



A Look Ahead

Tuesday, November 2

ELECTION DAY

Polls open 7 AM-8 PM

Friday, November 5

12:00 noon

(lunch available beginning at 11:30 AM)

First Friday, Sons of Norway

722 2nd Ave N, Fargo

Politics and the Media

Speaker: Jim Shaw from Fox News

Friday, December 3

12:00 noon

(lunch available beginning at 11:30 AM)

First Friday, Sons of Norway

722 2nd Ave N, Fargo

Property Taxes Past, Present and Future

Friday, January 7

12:00 noon

(lunch available beginning at 11:30 AM)

First Friday, Sons of Norway

722 2nd Ave N, Fargo

Political Parties, Large & Small -What They Are, What They Do & How to Get Involved

Saturday, January 15

10 AM-noon

Moorhead Public Library Meeting Room

118 5th St S, Moorhead

LWV-Minnesota Consensus Meeting:

Alternative Election Systems: Facts and Issues

President's Letter

Dear Members of the LWVRRV,

Foremost on our minds at this time is the upcoming election on November 2. I want to thank Rachel Disrud for organizing the candidate forums in Fargo and the people (Lois Altenburg, Carol Sawicki, Bonnie Askew, Olivia Altenburg, Gen Durben, and Dave Martin,

President, F/M Chamber of Commerce) who helped during the forums. In Moorhead Becky Lommen and Lynne Olson have been busy organizing the candidate forums which are scheduled for Wednesday, October 20 and Thursday, October 21. I know I don't have a complete list of the workers who will help during the two events but those I know of are Sharon Benzel, Helen Rudie, Twylla Conner, Cindy Maritato, Janet Van Amburg, and Dave Martin.

We have had several requests for our help to educate young voters. Lois Altenburg will speak to an American Government Class at Woodrow Wilson High School at noon Tuesday, October 26. Erin Prochnow, Helen Rudie, and Lois Altenburg are speaking at South High School during the last week of October.

I want to thank everyone for their willingness to get involved and helping out. None of the above mentioned could take place without people who graciously come forward to volunteer their time and effort.

We have a new secretary. Again thank you to Alberta Dobry who volunteered to take on the many responsibilities of secretary.

League members have been invited to have dinner with six women from Russia at their request. The women work with politicians in Russia and are interested in hearing about the American political scene.

November 5th at our First Friday Meeting is the last day to contribute to our fund raiser by purchasing a Community Day Coupon packet which contains a \$5 coupon and six 20% off coupons to be used November 20 at your favorite Herberger's store. The price of the packet is \$5.00 and the entire price goes to the League.

In closing, we want to remember Carolyn Bowe who died earlier this month. Carolyn was a long time member of the League of Women Voters in the FM area. Her contributions to league were significant and will be missed.

Regards,
Janet VanAmburg
President, LWVRRV

In Memorium: Carolyn Bowe

The presence of Carolyn Bowe, a regular attendee of First Friday meetings, will surely be missed. She died on Saturday, October 9, in the palliative care unit of Meritcare Hospital ending a ten month struggle against pancreatic cancer.

Carolyn's contributions to the local and state Leagues are formidable. Having served as President of the then Fargo League, she became North Dakota State League President in the early seventies. It was the time when the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment to the national constitution was controversial.

Through the years Carolyn remained very active in the League--working on Voter's Guides to election issues and editing *The Voter* for many years. These projects benefited from fact that she was once a professional journalist. Most recently, Carolyn was a local board member when the LWVRRV was organized.

In addition to League activity, Carolyn was at various times a member of the North Dakota Humanities Commission, the Tri-College Speakers Bureau and the North Dakota Commission on the Status of Women, among other organizations.

Travel was of great interest to Carolyn and her husband, David, following their retirement as owners of Pella Products in Fargo. They visited Cuba just last year and China a few years earlier. Her observations were always insightful.

Carolyn was a concerned and stimulating woman and a wonderful role model for women everywhere.

—Audrey Richmond

Lakes Area LWV formed

The Lakes Area LWV was formed this summer after a meeting of eight women in Detroit Lakes, MN in mid-August. By mid-September they had held a primary candidate forum for Becker County Commissioner races, organized voter registration at each of the high schools in the county, and distributed membership brochures to people interested in LWV.

Consensus meeting to be held in January

In 2003 LWV-Minnesota adopted a new study that would look at the comparative merit of the most frequently mentioned alternative voting systems. LWVRRV will be holding a consensus meeting on Saturday, January 15, 2005 to provide an opportunity for our members to learn the facts and issues involved in our current voting method and four alternative methods.

We will then try to reach consensus on several questions asked about these methods. We will be sending out more information about this study and meeting in the near future. If you have any questions, please contact sawicki@corpcomm.net or office@lwvmn.org

First Fridays

At the September meeting, Lois Altenburg spoke about the history of the League of Women Voters, starting with its beginnings as a part of the women's suffrage movement. Many of those attending the meeting told of how they became interested in League, and what their membership has meant to them.

In October, Cass County Auditor Michael Montplaisir spoke about the challenges and intricacies of creating the ballots that are used in primary & general elections. The primary ballots are particularly difficult, since there are so many nonpartisan city and township races on the same ballots as the partisan primary races. Cass County had to produce 170 different ballots for this June's primary election. For the November general election, 73 different types of ballots have been created.

Voters Guide

Nov. 2, 2004 - General Election Ballot Initiated Ordinances on Smoking

City of Fargo Initiated Ordinances #1, #2, and #3 all pertain to the regulation of smoking in public places within the city.

You may vote yes or no on all three of these ordinances. In order for any one of these ordinances to be enacted, it must receive more than 50% yes votes. If none of these ordinances receives a majority of yes votes, there will be no increased city regulation of smoking in public places.

Since these ordinances contain conflicting provisions, only one of them can ultimately be enacted. So, in the event that two or more of these ordinances gets more than 50% yes votes, the one that receives the highest number of yes votes will be enacted.

Initiated Ordinance #1

If this ordinance is enacted, smoking will be banned in all indoor public areas & workplaces except for all truck stops & the following bars and restaurants:

- Barnstormer
- Ground Round
- Red Lobster
- Bismarck Tavern
- JT Cigarro
- Rick's Bar
- Bison Turf
- Mr G's
- Rooter's Bar
- Borrowed Bucks
- Nestor
- Royal Liquors & Bar
- Bowler
- Northern
- Seasons at RoseCreek
- Old Broadway
- Slammer's Sports Bar
- Chubs Pub
- Olive Garden
- Speck's Bar
- Duffy's
- Paradiso
- Sports Bar
- Empire Tavern
- Pepper's American Café
- West Acres Bowl
- Fargo Cork
- Playmakers
- Windbreak Saloon
- Buffalo Wild Wings (42 St. S.)

Initiated Ordinance #2

If this ordinance is enacted, smoking will be banned in all indoor public areas & workplaces except designated smoking areas at trucks stops and enclosed (floor-to-ceiling walls & solid doors) bars where liquor is served and persons under age 21 are not allowed entrance.

Initiated Ordinance #3

If this ordinance is enacted, smoking will be banned in all indoor public areas & workplaces except for the tobacco bar known as JT Cigarro

Voter's Guide

November 2, 2004 - General Election Ballot Initiated Ordinances on Smoking

City of West Fargo Initiated Ordinances #1 and #2 both pertain to the regulation of smoking in public places within the city.

You may vote yes or no on both of these ordinances. In order for either one of these to be enacted, it must receive more than 50% yes votes. If neither of these ordinances receives a majority of yes votes, there will be no increased city regulation of smoking in public places.

Since these ordinances contain contradictory provisions, only one of them can ultimately be enacted. So, in the event that both of these ordinances gets more than 50% yes votes, the one that receives the highest number of yes votes will be enacted.

Initiated Ordinance #1

If this ordinance is enacted, smoking will be banned in all indoor public areas & workplaces except for the following bars:

- Bordertown Bar & Grill
- Frontier
- M&J
- O'Leary's
- Silver Dollar
- Town Hall Bar

Initiated Ordinance #2

If this ordinance is enacted, smoking will be banned in all indoor public areas & workplaces except for retail tobacco stores.

2004-2005 LWVRRV Officers

President	Janet VanAmburg
First Vice President	Erin Prochnow
Second Vice President	Lois Altenburg
Secretary	Alberta Dobry
Treasurer	Twylla Conner

Board of Directors:

Nicole Bergeron, Cindy Maritato, Margaret Blue, Rachael Disrud, Lynne Olson, Sharon Staton, and Carol Sawicki

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.