



## A Look Ahead

### First Friday, September 10

12:00 noon

*NOTE: Date change due to Labor Day*

Sons of Norway, 722 2nd Ave. N., Fargo—(Buffet lunch available beginning at 11:30 a.m.)

*National League Convention & National League Positions*

### Saturday, September 18

10:00 a.m.

Fargo Theater, 314 Broadway, Fargo

*Fargo-Moorhead Area Foundation Women's Fund Program*

Speaker: Rosalind Wiseman, Author of Queen Bees and Wannabees: Helping Your Daughter Survive Cliques, Gossip, Boyfriends, and Other Realities of Adolescence

Contact: Liz Conmy, 701-234-0756, or liz@areafoundation.org

### First Friday, October 1

12:00 noon

Sons of Norway, 722 2nd Ave N, Fargo—(Buffet lunch available beginning at 11:30 a.m.)

*A discussion of North Dakota elections and the creation of election ballots*

Speaker: Michael Montplaisir, Cass County Auditor

### Saturday, October 2

Fargo City Commission Chamber, 200 3rd St. N., Fargo

*North Dakota Candidates' Forums:*

8:30-10:00 a.m., District 44;

10:15—11:45 a.m., District 46

Sponsored by the LWVRRV & and the Fargo Moorhead Chamber of Commerce

### Wednesday, October 20

2:30—4:30 p.m.

Hjemkomst Center, 202 1st Ave. N. , Moorhead, MN

*Moorhead Area Candidates' Forum:*

Minnesota Legislative Districts 9A & 9B

Clay County Commission, Districts 1, 2 & 3.

## President's Letter

Dear Members of the LWVRRV,

As I sit here it is in the low 50's outside so it is hard for me to think that summer is almost over when I am still wondering when it is going to start. Whatever the season, we have still had many exciting events take place this summer.

We welcome Becky Lommen, Twyla Conner, Carol Sawicki, and Sharon Staton to a one year appointed term on the Board of Directors. We certainly appreciate their willingness to step forward to fill vacant positions on the board.

In June, Erin Prochnow and Cindy Maritato represented the LWVRRV at the League of Women Voters' National Convention in Washington D.C. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to attend the meetings. This allows us to hear and see first hand how League is making an impact in the nation and in the world.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the First Friday meetings at the Sons of Norway. That reminds me, the board of directors decided to have the September meeting on September 10 which is actually the second Friday, so we won't be competing with Labor Day weekend.

Sincerely yours,

Janet VanAmburg

President, LWVRRV

### Thursday, October 21

7:00-9:00 p.m.

Moorhead City Council Chambers, 500 Center Ave., Moorhead

*Moorhead Area Candidates' Forum*

(Live MCAT call In—Phone # 299-5352

7:00-8:00 p.m.)

Minnesota Legislative Districts 9A & 9B

Clay County Commission, Districts 1, 2 & 3.

Moorhead Candidates' Forums sponsored by LWVRRV, AARP Moorhead/Clay, Moorhead Senior Connections and MAREA.

## *Convention delegates celebrate League's accomplishments, debate issues*

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) held its 46th biennial national convention at the Washington Hilton hotel. More than seven hundred delegates from 47 states, the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands, attended. The four-day gathering gave League members the opportunity to celebrate the League's accomplishments on civic engagement, campaign finance and election reform and to discuss important policy issues. Cindy Maritato and Erin Prochnow represented the League of Women Voters of the Red River Valley.

"This Convention proved that the League remains a vibrant, grassroots organization," stated Kay J. Maxwell, newly re-elected LWVUS president. "We debated many of the critical issues facing citizens across the nation, including civil liberties, the death penalty, the ERA, No Child Left Behind and electronic voting. As is the League's long and storied tradition, a variety of thoughtful perspectives were expressed through dialogue and debate," Maxwell added.

Highlights of the convention included a panel discussion on "Balancing Civil Liberties and Homeland Security in a Post-September 11th Age," featuring representatives from the 9/11 Commission, Georgetown University Law Center, the Council on Foreign Relations and the Constitution Project; remarks by U.S. Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN), Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; and an enthusiastic banquet address by famed White House correspondent Helen Thomas.

Delegates voted to adopt the FY2004-2005 LWVUS budget and elected a new Board of Directors. Attendees also set the LWVUS program agenda for the next two years, voting to revise the League's stance on voting machines and making the protection of civil liberties a priority for the national organization.

Complete reports of convention action are available in the member's section of the Web site at

<http://interactive.lwv.org/Convention/ConventionList.cfm?c=99>

The next national convention will be held in Minneapolis, MN in June 2006.

## *Local study investigation*

The 2004-2005 Local Study, which was selected at our March 2004 Annual Meeting, is the study of fees and costs charged to public school students in Fargo, West Fargo, and Moorhead and how they impact students and their families.

The board of directors wants to thank Jean Hannig, who has agreed to coordinate the study. Six people signed up to work on the study at the annual meeting. If there is anyone else who wants to be involved, please call Jean Hannig (232-5169) or e-mail her ( ).

## *Secretary position vacancy*

The Board of Directors is looking for a person to serve a one-year term, ending in April 2005, for the position of secretary. The present secretary wants to take the duties of the First Vice President and serve as the membership chairperson. The secretary is primarily responsible for taking minutes and providing typewritten copies to the directors at the following meeting as well as typing some of our other correspondence.

Please call Janet Van Amburg (236-7659) or e-mail ( ), if you are interested in this position. The Board of Directors meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at The United Way of Cass/Clay, 219 7th Street South in Fargo from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

## *Volunteers needed to help with candidates' forums*

If you would like to help make this year's candidates' forums a success, please contact: Becky Lommen, Moorhead, e-mail: [sockerjock@aol.com](mailto:sockerjock@aol.com), or Rachael Disrud, Fargo, e-mail: [rachael\\_disrud@yahoo.com](mailto:rachael_disrud@yahoo.com) or 293-1505.

Persons are needed to be timekeepers, question screeners, greeters, etc.

## *Sites of Interest*

The Campaign Desk -put out by the Columbia Journalism Review that contains links to national stories and critiques about coverage.

[www.campaigndesk.org](http://www.campaigndesk.org)

DemocracyNet for candidates' views. DNet offers the most comprehensive voter information available, featuring statements from federal and state candidates. Want to help us gather content? Contact: [dnet@lwv.org](mailto:dnet@lwv.org)

[www.dnet.org](http://www.dnet.org)

## *Top 10 ways smart women can elect to make a difference in 2004*

*June 29, 2004: From the LWV-US (slightly out-of-date, but still relevant!)*

### **Election Year Countdown**

*[Then]* On July 4th, 1876, Susan B. Anthony & company crashed the Centennial Celebration at Independence Hall in Philadelphia and surprised the Vice President with a Declaration of Rights of the Women: “We ask justice, we ask equality, we ask that all the civil and political rights that belong to citizens of the United States, be guaranteed to us and our daughters forever,” it said.

*[Now]* For Independence Day 2004, in the spirit of those status quo-rocking suffragists whose work finally won American women the right to vote in 1920—and with the goal of engaging the millions of eligible women voters who sat out the presidential election in 2000—we proudly present ,

[www.smartwomenvote.com](http://www.smartwomenvote.com)

a nifty new nonpartisan website complete with a Declaration of: “TOP 10 WAYS SMART WOMEN CAN ELECT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN 2004”

### **Election Year Countdown**

10. DECLARE your independence from politics as usual and throw a 4th of July voter rights & registration party! Contact your local League of Women Voters for voter registration forms, 2004 Voting Guides, and Help America Vote Act tips; then pick-up the perfect patriotic party favors, decorations, and gear—Smart Women™ Vote buttons, bumper stickers, tattoos, and more—and let the fireworks begin!

[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

[www.smartwomenvote.com](http://www.smartwomenvote.com)

*Independence Day is Sunday, July 4, 2004*

9. PROTECT against Election Day voter rights violations on the front lines, by contacting your local elections office and applying to be a paid poll worker or election judge, or volunteering to be a poll watcher for a particular political party, candidate or organization. (Details vary by state and position.)

*State Deadlines usually fall several months prior to Election Day (November 2, 2004)*

8. CELEBRATE Women’s Equality Day—marking passage of the 19th Amendment that finally granted American women the right to vote in 1920—by joining the League of Women Voters’ grassroots network. Founded by suffragists that same year, to encourage informed participation by the new female electorate, the League is still out there educating, activating, and connecting Smart Women today.

[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

*Women’s Equality Day is Thursday, August 26, 2004*

7. LABOR for love of country, Democracy, and the candidate of your choice by volunteering to work on an exciting election year campaign—and meet other Smart Women as committed to making a difference as you are.

*Labor Day is Monday, September 6, 2004*

6. POP fresh popcorn when you screen the film *Iron Jawed Angels*, a woman-directed crowd-pleaser based on the amazing true story of young maverick suffragists, Alice Paul and Lucy Burns. Invite your neighbors, your book club, and every young woman you know; rent it, or buy a copy and donate it to your local school or library after.

[www.hbo.com/films/ironjawedangels/](http://www.hbo.com/films/ironjawedangels/)

*Iron Jawed Angels video/DVD released on Tuesday, September 7, 2004*

5. DEBATE the merits of the two presidential candidates and their positions on the issues, among friends, and host a bi-partisan debate-watch gathering at which you eat, drink, and be open-minded. Make creative use of Smart Women™ Election Kits as fun, conversation-starting centerpieces, door prizes and/or fundraisers.

[www.debates.org](http://www.debates.org)

*Presidential Debates are Thu 9/30 (Miami); Fri 10/8 (St. Louis); Wed 10/13 (Tempe)*

4. REGISTER your heartfelt beliefs, educated opinions, and every-woman-counts voice by making sure you (and all the Smart Women you know) are registered to vote in time for the November 2 presidential elections. If you can’t get to the polls in your precinct on Election Day, be sure to request and send your Absentee Ballot within your state deadlines.

[www.vote-smart.org](http://www.vote-smart.org)

*Earliest Voter Registration Deadline is Saturday, October 2, 2004 in many states*

3. TREAT Halloween visitors—cleverly costumed daughters and patiently chaperoning moms—to low-calorie bowls of Smart Women™ Vote buttons and tattoos that they can wear to school or the polls the day after tomorrow.

[www.smartwomentvote.com](http://www.smartwomentvote.com)

*Halloween is Sunday, October 31, 2004*

2. BRING the kids with you into the voting booth (yours or borrow a curious niece, nephew or neighbor) and let your actions speak louder than your words.

*Election Day is Tuesday, November 2, 2004*

1. RESOLVE to learn more about the issues, do more in your community, and have more fun with politics in 2005!

*New Years Eve is Friday, December 31, 2004*

**Press contact:**

Ruth Patkin c/o Cowgirl Media for Smart Women™  
email; [patkin@cowgirlmedia.com](mailto:patkin@cowgirlmedia.com)  
Tel. 917-854-1626

*2003-2004 LWVRRV Officers*

President	Janet VanAmburg
First Vice President	Erin Prochnow
Second Vice President	Lois Altenburg
Secretary	(open)
Treasurer	Suzanne Dobbins

**Board of Directors:**

Nicole Bergeron, Peggy Jensen, Cindy Maritato,  
Margaret Blue, Rachael Disrud, Lynne Olson, Sawicki

**Nominating Committee (2005-2006)**

Suzanne Dobbins, Audrey Richmond, Donna  
Chalimonczyk

The Board of Directors may appoint up to six additional directors to one-year terms.

*Join the League*

Send your check to the League of Women Voters of the Red River Valley, PO Box 295, Fargo, ND 58107  
Current annual dues:

\$45.00	/individual
\$67.50	/household
\$15.00	/student

Be sure to include your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address.

The League of Women Voters values diversity in its members. In principle and in practice, the League knows no barriers on the basis of age, creed, disability, gender, national origin, race or sexual orientation, and encourages full participation in and contribution to the organization by all its members.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.