, under the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, publishes a *Greenbook* each year to assist farmers in using sustainable agricultural techniques. It sponsors forums, information exchanges, and other educational programs, and offers grants for trials of innovative methods. Some farmers and interested others believe that this program, the only section of the Department of Agriculture specifically designed for smaller, environmentally conscious farmers, is significantly underfunded.

The state also helps with certain marketing efforts. One program that Agriculture Commissioner Hugoson promotes is designed to help specialty farmers with marketing. The state will certify that farm products are what the farmers say they are--in terms of fertilizer restrictions, medicines in feed, insecticides, and so forth. A noteworthy, but small, program is "Minnesota Grown." It was begun in the mid-1980's in order to promote buying Minnesota products and to help farmers sell their products directly to the consumer. A "Minnesota Grown" Directory for Fresh Produce lists approximately 150 growers. Currently there are 600 licensed users of the "Minnesota Grown" logo.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture has recently reinstated state inspection of small slaughter and processing facilities, which allows meat producers to sell their own meat directly to customers if they use one of the facilities

inspected by the state. This program now includes 28 plants, processing in total nearly 300,000 pounds of meat a month. Previously meat for any kind of sale had to go through a USDA-inspected large operation, and large operations do not do small orders.

Regulation of agriculture

Minnesota farm laws

For 150 years lawmakers in Minnesota have been making laws about farmland and farming. Seven years before Minnesota became a state, a statute was adopted that said, "Any alien may acquire and hold lands...and he may convey, mortgage, and devise the same...as if such alien were a native citizen of this territory or of the United States" (Minnesota. Corporate. Appendix D). Between then and 1991 the legislature dealt with land ownership over 100 times (Rankin 1).

The reason Minnesota has such a large percentage of family farms is precisely because the Minnesota legislature has passed laws to control ownership. To keep foreign money from coming in to buy up Minnesota farmland the Alien Ownership Law was enacted in 1973; in 1977 and 1981 restrictions were tightened. The Corporate Farm Law was amended in 1973 to limit corporate leasing of land; it was amended again in 1975 to require that a majority of shareholders in an authorized farm corporation live on the farm or be actively engaged in farming. Ten years later, an amendment to the law was passed that set maximum acreage limits--generally 1500 acres of farmland (Rankin 3-4).

The law has been loosened in various ways as well. In 1978, poultry raising was defined to be a non-farm activity, which meant that the law did not apply to corporations in the poultry business (Rankin 5). Another amendment passed in 1994 broadened the law to allow non-family corporations, composed mainly of farmers, to raise hogs in Minnesota.

The present Corporate Farm Law allows two major categories of agricultural corporations—family and authorized—but places strict restrictions on them. Family farm corporations must be established for the purpose of farming, the majority of shareholders must be persons or the spouses of persons related to each other within the third degree of kindred (third cousins, for example), and at least one shareholder must live on the farm or at least be actively operating the farm.

The authorized farm corporation has broader requirements, but here too local investment and farmer dominance is required. Within this category are two different options. One option allows no more than five shareholders (all of whom must be "natural persons"), requires that 51% of the shareholders must reside on farmland or be actively engaged in agriculture, and prohibits the corporation from owning more than 1,500 acres of land. The other option, enacted in 1994 in response to farmers who wished to pool assets and raise large numbers of hogs, applies only to those raising livestock other than dairy cattle. There can be any number of shareholders, but at least 51% of shares must be held by those living on the farm or actively engaged in farming, 75% of the financial control must be held by Minnesota farmers, and the corporation can own no more than 1,500 acres of agricultural land.

A third category under the Corporate Farm Law is the breeding stock exemption, where farmers raise animals for breeding, not for meat. Finally, a limited number of corporate ownerships of land either were grandfathered in by the 1973 legislation or have been granted for very special uses since. Poultry raising does not fall under this law, so corporate ownership is allowed there.

Limited liability companies are now allowed in Minnesota agriculture under legislation passed during the 2000 session. Limited liability means what it says: Investors are not liable for company damages in an amount greater than that which the investor has invested. Two types of companies, a family farm limited liability company and an authorized farm limited liability company, were written into the law. In both cases 49% of the investors can be either non-family (family limited liability company) or non-farmer (in the authorized farm limited liability company) (Sobociaski 10). This law makes it easier to raise investor money for large-scale animal operations, where the potential for a costly environmental accident is always present.

The 2000 session of the legislature passed a bill regulating contracts between agricultural producers and buyers. Modeled after the procedure used with the insurance industry in Minnesota, it set minimum standards: The contracts must tell the farmers what risks they run, and be clearly written. Farmers must have up to three days to review contracts, see attorneys, and change their mind. It is now illegal to require a farmer to keep secret the price received under a contract. A court could later change the terms of the contract if it was not clear and readable and the producer was harmed. A Minnesota Department of Agriculture publication, A Producer's Guide to Production Contracts, has recently become available.

Environmental regulation

Congress has largely turned to the states to regulate industrial agriculture, although pollution does not respect state lines, and only a national solution can prevent "pollution shopping"—the attempt by businesses to locate in states with more lenient regulations. What federal legislation exists, like the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act, is often inadequate with respect to agriculture. The Clean Water Act, for example, does not adequately address non-point source pollution (polluted runoff whose sources are diffuse and do not come from a pipe or other conduit), of which agriculture is the biggest contributor. Federal (and state) environmental regulations fail to prevent factory farms from locating in environmentally sensitive areas, such as floodplains and karst areas. The U.S. Clean Air Act has not been effectively used to regulate factory farm air pollution. There is currently no national tracking system for manure spills, fish kills (those often go unreported, so the causes remain unknown), or *pfiesteria* events associated with confined-animal feeding operations ("Spilling Swill" 3).

It often seems that taxpayer dollars are used to first subsidize industrialized farms and then to clean up after them. (See, for example, Adcock.) Many citizens advocate making corporations responsible for the pollution they are causing, and are calling for a reclassification of big farms from agricultural to industrial.

Legislation was proposed in Minnesota in 1998 that would have prevented the construction or expansion of large animal operations for a two-year period so that the issues involved could be studied. It was, however, defeated. The legislature chose instead to charge the Environmental Quality Board with preparing a Generic Environmental Impact Statement on animal agriculture to be completed in 2001. A task force has been working on the project since 1998.

Some states have taken action. For example, there is now a moratorium on building new corporate hog farms in North Carolina. Other states have limited or banned new factory farms. In Minnesota there has been intense controversy over large animal feedlot operations, as well as heavy criticism of the regulatory body, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. (See, for example, Minnesota Office of the Legislative Auditor report.) Some Minnesota counties are taking things into their own hands, adopting moratoria on new factory farm construction and developing and enforcing regulations.

Regulation of genetically modified foods

Three federal agencies review different components of genetically modified organisms (GMO). The Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulates potential plant pests and the safety of plants; the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates GM microorganisms and pesticides; and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulates the safety of GMOs intended for human and animal food.

The USDA requires breeders to conduct field tests for several years to assure the accuracy of the result and the nutritional level and safety of the plant. In 1992 the FDA established the policy that GM foods did not require regulation and labeling unless they contained substances with a "significantly different" structure, function or quantity than substances in non-GM foods. This position is supported by The National Academy of Sciences, and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (Schmickle). The FDA has determined to date that most transgenic crops are not "significantly different" and therefore do not require pre-market testing or approval. Until very recently developers of GM foods were encouraged to consult with the agency on safety and regulatory questions on a voluntary basis. That policy has now been changed to require companies to give advance notice and submit safety data before bringing new foods to market.

The Science and Environmental Health Network and the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, on the other hand, believe that the principles used by U.S. regulatory agencies are inadequate to evaluate potential hazards. They say this for a number of reasons. First, they believe the United States' fragmented regulatory system is itself inadequate to deal with the complexity of genetically modified organisms. This fragmentation also makes public awareness and participation difficult. Moreover, in the U.S. the developer of the product, who will benefit financially from its sale, does pre-market testing. The full results of these tests are treated as confidential business information, and thus are not available to the public. No independent testing is done to verify the results (Barrett).

The State of Minnesota, through its Department of Agriculture, has its own review process for proposed GM crop test sites. That process mirrors the federal permitting and review process. The USDA sends all pertinent information regarding a proposed test crop to the state, where it is reviewed from the perspective of the state's interest. Then public notice is given, providing citizens an opportunity to comment. Modifications may be requested if the proposal does not meet the criteria established. The state must also approve any commercial use of GM products, such as the sale of seeds.

The one risk in GM foods that most seem to agree on is that such foods could contain unsuspected allergens. The National Academy of Sciences report, for example, advocates better methods for identifying things that could trigger allergic reactions in some people (Schmickle). One method of accomplishing this might be simply to label all GM foods as "genetically modified."

A coalition of 60 consumer and environmental groups, along with at least 49 members of Congress, has called for such labeling (*Organic* 1). Advocates of labeling believe it is in keeping with U.S. case law and precedent on the people's "right to know" about what they eat (Midwest). Labeling would bring the U.S. in step with Europe, Switzerland, Japan, Korea, Australia, and New Zealand, where such labeling is mandatory.

The food industry, however, says that labeling would be burdensome and might arouse irrational fears in consumers. Moreover, because of the virtual omnipresence of GM plants and by-products, almost everything would have to be labeled. An alternative might be to label foods that do not use GM technology, as we do now with organic foods.

ISSUES

Government cannot do anything about hail or drought; the global economy is not especially controllable; industrialized farming is here to stay. Consumers in the United States have, for the most part, inexpensive food, wide choices, and few shortages. Many farmers are hurting. Others have specialty markets, good contracts, little or no debt, vast fields, a skill at locking in prices on the grain exchanges for their traditional crops, good luck, and government payments when they need them.

But it is not hard to see that certain aspects of the current agriculture scene pose serious questions. The big one is this: To what extent should the state make special efforts to keep medium-sized commercial farms viable, those farms that are trying to make farming their main source of income, but that do not have the volume of sales to make a decent profit in times of low prices and low profit margins for the major crops and animals?

Do we say that Minnesota should not be trying to save the family farm, that we in the United States believe in the free market system, and part of that belief is that everyone should have an opportunity to make a living, but no one warrants special protection? Do we agree that large businesses dominate most areas of our economy and argue that there is no good reason why farming should be rescued from this global trend?

Or do we believe that the production of food is fundamentally different from other businesses and therefore should be treated differently? Do we agree that medium-sized, commercial farms are a valuable part of Minnesota's economy and society, that such farms are good for the environment, good for the countryside, good for small towns, people and animals--and should therefore be assisted to remain in business? Should the state find ways to encourage young people to become owner-operators of family farms?

If small and medium-sized farms are going to be assisted, what form should such assistance take? Here are some possibilities. Add to the educational workshops, grants, loans, technical advisors, and publications currently available through the University of Minnesota, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to assist farmers to improve their methods of farming. Find new crops to grow and markets for these crops, as was done in the 1960s with soybeans. Vigorously promote cooperative processing ventures to enable farmers and/or rural communities to add value to crops before sending them on. Mandate that state institutions--colleges, state government dining areas, hospitals and prisons--use state-grown vegetables and fruits whenever possible. Promote "Minnesota grown" to grocery stores and restaurants.

Should the state be assisting rural communities? Is farming the only or best means of support for rural communities? The Ventura administration is strongly advocating good computer access in the rural areas, believing this to be vital if businesses and professionals are going to the enticed to the country. Roads, affordable housing, good schools, state-of-the-art health care also help sell the rural community. Government has programs in these areas. Does more need to be done?

Clearly, another big issue is the environment. Should farms be required to treat their animal wastes in the same fashion as cities must treat human waste before it goes back to the environment? Should farmers going into large-scale animal raising (or the businesses that contract with them) have to purchase a bond, so if there is an accident and significant damage occurs, someone other than the state (the taxpayer) is responsible for fixing the problem? Should there be air and water standards that factory farms must meet in order to stay in business?

Should the government assist the small but growing number of farmers who maintain sustainable agricultural practices such as rotational grazing, cover crops, crop rotation? Should government provide economic incentives to use sustainable techniques?

We know that farms also improve the environment. For example, one study shows that small U.S. farmers allow 17% of their areas to be woodlands (compared to 5% on large farms) and maintain twice as much of their land in soil improvement uses, such as cover crops and green manures (Rosset 8). Should small farms therefore be favored in government policies? Should we provide incentives--such as Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM), which protects natural and sensitive areas on both public and private land by permanent easements that prevent set-aside wild areas from reverting to agriculture--to set aside more land than at present?

Some consumers are concerned about food safety and apprehensive both about the chemicals used to grow fruits and vegetables and the genetically modified foods that have started to arrive on the market. Should Minnesota do more to promote organically grown foods? Should Minnesota mandate appropriate labeling of foods so that the consumers know what they are purchasing? Is this an action that could be effective on a state level?

An increasing number of agriculture research grants come from agribusiness, which naturally leans towards projects that are commercially viable for large corporations. Does agribusiness unduly influence agricultural research? Should the state fund more research that is helpful for small and medium-sized farms and that is focused on sustainable agriculture?

The global marketplace raises other issues. Could the state promote Minnesota exports even more than it does now? Is there anything the state can do to cushion the effects on farmers of swift changes in the global economy?

Finally, what, if anything, can and should Minnesota do about the large corporations that are dominating markets? Should we push for stronger enforcement of federal anti-trust and fair marketing legislation, which the Minnesota attorney general could do? Is the state level the right place for such action?

The answers to these questions will direct public agricultural policy in Minnesota. Citizens need to understand the issues and make their preferences known.

WORKS CITED

Adcock, Melanie. "The Real Price of Factory Farming." Wildlife Tracks Winter 1998: 1-5.

Amato, Joseph and John Radzilowski. Community of Strangers. Marshall, MN: Crossings Press, 1999.

Barrett, Katherine, and Gabriella Flora. "Genetic Engineering and the Precautionary Principle: Information for Extension." The Science and Environmental Health Network and the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, March 2000.

Barlett, Donald L. and James B. Steele. "The Empire of the Pigs." Time 30 November 1998: 52-64.

Chism, John and Richard Levins. "Farm Spending and Local Selling: How Do They Match Up?" Minnesota Agricultural Economist 676 (1994).

Clean Water Action Alliance of Minnesota. Almanac. March 2000:1.

Clean Water Network and the Izaak Walton League of America. Spilling Swill: A Survey of Factory Farm Water Pollution in 1999.

"Contracts, Captive Supplies Are Killing Competition." The Land Stewardship Letter 17.2 (1999) 11.

Danger on Tap. Sierra Club Great Lakes Program. Madison, WI: Sierra Club, 1994.

DeVore, Brian. "Selling the Farm Down Contract Creek." Land Stewardship Letter April / May 1999: 1+.

Duskin, Meg S. "Down on the Factory Farm." National Voter Sept. / Oct. 1999: 13+.

Gabler, Kate. A Borrowed World: A Compilation of Environmental Issues and Sustainable Choices. Gabler: 1999.

Goldschmidt, Walter. As You Sow: Three Studies on the Social Consequences of Agribusiness. 1947. Montclair, NJ.: Allanheld, Osmun, 1978.

Hanners, David and Steve Painter. "Rural Life at Risk." St. Paul Pioneer Press 25 July 1999: 1A+.

Heffernan, William. Consolidation in the Food and Agriculture System. Report to the National Farmers Union, 1999.

Hershey, Robert D., Jr. "On the Farm, Subsidies Continue to Flourish." New York Times. Sept. 17, 2000: BU 3.

Hugoson, Gene. Minneapolis Star Tribune, 13 Oct. 2000: A4.

---. Presentation to League of Women Voters of Minnesota Farm Committee. 13 July 2000.

Ikerd, John "The Real Economics of Factory Livestock Operations." Symposium, Farm to Fork: Reclaiming Our Food System from Corporate Giants. Bloomington MN, 18 Sept. 1999.

Institute of Medicine. "Human Health Risks from the Subtherapeutic Use of Penicillin or Tetracyclines in Animal Feed." Washington D.C.: National Academy Press, 1989. In *Rachel's Environment and Health Weekly* #690, "Hidden Costs of Animal Factories," Annapolis MD: Environmental Research Foundation, 9 March 2000: 1-2.

International Symposium. McGill University, Montreal, Canada. June 5, 1997.

- League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund. Changing Faces, Changing Communities. LWVMNEF, 2000.
- League of Women Voters of the United States Education Fund. U. S. Farm Policy: Who Benefits? Who Pays? Who Decides? Food Forum Education Project. Washington, D. C.: LWVUSEF, 1990.
- Levins, Richard A. *The Food System: A Holistic Policy Approach*. Staff Paper Series. St. Paul: University of Minnesota, Department of Applied Economics, ND.
- ---. Swift County Farm Business Retention and Enhancement Program -- Summary Report. St. Paul: University of Minnesota, Department of Applied Economics, 1999.
- Meersman, Tom. "Too Much of a Good Thing." Minneapolis Star Tribune. 30 Sept. 1998, 18.
- Midwest Sustainable Agriculture Working Group. Position Paper. "The Splice of Life: Implications of Genetic Engineering for Family Farmers, Consumers and the Environment" March 2000.
- Minnesota. Corporate Farm Task Force. Report of the Minnesota Corporate Farm Law Task Force. St. Paul. 1995.
- ---. Dept. of Agriculture. Agriculture Marketing and Development Division. *Minnesota's Agricultural Profile*, 1999.
- ---. Dept. of Agriculture. A Producer's Guide to Production Contracts. 1999.
- ---. Dept. of Health. Memorandum to the MPCA, 15 Feb. 2000.
- ---. Dept. of Natural Resources. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Fish Kill Database 1992-1999. St. Paul: DNR, 2000.
- ---. Minnesota Planning. "Suburban Counties Projected to Grow Fastest" from web site www.mnplan.state.mn.us.
- ---. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. General Feedlot Program, Fact Sheet. St. Paul: MPCA, 1997.
- ---. Feedlot Issues: Animal Waste Liability Account, Feb. 1999.
- ---. MN and U. S. Departments of Agriculture. Minnesota Agricultural Statistics Service. Minnesota Ag News, 2000
- ---. Office of the Legislative Auditor. Animal Feedlot Regulation Report #99-04. St. Paul, 1999. Cited in Spilling Swill: A Survey of Factory Farm Water Pollution in 1999, a report by the Clean Water Network and Izaak Walton League of America, December 1999, 17.
- Minnesota Farm Bureau. Food Facts. St. Paul. ND (1997 or 1998).
- Muscoplat, Charles. Symposium on the Future of Genetically Engineered Foods, University of Minnesota. 13 April 2000.
- Nistler, Mike. "What Direction Is Farming Headed?" Farming: A Town, a Job, a Way of Life. St. Cloud Times 1 Jan. 1999.
- Nixon, Lance, et. al. "Agribusiness: Farmers Worry About the Cost of Consolidation." Harvest of Risk. St. Paul, MN: St. Paul Pioneer Press, 1999, 12.
- Organic View. vol. 1, #17, 12 Nov. 1999.

- Rankin, Sam. "Corporate Farm Law 1851-1991." House Research Information Brief. Appendix D, Report of the Minnesota Corporate Farm Law Task Force. St. Paul. 1995.
- Ritchie, Mark and Kevin Ristau. Crisis by Design: a Brief Review of U.S. Farm Policy. Minneapolis: League of Rural Voters Education Project, 1987.
- Rosset, Peter M. The Multiple Functions and Benefits of Small Farm Agriculture in the Context of Global Trade Negotiations Policy Brief No. 4. Oakland, CA: Institute for Food and Development Policy, 1999.
- Runge, C. Ford. Presentation to League of Women Voters of Minnesota Farm Committee. 2 Dec. 1999.
- "Rural Areas Miss out on Thriving Economy." St. Cloud Times 7 Dec. 1999: 1A+.
- Rural Committee Working Group. Rural Call to Action: Statement of Concern and Call to Action.. Minneapolis, 8b Sept. 1999.
- Satchell, Michael. "The Cell from Hell." U. S. News and World Report 28 July 1997: 26-28.
- Schlommer, Michael. Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Comments on draft LWVMN agriculture report. 26 Sept. 2000.
- Schmickle, Sharon. "Biotech Group Criticizes..." Minneapolis Star Tribune. 30 Aug. 2000: Section B.
- Sobocinski, Paul. "LLC's Are Not Family-Farm Friendly." The Land Stewardship Letter April/May/June 2000: 9-10.
- Strauss, Gary. "Many Farms Could Be in Final Season." USA Today 13 Oct. 1998: 1B+.
- Thu, Kendall M. and E. Paul Durrenberger. "Introduction." *Pigs, Profits, and Rural Communities*. ED. Thu and Durrenberger. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1998.
- "Transgenic Crops: An Introduction and Resource Guide." Life Sciences Department. Colorado State University. 2000. http://www.colostate.edu/programs/lifesciences/TransgenicCrops
- United States. USDA. National Commission on Small Farms. A Time to Act. Washington: GPO, 1998.
- University of Minnesota. Summary of the Literature, Report for the Generic Environmental Impact Statement on Animal Agriculture, 1999.
- von Sternberg, Bob. "Who's Tending the Farm?" Minneapolis Star Tribune 26 Sept. 1999: A30-31.
- Zielenziger, Michael, et. al. "Global Meltdown reveals Farm Belt frailties." Harvest of Risk. St. Paul Pioneer Press Reprint. Dec. 1999:5.

Speakers

Agricultural Committee

Willis Anthony, Farmer, St. Peter MN; former Professor in Applied Economics, University of Minnesota

Brad Biers, staff member, Agriculture Policy Committee, Minnesota House of Representatives

Cornelia Butler Flora, Senior Fellow in Agricultural Systems, University of Minnesota

Gene Hugoson, Minnesota Commissioner of Agriculture

Richard Levins, Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota

William Nelson, Director of Cooperative Development, Cenex Harvest States

John Peck, Doctoral Candidate in Agricultural Economics, University of Wisconsin

Mark Ritchie, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy

C. Ford Runge, Professor of Economics and Law, University of Minnesota

Dave Serfling, Farmer, Preston MN; member, Land Stewardship Project

Harold Swanson, Farmer and Professor of Agriculture, Iowa Western, Council Bluffs, Iowa

Linda Thrane, Departmental Vice President, Cargill

Members of League of Women Voters of Minnesota Agriculture Study Committee

Jane Bennett, LWV St. Cloud Area Barbara Vaile*, LWV Northfield

Eunice Biel, Harmony, Minnesota Charmaine Wright, Nerstrand

Adeline Blowers, LWV Austin Area

Anne Borgen*, LWV Golden Valley Judy Duffy, President, LWVMN

Sally Sawyer, Executive Director, LWVMN

Georgianna Campbell, LWV Northfield

Brian Karlsson-Barnes, LWV Northfield

Nancy Gundersen*, LWV St. Cloud Area Writers/Editors

Nancy Gundersen, LWV St. Cloud

Stephanie Henricksen*, LWV Northfield Mary Steen, LWVMN Board, VOTER Editor

Janice Larson, LWV Fridley *Readers, advisors, editing assistance

Deanna Lederer*, LWV St. Cloud Area

Carol McCarter, LWV Brooklyn Park/Osseo/Maple Grove

Connie Metcalf, LWV Fridley

Beverly Montgomery, LWV MEPH

Helen Palmer*, LWV Minneapolis

Linda Peck, LWV St. Cloud Area

Eldred Phillips, LWV Owatonna

Mary Phillips, LWV Owatonna

JoAnne Rohricht*, LWV St. Paul

Gertrude Ulrich, LWV Richfield, Chair

This list reflects the membership of the Committee over an eighteen month period.

We hope that we have acknowledged all of the people

who made contributions to this study.

DRAFT CONSENSUS QUESTIONS ON AGRICULTURE**

 Do you agree with the goals of state agricultural portion of the comporate Farm Law preamble, as follows: "to estable socially desirable mode of agricultural production, cordinates?" 	ish the far	mily farm as tl	ne most
agreedisagreeno consensus			
2. Should the state of Minnesota provide the following	100.0		
 a support for all sizes of farms with emphase b research directed to moderate-sized farm c support for beginning farmers 	operation	ns	
 d support of innovative practices and crops e crisis supports based on need 	for mode	rate-sized fari	ns
3. Industrialized agriculture and consolidation of the whether the state should or should not			. Check
	should	should not	no concensus
a favor agribusiness through governmental policy b ensure access to markets for all producers c more actively enforce antitrust legislation d more actively enforce Minnesota Corporate	=	=	
Farm Law e repeal legislation allowing limited liability		_	
corporations f monitor contracts		-	
4. Should Minnesota's agricultural policy include the	following	(check if yes)) :
 a incentives for sustainable farming practices b incentives for green spaces, contribution healthy soil; conservation of wildlife c support for the preservation of agriculturates d shared liability for environmental damages farmers and businesses under contract e stricter standards for animal confinement 	s to clean al land e (caused	by agriculture	
f promotion of exports certified labeling of organic foods			

 h labeling of genetically modified foods I support for value-added and niche products j promotion of cooperatives
Should the state of Minnesota support the following for rural communities (check if yes):
infrastructureeducation (including educational development to meet needs)liveable wages for workerscrisis helpdevelopment of leadership skillscommunity and regional planningnetworking with farmers and community leadersresearch into viable and sustainable rural communities
6. What priorities should guide state agricultural research policy? On a scale of 1 to 5, indicate highest priority with 5 and lowest priority with 1.
Promotion of and research into GMO technologies Promotion of and research into methods which will benefit environmentally sound, family-sized farms Evaluation of the impacts of widespread use of GMO technologies
 7. In Minnesota animal agriculture, what values should receive priority? On a scale of 1 5, indicate highest value with 5 and lowest value with 1. Values may be equally weighted and need not be prioritized.
maximum production animal wellbeing environmental and eco-system health worker and community health and safety

**Questions mulled over and put together by Deanna Lederer , Jo Anne Rohricht, Nancy Gundersen, Stephanie Henriksen, Barbara Vaile, and myself. I and did some editing for clarification.--Helen Palmer Memo

To: LWVMN Board From: Judy Duffy

While I realize the last memo you received stated it was a "final" re-edit of the consensus questions, let me say "final" was an overstatement.... To be more precise, it is a "work in progress" and I have a modified version of some of the questions after some consultation and legal advice for your consideration.

Question #3 Industrialized agriculture and consolidation of the industry are on the rise. Check whether the state should or should not

- a. favor agribusiness through governmental policy
- b. ensure access to markets for all producers
- c. Omit this question "more actively enforce antitrust legislation" (According to my husband who deals with this sort of question in his business, this is an inappropriate question. It brings up a variety of issues of federal law that state government alone does not decide).
- d. More actively enforce Minnesota Corporate Farm Law
- e. Reword this question to: "restrict size and ownership of limited liability corporate farms"
- f. monitor contracts

By omitting "c" as is, "d" would become "c" and so forth

Question #4 Should Minnesota's agricultural policy include the following:

- a. incentives for sustainable farming practices
- b. and c. according to Gerry are problematic and possibly a "slippery slope" if people are not fully informed as to the ramifications of these questions and future ownership and use. The recommendation would be to leave as is with an addition either to the text or the study guide to explain some of the ramifications or to reword as:

a new "b" incentives for contributions to clean water and air and healthy soil; conservation of wildlife --omit "green spaces"

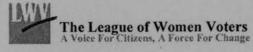
- c. support for the preservation of agricultural land -either omit or again be sure people are apprised of the ramifications as raised in the above item
- addition to current wording to read "shared liability for environmental damage (caused by agriculture) between farmers, businesses and other parties contributing to cause of environmental damage
- e. f, and g. as is

Question #6 What priorities should guide state agricultural policy? Item #2 under this: reword to say "Promotion of and research into methods which will benefit environmentally sensitive farms" omit "family – sized farms"

Item #3 evaluation of the impacts of use of GMO technologies --eliminate "widespread"

Question #7 In Minnesota animal agriculture, what values should receive priority?

Add an additional item,
__affordable food products for all.



* Please return to the LWVMN office at the store of the s

Numb	of League:er of Members Partic et Name and Phone N		
	AGRIC	CULTURE CONSENSUS S	TUDY QUESTIONS
regula	tions and practices of		ne impact of agricultural policies, ture (and rural communities).
"sense well as	of the group." Plea	se record the number of pe	onses. Consensus generally means the ople responding to each question, as all responses in deciding if consensus has
1.	preamble is to estab	olish the family farm as the m	e Minnesota Corporate Farm Law lost socially desirable mode of lity of rural communities. Is this
	Agree	Disagree	No Consensus

2.	Should the state of Minnesota provide the	following	g:	
	a. support for all sizes of farms [p. 4]	Yes	No	No Consensus
	b. research directed to moderate-sized far	m operati	ons [pp.	4, 10, 12]
		Yes_	No	No Consensus
	c. support for beginning farmers [p. 2]	Yes_	No	No Consensus
	d. support of innovative practices and cro	ps for mo	derate-si	zed farms [p. 4]
		Yes_	No	No Consensus
	e. crisis supports based on need [p. 11]	Yes_	No	No Consensus
Comm	nents:			

3.	In relation to industrialized agriculture an should:	d consolid	lation of	the industry, the state
	a. favor agribusiness through government	al policy [p. 9, 12]	
		Yes_	No	No Consensus
	b. ensure access to markets for all produc	ers [p. 9,	12]	4-W
		Yes_	_No_	No Consensus
	c. restrict size and ownership of limited	iability co	rporate f	arms
	•		100	No Consensus
	d. monitor contracts [pp. 4, 14]	Yes	No	No Consensus

Should Minnesota's agricultural policy include the	followin	ng:	
a. incentives for sustainable farming practices [p.	4]Yes_	_ No	No Consensus
b. incentives for contributions to clean water and a		The state of the s	
wildlife [p. 6]	Yes	_No	_ No Consensus
c. incentives for the preservation of agricultural la	and		
	Yes_	_No	_ No Consensus
d. shared liability for environmental damage (caus	ed by ag	riculture	e) between farmers
and businesses under contract[pp. 7, 13]	Yes_	_No	_ No Consensus
e. stricter standards for animal confinement operat	ions [pp	. 3. 6. 14	ŋ
	Yes_	_No	_ No Consensus
f. promotion of exports [pp. 2, 9, 10, 12]	Yes	_No	_ No Consensus
g. research into genetically modified foods [p. 15]	Yes	_ No	_ No Consensus
h. support for niche market and value-added produc	97		
	Yes_	_No	_ No Consensus
i. promotion of cooperatives [p. 9]	Yes	_No	_ No Consensus
j. affordable food products for all	Yes	_No	_ No Consensus

5.	Should the state of Minnesota support the following	for rur	al comm	unities [pp. 5-6]:
	a. infrastructure (including internet access)	Yes_	No	_ No Consensus
	b. education (including educational development to	meet no	eeds)	
				No Consensus
	c. liveable wages for workers	Yes_	No	No Consensus
	d. crisis assistance	Yes_	No	No Consensus
	e. development of leadership skills	Yes	No	No Consensus
	f. community and regional planning	Yes_	No	No Consensus
	g networking with farmers and community leaders	Yes_	No	No Consensus
	h research into viable and sustainable rural commu-			
		Yes_	No	No Consensus

LWVUS STATEMENT OF POSITION ON FEDERAL AGRICULTURE POLICY

Position in Brief:

Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices, and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.

Statement of Position on Federal Agriculture Policy as announced by National Board, October 1988:

The LWVUS believes that federal agriculture policies should promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers, farms that are economically viable, farm practices that are environmentally sound and increased reliance on the free market to determine prices.

Sustainable Agriculture: Federal policy should encourage a system of sustainable, regenerative agricultural production that moves toward an environmentally sound agricultural sector. This includes promoting stewardship to preserve and protect the country's human and natural agricultural resources.

Research and Development: Agricultural research, development and technical assistance should continue to be a major federal function. Resources should be targeted to developing sustainable agricultural practices and to addressing the needs of mid-size farms.

Agricultural Prices: The LWVUS supports an increasing reliance on the free market to determine the price of agricultural commodities and the production decisions of farmers, in preference to traditional price support mechanisms.

Agriculture and Trade: U.S. efforts should be directed towards expanding export markets for our agricultural products while minimizing negative effects on developing nations' economies. Consistent with the League's trade position, multilateral trade negotiations should be used to reduce other countries' barriers and/or subsidies protecting their agricultural products.

Farm Credit: Farmers should have access to credit with reasonable terms and conditions. Federally provided farm credit is essential to maintaining the viability of farm operations when the private sector is unable or unwilling to provide the credit farmers need.

Of these policies, the League believes the most essential for the future of agriculture are: encouraging sustainable agriculture; providing research, information and technical assistance to agricultural producers; and increasing reliance on the free market to determine prices.

Significant Dates for the Business of Agriculture

1921	Packers and Stockyards Act (federal act that restricts unfair and uncompetitive packer practices)
1933	Agricultural Adjustment Act (federal depression legislation that intends temporarily to help farmers)
1940's	Federal farm support programs enacted (with production restrictions)
1970's	Increased pressure on farmers to produce more for an international market
	Large producers take over chicken industry
	Escalation in farm income, land prices, and farm debt
	China, India, Brazil start growing more of their own grain
1973	Minnesota enacts the Minnesota Corporation Farm Law and the Alien Ownership Law
1975-1982	Total U.S. farm real-estate debt doubles
1981-1986	Value of U.S. farmland falls more than 40% in I0 midwestern and plains states
	Numerous farms fail, as do many small town banks
1990	Approximately 5% of Minnesotans live on farms
1994	For first time, less than 2 million farms exist in U.S.
1995	Commodity prices hit record highs; milk prices high; U.S. farm exports rapidly expanding; hog prices good
1996	Federal Freedom to Farm enacted; eliminates federal commodity subsidies and production quotas; will be payments to farmers for a number of years to allow them to adjust; dairy compacts allowed
1997	Almost I/3 of all crops and livestock produced in this year are contracted (generally, a contract between farmer and buyer that crop will be purchased at an agreed-upon price)
1997	Economic crises in Asia
1998	Russia devalues its ruble (8-98)
	Good dairy prices in MN
	Record crops and depressed prices
	Hog prices hit record lows
	Congress approves a \$6 billion farm relief bill plus \$1 billion in agricultural tax cuts
1999	Brazil devalues its real
	MN legislature approves \$70 million farm relief bill (spring)

League of Women Voters of Minnesota 550 Rice Street St. Paul, MN 55103 651/224-5445

DISCUSSION GUIDE

LWVMN STUDY 1999-2001: Minnesota Farming 2000

Contacts: Gertrude Ulrich, Study Chair, 612/866-8171
Helen Palmer, Committee Member, 612/377-5972
LWVMN Office, 651/224-5445, 1-800-663-9328, lwvmn@mtn.org

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this study, adopted by delegates to the 1999 LWVMN Convention, is to help educate Minnesotans on state agricultural policy and its impact on farming and rural communities. The publication *Minnesota Farming 2000* was based on a variety of readings and meetings and interviews with numerous experts on agricultural policy and rural issues. Members are encouraged to consult other resources in preparation for this meeting.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

The purpose of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for League members to inform themselves on the issues and to come to a consensus of opinion on a state League position on the questions included in this packet.

BACKGROUND

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota held a series of workshops around the state in the fall of 1999 and provided suggestions and information for community forums. The Agriculture Study Committee (see page 20 of *Minnesota Farming 2000* for a list of committee members) heard from many speakers representing a variety of viewpoints during 1999-2000. Committee members wrote *Minnesota Farming 2000* over the summer. Local Leagues were sent a copy in late October. Local Leagues will hold their consensus meetings over the winter. Consensus reports are due from local Leagues by March 1, 2001.

RESOURCE MATERIALS AND SUGGESTED READING

Minnesota Farming 2000, October 2000. (Available on our lwvmn website) "Significant Dates for the Business of Agriculture," October, 1999, LWVMN Study Committee

Harvest of Risk, St. Paul Pioneer Press Reprint. Dec. 1999. (Mailed to local Leagues, September, 2000)

LWVUS Statement of Position on Federal Agriculture Policy, 1988

Works Cited, page 17, Minnesota Farming 2000. Provides a wide variety of sources.

U.S. Farm Policy: Who Benefits? Who Pays? Who Decides? League of Women Voters of the United States, 1988. (Provides good background, but not essential)

Goldschmidt, Walter. As You Sow: Three Studies on the Social Consequences of Agribusiness. 1947. This is a seminal work on the topic.

"Transgenic Crops: An Introduction and Resource Guide."

http://www.colostate.edu/programs/lifesciences/TransgenicCrops

AT THE MEETING

Appoint a timekeeper/recorder to help you keep on track and to record member responses to consensus questions.

I. Introduction (5 minutes)

Remind members of the purpose of the study and how League positions are formed by the consensus process.

Arriving at "consensus" means determining the sense of the group and its agreement with a general philosophy or position. The consensus report form asks you if your League has come to consensus for each question asked. The form also asks you to indicate the numbers of people voting "yes" or "no."

The State League will assess a number of factors in considering whether a position has been reached. Among those factors is the relative strength of support or opposition to a position—2/3 support or opposition is considered a bare minimum for reaching consensus. Other factors the State League will consider in determining whether consensus has been reached include geographic distribution, sizes, types and number of local Leagues participating in the process.

If your League has had an earlier meeting on this topic you may want to review and summarize your discussion.

II. Summarize topics discussed in Minnesota Farming 2000. (45 minutes)
Review other readings/resources of interest.
Review 1988 LWVUS agriculture position. Note that some LWVMN and
LWVUS environmental positions are also relevant and allow us to take action.
(See Impact on Issues and Program for Action for 1999-2001.)

- III. Review consensus questions in their entirety before responding in order to have a full understanding of the topics addressed. (15 minutes)
- IV. Making the choice. (55 minutes)
 (Note that page references from *Minnesota Farming 2000* are provided to assist you.)
 Respond to each question with the number of those voting for each option. Be sure to note comments and discussion as well.

Return the consensus report form to the LWVMN office, 550 Rice Street, St. Paul, MN 55103 no later than March 1, 2001.

Significant Dates for the Business of Agriculture

1921 Packers and Stockyards Act (federal act that restricts unfair and uncompetitive packer practices) Agricultural Adjustment Act (federal depression legislation that intends temporarily to 1933 help farmers) Federal farm support programs enacted (with production restrictions) 1940's Increased pressure on farmers to produce more for an international market 1970's Large producers take over chicken industry Escalation in farm income, land prices, and farm debt China, India, Brazil start growing more of their own grain 1973 Minnesota enacts the Minnesota Corporation Farm Law and the Alien Ownership Law 1975-1982 Total U.S. farm real-estate debt doubles Value of U.S. farmland falls more than 40% in IO midwestern and plains states 1981-1986 Numerous farms fail, as do many small town banks Approximately 5% of Minnesotans live on farms 1990 For first time, less than 2 million farms exist in U.S. 1994 1995 Commodity prices hit record highs; milk prices high; U.S. farm exports rapidly expanding; hog prices good 1996 Federal Freedom to Farm enacted; eliminates federal commodity subsidies and production quotas; will be payments to farmers for a number of years to allow them to adjust; dairy compacts allowed 1997 Almost I/3 of all crops and livestock produced in this year are contracted (generally, a contract between farmer and buyer that crop will be purchased at an agreed-upon price) 1997 Economic crises in Asia 1998 Russia devalues its ruble (8-98) Good dairy prices in MN Record crops and depressed prices Hog prices hit record lows Congress approves a \$6 billion farm relief bill plus \$1 billion in agricultural tax cuts 1999 Brazil devalues its real MN legislature approves \$70 million farm relief bill (spring)

LWVUS STATEMENT OF POSITION ON FEDERAL AGRICULTURE POLICY

Position in Brief:

Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices, and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.

Statement of Position on Federal Agriculture Policy as announced by National Board, October 1988:

The LWVUS believes that federal agriculture policies should promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers, farms that are economically viable, farm practices that are environmentally sound and increased reliance on the free market to determine prices.

Sustainable Agriculture: Federal policy should encourage a system of sustainable, regenerative agricultural production that moves toward an environmentally sound agricultural sector. This includes promoting stewardship to preserve and protect the country's human and natural agricultural resources.

Research and Development: Agricultural research, development and technical assistance should continue to be a major federal function. Resources should be targeted to developing sustainable agricultural practices and to addressing the needs of mid-size farms.

Agricultural Prices: The LWVUS supports an increasing reliance on the free market to determine the price of agricultural commodities and the production decisions of farmers, in preference to traditional price support mechanisms.

Agriculture and Trade: U.S. efforts should be directed towards expanding export markets for our agricultural products while minimizing negative effects on developing nations' economies. Consistent with the League's trade position, multilateral trade negotiations should be used to reduce other countries' barriers and/or subsidies protecting their agricultural products.

Farm Credit: Farmers should have access to credit with reasonable terms and conditions. Federally provided farm credit is essential to maintaining the viability of farm operations when the private sector is unable or unwilling to provide the credit farmers need.

Of these policies, the League believes the most essential for the future of agriculture are: encouraging sustainable agriculture; providing research, information and technical assistance to agricultural producers; and increasing reliance on the free market to determine prices.



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 2000

League of Women Voters of Minnesota Celebrating 81 Years—A Voice for Citizens, A Force for Change 651/224-5445~800-663-9328~Fax: 651-290-2145 lwvmn@mtn.org~www.lwvmn.org

Mission

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Diversity

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of Minnesota in its membership. . . and strives to overcome barriers of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability in the activities of the organization.

CALENDAR

November

- 21 LWVMN Voter Service Committee Meeting, LWVMN, 5:00 pm Presidents Mailing from state League office
- 23-24 LWVMN office closed for Thanksgiving holiday
 - 27 LWVMN/EF Budget Committee to meet this week or week of 12/4
 - 29 LWVMN Member Resources Committee Meeting, MWB, 9:00 a.m. President Judy Duffy to speak at University of Minnesota Rotary, noon

December

- 4 LWVMN Action Committee Meeting; MWB, 9:30 a.m.
- 6 LWVMN Communications Committee Meeting; LWVMN, 2:00 p.m.

HOLIDAY PARTY, 4:30 TO 6:30 P.M. MINNESOTA WOMEN'S BUILDING BRING A CARLOAD FOR FUN, FRIENDS, FOOD

- 8-9 Judy Duffy to Chicago as part of a Minnesota delegation to conference On judiciary selection process
 - 9 MN Human Rights Advocates conference at Humphrey Center, cosponsored by LWVMN, "Mirrors & Prisms," 9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
- 11 LWVMN Office Management Committee Meeting; MWB, 9:00 a.m.
- 18 Mini-Mailing to local League Presidents if needed
- 20-26 LWVMN Office closed for the holid

HAPPY 2001

January

- 3 Legislature convenes
- 17 LWVMN/EF Board Meetings; MWB, 9:00 noon
- 18-20 "Leaders of Today and Tomorrow" Seminar, St. Paul
 - 23 Presidents Mailing from state League office
 - 26 Registration deadline for "Citizens in Action" conference

February

3 "Citizens in Action" Conference; State Capitol, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

ENCLOSURES

- Legislative Interview packet/Erickson, McWilliams
- Citizens in Action Conference flyer/McWilliams, Erickson
- 10 Minute Activist form/Erickson, McWilliams
- Capitol Letter subscription form/Erickson, McWilliams
- Program Planning for 2001-2003/Frisch
- Bylaws Amendment form & LWVMN Bylaws/Matlock, Doepner-Hove
- Hope Washburn/Peggy Thompson Award Nomination forms/Tews
- First Call to Convention and Preliminary Agenda/Matlock
- Revised LWVMN Board list/Duffy

STATE BOARD

At its meetings of November 8th and November 15th, the LWVMN/EF Board:

- * approved consensus questions for the LWVMN agriculture study
- approved an agreement between LWV of St. Paul and LWVMN for membership administration services
- * authorized LWVMN President and Executive Director to enter into a contract with MN Department of Human Services to organize five to seven community forums around mental health issues
- * appointed Sally Byrnes, LWV Duluth, Marty Wells, LWV Woodbury/Cottage Grove, Toby Duffy, LWV of St. Louis Park to the LWVMN Budget Committee; and Mary Dinneen, LWV Edina, to the LWVMN Nominating Committee
- * voted to cosponsor a January 11, 2001 conference with the Humphrey Institute "Moving Minnesota: How is Tripartisan Government Working"
- * joined the Seniors and Workers for Quality in Long-Term Care Coalition
- * voted to co-sponsor the Minnesota Human Rights Advocates Dec. 9 program, entitled "Mirrors and Prisms: How We Reflect & Represent the New Minnesota"
- * discussed plans for LWVMN Convention and heard about budget, nominations, program planning and bylaw amendment processes
- * heard Action Chair Kay Erickson discuss upcoming legislative session and plans for "Citizens in Action" conference on Feb. 3rd
- heard Voter Service Chair Stacy Doepner-Hove's report on our Election 2000 projects

Bouquets to

- *Voter Service Chair Stacy Doepner-Hove and project chairs/directors Anne Borgen (Minnesota Compact), Ady Wickstrom (Dnet), Eydie Kargas (*Voter Guide*), Linda Loomis (Hotline), Liz Nordling (Debates), Laurie Boche (Martin Grant)
- *Dozens of volunteers from local Leagues and other organizations who staffed the Election Hotline phones at WCCO-TV
- *League of Women Voters St. Paul members, recruited by Claudia Dieter, who answered phones in the LWVMN office for the week preceding the Election; and to Nancy Witta, Andrea Lex, Laurie Boche, Jessica Crary, Kat McCrae, Georgeann Hall and Sally Sawyer for pitching in to do what needed to be done this crazy, hectic and exciting election season!!! We could not have done it without all of you!
- *LWVMN Agriculture Committee, chaired by Gertrude Ulrich, LWV of Richfield, for the publication *Minnesota Farming 2000*, and to committee members Nancy Gundersen, LWV St. Cloud, and Helen Palmer, LWV Minneapolis, for contributions above and beyond. Special thanks to Mary Steen, LWVMN *Voter* editor for Herculean labors.
- *Judy Duffy, LWVMN President, who moderated debates, negotiated with candidate campaigns and media, was interviewed by the media at unreasonable hours, wrote commentaries and letters, represented the League on the Kids Voting Board and the Minnesota Meeting Board and endured some extremely tense situations with grace and humour.

Action

(Kay Erickson, 2730 Smithtown Road, Shorewood, 55331, 952/474-7324 kerickson@visi.com)

Legislative Interviews

Enclosed in this mailing you will find this year's Legislative Interview questions which cover a variety of areas from redistricting to mental health issues. Doing the interview gives you a chance to meet your legislator in a non-controversial setting and to learn their views about issues important to the League.

Please note that some questions have a star (*) by them. Ask these questions of new legislators only so we're not asking the same questions of long term legislators again and again. Legislators appreciate scheduling the interviews prior to the session start on January 3rd. Their schedules become very busy even early in the session.

Capitol Letter

Do you want to know what's going on at the Capitol on the issues you care about? Then subscribe to League's *Capitol Letter* which is published during the legislative session. You'll find a subscription form for it in this mailing. Please reprint it in your newsletter.

10-Minute Activists

It's not too late to join our lobby-from-the-convenience-of-your-home group. Sign up to make phone calls, e-mail or postcards on selected topics. Just return the 10-Minute Activist form to the League office and we'll contact you when we need calls and letters sent to legislators. (And don't forget to give us your e-mail address—e-mail is our fastest way to contact you when immediate action is needed.)

The 2001 Legislative Session

The issues LWVMN will be following include: redistricting, campaign finance, mental health funding and civil commitment standards, rulemaking, election laws, the Governor's proposal for changing k-12 education funding, choice, firearms, affordable housing, health care and metropolitan issues through the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL), welfare reform, election of judges, Electoral College.

Citizens in Action Conference

Our annual lobbying conference takes place February 3rd at the Capitol. We'll have a basic "how to" workshop plus sessions on grassroots organizing. Working with legislators and staff, demystifying the rulemaking process and using the Internet to lobby, we'll wrap-up with a session briefing by a special panel.

A preliminary flyer/registration form is included in this mailing. Please encourage your members to attend and bring a friend.

For Your Information

Moving Minnesota: How is Tripartisan Government Working?

On Thursday, January 11th, the Humphrey Institute Policy Forum will host a public seminar at the Humphrey Center examining tripartisan government in Minnesota. The League of Women Voters of Minnesota is a co-sponsoring organization. Since 1998. when Jesse Ventura became governor of Minnesota in a ground-breaking election, Minnesota has been engaged in an important governing experience based on shared power between three political parties—the DFL-controlled Senate, the House Republicans, and a chief executive from the Independence party. As we move into the second half of Governor Ventura's term and a new legislative session, how is tripartisan government working? How have the politics of the 1998 election influenced the process of governing? And what do we think of the policy outcomes this process has produced? Join Policy Forum co-directors Tim Penny and Vin Weber, as well as legislative leaders, members of the Ventura administration, representatives from interest groups, journalists, and scholars to explore these and other questions raised by Minnesota's tripartisan experience. The forum will begin at noon and conclude at 5:00 p.m. Registration is \$30. For more information, contact Ellen Tveit at 612/625-8330 or visit www.hhh.umn.edu/centers/policy-forum.



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

10 MINUTE ACTIVIST

Make your voice heard on League issues that matter to you! Join Leaguers around the state as a Ten Minute Activist during the 2001 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	ГО BE A TEN-MINUTE ACT	TIVIST!			
Name:	***************************************				
Address:					
State: Zip: Congress:	ional District: Legislative	District:			
Phone: Fax:	E-mail:				
I prefer to be contacted by: Phone / Fax / E-n	nail (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: Ma	nil / E-mail (circle one)				
I would like to subscribe to the CAPA of mailing 6-8 issues with the latest inside in during the 2001 session. (It is not necessary t	formation from the League lobby				

CAPITOL LETTER



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

Volume XXVII

To: Local League Boards From: President, Judy Duffy

> Action Co-Chair Kay Erickson Action Co-Chair Jane McWilliams

The **CAPITOL LETTER** will be published six to eight times during the 2001 Legislative Session. It will keep you informed on Leagues supported issues and their progress at the state Capitol.

ACTION TO TAKE:

Fill out this form and sent it with your check for \$10 for each subscription to: LWVMN, 550 Rice Street, St. Paul, MN 55103 by January 15, 2001. If you would like to receive your Capitol Letter via e-mail, fill in your e-mail address in place of your mailing address.

Name:	Address:	City:	Zip:
		540	
\$110 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1			
 			
<u></u>			

Note: LL Presidents automatically receive a CAPITOL LETTER.

. . .

58th State Convention May 4-5, 2001 Holiday Inn New Ulm New Ulm

PRELIMINARY

LWVMN CONVENTION '01 AGENDA

May 4-5, 2001 Holiday Inn New Ulm

Friday, May 4th

9:00 a.m.	Registration & Coffee
10:00 a.m.	Convention 101 – Overview of the convention process
10:30-11:30	Workshops
	WORKSHOP 1 - Voter Service/Non-partisanship Policy
	WORKSHOP 2 - Changing Faces of Membership
11:45	Lunch
	First Session — Proposed Order of Business
1:00	Speaker -
1:30	Organization of the Convention & Roll Call of the Leagues
1:45	Treasurer's Report
2:00	President's Report
2:30	Bylaws Committee Report and Action
2:45	Nomination and Election of Officers
3:00	Presentation of the Budget
3:15	Break - Excursions to New Ulm
4:45	Presentation of Proposed Program
	Consideration of Non-Recommended Items
5:15	Action Report
5:30	Announcements
6:30	Reception/Dinner
7:00	Keynote Address—
7:45	Hope Washburn Award
	Peggy Thompson Award
8:15	Workshops
	Workshop 3 - Communications - Websites/e-mail
	Workshop 4 - Communications - Blowing Your Own Horn (PR)
9:30	Budget Committee
	Caucuses

Saturday, May 5th

7:00 Presidents Round Table Discussion 8:00 Registration & Coffee/rolls

8:30-9:30 Workshops, Session 1

Workshop 1 - Fundraising for Local Leagues

Workshop 2(repeat) Voter Service/Non-partisanship Policy

Workshop 3 - Leaders of Today and Tomorrow and Student Units

Workshop 4 - Action Workshop

9:40-10:40 Workshops, Session 2

Workshop 5 (repeat) Communications - website/e-mail use

Workshop 6 - Public Speaking about League

Workshop 7 - Updating Local League Bylaws

Workshop 8 -

 10:50
 Brunch

 12:00
 Speaker –

 12:30
 Debate and Action on Program

 1:45
 Adoption of Program

 2:00
 Adoption of Budget

2:45 Direction to Board 3:00 Adjourn

FIRST CALL TO CONVENTION

The 59th State Convention

of the

League of Women Voters of Minnesota

will be held

May 4th and May 5th, 2001

at the

Best Western New Ulm in New Ulm.

Mark your calendars today.

Each local League shall be entitled to two delegates, in addition to the president of the local League or an alternate in the event the president is unable to attend; The members in each local League having more than twenty-five voting members shall also be entitled to one additional delegate for each additional twenty-five members or major fraction thereof belonging to said local League on January 1st of said year. The number of delegates will be determined by the 2001 LWVUS roster submitted to LWVMN and LWVUS by January 14, 2001. Members-at-large are also entitled to representation of one voting delegate per 25 members. (LWVMN Bylaws Article 8, Section 4)

The LWVMN biennial convention will conduct statewide business such as electing officers, passing a budget and deciding on LWVMN program. There will also be workshops, networking opportunities, speakers, and lots of opportunities to learn more about the League. More information will be sent in the coming months, but if you have questions, call Laurie Boche, Field Service/Outreach Coordinator, at the LWVMN office (651) 224-5445 or (800) 663-9328.

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

			TURNEY STREET IN
	T 1	T	Presidents
To:	Local	I eagnie	Presidents
IU.	Local	Loague	1 1 Coluciito

From: Jeanne Matlock, Chair, LWVMN Bylaws Committee

Re: Proposed State Bylaw Changes

Date: November 21, 2000

Due in State Office February 15, 2001		
If your Board or your members have suggestions for Convention, please submit your specific ideas and proposed. Recommended and non-recommended bylaws weeks before the State Convention.	ecise wording for consideration by	the State
Current Wording:		53
Article:		
Section:	e	
Proposed wording or new bylaw:		
Article:		
Section:		
Reasons: (Use other side if necessary)		
League of Women Voters of		
Contact:		
Name	Phone	

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA BYLAWS

As adopted by the 1947 Convention and as amended by the 1951, 1953, 1955, 1957, 1959, 1961, 1963, 1965, 1967, 1971, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1979, 1981, 1983, 1985, 1987, 1989, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1997,1999, Conventions.

ARTICLE I

<u>Section I</u>. The name of this corporation shall be the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. This state League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

ARTICLE II Purpose and Policy

<u>Section I. Purposes</u>. The purposes of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

<u>Section 2. Political Policy.</u> The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

ARTICLE III Membership

<u>Section I. Eligibility</u>. Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the League shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. Types of Membership.

- a) Voting members. Citizens at least 18 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues and LWVUS.
 - individuals who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League;
 - those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large;
 - 3) those who have been members of League for 50 years or more shall be honorary life members excused from the payment of dues.
- b) Associate members. All others who join the League shall be associate members.

ARTICLE IV Officers

Section I. Enumeration and Election of Officers

- a) The officers of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota shall be a president, a first vice-president, a second vice-president, a third vice-president, a secretary and a treasurer. They shall be elected by the Convention and shall hold office until the conclusion of the next regular biennial Convention or until their successors have been elected and qualified. Two individuals may be elected to share one position, or two positions may be held by one individual elected to the dual-position office.
- b) The officers of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota shall constitute the executive committee. In addition, the President may appoint up to two members of the Board to serve on the executive committee. The executive committee shall confer when immediate action is necessary and a meeting of the Board of Directors is not feasible, and shall in those instances have the powers and duties of the Board of Directors for planning and directing the Program and carrying out organizational responsibilities.
- <u>Section 2. The President.</u> The president shall preside at all meetings of the corporation and of the Board of Directors unless the president shall designate another person to preside. The president may, in the absence or disability of the treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts or notes. The president shall be, ex officio, a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee and shall have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of the president and perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board.
- <u>Section 3. The Vice-Presidents</u>. The three vice-presidents, in the order of their rank, shall, in the event of absence, disability, resignation or death of the president, possess all the powers and perform all the duties of that office. In the event that no vice-president is able to serve in this capacity, the Board of Directors shall elect one of its members to fill the vacancy. The vice-presidents shall perform such other duties as the president and Board may designate.
- <u>Section 4. The Secretary</u>. The secretary shall keep minutes of Convention, Council and of meetings of the Board of Directors. The secretary shall notify all officers and directors of their election and shall sign with the president all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the Board and shall perform such other functions as may be incident to the office.
- <u>Section 5. The Treasurer</u>. The treasurer or a duly appointed representative, shall receive all money due, shall be the custodian of such funds, deposit them in a bank designated by the Board of Directors, and shall disburse them only upon order of the Board of Directors. The treasurer shall present periodic statements to the Board at its regular meetings. The treasurer shall present an annual report, including a report of the League of Women Voters

of Minnesota Reserve Fund, to the Convention or Council. The books of the treasurer shall be audited annually and the report made available to the membership.

ARTICLE V Board of Directors

Section I. Number, Manner of Selection and Term of Office. The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota, eight elected directors and not more than eight appointed directors. The elected directors shall be elected by the Convention and shall serve until the conclusion of the next regular biennial Convention or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The elected members shall appoint such additional directors, not exceeding eight, as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the League. The term of office of the appointed directors shall expire concurrently with the term of office of the elected directors.

<u>Section 2. Qualifications</u>. Any voting member of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota can be elected or appointed to serve as an officer or director of this corporation.

<u>Section 3. Vacancies</u>. Any vacancy other than in the office of the president may be filled, until the next Convention, by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Powers and Duties. The Board of Directors shall have full charge of the property and business of the corporation with full power and authority to manage and conduct the same, subject to the instructions of the Convention. The Board shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the Program on selected governmental issues as adopted by the Convention. It shall accept responsibility delegated to it by the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of the United States for the organization and development of local Leagues, guidance of inter-League organizations, for the carrying out of Program and for promotion of finance programs in the local Leagues. Such local finance programs are requisite to further the work of the League as a whole, including transmission of funds toward the support of adequate state and national budgets. The Board shall create and designate such special committees as it may deem necessary.

<u>Section 5.</u> Regular Meetings. There shall be at least four regular meetings of the Board of Directors annually. The President shall notify each of the directors of all meetings at least one week before any such meeting. No action taken at any regular Board meeting attended by three-fourths of the members of the Board shall be invalidated because of the failure of any member or members of the Board to receive any notice properly sent or because of an irregularity in any notice actually received.

Section 6. Special Meetings. The president may call special meetings of the Board of Directors and shall call a special meeting upon the written request of five members of the Board. Members of the Board shall be notified of the time and place of special meetings by personal telephone contact, telegram or letter sent at least six days prior to such meeting. At the time of a Convention the president may, and upon the request of five members of the Board shall, call a special meeting of the Board by handing the members of the Board a written notice of the time and place of said meeting.

<u>Section 7. Quorum</u>. A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum, and a majority of the members in attendance at any Board meeting shall, in the presence of a quorum, decide its action.

ARTICLE VI Recognition of Local and Provisional Leagues and State Units

Section I. Local Leagues.

- a) Local Leagues are those Leagues which have been so recognized by the League of Women Voters of the United States.
- b) The Board of Directors shall recommend to the national Board of the League of Women Voters of the United States that it recognize as a local League any group of members of the League of Women Voters of the United States in any community within the state, provided the group meets qualifying standards for local Leagues as adopted by the national Convention.
- c) In the event of recurring failure of a local League to meet these qualifying standards, the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota may recommend to the national Board that it withdraw recognition from the local League. All funds held by a local League from which recognition has been withdrawn shall be paid to the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. In the event the non-qualifying League is merging with another local League, its funds would go to the merged League minus a reorganization fee paid to and determined by the League of Women Voters of Minnesota.

Section 2. State Units

- State units are those which have been so recognized by the League of Women Voters of Minnesota.
- b) The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota has responsibility for the establishment of new Leagues. For this purpose the Board may organize a group in a community in which no local League exists and shall recommend the group for recognition as a state unit when it meets the qualifying guidelines as set forth by the League of Women Voters of Minnesota Board of Directors.
- c) In the event of recurring failure of a state unit to meet these qualifying guidelines, the Board of Directors of the LWVMN may recommend that recognition be withdrawn. All funds held by state units from which recognition has been withdrawn shall be paid to the League of Women Voters of Minnesota.

ARTICLE VII Finance

<u>Section I. Fiscal Year</u>. The fiscal year of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota shall commence on the first of April each year.

<u>Section 2. Budget</u>. The Board shall submit to the Convention for adoption budgets for the ensuing two fiscal years. These budgets shall provide for the support of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. The Per Member Payment amount shall be determined for the ensuing two fiscal years only by the delegates at the state convention. A copy of the proposed budgets shall be sent to each local League president at least six weeks in advance of the Convention. The budget shall be adopted by a majority vote of the delegates at the state convention.

<u>Section 3.</u> Budget Committee. The budgets shall be prepared by the elected chair and a committee which shall be appointed by the Board for that purpose at least six months in advance of the Convention. The treasurer shall be ex officio a member of the Budget committee but shall not be eligible to serve as chairperson.

Section 4. Distribution of Funds on Dissolution. In the event of a dissolution for any cause of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota, all monies and securities which may at the time be owned by or under the absolute control of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota shall be paid to the League of Women Voters of the United States, after the Board of Directors has paid or made provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. All other property of whatsoever nature, whether real, personal or mixed, which may at the time be owned by or under the control of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota, shall be disposed of by any officer or employee of the corporation for such public, charitable or educational uses and purposes as may be designated by the then League of Women Voters of Minnesota.

Section 5. League of Women Voters of Minnesota Reserve Fund. The fund shall contain the \$1,000 restricted principal of the Jane Grey Swisshelm Fund and all other monies, securities and property of whatever nature, which the League of Women Voters of Minnesota may receive by gift, bequest or otherwise, which the Board of Directors may designate as reserve funds. Expenditures of monies from the fund and of interest earned on monies in the fund shall be for League purposes as may from time to time be determined by the Board of Directors subject only to restrictions which may have been imposed by the donor at the time the funds were received.

ARTICLE VIII Convention

<u>Section I. Place, Date and Call</u>. A Convention of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota shall be held biennially at a time and place to be determined by the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. The president shall send a first call for the Convention to the presidents of the local Leagues not less than four months prior to the opening date of the Convention fixed in said call. Thereafter the Board of Directors may advance or postpone the opening date of the Convention by not more than two weeks.

A final call for the Convention shall be sent to the presidents of the local Leagues and the delegates at least six weeks before the opening date of the Convention.

<u>Section 2. Composition</u>. The Convention shall consist of the delegates chosen by the members enrolled in the local Leagues, and delegates chosen by members-at-large of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota, as provided in Section 4 of this article; the presidents of local Leagues or an alternate in the event the president is unable to attend; and the members of the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota.

Section 3. Qualification of Delegates and Voting. Each delegate shall be a voting member enrolled in a recognized local Minnesota League whose State Per Member Payment is paid or be an at large member of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. The State Board may make an exception in the case of proven hardship. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote only at the Convention even though the delegate may be attending in two or more capacities. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted. The Convention shall be the sole judge of whether a delegate is qualified to vote.

Section 4. Representation.

- a) The members of the League of Women Voters of the United States who are organized into recognized local Leagues in the State of Minnesota shall be entitled to voting representation in the Convention as follows: Each local League shall be entitled to two delegates, in addition to the president of the local League or an alternate in the event the president is unable to attend; these additional delegates shall be chosen by the local League. The members in each local League having more than twenty-five voting members shall also be entitled to one additional delegate for each additional twenty-five members or major fraction thereof belonging to said local League on January 1st of said year. The record in the state office of paid voting members as of January Ist of said year shall determine the official membership count for this purpose.
- b) Members-at-large of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota shall be entitled to one delegate for each 25 members, chosen by a procedure determined by the Board of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota.

<u>Section 5. Powers</u>. The Convention shall consider and authorize for action a Program, shall elect officers and directors, the Budget Chairperson, Nominating Committee Chairperson and two Nominating Committee members, shall adopt budgets for the ensuing two fiscal years, and shall transact such other business as may be properly presented.

<u>Section 6. Quorum</u>. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the delegates registered at the Convention provided that not less than ten local Leagues are represented.

ARTICLE IX Council

<u>Section I. Place, Date and Call</u>. A meeting of the Council shall be held in the interim year between Conventions, approximately twelve months after the preceding Convention at a time and place to be determined by the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. A formal call shall be sent by the president of the League of Women Voters

of Minnesota to the presidents of the local Leagues in Minnesota at least thirty days before the opening date of a Council meeting. Special meetings may be called in the event of extreme emergency.

<u>Section 2. Composition</u>. The Council shall be composed of the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota, the presidents of local Leagues or an alternate in the event the president is unable to attend, and one delegate chosen by each local League.

Section 3. Powers. The Council shall consider Program, and methods of work and review the budget as submitted to the Board of Directors. The Council is authorized to change the Program only in the event of an emergency, provided that notice of proposed modification of the Program shall have been sent to the presidents of the local Leagues at least two months in advance of the meeting of the Council, and provided also that a two-thirds majority of the members of the Council present and voting shall be required to adopt the modification. The Council shall review the budget for the ensuing year and may modify it to meet current needs and shall transact such other business as shall be presented by the Board.

<u>Section 4. Quorum</u>. A quorum shall consist of not less than twenty members other than the Board of Directors for the transaction of business at a Council meeting.

ARTICLE X Nominations and Elections

Section I. Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members, two of whom shall be members of the Board of Directors. The chairperson and two members, who shall not be members of the Board of Directors, shall be elected by the Convention. Nominations for these offices shall be made by the current Nominating Committee. Further nominations may be made from the floor of the Convention. The other members of the committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors immediately after the Convention. Vacancies occurring in the Nominating Committee shall be filled by the Board of Directors. The president of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota shall send the name and address of the chairperson of the Nominating Committee to the president of each recognized local League.

<u>Section 2. Suggestions for Nominations</u>. The Chairperson of the Nominating Committee shall request through the president of each local League suggestions for nominations for offices to be filled. Any member may send suggestions to the chairperson of the Nominating Committee.

Section 3. Report of the Nominating Committee and Nominations from the Floor. The report of the Nominating Committee of its nominations for officers, directors, chairperson of the Budget Committee, and the chairperson and two members of the succeeding Nominating Committee shall be sent to local Leagues at least six weeks before the date of the Convention. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be presented to the Convention on the first day of the Convention. Immediately following the presentation of this report, nominations may be made from the floor by any member of the Convention, provided that the consent of the nominee shall have been secured.

<u>Section 4. Election</u>. The election shall be under the direction of an Election Committee appointed by the president on the first day of the Convention. The election shall be by ballot, except that when there is but one nominee for each office, it shall be in order to move that the secretary cast the ballot for every candidate. A majority vote of those present and voting shall constitute an election.

ARTICLE XI Program

<u>Section I. Principles</u>. The governmental principles adopted by the national Convention and supported by the League as a whole constitute the authorization for the adoption of Program.

<u>Section 2. Program</u>. 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. **Section 3. Convention Action**. The Convention shall act upon the Program using the following procedures:
- a) Local Leagues shall make recommendations for a Program to the Board of Directors at least three months prior to the Convention.
- b) The Board of Directors shall consider the recommendations and shall formulate a proposed Program which shall be submitted to the local League Boards at least six weeks prior to the Convention.
- A majority vote shall be required for the adoption of the Program proposed by the Board of Directors.
- d) Any recommendation for the Program submitted to the Board of Directors at least three months before the Convention, but not proposed by the Board, may be adopted by the Convention provided consideration is ordered by majority vote and on a following day the proposal for adoption receives a three-fifths vote.

Section 4. Council Action. The Council may change the Program as provided in Article IX.

<u>Section 5. Member Action.</u> Members may act in the name of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota only when authorized to do so by the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota.

<u>Section 6. Local League Action</u>. Local Leagues and inter-League organizations may take action on state governmental issues only when authorized to do so by the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. Local Leagues may act only in

conformity with, and not contrary to, a position taken by the League of women Voters of Minnesota and/or the League of Women Voters of the United States.

ARTICLE XII National Convention and Council

<u>Section 1. National Convention</u>. The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota, at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the national office, shall elect delegates to that Convention in the number allotted to the League of Women Voters of Minnesota under the provisions of the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

<u>Section 2. National Council.</u> The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota shall elect delegates to the meeting of the Council of the League of Women Voters of the United States at its meeting preceding such Council meeting in the number allowed the League of Women Voters of Minnesota under the provisions of the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

ARTICLE XIII Parliamentary Authority

Section 1. Parliamentary Authority. The rules contained in Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the corporation in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

ARTICLE XIV Amendments

Section 1. Amendments. These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote at any Convention of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota, using the following procedures:

- a) Proposals for changes shall be submitted by any local League Board in Minnesota to the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota at least three months prior to the opening date of the Convention.
- b) All such proposed amendments together with the recommendations of the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota shall be sent to the presidents of local Leagues at least six weeks prior to the opening date of the Convention.
- c) The presidents of the local Leagues shall notify the members of their respective Leagues of the proposed amendments. Failure of a local League president to give such notice or failure of any member to receive such notice shall not invalidate amendments to the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota.



PROBRAM
PLANNING
FOR
LOCAL LEGGUES

To:

Local League

ning Chairs

From:

Carol Frisch, Vice President, 952/829-0604

Re:

State Program Planning

Date:

November 2000

Included in this packet:

1. Program Planning Discussion Guide

2. Lively Issues

3. Current Program, short version

4. Program Planning Form

TIMELINE

November Program planning packet sent to local Leagues

December/January Leagues have state program planning meeting

February 15, 2001 Deadline for receipt of program planning report form

At LWVMN office

March 21, 2001 State Board Meeting – approve proposed program

March 23, 2001 Proposed program for 2001-2003 mailed with

Convention materials

May 4-5, 2001 State Convention – adopt 2001-2003 program

Local Program planning is an annual event for local Leagues. Before your annual meeting, members need to provide suggestions regarding local program so your Board can select one it thinks best fits the guidelines for selecting an appropriate topic to study, reach consensus and take action. Since local



To: Local League Presidents, Program Planning Chairs

From: Carol Frisch, Vice President, 952/829-0604

Re: State Program Planning

Date: November 2000

Included in this packet:

1. Program Planning Discussion Guide

2. Lively Issues

3. Current Program, short version

4. Program Planning Form

TIMELINE

November Program planning packet sent to local Leagues

December/January Leagues have state program planning meeting

February 15, 2001 Deadline for receipt of program planning report form

At LWVMN office

March 21, 2001 State Board Meeting – approve proposed program

March 23, 2001 Proposed program for 2001-2003 mailed with

Convention materials

May 4-5, 2001 State Convention – adopt 2001-2003 program

Local Program planning is an annual event for local Leagues. Before your annual meeting, members need to provide suggestions regarding local program so your Board can select one it thinks best fits the guidelines for selecting an appropriate topic to study, reach consensus and take action. Since local

Leagues have such busy schedules, the meeting at which you discuss local program ideas is usually the best one at which to discuss state program ideas.

Each local League should have someone in charge of setting up the program planning meeting. It is one of the most important meetings of the year – the chance to have input into the local and state program which will be adopted at the annual meeting or Convention. Plans should be made to attract as many members as possible.

Prior to the meeting you will want to have articles in your local bulletin. If your group is large, you may wish to break into smaller groups and brainstorm program ideas, then get back together and list them all, giving background when necessary, then come to a sense of the entire group as to which item most members feel is an appropriate topic to study.

For the local program planning, you may wish to have your program chairs or local government officials talk about local issues. You may also suggest some programs others Leagues have adopted.

Which column you mark beside each position statement should be determined by a consensus of members participating. If you use a telephone survey or questionnaire, it should be the majority of those participating. If there is no consensus or majority, you may wish to comment on the line provided. If there is a change or update suggested by one or more, you may report that under comments, indicating how many suggested the change or update.

SCRIPT FOR LIVELY ISSUES DISCUSSION LEADER:

Welcome to our discussion of Lively Issues which contributes to the League's process of state program planning. The ideas that we have before us are ones that have been sent to us by the State Board as "food for thought". They are meant as a springboard for our discussion and in no way are recommended by the State Board at this time.

We have four choices for each item that is currently on our State Program. If you wish to drop a position, only that box can be checked. It is possible to keep a position and request an update- addition information through a public or League meeting, an article in the Voter, a publication, etc.

DEFINITIONS:

Keep to retain the position and/or details, so we can take appropriate

action, but have no further study at this time.

Drop the position would be dropped and no further action can be taken in

this area without a new study.

Update obtain additional information on a position but take no consensus

(meeting, publication, etc.)

Action to assist the State Board and Action Committee to determine action

priorities. It is advisory only.

Study to undertake a new study, with consensus, for the purpose of

establishing a new position or expanding a current one.

When or if we are considering a new study: Take care not to confuse national issues with state issues. The State League cannot decide on its own to influence national policy. Our concern is with state issues, those within the province of state government. We must also be aware of the financial implications for a new study on the state budget. If there is an issue about which we as a local League feel strongly and wish to lobby for at the State Convention we will want to make sure it is provided for in the 2001-2003 budget. We should consider potential sources of funding for such as study, as well.

The League has well-established criteria to help us to decide on new studies. They are:

<u>League Policy</u> – Can the problem be solved by governmental action? Does the proposal fall within the League's principles (enclosed)

<u>Timeliness</u> – Is this a hot issue? Is the political timing right? Will it lead to effective action for the League? Will League involvement make a difference?

<u>Appropriateness</u> – Is the League the organization best qualified to study the issue? Will it duplicate the work of some other organization?

<u>Membership</u> – Will the issue attract new members? Will it increase the interest and participation of current members?

<u>Resources</u> – Does the League have the people and the money to address the issue effectively?

Proceed with reviewing the current program in Program at a Glance and guiding the group through the Program Planning Form. You will probably create a similar Local Program Planning Form to record that portion of the discussion for your local board.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call Carol Frisch 952/829-0604, or the LWVMN office 651/224-5445 or 800/663-9328.

LIVELY ISSUES

Now is the time for all Leaguers to think LIVELY ISSUES. Unit meetings in December and/or January will be devoted to program planning for the next two years for state, local and CMAL issues, so have fun debating your most challenging ideas for League study and action, 2001-2003.

Several suggestions for state lively issues have already surfaced and may help inspire you to offer your own proposals for a LWVMN study. The following is a short list of these early ideas:

Immigration – how do recent waves of immigrants to Minnesota affect its economy, society and education system? How accessible are services for this population? Is English language learning available and accessible to all ages?

Election Process – what should be the criteria for voting systems statewide? How reliable and accountable is our system for judging and for validity of ballots?

Gambling – Do the present laws governing gambling in Minnesota do what they were intended to do? What, if any, are the implications of legalized gambling in relation to crime and mental health issues? Are they detrimental to Minnesota's quality of life?

The Metropolitan Airports Commission – what are the duties and powers of MAC? What process does MAC use to reach its decisions? Is MAC open and democratic in its deliberations? How do citizens make their voices heard?

Women in Prison – does mandatory sentencing put more women in prison? Do women in prison have opportunities for education, job training, counseling, health care? Are there other options for dealing with women who commit serious crimes?

Commuter High Speed Train – which communities would benefit from such a train? What is the expected ridership? What are the advantages, disadvantages of this train for the whole state?

Public Post-Secondary Education – how well does Minnesota provide public post-secondary education? What is the relationship of the University of Minnesota to the system, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MNSCU) in matters of funding, objectives and roles of the two systems? Does Minnesota offer the best possible education for the modern technological world?

K-12 desegregation – have school systems made progress toward desegregation? Are neighborhood schools better for K-12 children?

K-12 Remedial programs – have tutorial programs and summer schools been effective in bringing failing students back into schools?

Aggregate Mining - what is the environmental impact?

Education Reform – how do we evaluate reforms? What criteria should we use to recommend changes in the educational structure?

Health Care Trends – should the state prevent HMOs leaving rural areas? How can state regulations force HMOs to remain in areas where they cannot make a profit? Should the state encourage the formation of an umbrella organization to coordinate the various systems of health care planning?

Welfare – is reform working? Will different economic conditions make reform more difficult and costly to implement?



November 2000

Dear Local League Presidents:

May seems a long way off, but before you know it Convention 2001 will be upon us. So, it's time to start thinking about Program Planning.

Local League Program recommendations for the next state study are due on February 15, 2001.

Your suggested study should be thoroughly thought out, and have an understandable focus and scope. You can propose a new study, an update, restudy, or drop of a position or certain parts of a position. The proposal should contain education and advocacy.

TIPS FOR WELL-ATTENDED PROGRAM PLANNING MEETINGS

- Offer <u>food!</u> "Surveys" have shown that meetings with food are betterattended than regular meetings. Try a potluck or a breakfast at a reasonably-priced restaurant.
- 2. Emphasize education. Emphasize that members can learn about <u>all</u> the state positions at one time.
- 3. Point out that this is a <u>once every two years</u> opportunity. It is the one time during the biennium that members have to suggest changes, re-emphasis or new studies for state programs.
- 4. This meeting may be combined with your local program planning, but allow ample time for each.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

- Appoint a chair for Program Planning.
- 2. Schedule the meeting.
- 3. Use your Voter or other mailings to inform your members about current state program and lively issues. The *Program for Action* booklet with all of LWVMN's positions was mailed to local League presidents in 1999.

- Local recommendations go to the state board, which recommends or does not recommend the suggested program.
- 5. Convention delegates vote on all program items.
- Because non-recommended items must pass by a 2/3 vote in order to be considered, it is important that all Leagues know about your proposal and have time before Convention to discuss it.
- 7. Plan a campaign for your program recommendations so that Leagues statewide understand the need for the changes or new study you propose.
- 8. Make sure that the scope of your study is clearly defined, balanced and doable in two years.

Have a good planning session!

Carol Frisch First Vice President

LWVMN PROGRAM PLANNING FORM

(based on LWVMN Program for Action 1999-2001)

Deadline: February 1, 2001		
Local League		
Number of members participating		
Authorized Signature	Title	

Use this form for your League's official recommendation for the State Program. Your recommendations must be received by LWVMN, 550 Rice Street, St. Paul, MN 55103, no later than **February 1, 2001.** Please make any comments on a separate sheet.

			Keep	Drop	Update	Action
1.	Crin	ninal Justice				
	A.	Judiciary				
	B.	Corrections				
	C.	Selection of Judges				
II.	Edu	cation				
	A.	Equal Opportunity				
	B.	Financing of Education				
	C.	Collective Bargaining & Tenure				
	D.	Library Funding				
111.	Gov	rernment				
	A.	Citizens Rights				
		 Election Laws 				
		Campaign				
		Practices				
	B.	Organization of				
		Government				
	C.	Initiative,				
		Referendum, Recall				
	D.	Financing State	VIII 11			
		Government				
	E.	State Gov't Spending				

	Gove F.	rnment (continued) Firearms		
IV.	Notus	al Resources	1	
17.	A.	Water Resources		
	B.	Solid Waste		
	C.		+	
	D.	Air Quality		
V.		I Policy	1	
	A.	Equality of		
		Opportunity		
	B.	Family Issues		
		 Family Violence 		
		2. Child Support		
		3. Child Protection		
		4. Child Health		
		5. Child Care		
		6. Teen Pregnancy		
		7. Housing		
	C.	Mental Health		
	D.	Violence Prevention		
	E.	Alcohol and Tobacco Use		

We recommend the adoption of a n	new study as	s follows:	
Category: (i.e. Government)			
Title:			
Wording:			

Scope:

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 longterm 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 selfsufficiency; provide for public safety; provide highquality 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 moderateincome 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.

League of Women Voters of Minnesota 550 Rice Street, St. Paul, MN 55103 Phone: 651/224-5445 Fax: 651/290-2145 • lwvmn@mtn.org www.lwvmn.org

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS FOR 1999-2001

11/22/00

0	-	-	n	0

Judy Duffy 505 Lake

Birchwood, 55110-1631

LWV Mahtomedi

Carol Frisch 7025 Comanche Ct.

Edina, 55439

LWV Edina

Janet Gendler 3906 Zenith Ave. S.

Minneapolis, 55410

LWV Minneapolis

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

LWV St. Paul

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

LWV of Duluth

Connie Hondl 5209 Tifton Dr. Edina, 55439

LWV Edina

Deidra Avendasora 1137 W Shryer Ave Roseville, MN 55113

LWV ROMAFH

Judy Covey 611 St. Olaf Ave. Northfield, 55057

LWV Northfield Stacy Doepner-Hove

5917 Ridgewood Road Mound, 55364 LWV of Minneapolis

Kay Erickson 27930 Smithtown Rd

Shorewood, 55331 LWV South Tonka

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

651/429-9703 (H)

Email: GandJDuffy@aol.com

952/829-0604 (H)

Email: ckfrisch@aol.com

612/920-3567 (H)

Email: jhgendler@aol.com

651/488-0458 (H) 651/645-6675 (W) FAX: 651/488-1406 Email: jmatlock@pro-ns.net

218/724-4754 (H)

800/317-6475 (W) FAX: 218/720-1497

Email: jeannettelang@cs.com (H) arcnorthland@earthlink.net (W)

612/944-1229 (H)

Email: conhondl@aol.com

651/488-4989 651/454-7550 (W)

DIRECTORS

FAX: 651/454-7655

E-mail: deidra@enodat.com

507/645-8920 (H)

FAX: 507/645-8920

Email: jcovey@rconnect.com

952/472-3970 (H) 612/625-0718 (W) FAX: 612/626-1874

Email: doepn002@tc.umn.edu

952/474-7324(H)

FAX: 952/474-7431 Email: kerickson@visi.com

651/429-8480 (H)

FAX: 651/429-1937

Email: k_gochberg@hotmail.com

President

1st Vice President Membership

2nd Vice President

Special Project - Changing Faces,

Changing Communities

3rd Vice President **Member Resources**

Secretary

Treasurer

LOTT

Curriculum

Voter Service

Future Trek/Action Co-Chair

Communication

Voter 507/645-7274 (H) Mary Steen 716 St. Olaf Ave. Northfield, 55057 Email: msteen@stolaf.edu LWV Northfield Development 651/483-2778 (H) Robyn Tjernlund 3560 Cohansey Street FAX: 651/483-0309 Shoreview, 55126 LWV ROMAFH Email: robynjoy@aol.com 612/866-8171 (H) **Agriculture Study** Gertrude Ulrich 7601 Aldrich Richfield, 55423 LWV Richfield **Government Issues** 651/436-7528 (H) Susan Weisbrod 1840 Margo Ave. N FAX: 651/436-1747 (call first) Lake Elmo, 55042 Email: Sweisb@aol.com LWV St. Croix Valley OFF BOARD 651/426-1011 (H) **Nominating Committee Chair** Jean Tews 49 Birchwood Road Mahtomedi, 55115 Email: jeantews@aol.com LWV Matomedi **Planned Giving** 651/292-1551(H) Joan Higinbotham 507/646-4274 (W) 442 Summit Avenue FAX: 651-224-3882 St. Paul, 55102-2628 Email: jhiginbo@acs.carleton.edu LWV St. Paul 651/636-0374 (H) Technology Diane Gibson 651/683-5962 (W) 1297 Wyncrest Ct. St. Paul, 55112 Email: diane@sgi.com LWV Arden Hills/Shoreview 612/522-4188 (H/W) **Budget Committee Chair** Kathy Kolb 3947 Aldrich Ave N Minneapolis, 55412 Email: kathyjokolb@aol.com LWV of Minneapolis Jane McWilliams 507/645-8423 (H) **Action Co-Chair** 901 W 1st St.

Email: jmcwilliams@microassist.com

651/766-5005 (W) (Emergencies Only!)

Email: adywickstrom@mn.mediaone.net

651/780-5245 (H)

FAX: 651/780-6086

Webmaster

Northfield, MN 55057-1613

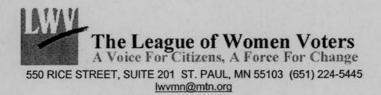
LWV Northfield

Ady Wickstrom

1252 Silverthorn Drive

Shoreview, 55126-5637

LWV Arden Hills/Shoreview



HUMPHREY INSTITUTE POLICY FORUM

New Date Set For: January 16th, 2001

Topic: Moving Minnesota: How is tripartisan government working in Minnesota?

On Tuesday, January 16th, the public is invited to join Humphrey Institute Policy Forum Co-Directors Tim Penny and Vin Weber, as well as legislative leaders, members of Governor Ventura's administration, representatives from interest groups, journalists and scholars to explore questions raised by Minnesota's tri-partisan experience. The seminar will be held in the Humphrey Institute's Cowles Auditorium from noon to 5 p.m.

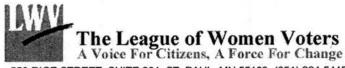
Since 1998, when Jesse Ventura became governor of Minnesota in a ground-breaking election, Minnesota has been engaged in an important governing experience based on shared power between three political parties: the DFL-controlled Senate, the House Republicans, and a Chief Executive Officer from the Independence Party. As we move into the second half of Governor Ventura's term and a new legislative session, the seminar will examine the State's tri-partisan government by asking questions such as: How is tri-partisan government working? How have the policies of the 1998 election influenced the process of governing? And what do Minnesotans think of the policy outcomes that this process has produced?

Speakers Include Governors and Legislators

Governor Ventura will provide the opening keynote address at the seminar. Other presenters will include Angus King (invited), the governor of Maine and a member of the Independence Party, State Senator Roger Moe and State Representative Tim Pawlenty. Chris Gilbert, political analyst and Chair of the Political Science department at Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN, will moderate.

Registration is \$30. For more information, contact Ellen Tveit at (612) 625-8330 or at etveit@hhh.umn.edu or visit www.hhh.umn.edu/centers/policy-forum.

55: return to 1 las



550 RICE STREET, SUITE 201 ST. PAUL, MN 55103 (651) 224-5445 wvmn@mtn.org

MEMORANDUM

DATE:

Nov

TO:

Loc

FROM:

Kay

RE:

20(

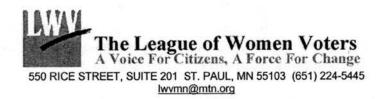
During Legislative time and re-electorganization. Of election, and the relationship with candidates, but issues.)

- aver meno-assignments
3 avertims - w. le trebgents
4 avertems - short form
5 Report

For Leaguers who lobby in St. Paul, these responses provide information about legislators' priority issues and help us to develop action strategies and promote our positions more effectively. For the legislator, it is important that she/he know that the constituents in the community, particularly Leaguers, are involved and interested in issues and will be holding her/him accountable.

WHAT TO DO:

- 1. Schedule a face-to-face meeting with each assigned legislator (see attached sheet) as soon as possible after the election. These interviews are a good way to involve new Leaguers and, if possible, the president and/or action chair should lead the questioning. Schedule your interview at a time that is convenient for the legislator, preferably before the Legislature convenes on January 2nd.
- 2. As a courtesy, <u>mail the questions</u> to he legislator in advance, and if an inperson interview is not possible, please urge her/him to answer the questionnaire in writing. The questions that are starred have been included in previous interview packets. If your legislator has been asked these questions previously, you do not need to ask them this year.



MEMORANDUM

DATE:

November 17, 2000

TO:

Local League Presidents and Action Chairs

FROM:

Kay Erickson, Action Co-Chair (952/474-7324)

RE:

2001 Legislative Interviews

During Legislative Interviews, Leaguers have an opportunity to learn what first-time and re-elected legislators believe about issues of importance to our organization. Our interviews are unique because they take place AFTER the election, and they are designed to help the local League build a strong working relationship with its senators and representatives. (We do not support or oppose candidates, but we do work with elected officials on selected governmental issues.)

For Leaguers who lobby in St. Paul, these responses provide information about legislators' priority issues and help us to develop action strategies and promote our positions more effectively. For the legislator, it is important that she/he know that the constituents in the community, particularly Leaguers, are involved and interested in issues and will be holding her/him accountable.

WHAT TO DO:

- Schedule a face-to-face meeting with each assigned legislator (see attached sheet) as soon as possible after the election. These interviews are a good way to involve new Leaguers and, if possible, the president and/or action chair should lead the questioning. Schedule your interview at a time that is convenient for the legislator, preferably before the Legislature convenes on January 2nd.
- As a courtesy, <u>mail the questions</u> to he legislator in advance, and if an inperson interview is not possible, please urge her/him to answer the questionnaire in writing. The questions that are starred have been included in previous interview packets. If your legislator has been asked these questions previously, you do not need to ask them this year.

- Keep the meeting <u>friendly</u>. DO NOT LOBBY the legislator on a particular issue. The League is there to listen, not to debate. If the legislator wants/needs more information on a topic, please arrange for the LWVMN lobbyist on a particular issue to contact her/him.
- 4. If the legislator agrees, tape record the interview and/or videotape it for your local cable channel and plan to print an article about the interview in your local VOTER. Be sure to send a copy of the interview to the local League which shares your legislative district as indicated on the attached sheet. If you know of other groups in your community that are working on a particular issue, share your information with them.
- 5. New legislators will often not be familiar with LWV, so you might <u>take</u> recent <u>publications</u> with you to give the legislator.
- 6. AFTER the interview, do not be shy and please inquire if the legislator is a member of the League (or check the membership file ahead of time). If the legislator is a member, thank her/him for their support; if not, then be sure to give her/him membership information an offer to take a check.
- 7. Send a thank you note.
- 8. Return all responses to LWVMN office by January 2, 2001.
- 9. Thank you all!

If you have specific questions and background materials, you can contact the LWVMN experts individually.

Government: Susan Weisbrod	651/436-7528
Redistricting: Nancy Witta	612/928-7007
Housing: Anne Velasco	612/521-2070
Health Care: Mary Lou Hill	612/374-4218
Mental Health: Pat Bugenstein	612/888-5309
Firearms: Lynn Westphal	612/941-8493
Education: Susan Reinhart	612/827-6490
CMAL: Lorraine Fischer	651/777-5037
Election of Judges: Janet Gendler	612/920-3567

LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS FOR 2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

(Remember the *'s questions have been asked before. Ask these questions of new legislators.)

K-12 Education:

- 1. Where do you stand on the Governor's proposal to increase the state portion of the K-12 funding formula to reduce reliance on the property tax?
- 2. Under what conditions would you support the Governor's proposal?

Background: The governor is proposing a fundamental change in the way schools are funded. He would remove state-mandated K-12 education costs from the local property tax which his administration says would do the following: 1) Make the state accountable for funding its education mandates; 2) make local school districts accountable for the results they achieve with that money and 3) eliminate the "disappearing state dollars" effect by allowing money to flow directly to schools instead of buying down other local taxes through state aid increases.

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 is or her school district.

Redistricting:

1. Would you support a bipartisan commission to carry out redistricting?

Background: During the 1991 session the League worked with a coalition to support timely redistricting of the state legislature. As in previous years, the redistricting process was contentious and the resulting plan controversial, thus reinforcing the need for a bipartisan redistricting commission.

LWVMN Position: Support of regular and equitable reapportionment, with definite procedures established to ensure prompt redistricting by the Legislature or by a reapportionment commission; support of procedure which provide for compact contiguous districts giving advantage to no particular person or group, public accessibility to legislative or commission deliberations and action and prompt judicial review.

Campaign Finance Reform:

1. Would you support the "clean money" system for financing campaigns which provides public financing of campaigns if candidates agree to spending limits and to forego nearly all private contributions?

This approach: 1) requires candidates to raise a substantial number of small contributions to qualify for a fixed amount of campaign money, 2) places limits on the amounts individuals and PAC's can give to political parties and legislative caucuses, and 3) reduces unfair advantages caused by independent expenditures by providing matching funds for participating candidates. Clean Money campaign reform has been passed in Arizona, Massachusetts, Maine and Vermont. Courts have upheld challenges to voluntary participation in this type of reform. The national League strongly supports the Clean Money approach.

LWVMN Position: Support of judicious use of public resources to finance campaigns.

Electoral College:

1. Would you support legislation to change the way Minnesota allocates its Electoral College votes?

Background: Currently all of Minnesota's ten Electoral College votes are allocated to electors of the party that wins the presidential election in the state. Maine and Nebraska have a proportional allocation system that allows their electoral delegations to be divided.

LWVUS Position: The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice-President is essential to representative government. The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the electoral college should be abolished. The League also supports uniform voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. On page 14 of Impact on Issues is the following: Reform of the electoral college should only be considered as a last resort. If undertaken, such reform should include allocating electoral votes proportionally to the popular vote within each state and the District of Columbia; abolishing the office of elector; or amending the U.S. Constitution to bind electors to vote as directed by the electorate.

Firearms:

1. What policies and recommendations to reduce gun violence as a public health and public safety problem would you work for?

Background: The League's firearms focus has always been on gun violence prevention, especially the easy access to handguns which are finding their way into the hands of depressed teens and curious children. (We are not concerned with the proper use of true

sporting weapons such as most long guns and rifles.) Although death from gun crimes has gone down, children's deaths from guns have gone up due to accidents and suicides.

LWVUS Position: Protect the health and safety of citizens by limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support the allocation of resources to better regulate and monitor gun dealers.

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

Election of Judges:

- 1. Would you support changes in the judicial selection process to require nominees to have five years of judicial experience and to require the governor to appoint unfilled seats from nominees from the Judicial Selection Commission?
- 2. Would you support publication of a voters guide with information about judicial candidates by the Secretary of State?
- 3. Would you support funding for this publication?
- 4. Do support or oppose party endorsement for judicial candidates?

Background: The recent League study and membership consensus supported Minnesota's present system of choosing judges in a nonpartisan election with appointment by the Governor for unfilled seats. However, the League did recommend that judicial nominees have five years of experience as a practicing attorney and that the Secretary of State publish a voters' guide with information about judicial elections.

LWVMN Position: Support of the present system of selection and retention of appellate and district court judges with certain modifications. Opposition to allowing candidates for appellate and district judge to accept and use endorsements by political parties.

Choice:

 Do you support the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices? **

LWVMN Position: Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

Housing:

- 1. How do you propose to address the shortage of affordable housing in Minnesota?**
- 2. How would you finance it? **

Background: With the reduction of public housing programs at the federal level there is an increasing demand for affordable housing and more focus on state and local initiatives.

In addition, many small Minnesota communities are facing a threat to economic development because of a lack of affordable housing for potential workers.

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.

Mental Health:

1. The federal government has made funds available on a matching basis to add new Medicaid benefits for mental health services. Would you support appropriating new money for this state match?

Background: This would enhance chronically under-funded adult mental health services, making the benefits similar to those available for children/adolescents and persons with other disabilities.

2. Would you support an increase in "Bridges" subsidies?

Background: "Bridges" is a Minnesota-sponsored housing "voucher" that is used by persons with mental illness until they come to the top of the list for a federally-funded Section 8 voucher.

Minnesota has a publicly recognized housing shortage. People disabled with serious and persistent mental illness (SPMI) often receive Federal Social Security cash benefits of approximately \$550 per month. They often need housing assistance because this is not enough to pay market rate rent and provide for their other needs. Unstable housing arrangements or living in shelters undermines otherwise effective treatments resulting in more costly institutional cares. Additional funding through the "Bridges" program might greatly benefit this group.

3. Would you support legislation to change the standard for civil commitment to make earlier intervention more possible for persons with a serious mental illness who do not recognize their need for treatment?

Background: Representatives Betzold and Greiling are expected to again introduce legislation to change the standards for civil commitment to allow families to get earlier treatment for family members who do not recognize their mental illness or when they are a threat to themselves or to others. Opponents are concerned because they say: 1) abuses occur now because the current laws are not enforced, 2) if commitment is forced it may deter the mentally ill from getting treatment, and 3) commitment should be a last resort because basic civil rights are denied.

Health Care:

1. Do you agree/believe there is a direct and clear relationship between staffing levels and quality of care in nursing homes? Do you support funding which will encourage a level of staffing by well-trained and well-paid and supervised nursing staff to provide quality of care?

Background: Those who are concerned about long-term care issues cite a number of problems in caring for people in nursing homes, including short staffing (using over time, operating with fewer staff than needed), staffing pools (which lack continuity and accountability), lack of training and poor wages and few benefits.

LWVUS Position: The League of Women Voters of the United States believes every U.S. resident should have access to a basic level of care that includes. . . acute care, long-term care and mental health care.

Welfare Reform:

1. On July 1, 2002, a number of women and children will lose their welfare benefits (MN Family Investment Plan). Do you know how many in your district may be affected?

2. Would you support efforts to extend benefits to some recipients and, if so, under

what circumstances?

LWVUS Position: The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that one of the goals of social policy in the United States should be to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families and that the most effective social programs are those designed to prevent or reduce poverty. The LWVUS supports policies and programs designed to: increase job opportunities; increase access to health insurance; provide support services such as child care and transportation. . . .

COUNCIL OF METROPOLITAN AREA LEAGUES

Metropolitan Council:

- 1. How well do you think the restructured Metropolitan Council is functioning? **
- 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 counties? **

6. Should we consider an elected rather than an appointed Council?

Background: Established by the 1967 state Legislature, the Metropolitan Council was given broad assignments in area-wide planning and some specific problems to work on; notably solid waste, sewage disposal and parks and open spaces. CMAL supported the Council's role as overall planning and coordinating agency for the seven-county area, with operational boards supervising day-to-day operations of area services, and local government involvement in decisions involving them. Since its inception the Metropolitan Council has been concerned with overall growth patterns in the metro area, recognizing that area-wide coordination of urban services in needed and public investment should be channeled to achieve area-wide goals.

In 1993 the Legislature restructured the Council into four divisions: transportation, environment, community development, and administration; and broadened its powers to include what had previously been the separate regional operational agencies. A concern is that effective, well-thought-out planning may be lost in the shuffle, or not receive adequate attention. As the metro region's population grows, so too does development of jobs and housing, and some of this growth is now occurring in the adjacent counties. Even if there were stricter controls to prevent sprawl within the existing region, it doesn't appear that the leapfrog development that is occurring in the adjacent areas can be contained without expanding the definition of the region to include additional counties.

CMAL Position, Metropolitan Council: Support 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 retention of an appointed* Metropolitan Council with greater use of its existing powers.

(* CMAL's position on an appointed Council which is currently under restudy, had last been reviewed prior to the restructuring which changed the role of the Council from a planning, coordinating agency into that of an owning and operating agency.)

CMAL Position, Land Use and Environmental Quality: 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 advantages, and 3) provide area residents with diversity in choice of facilities and amenities.

LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS FOR 2001 SESSION FOR LEGISLATORS' USE

(The starred (*) questions have been asked before. You do not need to answer them if you have responded to them in previous interviews.)

Education:

- 1. Where do you stand on the Governor's proposal to increase the state portion of the K-12 funding formula to reduce reliance on the property tax?
- 2. Under what conditions would you support the Governor's proposal?

Government:

- 1. *Redistricting:* Would you support a bipartisan commission to carry out redistricting?
- 2. Campaign Finance Reform: Would you support the clean money option for financing campaigns which provides public financing of campaigns if candidates agree to spending limits and to forego nearly all private contributions?

Electoral College:

1. Would you support legislation to change the way Minnesota allocates its Electoral College votes?

Firearms:

1. What policies and recommendations to reduce gun violence as a public health and safety problem would you work for?

Election of Judges:

- 1. Would you support changes in the judicial selection process to require nominees to have five years of judicial experience and to require the governor to appoint unfilled seats from nominees from the Judicial Selection Commission?
- 2. Would you support publication of a voters guide with information about judicial candidates by the Secretary of State?
- 3. Would you support funding for this publication?
- 4. Do you support or oppose party endorsement for judicial candidates?

Choice:

1. Do you support the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices? **

Housing:

- How do you propose to address the shortage of affordable housing in Minnesota?**
- 2. How would you finance it? **

Mental Health:

- 1. The federal government has made funds available on a matching basis to add new Medicaid benefits for mental health services. Would you support appropriating new money for this state match?
- 2. Would you support and increase in "Bridges" subsidies.
- 3. Would you support legislation to change the standard for civil commitment to make earlier intervention more possible for persons with a serious mental illness who do not recognize their need for treatment?

Health Care:

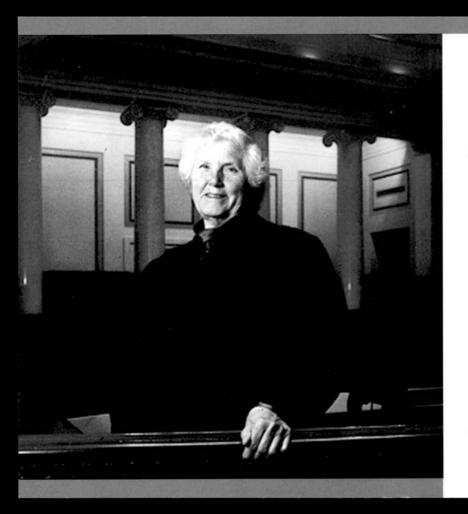
1. Do you believe/agree that there is a direct and clear relationship between staffing levels and quality of care in nursing homes? Do you support funding which will encourage a level of staffing by well-trained and well-paid and supervised nursing staff to provide quality of care?

Welfare Reform:

- 1. On July 1, 2002, a number of women and children will lose their welfare benefits (MN Family Investment Plan). Do you know how many in your district may be affected?
- 2. Would you support efforts to extend benefits to some recipients and, if so, under what circumstances?

Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues Metropolitan Council:

- 1. How well do you think the restructured Metropolitan Council is functioning? **
- 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 counties? **
- 6. Should we consider an elected rather than appointed Council?



STANS LECTURE

Justice Rosalie Wahl
and the Minnesota Supreme Court

Tuesday, Sept. 197 p.m., Minnesota History Center Adjacent to the Cathedral of St. Paul



STANS LECTURE

Justice Rosalie Wahl and the Minnesota Supreme Court

In 1977 Rosalie Wahl made history when she became the first woman appointed to the Minnesota Supreme Court. She will reflect on the challenges courts face in interpreting the law by focusing on several significant cases and her experiences leading the Court's Gender Fairness and Racial Bias task forces.

Tuesday, Sept. 19

7 p.m., Free 3M Auditorium Minnesota History Center 345 Kellogg Blvd. W. St. Paul

Auxiliary aids and services available with advance notice. For more information, call 651/296-6126 or TTY 651/282-6073.

This program is made possible with support from the Maurice Stans Lecture Fund.



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

345 KELLOGG BOULEVARD WEST SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55102-1906 Non Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID St. Paul, MN Permit No. 854



League of Women Voters Minnesota

Education Fund 1998-1999 Annual Report

Advisory Board Members 1998-1999

Ralph Burnet Chairman & CEO Coldwell Banker Burnet

Ned Crosby Board of Directors Jefferson Center

Isabel Gomez Judge Hennepin County District Court

Joan Anderson Growe Secretary of State

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

Roger L. Hale Board of Directors TENNANT

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

Josie R. Johnson President Josie Robinson Johnson & Associates

Steven D. Ladwig
Vice President & President of Data
Storage & Information Technologies
Imation

Sheila Leatherman Executive Vice President United HealthCare

Peggy Lucas Partner Brighton Development Corp.

Laura McCarten
Director of Community Services
Northern States Power Company

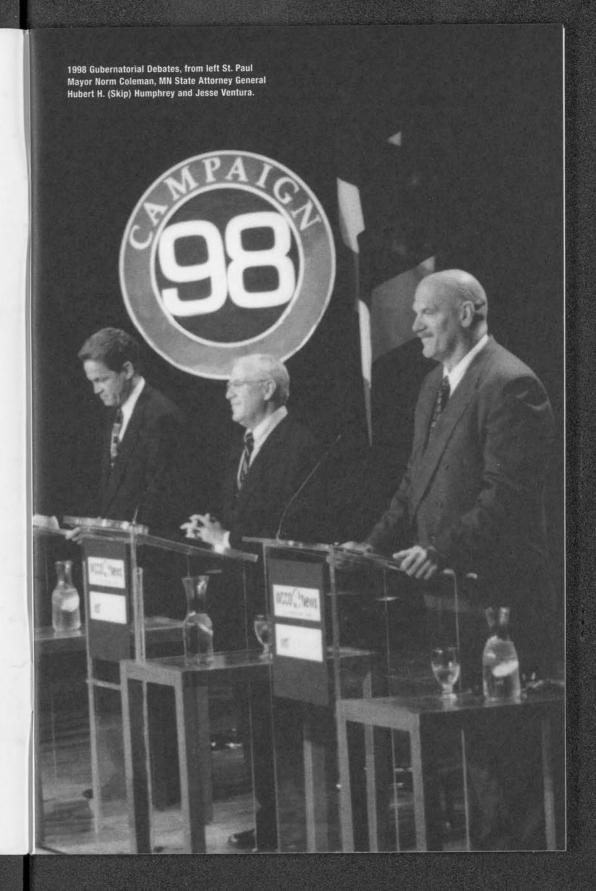
Vivian Jenkins Nelsen President and CEO International Institute for Interracial Interactions: INTER-RACE

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



Letter from the President, Judy Duffy

You have heard the phrase "Democracy is not a spectator sport." Our nation's founders wrote and often spoke about the need for a democracy to be run by the people for the people. For a democracy to flourish, it demands full engagement of its citizens.

A recent news article about a nationwide Spiegel Catalog survey of 1,000 women, ages 25 to 55, identified women's right to vote as the single best innovation of the 20th Century for women. The 19th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution was ratified in 1920. From that time on, American women could fully participate in the democratic process, which until then had been denied them.

Following the right to vote, myriad inventions that provided women with more convenience and freedom, such as washers and dryers, dishwashers, athletic wear, and access to birth control, were at the top of the list of "best innovations for women." However, without the right to vote, women would not have had the political clout to become a significant force in the marketplace, neither as the inspiration nor the beneficiaries of these innovations.

Ideally, the right to vote should have brought equal participation by women running for senator, representative, governor and yes, even president. Also, the 19th Amendment should have brought consistently high levels of voter turnout by women in every election, as well as equal representation of women in all occupations.

Of course, high levels of voter participation is not and should not be the goal of women only, but of all citizens. For 80 years, the League of Women Voters of Minnesota has worked to encourage the involvement and education of citizens in all aspects of the democratic process. The League studies relevant public policy issues, encourages advocacy of issues important to individuals, promotes voting in all elections, and produces nonpartisan voter information that eases a citizen's way into the electoral process.

In the following pages, you will read about the many activities of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund that are made possible by generous contributions from people like you – as individuals, corporations and foundations. Thanks to the volunteer contributions of members and non-members alike, we are able to keep our budgets low. All of these contributions are greatly appreciated and help us "Make Democracy Work."

The League is the premier organization that is fundamentally concerned with the health of our democracy. We will continue to promote widespread civic participation of persons from all backgrounds and economic levels. Starting this new century, we will be reminded time and again that "Democracy is not a spectator sport." It demands our full participation, and the least we can do is vote.

Judy Drypy

Debates '98

In 1998 the League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund sponsored four debates among the candidates of Governor of Minnesota and two debates among the candidates for Attorney General of Minnesota. There were two preprimary debates: one among the Democratic-Farmer-Labor candidates for Governor and one among the Democratic-Farmer-Labor candidates for



From left – right: Hubert H. Humphrey III, Judy Duffy, Jesse Ventura, Norm Coleman

Attorney General. There was a post-primary debate between the candidates for Attorney General. Two of the three general election debates among the candidates for Governor were co-sponsored by local Leagues in northern Minnesota and the final debate, sponsored by the state League, was held in Minneapolis. Attendance at all of the

debates was excellent, and viewing and listening were also high among voters.

All four of the gubernatorial debates were broadcast live on both television and radio, and the Attorney General debates were broadcast live on the radio. The pre-primary Attorney General debate among DFL candidates Ember Reichgott Junge, Mike Hatch and David Lillehaug was held September 3 at the Minnesota News Network Studios, and was carried live on the 70 member stations of the MNN Radio Network.

The General Election debate between Mike Hatch, DFL Party, and Charlie Weaver, Republican Party (the Reform Party candidate was unavailable) was held October 22 at the Minnesota News Network Studios, and was carried live by the MNN Radio Network.

The pre-primary debate among DFL candidates Mark Dayton, Mike Freeman, Hubert H. (Skip) Humphrey III, Doug Johnson, and Ted Mondale was held August 29, from the WCCO-TV broadcast area at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. It was broadcast that evening on WCCO-TV and WCCO Radio.

General Election debates among the candidates for Governor: Norm Coleman, Republican Party; Hubert H. (Skip) Humphrey III, Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party; and Jesse Ventura, Reform Party were held in Brainerd, Duluth and Minneapolis.

The October 1 Brainerd debate was co-sponsored by the Brainerd Lakes Area League of Women Voters. It was carried live on KMSP-TV, Minnesota Public Radio and the Minnesota News Network. In addition, it was taped and rebroadcast that evening by KMSP-TV. On the evening of October 16, the Duluth debate was sponsored by the Duluth League of Women Voters. WDSE-TV, KBJR-TV and Minnesota Public Radio carried it live. C-Span and KMSP-TV taped the debate and rebroadcast it later. The Minneapolis debate on October 27 was sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Minnesota and carried live on WCCO-TV and WCCO Radio.

Full funding was secured for the 1998 debates, with lead funding of \$20,000 from Dayton Hudson Corporation and Dayton Hudson Foundation on behalf on Dayton's, Mervyns's California and Target Stores, \$15,000 from American Express Financial Advisors, Inc. and \$15,000 from the Blandin Foundation. ☑

Making Democracy Work in 1998

The goal of the 1998 Candidate Forums, held throughout Minnesota for House of Representative seats, was to educate voters and promote citizen interest and participation in elections. Sponsored by the Martin Foundation of Elkhart, Indiana, for the third consecutive election year, local Leagues across Minnesota that participated or collaborated with regional Leagues achieved that goal, and more. The 60% Minnesota voter turnout at the November 3 election, noted around the country, was a clear demonstration of increased citizen participation.

One of the keys to the high level of citizen interest and participation was the widely accessible televised debates. Each of the candidate forums in five

congressional districts, funded by pass-through grants to 15 local Leagues and the West Metro Alliance of Leagues, was widely accessible through live televised or radio presentations and taped for additional distribution as replays.

The following local Leagues were recipients of the Martin grant and participated in this project:

ABC

Anoka Blaine

Coon Rapids

Austin Duluth

Freeborn County

Golden Valley

Jackson Area Mahtomedi

МЕРН

Minnetonka

Eden Prairie

Hopkins

Northfield

Owatonna

Red Wing

Robbinsdale Rochester

St. Cloud Area

St. Paul

West Metro Alliance

St. Louis Park Brooklyn Center

MEPH

Wayzata/Plymouth Area Crystal/New Hope/

East Plymouth

Why were the candidate forums so successful? Local League grantees acknowledged that they learned a lot by building on previous work with new voters; that there was increased participation by diverse audiences; and that they benefited from greater visibility through sustained cooperation with media and other organizations. More than half of the local Leagues stretched resources to provide forums for candidates for local offices. This localized focus added greater depth to the statewide House of Representative forums and brought home the importance of every issue and candidates' positions to voters in all parts of Minnesota.

Local Leagues hosted forums for a variety of elective offices. One League conducted a pre-primary election forum for mayoral candidates. Nine Leagues conducted pre-general election candidate forums for the following open positions: for judge in one district court, mayor in two cities, city council members in five cities, county commissioner in five counties, sheriff in one county, county recorder in one county, and school board members in one school district.

According to the final report, expectations of 10 of the 15 Leagues receiving pass-through grants were exceeded when citizen interest in every aspect of the forums and election participation at every level grew. Audience questions at

the forums were varied and to the point. One League experienced lines of people at the microphones and a definitive response to the "Shall we close now" of "No, let everyone in line have a chance to ask a question!" Another League noted more call-in questions than ever, unsolicited approving comments, as well as conversations about the elections around area coffee counters. In terms of following-up on the results of this project, one League enthusiastically responded "We will be ready for Vote 2000!"

Voters Get Up Off the Couch When They Call the League Hotline

A telephone service operating several days before the 1998 Primary and General Elections, the LWVMNEF Hotline provided voters from across Minnesota with voting information. There was a toll-free number for statewide callers. Volunteers answering the calls gave information on where to vote, voter registration and voting requirements. Information on proposed Constitutional Amendments was also provided. This is a completely nonpartisan service, and volunteers do not express any opinions on candidates, issues or amendments. The LWVMNEF has provided this valuable service for almost 20 years.

"Voters can find out their polling places by calling the city clerk or the auditor," says Project Director Linda Loomis, "but those phones are constantly busy at election time. So, our hotline is especially helpful."

WCCO-TV provided phones at their studio, where over 300 volunteers answered calls. The League also staffed the Minnesota Secretary of State's Election Hotline before the Primary and General Elections at the Minnesota Lottery Office Building. Ms. Loomis recruited all the volunteers, who

responded to thousands of requests for information, and coordinated the project. Project assistants were Millie Johnson, Virginia Sweeny and Mary Hepokoski.

"This is one of the ways that League members can help to Make Democracy

Work by reaching out to voters and directly encouraging citizen participation,"
says LWVMNEF President Judy Duffy.

The Education Fund thanks WCCO-TV and the CBS Foundation for their generous support of the League Hotline. We also thank the Secretary of State's office for providing computer technology and training for our volunteers.

✓

Voter Guide Helps Citizens Make Democracy Work

Thanks to Dayton Hudson Foundation and Corporation, Target and Norwest Bank, the 1998 Voter Guide was very successful. Distribution levels reached all-time highs. A total of 280,000 copies of the Primary Voter Guide, and 350,000 copies of the General Election Voter Guide were distributed. Out of that total, 250,000 copies of both versions were distributed in Target stores, Dayton's stores and Mervyn's California stores. Out of the 350,000 General Election Voter Guides, 100,000 copies were purchased by businesses, local Leagues, colleges, libraries, non-profit organizations and public and private schools.

The 1998 Primary and General Election *Voter Guides* included photographs, short biographies and positions on issues for candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, and U.S. Representatives. Additional information included the three proposed amendments to the Minnesota Constitution, voting procedures, and a checklist for citizen participation provided by the Minnesota Compact.

Response to the *Voter Guide* was positive because of its nonpartisan nature. It was noted that the *Voter Guide* has become an "election-time event," and citizens expect to find the *Voter Guide* at certain key locations where they've picked it up in the past.

Minnesota Compact

Building on our experience from the 1996 election year, the Minnesota Compact steering committee reorganized in the winter of 1998 and began plans for the 1998 election. The focus was on the gubernatorial campaign and setting higher standards for candidates, citizens and print and broadcast media. The

emphasis was placed on the substance and issues of the campaign. The Minnesota Compact teamed with the National Alliance for Better Campaigns as one of 10 similar projects in other states throughout the country.

The Compact steering committee first organized in 1996 with representation from the major political parties,

Judy Covey and the Voter Service Committee are responsible for the success of the following Voter Service Projects: the 1998
Gubernatorial Debates, the Voter Guides, the Hotlines, the Local League Congressional & Legislative Candidate Forums sponsored by the Martin Grant, the Minnesota Compact and Campaign Finance Reform:

Strategies for Success in the Midwest. Our gratitude goes out to Ms. Covey, all project directors and all members of the committee.

academia, business, civic groups, newspaper and broadcast media and concerned citizens. In 1996, the focus was on the campaigns for the U.S. Senate, House and Minnesota legislature and campaign advertising. The 1998 efforts included scrutiny of ads and the encouragement of a multitude of candidate debates throughout the state, including a "roadblock" debate sponsored by several major broadcasters. A checklist for citizen involvement

was also developed and distributed throughout the state via newspaper ads, in the League's *Voter Guide*, and at the State Fair.

Four League-sponsored gubernatorial debates were held across Minnesota in the fall of 1998 and were broadcast live on both radio and television. A preprimary debate among DFL candidates was held at the Minnesota State

Fairgrounds and broadcast on television and radio. Because the debates provided a stimulating alternative to the usual political ads and sound bites, the format of campaign discourse for the November 1998 election was improved.

Individuals and organizations worked hard to develop the ideas and principles of the Compact. In 1998, with a grant from the Pew Charitable Trust to the Alliance for Better Campaigns, along with support from the Martin

Foundation, the Education Fund was able to expand its efforts to promote practical standards that will improve the tone and tenor of campaigns. "The development of good leaders is only possible when we develop good citizens. The bottom line is that the attention, action and participation of all of us will assure the representative government that we want," says President Judy Duffy.

President Judy Duffy co-chaired the Minnesota Compact with Tim Penny of the DFL Party, Joanell Dyrstad of the Republican Party and Dean Barkley of the Reform Party. We thank the Pew Charitable Trust, the Alliance for Better Campaigns and the Martin Foundation for their support. Also, we appreciate the leadership of Ms. Dyrstad, Mr. Penny and Mr. Barkley and all of the steering committee members in this campaign reform project. \square

LWVUS President Challenges Americans to Participate

"Today the League continues to empower American citizens to register to vote, defend voting rights, open government to citizens and train tomorrow's civic leaders. And we will continue to be proud of our role as one of the foremost defenders of democracy," said League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) President Dr. Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, on March 4, 1999, at a Westminister Town Hall Forum in Minneapolis.

Dr. Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins is the 15th president of the LWVUS. An Ohio native, she has been a League member since 1982 and is the first woman of African-American descent to head the 80-year-old organization. As president, she leads the League's education and advocacy work on public policy issues, including campaign finance reform, voting issues and healthcare. She also works to encourage women and minorities to run for public office.

Although "America continues to have democratic ideals," Jefferson-Jenkins noted, it doesn't have "an informed and engaged electorate to act upon these ideals. The result is a government that neither knows nor implements the public's will." She noted that according to a study by the Kettering Foundation called Citizens and Politics: A View from Mainstreet, "Americans are



From left – right: LWVUS President Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins and Minneapolis Mayor Sharon Sayles Belton

frustrated and downright angry about the state of the current political system. They don't believe that 'We the people' actually rule. What is more, people do not believe this system is able to solve the pressing problems they face."

According to a 1996 LWVUS survey, *Voters and Nonvoters*, there is a strong link between an individual's social and community connections and voting behavior. Armed with this information and the League's well-known determination, the

League is launching a comprehensive campaign designed to 'Make Democracy Work' through an increase in civic participation, voter participation, campaign finance reform, diversity in representation and civic education and knowledge.

In order to achieve that citizen participation, we should all remember the Golden Rule, Jefferson-Jenkins reminded the Westminister Forum guests. "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you. In a way that says it all. If we applied that rule consistently in our daily

lives, there would be no incivility - the trouble is we don't. We live

by the credo of the television talk show – the opposite of being polite and courteous. Today, a different standard seems to govern how we view civil discourse. This standard impacts both politics and community."

Jefferson-Jenkins noted that technological advances have given civil discourse an entirely new meaning. Nonetheless, old fashioned civil discourse in the forms of every day complaining and opinion sharing among friends, family members and co-workers continues. Our challenge through the League of Women Voters and as individual participants in our democracy is to "translate this discourse into active civic participation."

Citizens in Action Workshops

Since 1981, the Citizens in Action Workshops have been very successful, with up to 300 participants even in the coldest weather. The 1999 Citizens in Action Workshops on January 30 in St. Paul and on February 20 in Duluth were also a success.

The Citizens in Action Workshops provide training for citizens to take action to make a difference in their communities. Participants learn effective lobbying techniques, and how to communicate with elected officials, the press and the public. Attendees are introduced to the law-making process, the rules of protocol, as well as the offices and chambers in which the laws are made.

Participants learn how to lobby from a computer at home or at the library, how to access the Capitol via e-mail and how to track legislation on the Internet.

They are also guided in how to work in coalition with others.

Registration fees are minimal to enable persons of low or moderate incomes to attend the training sessions. Participants receive *How to Make a Difference*, a lobbying handbook and citizens' guide to state government, published every other year by the LWVMNEF. Scholarships are available.

The 1999 Citizens in Action Workshops were made possible by a grant from the Minnesota State Bar Foundation. Along with the League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund, other 1999 sponsors included Common Cause Minnesota; Food First Coalition; Minnesota Congress of Parents, Teachers & Students; Minnesota Council of Nonprofits; National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum - MN Chapter; and the Urban Coalition. Printing of How to Make A Difference was contributed by the West Group.

Graphic design was donated by e.m. smith design.

Printing of the brochures was donated by Reynolds

Printing, Inc.

Cooperating organizations for the 1999 Workshops included the Children's Defense Fund, Jobs Now Coalition, Joint Religious Legislative Coalition, Loaves and

Fishes Too, Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing (MICAH), Minneapolis Urban League, Minnesota Food Shelf Organization, MN Citizens for Tax Justice, MN Community Action Association, MN Parenting Association, the Office for Social Justice - Catholic Charities and the Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans.

Campaign Finance Reform Works for Candidates and the Public

Minnesota was one of seven state Leagues selected by the national League of Women Voters Education Fund to take part in Campaign Finance Reform:

Strategies for Success in the Midwest, under a grant from the Joyce Foundation, based in Chicago. Through a survey done by the Education Fund, it was found that most candidates running for office in 1998 support current campaign finance laws "as is."

Leaders With Build Vision The Future

Minnesota has a long history with laws regulating political campaigns and their funding. In 1974, the Minnesota State Legislature established sweeping reforms on how campaigns were financed and regulated. The next set of reforms came in 1993. That year, the Legislature enacted a number of amendments. Among other changes,

amendments included provisions to offset the advantages enjoyed by incumbent candidates, to establish contribution limits for large donors and to create the requirement that in order to qualify for a public subsidy, a threshold amount of contributions had to be raised from within the candidate's own district.

"While Minnesota's political campaigns and their funding enjoy a generally clean reputation, our campaign finance laws need broader understanding. The League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund recognizes that much remains to be done in contributing to citizen education, encouraging community activism, increasing attention to the elections of all public officials including the judiciary, and in fostering civic involvement. It is the League's belief that our examination of these campaign finance laws will assist in furthering public awareness," says League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund President Judy Duffy.

The survey was conducted soon after the 1998 election. Surveys were sent to candidates for 160 offices. The Education Fund received responses from 193 candidates, representing a 50.1% response rate. Both winners and losers were surveyed on their attitudes towards and experiences with current campaign finance laws. Three surveys were created for the office sought by the candidates. The surveys were sent to candidates for state legislative and constitutional offices, United States House of Representatives and judicial offices, both statewide and contested district court races.

Study of the Election of Judges

The League of Women Voters of
Minnesota Education Fund began a Study
of the Election of Judges in the summer of
1997 to examine the present system of
electing judges in Minnesota, alternative
proposals for appointing judges, and
methods of educating the electorate about
judicial elections and candidates. For
decades, judicial elections have been
relatively unnoticed because the majority
of judges are unopposed and uncontested
for reelection.

The study and the publication were made possible by major contributions from the Minnesota State Bar Association; Siegel, Brill, Greupner, Duffy & Foster PA; the Gannett Foundation/KARE 11-TV; the Elmer L. & Eleanor J. Andersen Foundation; Minnesota Women Lawyers; the Faegre & Benson Foundation; Winthrop & Weinstine; the Gray Plant Mooty Foundation; and Doherty, Rumble & Butler. Printing was donated by the ReliaStar Financial Group.

However, at the ballot boxes for the 1996 election, voters were surprised to realize they had to decide among several candidates for judicial office with little or no information on the candidates. Many voters simply left the ballots blank.

This high level of voter's lack of knowledge about judicial elections, combined with the increasing number of contested races and challenges to incumbent judges, led to the concern about Minnesota's system of judicial election. Minnesota was in need of a nonpartisan examination of its judicial election process conducted by an independent citizens organization, and LWVMNEF stepped up to the plate.

Five workshops for local Leagues were held in the fall of 1997 in Duluth,

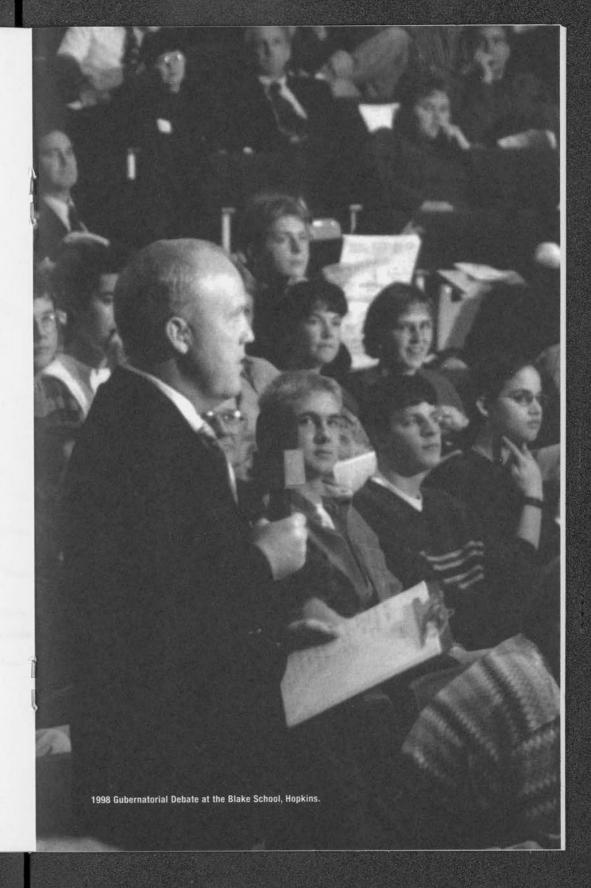
Brainerd, Roseville, Rochester and Edina. They included an introduction to the facts and issues of the Minnesota judiciary selection process with time for discussion and feedback to the study committee.

On May 1, 1998, the Study Committee presented a LWVMN Law Day Forum entitled "Judicial Elections: Can We Make Them Work?" Held at the University of St. Thomas, the forum featured Chief Justice A.M. (Sandy) Keith and a panel of four additional speakers, chosen for their

knowledge of, and widely varying perspectives on, the issues involved. Justice Keith offered an overview of Minnesota's system of judicial appointments and elections, and a brief summary of alternatives. Sponsors of the event were the LWVMN Education Fund, the Minnesota State Bar Association, Minnesota Women Lawyers, and the University of St. Thomas Political Science Department.

Choosing Minnesota's Judges: An Examination of the Present System and Alternative Proposals was published by the Education Fund in August 1998 and is now available. Our thanks to Helen Palmer and Janet Gendler for chairing this project.

✓



Corporate and Foundation Donors

We wish to thank the following corporations, foundations and organizations who have provided financial support and contributions in-kind for Fiscal Year April 1, 1998 to March 31, 1999.

\$10,000 and above:

CBS Foundation Dayton Hudson Foundation American Express Financial Advisors, Inc. Blandin Foundation Cargill

\$5,000-9,999:

Martin Foundation League of Women Voters of the U.S. & the Joyce Foundation Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Minnesota Business Partnership Andersen Foundation West Group Medtronic Foundation Siegel, Brill, Greupner, Duffy & Foster, P.A.

\$1,000-4,999:

ADC Telecommunications MN State Bar Foundation Northern State Power Company Norwest Foundation Gannett Foundation/KARE 11 Star Tribune Foundation SUPERVALU Deluxe Corporation Foundation Elmer L. & Eleanor J. Andersen Foundation SCIMED Foundation Honeywell Foundation Coldwell Banker Burnet Leech Lake Tribal Council Land-O-Lakes Foundation Minnesota Mutual Foundation Ceredian U.S. Bancorp

Up to \$999:

J.C. Penny Company

Horton, Inc. White Earth Reservation Tribal Council Winthrop & Weinstine P.A. TCF Foundation Doherty, Rumble & Butler P.A. Instant Web Companies Gray Plant Mooty Foundation W. Walker Fund American Medical Systems Malt-O-Meal The Minneapolis Foundation Remmele Engineering Allianz Life Insurance Co. of North America G & K Services Hartfiel Company Lieberman-Okinow Foundation

LWVMNEF In-Kind Contributions

e.m. smith design Impressions, Inc. Jessen Press Michele Dettloff Design University of St. Thomas Unisys West Group ReliaStar Financial Corp. Reynolds Printing, Inc.

Individual Donors

President's Club (\$1,000 & Up)

Carol Duff Elizabeth Marshall Walter Kuckes Gerald Duffy Jerome S. Gray

Action Club (\$500 to \$999)

Anne & Dan Borgen Ioann Buie Judy C. Duffy Kay & Bill Erickson Eleanor S. Fenton Karen & Howard Gochberg Mary Hepokoski Joan H. Higinbotham Margaret & Ilo Leppik Mertyce R. Main Mary C. McVay Nina & Ken Rothchild Jean & Dixon Tews Margaret Ueland Ann Sheldon Duff Sally & Tim Sawyer

Consensus Club (\$250 to \$499)

Gay & Ronald Baukol Margit & Tom Berg Margaret & William Bracken Bertha Christianson Judith S. Corson Mary Lee Dayton Mary P. Dinneen Ralph Ebbott Mr. & Mrs. Rich Flack Flovd & Joanna Foslien Carol K. Frisch lanet & John Gendler Penny & Bill George Eydie Kargas Karen Lilley Peggy & Dave Lucas Mary Ann McCoy Beverly K. McKinnell Elizabeth M. Nordling Constance Otis Martha R. Platt

Diane Power

G. Edward & Maria Ignez Schuh Bill & Susan Simmonds Mary E. Steen Susan Weisbrod

Voters Club (\$100 - \$250)

Carol M. Adams Karen J. Anderson Rosalyn & Mark Anderson Beverly Aplikowski Kay C. & Ronald J. Bach Constance Baillie Lauren B. Baker Fred H. Bame Elinor Watson Bell Marguerite Benson Cindy K. Berquist Dr. Blanton Bessinger Paul Bilka Arline Brown Harriette & lack Burkhalter Tom Bird & Catherine Shreves Sharon Clapp

Maureen & Bill Cosgriff Kay Cram Ned Crosby Carolyn & Edward Cushing Marylyn Deneen Vera & Paul J. Dougher Joan R. Duddingston Isabelle Dyck Shirley D. Edmonson Trudell E. Een Joan & Dave Ellison Joanne A. Englund Sandra Fox Carol M. Fuller Theodora Geokezas Gary & Florence Gilbertson Barbara P. Gilfillan Larry Gleason Susan Greenberg Marjorie V. Grinnell Beverly N. & N. Bud Grossman Mrs. R.B. Okie Roy & Mary Lewis Grow Nanette R. Grube Rosemary Guttormsson

Barbara Haroldson Jessie D. Harper Mary K. Hartwig Vernae Hasbargen Mary M. Hauser Judy Hedin Carolyn Hendrixson Katharine Heneman Harriett Herb Barbara Hiles Connie & Roman Hondl Judy & John Howe Iill D. Hurst Carolyn Hymes Dale & Janice Johnson Josie R. Johnson Bill & Jeannine E. Karnes Polly & Bill Keppel Gayle Kincannon Mary C. Koehler Joel & Catherine M. Koemptgen Patricia Kovel-Jarboe Linda E. Krach, M.D. Dawn Kuzma Wyona M. Lachowitzer Robin & Dave Larkin Katherine Leighton Kathy Lenzmeier Virginia & Sy Levy Mary Lou Loud Mari Lowe Brenda Martens lane McWilliams Roberta Megard Lynnell Mickelsen Ruth Mitchell Dorothy Mooney Elizabeth Mussey lanet & David A. Nelson Deborah Nelson Ioan & Richard Newmark Pat O'Connor

Grace Harkness

Continued on next page

Florence K. Olson

Sally Patterson

lackie & John Parsinen

Donors continued

Rosanne Pera Clarence R. Perisho Donna N. Peterson Kathleen C. Pickering Kathleen Pohlig Meredith Poland Mary W. Porter Christine Portoghese Cynthia Powers Jean Regal Gladys & Frank Ritter Ruth Roberts

Gladys & Frank Ritter Ruth Roberts Jean Roberts Helen Roland Marty Rossmann Betty & Gene Sailer John Sandbo Elizabeth Z. Savage Susan Scharenbrioch Emily & Peter Schmitz Mr. G. S. Schuster

Catherine Severin

Pneena Pearl Sheps

Hazel Shimmin
Katie Sholtz
Fran M. Skovlund
Frank J. Sorauf
Nancy Speer
Barbara Stuhler
Virginia & Fred Sweeny
Mary Templeton

Marjorie Thompson
Peggy Thompson
Jane Toft
Judy Trepka
Doreen & Mike Trucano
Ahigail Turper

Abigail Turner
Emily Anne Tuttle
Mary C. Van Evera
Joanne W. Von Blon
Winston & Maxine Wallin
Bill & Judy Walter

Laura C. Weinberger Marty Wells G. Werness

Joan W. Washburn

Patricia Whisnant Karen Young Grassroots Club (Up to \$99)

Dorothy Aarness Ms. Frances J. Abbott Karen Abraham Joyce Abramson

Dr. Karen R. Achberger Lorraine Adams Audrey Adel

Mary Adrian
Ms. Dorothee Aeppli
Steve & Mary Ager
Diane Ahrens

Nancy M. Albrecht Sue Allison

Barbara Allivato Karen Alworth

Douglas K. Amdahl Diane Laura Amell

Ms. B.J. Amick Ann J. Andersen Vikki Anderson

Mary E. Anderson Kim Anderson Anita M. Anderson

Sophie Anderson Oliver & Evelyn Anderson

Kay Anderson Gwen Anderson Charlotte Anderson Martha Anderson

Cynthia Anderson Sonja Anderson

Elizabeth T. Andresen Grace I. Andrews Mrs. Dewalt H. Ankeny, Sr. Sharon B. Auldrich

Sharon B. Auldrich Dr. & Mrs. Lynn Ault Pat Avery Ruth Bachman

Katie Bade Ginger Bailey Marilyn Bailey Lee Ball

Cheryl Bannerman Mr. Laird H. Barber

Letitia Basford Kay Batchelder Mrs. Janet F. Bateman

Patricia Bauer
Kenneth O. Beck

Betty V. Beier lovce Belknap

Elizabeth Bemis Betty M. Benjamin

Cecelia Bennett Sheila B. Bennett

Kathleen A. Berg Carol Bergenstal Viola Bergquist

Theresa Berman Ann Berry Bettie Berube

Carmen Bey Cheryl Binzen Georgeann Biros Iane Blackhus

Perry & Gertrude Blackshear

Deborah Blake Joyce Blomquist Adeline Blowers Mrs. Jeanne C. Blumberg

Carol Bly Evelyne Boddy

Virginia Bodine Frances Sorrel Bodman

Florence Bogle Charles J. Boltuck Carol Bomben Virginia Borden Lisa S. Borelli Sharon Borg

Gail Bradbury Shirley A. Bradway Doris Braley Linda Brandberg

Marie Brands Claire Brandt Adrienne Breiner Lorraine Breitenbuche

Lorraine Breitenbucher Penelope C. Breitlow Helen Bremmer

Toby B. Brill Flora-Jane Bromley Carl & Jean Brookins

Sandy Brooks Anna Carrie Brooks

Helen L. Brown Joann S. Brown Marcia Brown

Sally W. Brown

Maggie Swanston Brown Nancy Brubaker

Phyllis Bruce Sally M. Bruggeman

Elaine Bruhn Kathy Brutinel Marilyn T. Bryant Diane Bublitz

Pat Bugenstein Barbara J. Burleigh

Karla Businaro Helen J. Bylund Anne Byrne

Dorothy & John Callahan

Dan Campbell Georgiana Harwood Campbell

Candace Campbell Janet Cardle Donna Carlson

Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Carlson Audrey E. Carlsten

Audrey E. Carlsten
Darlene Carroll
Mary Carson
Marilyn Carver
John Casey

Nancy Cassano Carolyn & Charles Caswell

Amy Caucutt Catherine Cella Cynthia L. Chamberlin

Jennifer Charpentier Cynthia Y. Chen Lois Cheney Shirley Chenoweth Jean M. Chesley

Nancy Child Holly Hartrick Childs Cindy J. Childs

Nancy E. Christensen Kay Christenson

Ruth Finneman Christenson

Dorothy Anne & Lyle Christianson

Iola E. Christopherson Kathleen & Paul A. Ciernia

Judy Cipolla Diane Cirksena Jean W. Clark Jean Clarke Florence Claus

Barbara A. Cole Harriet Conkey Dani Connors-Smith

Eileen D. Cooke Sandy Cooper Jane S. Copes

Mary A. Corliss

Jeanne E. Corwin

Judith Wyma Covey
Florence L. Criss

Anne Byrne William Crosley
Jane A. Callahan Andrew & Carol Currie

Christine M. Custer Jana Cyrus Caroline Czarnecki

Mr. Henry S. Crosby, Jr.

Campbell Carla Dahl
tle Donna Dahl
trison Jan Dahl

Caroline Dale Ida Darsow Betty R. Datta

> Mary Davies Dorothy "Dody" Davies Terry & Joanie Davis

Ginny Day

Alice de Meurisse

M. Luella Dettmann

Inga Di Tosto Tiffany & Bryan Dickerhoof

John M. Dickerson Audrae Diestler Sandra Doberstein Susannah Dodson Rosamond Dols Sara Donaldson

Arliss J. Dooley Mary Doty Josephine Downey Robin Piper Downs Marion C. Dragelin

Denver Du Mond Dorothy M. Du Toit Joe & October Duffy Dee Duffy

Mary Duffy Mrs. Gayle L. Dungey Evelyn Durkee Shirley Dworsky Mary Dyer-Bennet Elizabeth U. Dyson

Berdell Eastlund Sally Economon

Linda Edwards Jean Egbert John Ehlert

Barb Ehnes Sophie Ehrhardt Mary K. Eichinger Sandy M. Eliason

Barbara & Thomas Elliott

Charlette Elm

Betsy Allis & Bill R. Elwood Mary Emery

Mary Emery
Helga Emrich
Linda Engberg
Linda Engebretson
Marge Engebretson
Lynn K. Engman
Leanne Erickson
Carol Ericson

Shirley Espeland Margaret H. Eubanks Sara Evans Mary Evans Mary Jane Evenson

Sally Evert
Kathleen Fagerlund
Vennie Fahning

Jane K. Falls Betty Tisel & Sarah Farley

Judy L. Farmer Elfrieda Farseth Mary Faucett Hazel Faust Joan M. Feinberg Carol C. Ferris

Albert & Marion Finholt

Norma Finnegan Lorraine Fischer Margaret Fisher Charlotte Fisher Barbara Hanna Flanigan

Karen Flood Gretchen Flynn Janet Folsom

Jeanne & Doug Fontaine Silas & Vicki Ford Barbara Ford

Continued on next page

Donors continued

Jane Foster Katie Fournier Linda Fox-Pobuda Karen Fraase Jeanne M. Frantes Linda Fraser Phyliss Fraser Florence Fredrickson Iris R. Fried Karlynn Fronek Ruth A. Fuller Cynthia Furnas Ioan & James Gardner Janet S. Garlock Virginia Gartner Beverly Geffert Joan Gendreau Carol Gengebach Michele Gersich M. Pratt Giddings Jane Gilley Katy Gillispie Donald F. Gleason Mary Goette Judy Goldfein Rebecca Gonzalez-Campoy Julie Goodman Joyce M. Gossman Susan Gray Florence Gray Virginia Gray Grace W. Gray Zelma Gray Virginia & John Greenman

Mrs. Carol A. Green Dennis Grigal Nancy Grimsby Phyllis Grossman Meg Grove Anne Hittler Grover Ioan Anderson Growe Nancy Gundersen Sylvia Gunderson Margaret L. Gunther Alpha Gustafson Gerri Gustafson

Adrienne G. Gutierrez

Betty Gutmann

Marilyn Haglund

Carole Haas

Susan A. Hagstrum Marlene Haider Georgeann Hall Diann & Carl Halverson Gloria Hamman Karen Hammill Ruth E. Hanold John L. Hansen Richard M. Hansen Bob & Arlie Hanson Gail Hanson Carol Hanson Betty Hardacker Evelyn D. Harne Elizabeth Harper Ms. Beverly J. Harries Larry Harris Jean L. Harris, M.D. Carol Harwood Triss Harwood Helen Hastay Dolores Hastings Evelyn F. Hatfield Mary Haxby Jean Hayes Martha Head Bernice Healy Marvel Heath Sally Hebeisen Jackie Hegman Anna Heinrich Mary Susan Heise Toni Hengesteg Elayne Hengler Charmaine Hepper Charlotte Herman

Paulette George Hastings Gini Hickman Shirley J. Hill Mary Lou Hill Katie Hill Elizabeth L. Hoch Mary Hodapp Patricia Hoehn Muriel Hoff Thomas A. Hofflander Beverly Hogan Harriet J. Holden

Barbara Hope Janelle House Mrs. Elizabeth How Ruth A. Howe Geraldine H. Hove Yvonne Hubmayr Robert & Marianne Hudec Mary Ann Huelster lane F. Hughes Isabel Huizenga Patricia A. Hurd Mary Hurley Aino M. Husen Ruth Husing Margaret Hutcheson Jay & Cindy Ihlenfeld Nancy Irsfeld Jock & Twinks Irvine Ms. Helena Jackson Ann Jaede Dorothy Jarvis Geraldine S. Jenkins Suzanne Jenkins Barbara Jenkins Geri Jensen Mary & Scott Jensen Marie lensen Evelyn Jernberg Elizabeth K. Jerome Patricia Jindra Deborah Jindra Suzanne Jiwani Harriet W. Johnson Betty J. Johnson Anne M. Johnson Julie Johnson Pat Johnson Janice C. Johnson Yvonne Johnson Dagny Johnson Mrs. Orlean E. Johnson Mark & Jennifer Johnson Helen Johnson Linnea C. Johnson Adria Johnson Eudora Johnson Cindy Faye Johnson

Julianne Johnston

Geri Joseph

Sally & Charles Jorgensen

Yleen Joslyn Irene Joyce David Kaldor Bonita Kallestad Betty Kane Shirley Kaplan Charlotte Karlen Diana Kasper Stephen A. Katz Barbara W. Kaufman Claudine Kaylor Patricia Keith Eda Kelley & Suzanne Kelley Peggy Kelly Sylvia Kerr Barb Kimer Ed & Judy Kishel Mary Ellen Kjos Mrs. Kathryn M. Klages Mary Kluge Kathy Knapp Joann Knuth Ruth C. Knutson Kim Koehnen Fran Kolb Patricia Kovaleski Aggie Kranz Jan Kraske Cynthia Krieg Marlene Krona Germaine S. Krysan Joyce Kumma Janyce Kurttila Leila Lange Rollie H. Langer Katie & Evan S. Larson Lila B. Larson Joyce M. Larson Emilie Larson Ellie Layton Phyllis Layton Deanna M. Lederer Mary Jane Lee Marlyce Lee Mary Lynn & Gary Leff Darelynn D. Lehto Mary Lepien Gwen Lerner Phyllis Letendre James H. Levy

Rhoda Lewin Carol Lewis Andrea Lex Nan P. Lightner Dot Lilia Nancy Lindberg Sandra Lindquist Mr. Seth B. Lindsey Mary Lindstrom Ms. Bonnie Litton Mr. & Mrs. K. W. Livermore Kay Livingston Doris Lizee Ian Lloyd Sharon Lockwood Diane Loeffler Steven Loken Helen Longino Marnie Lonsdale Ann Lonstein Pat & Russ Lucas Marjory L. Luce Dianne & Steven Lukas Barbara Lukermann Marilyn Lundberg Beverly A. Lutz Ioan Lynch lanis Lysen Kathleen Maegerlein Sara Magee Archie Magnuson Midge & Jim Main Rhoda Mains Barbara Malamen Linda Maloney Margaret Manley Lynne & Howard Markus Ellen Marsden Gerry Marshall Millie & Don Martin Glenda Martin Sandy Martin Iim & Sandra Massoth Jeanne C. Matlock Helen Mayer Marguerite McConoughey Bob & Margaret McCov Kay & Roger McCulley

Jacqueline M. McFerran Grace McGarvie Mary McGee Alice McIlrath Diane McBride-Thompson Mary Ellen McFarland Shirley M. McGerty Mr. & Mrs. Gerald McGinty Ioan McNeil Debby McNeil Ms. Dorothy Meacham S. Dore Mead Hope Melton Diana Menanteau Sue Merrill Margaret Messenheimer Diane Meyer Lillian Meyer Lillian Michael Anne Miller Barb Miller Suzv Miller Muriel A. Miller Helen L. Miner Steve Minn Charlotte Mitau-Price Dimi Mitchell Louise B. Moe Jean Moede Allene Moesler Larry & Joan Molenaar Carol Moller Beverly Montgomery Ioan Moore Ellen Moore Marilyn Morem Charlotte Morse Virginia Morse Ian A. Morton Miriam Mount Beth Mueller Diane & Gerald Mundt Sharon Murphy **Emily Myers** Gwen Myers Florence H. Myslajek Suzanne Napgezek Rachel & Steve Neiswanger E. W. McDiarmid Lavonne Nelson Iean McDonough Jananne F. Nelson

Continued on next page

Margaret J. Holden

Baba Honmyhr

Donors continued Joyce Nelson Ioan Newman Luella Newstrom Joan Niemiec Mark Nolan Florence Norbeck Candy Nordland Mary Ellen Noreen Karen & Mike Norman Grace Norris Helen DeForrest Norris Josephine Nunn Lois V. Nyman Arlene Nystuen Ken O'Brien D. William O'Brien Diane O'Connor Alice O'Donnell Babe O'Gorman Brian & Gayle O'Neill James B. O'Rourke Lezlie Oachs Donna Oakey Dorothy Olds

Carol Olson

Claire Olson

Marilyn Olson

Eugenia M. Oole

M. Eileen Orlowski

Carol J. Osip Dru Osterud Dori Otterson Mary Ann Palmer Karen Panton Rita Paris Peg Parsons Katherine Paulsen Fran Paulu Patricia A. Pederson Edith Peller Paul & Paula Pentel Arthur Pera Barbara Person Betty Lou Petersen Juanita Peterson Ms. Elin Peterson Ioan & Alan Peterson Charlotte Peterson Janet Petri Gloria Phillips

Jean E. Phillips Mary Phillips Ruth Phipps Jane Piepgras Elinore Pierce Wilma Pierce Carol Pihlstrom Donald M. Pitsch Peggy Pluimer Audrey Plunkett Bertha Porterfield Wendy Postier Wendy Rabin Laurie M. Rahr Dorothy Rakow Lael Ramaley Marian G. Raup Susan Realmuto Marilyn I. Rehnberg Leola I. Rempel Ann H. Rest Terry & Bettie Reuther Donna Lou Reynolds Doris S. Rhodes Sydney Rice Carolyn F. Richards Susan K. Ricketts Shirley S. Rickord Mary Rielly Bette Ripke Rosemary Ritchie Chris Robbins Susan Robertson Phyllis Robertus Marion B. Robinson Carol Robinson Iulie & Harold Rodakowski

Vi Russell Leane Rutherford Mr. & Mrs. Rob Ruzicka Maret S. Rvan Rosemarie Ryweck Elaine Saline Mary Santi Faye Sargent Arline Satrom Inez M. Sauby Mary Savina Mary T. Schertler Jean Schmaltz Barbara Schmidt Bonnie Schnell Gail Schoenfelder Opal M. Schram Elizabeth Schutt Evelyn Schwartz Belle Scott Margaret Scott Rebecca A. Scott Patricia E. Scott Iulie Seidelman Marree Seitz Mr. Julian Sellers Muriel Seltz Joe Selvaggio Margaret Severe Patricia Severin Ann Seymour Janet Shapiro Kay Shaw Rebecca Shedd Cheryl S. Sheldon Ellen Shelton Anne Shortall Margaret Shreves Margaret & Davis Shryer Norma Signorelli Serene Simon Phyllis Sinks

Jean Slockbower

Carol A. Smith

Elaine F. Smith

Georgiana Sobola

Cindy Snyder

Violet J. Sollie

Akhouri & Dorothy Sinha Allie Skoro

Claudine Solseng Frank Usenik Janet E. South Lois Van Dyck Vera Sparkes Michele Vance Debbie Spuit Patricia M. Vaurio Kathleen Stack Kathleen Vellenga Consuelo Stacy Nancy L. Vernon Sheila Steiner Mary Howard Viereck Ruth Stenerson Mary Vik Florence V. Stephens Elaine Dzubak Villafana Charlotte Stephens Joyce H. Vincent Erica B. Stern Chris Voelz Cordelia Pierson & Steve Smela Florence Vogel Terrence & Donna Stewart Carol J. Vosberg Patricia Stoddard ludith Anderson Stoutland Carol Waldron Alice Strobel Shirley Walker Cherry Stubbs Kay Walker Reva N. Stump lanet Walker Lorraine Stussy Victoria Surge lanice Wann Eleanor Swanson Richard & Jennie Swenson Elaine Ward Grace Swenson

Valerie Swenson

Paul S. Swensson

Judy Takkunen

Marilyn Tamsky

Mariorie I. Tarr

Elizabeth Taylor

Lois L. Terhaar

lo Theve

Linda Thielbar

lennifer Thistle

Lindsey C. Thomas

Phyllis J. Thornley

Linda Baker Trevorrow

Bonnie N. Turrentine

Barbara & Bob Uppgaard

Becky Thorson

Alice A. Tuseth

Arnulf Ueland, Ir.

Shirley K. Ungar

Mary Upjohn

Joy Tierney

Mary Lou Terwilliger

Beatrice D. Thacher

Donald & Peggy Theis

Mr. & Mrs. John D. Telfer

Bruce & Judith Tennebaum

Ms. Karen P. Szeitz

Cathy H. Waldhauser Jeanne & Robert Walz Hallie E. Wannamaker Marilee Ward Bob & Mary Warren Esther Wattenberg Bev & Glyndon Webb Carol Weber Page Weed Iill S. Weese Donna M. Wegley Mr. Gerhard Weiss Sandra Weissler Mary Wellik Lois K. Wendt Boodie Werbel Mary Lou Werner Eunice West Margaret Westin Lynne Westphal Evelyn R. White Betty M. Whitman Mabeth S. Wickersham Nedra M. Wicks Adrienne A. Wickstrom Linda Wijg Phyllis Wilcox Aileen Williams

Paul F. Wilson Ruth M. Wilwerding Barbara Winfield Frank L. Winter Jane Wipf Nancy A. Witta lov G. Wolf Barbara Wonson-Liukkonen Shirley Workman Mona & Gene Wray Mary Ann Wray Patricia J. Yemne ludy Yudof Ardyce Zens K. L. "Karen" Ziegler Hilary Ziols

Suzanne Rodell

Terry Rogers

Elaine Rogin

Karen E. Rose

Janet Rosenbloom

Sarah Baker Ross

Brynhild Rowberg

Helen & Raymond Rozycki

William & Judith Rummler

June Rowland

Jean Rozinka

Priscilla Russell

Jacqueline B. Rogan

Bruce Wilson

Mary S. Wilson

Alex & Marguerite Wilson

The Legacy Circle

The Legacy Circle was established in January 1994 to recognize friends, both members and non-members, who have made arrangements for the LWVMN or the LWVMN Education Fund (LWVMNEF) to receive a planned gift through wills, trusts, life insurance policies, retirement funds or pooled income funds, or who have made outright gifts of \$1,000 or more to the Endowment Fund. All persons who notified the League of any of the above arrangements in the 1994 calendar year are recognized as Charter Members * of the Legacy Circle.

**	Y 1	
Kay	Back	h.
Lay	Daci	ш

- * Margit and Tom Berg
- * Carol and Ray Bergeson
- * Laurie Boche Marcia Brown
- Marcia Brow
 * Joann Buie
- Marilyn and Kenneth Buresh
- * Harriette Burkhalter
 Betty Carr
 Judith and Keith Covey
 Florence and Charles Criss
 Barbara and Richard Crouter
- * Marylyn Deneen
- * Ann Duff
- Judy and Gerry Duffy
- * J. Isabelle Dyck
- * Kay Erickson Leanne Erickson Barbara Flanigan Carol Frisch Virginia B. and James P. Ginsberg
- * Florence Gray
- * Rosemary Guttormsson
- * Catherine Hegg Mary and Peter Hepokoski Joan Higinbotham Constance Hondl
- * Carolyn Hymes
- * Geraldine S. Jenkins Phyllis and Gene Letendre Elizabeth P. Marshall Mertyce Mayne
- * Beverly McKinnell

- * Roberta Megard Martha Micks Sally D. Patterson Martha Platt
- * Mary Porter Mary Santi
- * Sally Sawyer
- * Emily and Peter Schmitz
- * Pearl Sheps
- * Hazel Shimmin Miriam Simmons Susan and Bill Simmonds Nora B. Slawik
- * Barbara J. Stuhler
- * Jean and Dixon Tews
- * Peggy Thompson
- * Margaret Ueland
- * Shirley Ungar Mary Van Evera Alicemay Watson Eve and Clark Webster Donna and James Wegley Mary Lou Werner Molly Duff Woehrlin
- * Nancy Witta

Gifts from the Estates of:

- * Lillian Jensen
- * June B. Stein Virginia J. Wimmer

Memorials, Honors and Other Gifts

Our thanks to the following special donors in Fiscal Year 1998-1999

In Memory of:	Given by:	In Honor of:	Given by:		
Ruth Cain	Catherine Hegg	Jean Tews	Harriette Burkhalt		
			Judy Duffy		
Elizabeth Ebbott	Anne Borgen		Kay Erickson		
	Joann Buie		Georgeann Hall		
	Carolyn Cushing		Eydie Kargas		
	Marylyn Deenen		Beverly McKinnell		
	Judy Duffy		Judith Rosenblatt		
	Kay Erickson		Mari Santi		
	Georgeann Hall		Sally Sawyer		
	Mahtomedi Area League		Barbara Stuhler		
	Roberta Megard		Susan D. Weisbrod		
	Elizabeth Nordling				
	Judith Rosenblatt	LWVMNEF Endowment	1		
	Sally Sawyer	Kay Bach			
	Sally Simundson	Kay and Bill Erickson			
	Jean Tews	Judy and Gerry Duffy			
		Mary Santi			
Anne S. Francis	Judy Duffy	Hazel Shimmin			
	Constance Hondl				
	Peggy Lucas	LWVMNEF Board-Direct	3.5.00 A 5772.75		
10.50	Janet Nelson	Kay and Bill Erickson			
2.15	Sally Sawyer	Molly Duff Woehrlin			
	Wendy Weden	Betty Carr			
	Lynn Westphal	120 1200 1000			
		League of Women Vote			
Hertha Harmon	Kitty Dornfield	LWVMN	Judy Duffy		
		Hope Washburn			
Elizabeth McKinstry	Malcolm McLean	Fund	Hazel Shimmin		
Hortense O'Neill	Georgeann Hall				
	Sally Simundson				
1 11 01	a h				
Lucille Oliver	Catherine Hegg				
Isabella Wille	New Brighton League				
	and the second of the second o				

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

for the year ended March 31, 1999 With Comparative totals for March 31, 1998 Unrestricted

	OPERATING NET ASSETS	BUILDING	EQUIPMENT	PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS	1999 TOTAL	1998 TOTAL
Support and Revenue	1.0						
Contributions	\$ 139,912	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 136,271	\$ 276,183	\$ 200,561
Contributions, services from LWV		=	100	228	-	-	17,803
Donated services	28,066	=	_	1 1 4	=	28,066	29,981
Program related income	126,008	=	925	-	-	126,008	38,382
Investment income, interest	8,683	1,027		-		9,710	6,984
	\$ 302,669	\$ 1,027		-	\$ 136,271	\$ 439,967	\$ 293,711
Expenses							
Program services	\$ 334,159	-	\$ 3,972	-	-	\$ 338,131	\$ 212,903
Supporting services	3 /8 194						
General, administration and development	56,130	18,511	-		-	74,641	49,037
Partnership loss, net (building operations)	1-1	10,217	-	-	-	10,217	7,370
Superior 1	390,289	28,728	3,972	-	-	422,989	269,310
Increase (decrease) in net assets	(87,620)	(27,701)	(3,972)	-	136,271	16,978	24,401
Transfer from temporarily restricted net assets	158,442	-	-	-	(158,442)	-	-/
Net assets, beginning of year	109,489	101,078	6,575	33,756	64,947	315,845	291,444
Net assets, end of year	\$ 180,311	\$ 73,377	\$ 2,603	\$ 33,756	\$ 42,776	\$ 332,823	\$ 315,845

Board of Directors

Officers

Judy Duffy, President Jeanne Matlock, 1st Vice President Jeanne Walz, 2nd Vice President Carol Frisch, 3rd Vice President Vera Dougher, Secretary Cindy Berquist, Treasurer

Directors

Carolyn Bong, Voter Service
Anne Borgen, Field Service
Judy Covey, Curriculum
Mary Dinneen, Program/Citizen Info
Kay Erickson, New Century Campaign
Janet Gender, Judicial Elections Study Co-Chair
Connie Hondl, Program
Cynthia Krieg, Communications/Voter
Helen McDermott, Judicial Elections Study Co-Chair
Kathleen Pickering, Membership
Susan Weisbrod, Government Issues

Off Board

Sandra Cooper, Nominating Committe Chair Carolyn Cushing, Nominating Committee Diane Gibson, Technologhy Linda Satoruis, Nominating Committee Nancy Witta, Budget Committee Chair

Local Leagues

Alexandria ABC

(Anoka/Blaine/Coon Rapids)

Arden Hills/Shoreview

Austin

Bemidji Area Bloomington

Brainerd Lakes Area

Brooklyn Center

Brooklyn Park/ Osseo/Maple Grove

Buffalo/Monticello Area

Cannon Falls Area Cass Lake/Walker Area

Crystal/New Hope/East Plymouth

Detroit Lakes Area

Duluth

Eastern Carver County

Edina

Freeborn County

Fridley

Golden Valley

Jackson Area

Mahtomedi Area

Mankato Area

Minneapolis

MEPH

(Minnetonka/Eden Prairie/Hopkins)

New Brighton

New Ulm

Northern Dakota County

Northfield

Owatonna

Red Wing Richfield Robbinsdale Rochester Rock County ROMAFH

(Roseville/Maplewood/Falcon

Heights) St. Cloud Area St. Croix Valley St. Louis Park

St. Paul St. Peter South Tonka

Wayzata/Plymouth Area White Bear/North Oaks

Willmar Winona

Woodbury/Cottage Grove

Note from the Executive Director

It is especially satisfying to review the work of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund for the 1998-99 year. The Education Fund reached hundreds of thousands of Minnesota citizens with information about federal, state and local elections in 1998, citizenship curricula for elementary and secondary students, a study of the selection of judges in Minnesota and "the Minnesota Compact," designed to raise the quality and coverage of political campaigns.

The League could not have accomplished any of this without the financial support and cooperation of individuals, corporations, foundations, broadcast and print media, government and non-profit organizations. The work of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund is carried out by hundreds of volunteers at the state level and in forty-five local Leagues who contribute time, expertise and talent to Making Democracy Work on a daily basis. Our profound thanks to you all.

LWVMN Staff

Executive Director

Sally Sawyer

Staff

Georgeann Hall, Bookkeeper Connie Hondl, Bookkeeper Kerri Kleven, Administrative Assistant Andrea Lex, Development & Communications Director Jean Tews, Development Director through August 1998 Peggy Thompson, Field Service Representative Nancy Witta, Legislative Coordinator

Project Directors

Carolyn Cushing, LWVMN History
Elizabeth Ebbott, Indians in Minnesota
Karen Gochberg, 1998 Annual Appeal
Janna Wallin Haug, Minnesota Compact
Eydie Kargas, Marketing
Linda Loomis, Election Hotline
Mary Ann McCoy, Campaign Finance Reform: Strategies for Success in the
Midwest and Local League Candidate Forums
Elizabeth Nordling, Debates '98
Judy Rosenblatt, LWVMN History

How to reach us

League of Women Voters of Minnesota (LWVMN)
League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund (LWVMNEF)
550 Rice Street
St. Paul, MN 55103

Phone: 651-224-5445
Fax: 651-290-2145
Email: lwvmn@mtn.org
Web Site: http://www.lwvmn.org

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund (LWVMNEF), a 501(c)(3) organization, was incorporated in 1983.

A copy of the audited financial statement is on file at the League of Women Voters of Minnesota Education Fund Office.



Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. 2025 St. Paul, MN

Together We Can Make It Happen

Clean Money Campaign Reform is taking hold around the country. In states as different as Arizona, Massachusetts, Maine and Vermont, citizen coalitions have passed clean elections reforms. In Minnesota, we can too.

Support is strong among all sectors of the public and across the political spectrum. Minnesotans want a political system that allows candidates to raise issues, not money; that bases the strength of parties, candidates and interest groups on numbers of supporters, not dollars; that provides access to the political system to voters, not donors; that gives the average citizen a chance to be heard.

MAPA Can Work With You

If you want to work for true campaign finance reform, MAPA can help. We offer expertise and information including:

- Information and educational materials on the pros and cons of various reform measures and how a Clean Money system works;
- Analysis of how "Money in Politics" has affected your issues, above and beyond access to our extensive database via our campaign finance web site, www.opensecrets.org/mn;
- Participatory "Elections not Auctions" workshop for your community or organization, to show how money is distorting the political process and what we can do to change this.

Together, we can use this information to confront our political leaders and demand that they stop listening to dollars and start hearing the voices of all citizens. Then we will begin to make laws that put people ahead of dollars.

Get Involved

MAPA is committed to Clean Money/Clean Elections reform. But cleaning up politics is everyone's business. Join us in working for real reform. Contact:

MAPA

1821 University Avenue Suite S-307 St. Paul, MN 55104

Phone: 651/641-4050. E-mail: staff@mapa-mn.org

MAPA is a coalition committed to expanding the limits of achievable social change. We look forward to working with you.







Suite S-307
St. Paul, MN 55104
S-33

CLEAN MONEY CLEAN ELECTIONS



Clean Money/Clean Elections
is a publication of the Minnesota Alliance for Progressive Action



The Imbalance of Power

Money is distorting and subverting our political process, causing monied interests to have extraordinary access and influence over government policy. The proof of this influence is evident everywhere in the kinds of policies developed by our government.

- •In 1996, health care interests gave \$94,000 to Minnesota legislative leaders in the DFL party and \$77,000 to Minnesota legislative leaders in the Republican party, through their legislative caucus political committees. Citizen efforts that year to pass strong new health care protections were successfully opposed by health care industry lobbyists.
- •Minnesota political parties received \$259,540 from banking and finance in 1996. Several bills have since been introduced to curb or eliminate ATM costs, but none have been allowed to come to a floor vote.

It has become all too commonplace to find that the powerful forces have made significant investments in politics, investments that certainly appear to tilt the public policy playing field in their favor.

Former Minnesota State Representative Don Ostrom describes the influence of big money on legislative decisions in the following way: "It seems in both parties certain well-heeled forces that don't necessarily have popular support have their way at critical points in the legislative process. Sometimes it happens on very public issues...[and] on other issues it happens very quietly, such as when anti-tobacco legislation just disappears at critical points."

"There are two things that are important in politics.

The first is money
and I can't remember what the second one is."

U.S. Senator Mark Hanna, 1896



Our Common Issue

Every time citizens exercise their right to influence public policy they are battling the balance of power, and fighting entrenched interests. Whatever the issue -- housing, employee rights, a clean environment, resources for schools and children, access to health care, or any aspect of corporate accountability-- as citizens we are always struggling against the same problem:

Those who contribute the most money to candidates, political parties and legislative caucuses have a disproportionate amount of influence over what policies become law.

Political and legislative leaders cannot help but consider the sources of this money when they decide which candidates to support or which bills to hear, as well as during other critical junctures in the legislative process. Political parties, legislative caucuses and candidates spend so much time raising money that they inevitably spend much of their time with, and therefore listening to, contributors. The larger the contributor, the more eagerly they are cultivated and the more loudly they are heard, at the expense of the rest of us. Dollars have become more important than people.

Voters are fed up with an electoral system in which their voices are drowned out by large contributors. Those who benefit the most from this system claim that political contributions are simply a form of free speech. But, our "free" speech is limited by our ability to pay.

The Clean Money/Clean Elections Solution

For several years now MAPA has researched the impact of big money in Minnesota politics and options for reform. Our goal is to make our political system more accountable to the voters and, therefore, more truly democratic. We believe that an important step toward this end is to create a campaign finance system that is based on the following principles:

- •People should have access to elected officials because they vote, not because they pay.
- ·Candidates should raise issues, not money.
- •The strength of parties, candidates, and interest groups should come from numbers of supporters, not numbers of dollars.
- •Your voice should really make a difference.

The solution is comprehensive and simple:

In order for our government to better serve the interests of the public, elections of government officials must be financed by the public.

Candidates and elected officials must have the freedom to consider a broad range of ideas, and to make decisions and take action in the public interest without regard to repercussions on future campaign funding. In order for the government to belong to us, we must be willing to pay for it.

The best mechanism for achieving such comprehensive and fundamental reform is the creation of a new system which:

- 1) Provides candidates with the option of full public financing if they agree to forego nearly all private contributions;
- 2) Places limits on the size of contributions individuals and PACs can give to political parties and legislative caucuses;
- 3) Reduces unfair advantages caused by independent expenditures; and
- 4) Encourages grassroots participation in the political process.



Affordable Housing? Not with the current campaign finance system

The state of Minnesota is facing a severe housing shortage. The Greater Minnesota Housing Fund estimates that in 1996 alone, 12,477 housing units were needed in Greater Minnesota, while only 8,837 were built. Especially severe is the affordable housing shortage in the Twin Cities area. Vacancy rates for apartments in the Twin Cities have fallen from over 6% in 1990 to a mere 1.6% in 1999. In order to achieve the healthy level of 5% vacancy, 11,000 units would have to be built at a cost of over \$1 billion. The problem has been exacerbated by the failure of incomes to keep pace with rising housing costs. Between 1974 and 1993, rents climbed 13% in real dollars, but renters' real incomes actually declined by 8%. Single-parent families in lower-wage and service sector jobs are now finding it extremely difficult to afford housing.

Over the years the federal government has drastically reduced its support for affordable housing and has left it up to the states to make up the difference. Yet in 1999, in spite of a \$1.2 billion surplus, lawmakers could not find more than an extra \$46 million for housing -- far from adequate funding -- while spending the bulk of the surplus on a one time sales tax rebate and permanent tax cuts.

Why such an exclusive focus on the tax rebate?

The answer, in large part, is that the business community shaped the debate long before the legislative session began. The question became, "How much will we get back?, rather than, "What would be the best use of the surplus?"





How did the business community influence the debate?

Most state house candidates agreed to the prescribed \$24,083 campaign spending limit, in order to qualify for state campaign funds. The business community on the other hand, reached into their deep pockets and spent at least \$318,000 on direct mail, billboards and radio advertising, to get their tax cut message out during the '98 election cycle. This money had a huge impact not only on the outcomes, but also in defining the issues in targeted races. They were able to create such great tax rebate expectations, it became politically unpopular for state law makers to do anything else in the '99 session.

Is there any solution?

While politicians jostle to take credit for the tax rebates, critical social programs, including those for affordable housing, continue to go by the wayside. Was the \$389 average tax rebate per tax payer really in the public's best interest? Or did we miss a rare opportunity to make a direct investment in Minnesota's future?

Under our current campaign finance system, business executives can use their wealth to shape the public debate to their benefit. We need a campaign finance system that will give other interests an equal chance to be heard. We need a clean money system.

This information is based on reports filed with the Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board and analysis done by the Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing (MICAH), the Greater Minnesota Housing Fund (GMHF), and the Minnesota Alliance for Progressive Action (MAPA).



ATM Fees and Clean Money

Automated Teller Machines have become a staple of modern American life, and many customers now deal with their bank mainly through ATMs. Introduced in the 1970s and 1980s, ATMs were originally free to customers. Now banks, especially the biggest banks that own most of the ATM networks, charge customers for the privilege of withdrawing money from their own checking accounts. Customers now pay an average surcharge of \$1.27 on each ATM withdrawal, equating to an average cost of \$155 each year in ATM fees. Yet each ATM transaction usually costs banks less than 25 cents (compared to \$2.93 for transactions processed by human tellers). For the banking industry, this amounts to a major source of profit, currently \$1.9 billion per year and growing. How does the industry protect this stream of profit against repeated citizen efforts to reform these practices?

Let's take a look at the US Congress:

On September 17, 1998, the US Senate was presented with an amendment sponsored by Senator Al D'Amato (R-NY) which would have banned banks from charging non-customers for use of their ATMs. Though 80% of Americans favor such a change, the amendment was set aside in a vote of 72-26. Nine of the top ten recipients of the banking and thrift industries' campaign contributions voted against taking up the amendment, as did numerous Senators in key positions whose campaign coffers saw large receipts from commercial banks. These Senators included Senator Phil Gramm (R-TX), Chairman of the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee, who received \$373,350 from commercial banks, William V. Roth Jr. (R-DE), Chairman of the Finance Committee, who received \$213,249 from commercial banks, and Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-MS), who received \$548,535 from the banking/finance sector. The D'Amato amendment, like similar efforts in the Senate and House, never had a chance.



Minnesota has faced a similar fight over the fate of ATM fees.

There have been numerous bills introduced in both the Minnesota House and the Minnesota Senate in recent years to curb or eliminate ATM surcharges. In the 1998-99 session, two bills were introduced, but neither made it to a floor vote -- key legislative leaders saved their colleagues the embarrassment of having to vote against the interests of citizens to preserve the interest of the bankers. Is it simply a coincidence that the 1998 election cycle also saw the banking industry contributing \$477,685 to campaigns, political parties and legislative caucuses?

The case of TCF bank stands out in particular:

TCF reported a record \$41 million in earnings in the second quarter of the 1999 fiscal year, 40% of which came directly from increases in fee income, including, of course, ATM fees. Individuals affiliated with the TCF Financial Corporation gave \$316,725 in contributions in the 1998 cycle, accounting for over two-thirds of all money that came from the banking industry! Bill Cooper, CEO of TCF Bank and former chairman of the Republican Party of Minnesota, and his wife contributed a whopping \$305,000 in the '98 cycle.

"One Person, One Vote"? If one of those people can offer over a quarter of a million dollars, they won't need to vote; legislators will certainly look after their concerns.

We need a campaign finance system that returns dignity and power to our democracy, where voters are more important than dollars. We need a system that works.

This information is based on reports filed with the Federal Elections Commission and the Minnesota Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board and analyses done by the Center for Responsive Politics, Public Campaign and the Minnesota Alliance for Progressive Action.



Prescription Drugs and Clean Money

Citizens in Minnesota and across the nation have been trying for years to get affordable pricing and fair policies from the pharmaceutical and health care industries. The price of prescription drugs continues to grow faster than the inflation rate, and premiums are rising at an ever-increasing pace. The Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, for example, recently announced an increase in premiums for those aged sixty and over <u>and</u> that they would no longer offer unlimited prescription drug coverage. The burden has become overwhelming, and citizens are desperate, so why don't elected officials hear their pleas?

Here's an example of what we've witnessed on the federal level:

One of the top allergy drugs in America, Claritin, is protected by a patent until the year 2002. Should the patent expire, other drug companies would be permitted to produce generic drugs similar to Claritin and compete by selling them at a lower cost. The Claritin patent is held by Shering-Plough, the pharmaceutical giant that made \$201,376 in campaign contributions to Congress in the present election cycle. The top recipient of their money was Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), who received both a contribution from Shering-Plough's PAC and a personal check from the company's CEO. Representative Connie Mack (R-FL) was the second highest recipient. Recently, these same two elected officials co-sponsored a provision that would allow brand name pharmaceutical manufacturers to apply for three-year extensions on their patents. If the Lautenberg-Mack provision passes and succeeds in restricting access to much needed generic drugs, it will equate to an estimated aggregate cost of \$550 million a year to consumers and a treasure chest for the pharmaceutical companies.

Prescription drugs are especially hard to come by here in Minnesota. A federal price study conducted by the House of Representatives Government Reform Committee found that older consumers from the St. Paul area who purchase their own prescription drugs pay around ten times more for their drugs than preferred customers, such as large insur-





ance companies, HMOs and the federal government. It comes as no great surprise then, that insurance companies and other parts of the health industry have been generous in contributing to the campaigns of Minnesota's state legislators in recent years and highly successful in getting the laws passed that they want. In the latest election cycle, insurance professionals and the health industry (which includes pharmaceutical manufacturers) were among the largest giving sectors in campaign contributions. These sectors accounted for strategically-placed sums of money to legislators in the committees and caucuses that determine their fate.

They made the following contributions:

Minnesota House Health & Human Services Policy Committee	\$29,611
Minnesota Senate Health & Family Security Committee	\$24,115
Minnesota House and Senate Legislative Caucuses*	\$301,473
Minnesota DFL Party	\$14,932
Republican Party of Minnesota	\$150,250

^{*}Caucuses are the legislative leaders' PACs

Clearly the health care and insurance industries wield undo influence in a political system where money is so vital. The new "Senior Drug Program" provides another apparent example. Given the option of actually curbing drug prices, the state legislature chose to subsidize them with state revenues instead. Rather than adopt a plan endorsed by the Minnesota Senior Federation that would have limited drug prices, the new program, which was originally proposed by the drug company lobbyists, lowers costs to seniors by using tax payers' dollars to pay the spiraling cost increases. The program does provide a break for qualified senior consumers, but so far has only helped a fraction of those seniors in need. Some Minnesotans, such as the disabled community and those who take drugs whose manufacturers haven't endorsed the program, will be left with unbearable prices.

We will continue to fight until we get the health care and prescription drug reforms we need: access for all to affordable prescription drugs, fair and efficient medical coverage and adequate long-term care for seniors.

And that fight depends on replacing the present campaign finance system with a system that allows democracy to work.

