



## *A Look Ahead*

### **First Friday, February 4, 2005**

**12:00 noon**

(lunch available beginning at 11:30 AM)

Sons of Norway,  
722 2nd Ave N, Fargo

*The Courts: Federal, State & District-What are they and how do they differ?*

### **Saturday, February 5, 2005**

**9:30-11:30AM**

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

*Legislative Forum featuring N.D.  
Legislators from the Fargo-West Fargo Area*

### **Saturday, February 12, 2005**

**9:30-11:30AM**

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

*Legislative Forum featuring N.D.  
Legislators from the Fargo-West Fargo Area*

### **Saturday, February 12, 2005**

**1:00-3:00 PM**

Hjemkomst Center, Moorhead

*National Issues Forum on Health Care, exploring issues about what we value as Americans and what we are and are not willing to do to improve health care. Moderators: Dr. Dennis Staton and Karen Nitzkowski*

*E Free but pre-registration is requested. Call Moorhead Community Education, 283-3400 or online at*

*<https://communityed.moorhead.k12.mn.us>*

### **First Friday March 4, 2005**

**12:00 noon**

(lunch available beginning at 11:30 AM)

Sons of Norway,  
722 2nd Ave N, Fargo

*Education: Who's responsible? Schools, Churches, Communities, or the Family?*

### **Saturday, March 5, 2005**

**9:30-11:30 AM**

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

*Legislative Forum featuring N.D.  
Legislators from the Fargo-West Fargo Area*

### **Sunday, March 6, 2005**

**7:00 PM**

10th Annual James Leahy Freedom Lecture  
Centrum, Concordia College, Moorhead, MN  
(no charge, registration requested,  
call: (218) 299-3438)

*The Least Dangerous Branch?  
The Supreme Court, Politics and the Bill of Rights.*  
Presented by Professor Max Richardson of the Political  
Science Department at Concordia College

### **Saturday March 19**

**9:00-10:30 AM**

Moorhead City Hall Council Chambers ,  
500 Center Ave

*Legislative Forum featuring Minnesota State  
Legislators from the Clay County area.*



## *Fargo School Board*

### **Excerpts from Board Briefs, January 11, 2005**

Discussion continued from previous meetings on whether to remodel or rebuild Jefferson School. Additional space will be needed for children displaced from Carl Ben Eielson Elementary in the fall of 2006, and general building improvements are needed including handicapped accessibility, HVAC systems, plumbing, mechanical and electrical systems, food service delivery and replacement of classrooms in the lowest level. A preliminary cost estimate for this project is \$5.1 million. A new school with three sections of each grade would cost about \$6.6 million. Board members asked to see a financing plan for a new school at the next meeting.

Board members unanimously agreed to locate 9th grade, south side students at Agassiz during the interim period when Discovery becomes a 6-8 middle school in 2006, and a new 9-12 high school is built in approximately 2011. About 550 students will be assigned to Agassiz compared to the current enrollment of 1,063, so the newest areas will be utilized first.

Information was reviewed on the capacity of North High School and the current scheduling of classrooms in order to make an informed decision on the amount of space needed to accommodate ninth grade students who are scheduled to join 10-12 grade students at North High in the fall of 2006. Administrators estimated that the building was currently at about 75-80% of capacity, and that two five-classroom spaces would be needed unless boundary changes were made and/or more periods were added to the school day.

Board members requested more information on the pros and cons of boundary and scheduling changes.

## *Join the League*

Send your check to:

*League of Women Voters  
of the Red River Valley  
PO Box 295  
Fargo, ND 58107-0295*

### **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

## *Cass County Legislative forums*

The League, along with the Chamber of Commerce, is planning to sponsor four legislative forums during the 2005 North Dakota legislative session. They will be held on Saturdays, from 9:30 AM-11:30 AM in the Fargo City Commission Chamber. The dates for these are: February 5, February 12 and March 5. One is also scheduled for Saturday March 12, but the time for this forum has not yet been finalized.

The legislators scheduled to participate in each forum are:

- 2/5 LeRoy Bernstein (45),  
Ron Iverson (27),  
Bette Grande (41),  
Tim Mathern (11),  
Tony Grindberg (41)
- 2/12 Scot Kelsh (11),  
Randy Boehning (27),  
Tim Flakoll (44),  
Carolyn Nelson (21),  
Jim Kasper (46)
- 3/5 Blair Thoerson (44),  
John Syverson (45),  
Steve Zaiser (21),  
Kathy Hawken (46),  
Dick Brown (27)
- 3/12 Al Carlson (41),  
Mary Ekstrom (11),  
Don Clark (44),  
Tom Fischer (46),  
Sally Sandvig (21)

This is an opportunity for constituents to find out what is happening in Bismarck. A different group of Cass County legislators will be available at each meeting to answer questions and talk about legislative issues.

## *Minnesota Legislative Forums*

The League, along with the Chamber of Commerce and Moorhead Community Education, is planning to hold two legislative meetings on the 2005 Minnesota Legislative session on Saturday, March 19 and Saturday April 16. The forums will be held from 9-10:30 AM in the Moorhead City Hall Council Chambers.

These will be opportunities for constituents to find out what is happening in St. Paul. State Senator Keith Langseth and Representatives Morrie Lanning and Paul Marquart will report on what they see as the key actions of the Legislature and will then respond to audience questions.

## *January First Friday*

At the January 7th First Friday meeting, representatives from both major political parties, and from both Minnesota & North Dakota, spoke to the group.

Mark Altenburg, who lives in Minnesota, discussed how he got involved in Democratic Party politics, both in the recent presidential race and at the state and local level.

Kyle Handegard, who is active in the Republican Party in West Fargo, spoke about the many different opportunities that she has had. She was a delegate at the Republican National Convention this past summer and is planning on attending the Presidential inauguration this month.

Both speakers, as well as others who were at the meeting, spoke about how easy it was, in this area, to become active in politics at the local level.

## *Consensus Meeting*

### **Alternative Election Systems: Facts and Issues (LWVMN Study)**

On Saturday January 15, nine local League members met at Moorhead Public Library to discuss our current voting method and four alternative voting methods and to reach consensus on nine questions. The Leaguers were joined by Benton Duncan, from NDSU, who is a professor in the mathematics department and has studied alternative voting methods.

Lois Altenburg began the meeting by talking about consensus discussions in which she had participated in past years. Leaguers who had attended those meetings usually learned a lot about new subjects and soon afterwards found that they were noticing interesting news reports that they had previously been ignoring.

At this latest meeting, there was a lot of lively discussion, including Helen Rudie's first-person experiences about an alternative voting method that has been used in Slovakia. We talked about different problems with our current plurality system and those that might arise if local governments or states tried using one of the alternative election systems. At the end we all were convinced that a change in election method would be a positive development, and that Approval Voting or Instant Runoff Voting would be good alternatives. Our consensus question tally sheet has been mailed to the St. Paul office of the LWVMN for inclusion with those from other League chapters around the state of Minnesota.

The "Facts and Issues" pamphlet that we received from the LWVMN was very informative and helpful. It is still available online at <http://www.lwvmn.org/lwvmnalternativevotingstudyreport.pdf>

## *ANNUAL MEETING*

The date and location have been set for the 2005 Annual meeting. It will be held on Saturday, March 12, at PD's on First restaurant. The official notification and program for this meeting will be mailed to all LWVRRV members during the month of February.

## *News from the LWV-US*

### **Host Visitors from Russia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan**

The League will present a proposal early next year to host visitors from Russia, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. If you want your League considered as a host, please contact one of our local League board members. A two-page information packet will be sent to interested leagues upon request.

For details, contact Zaida Arguedas, Director of Global Democracy Programs, at [zarguedas@lww.org](mailto:zarguedas@lww.org).

## *LWVRRV 2004-2005*

### *Officers & Board of Directors*

President	Janet VanAmburg
First Vice President	Erin Prochnow
Second Vice President	Lois Altenburg
Secretary	Alberta Dobry
Treasurer	Twylla Conner
Board of Directors:	Cindy Maritato, Margaret Blue, Lynne Olson and Becky Lommen.

## *President's Letter*

### **Dear Members,**

We had a good turnout for the Consensus Meeting on January 15 regarding Alternative Voting Systems. A big thank you to Lois Altenburg and Carol Sawicki for leading us in the discussion which culminated in a chance for our voices to be heard on the Minnesota state level with the consensus.

The annual meeting is scheduled for March 12 at PD's on Broadway. You will get more information in February.

Now that the elections are behind us, we are gearing up for the Legislative Forums. I just received an e-mail from Mary Davies giving the schedule for the Moorhead Forums. The District 9 meetings are scheduled for Saturday, March 19 and Saturday, April 16 from 9:00 to 10:30 A.M. in the Moorhead City Council chambers. She is looking for people to help so please e-mail Mary Davies at marbob7@cableone.net or call 233-2175, if you can help.

The 10th Annual James Leahy Freedom Lecture is scheduled for Sunday, March 6 at 7:00 P.M. in the Centrum, Concordia College. The lecture by Max Richardson is "The Least Dangerous Branch? The Supreme Court, Politics, and the Bill of Rights." Besides giving a brief history of the Supreme Court and its treatment of the Bill of Rights, Max will address the current debate about judicial nomination and confirmation.

This is my last presidential letter so I want to take this time to thank everyone who has served on the board during the last two years. You have made my work much easier and I have appreciated your suggestions and willingness to step forward when a task needed to be done.

*Sincerely,  
Janet K. Van Amburg, President  
League of Women Voters of the Red River Valley*

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.