



A look ahead

Friday, April 1, 2005 **12:00 noon**

(lunch available beginning at 11:30 AM)

First Friday, Sons of Norway, 722 2nd Ave N, Fargo
Why Social Security Matters to You

Speakers: Bob Brown and Marlene Batterberry,
AARP ND Representatives

Saturday, April 16, 2005 **9:00-10:30 AM**

Moorhead City Council Chambers

Legislative meeting on the 2005 Minnesota Session

Sponsored by the LWV, the Chamber of
Commerce

and Moorhead Community Education.

Speakers: State Senator Keith Langseth and
Representatives Morrie Lanning and Paul Marquart

Saturday, April 16, 2005 **6:00-9:00 PM**

MSUM Comstock Memorial Union Ballroom
Chisolm '72 Unbought and Unbossed –

A Documentary Film & Panel Discussion

A suggested donation of \$10 (\$5 for college students
and children under 18). All proceeds will fund
scholarships for area women to attend the Tri-College
NEW Leadership Development Institute, a five-day
women's leadership program held each May.

For more information contact Deb White, 218-477-
2041 or whitede@mnstate.edu

Wednesday, April 20, 2005 **2:30 PM**

Moorhead AARP Chapter Meeting

Hjemkomst Center, Moorhead –Public encouraged to
attend.

Housing for Seniors – Is There Enough?

Speaker: Byron Brink, Dir., Moorhead Public Housing

Tuesday May 3, 2005 **7 AM-7 PM**

Special Election- Fargo

**To decide whether to extend the Fargodome sales tax
to fund a downtown Fargo Renaissance Center.**

(A series of public meetings are planned to discuss the
proposed center. The schedule for these meetings is
listed on page two of this Voter.)

Thursday May 5, 2005 **5-8 PM**

Northern Home and Office, 300 NP Ave, Fargo

An Evening of “Philanthropy by Design”

Including a live and silent auction of designer items,
food by local caterers, drink, music, and surprises, all
to benefit the endowment of the Women’s Fund of the
FM Area Foundation.

Tickets are \$30 in advance and will be on sale in
March. For information contact: Women’s Fund, 701-
234-0756.

Friday May 6, 2005 **12:00 noon**

(lunch available beginning at 11:30 AM)

First Friday, Sons of Norway, 722 2nd Ave N, Fargo

**What’s Been Going on at the North Dakota &
Minnesota Legislatures?**

**EGUESTS are always welcome at League
meetings!**

Several Fargo precincts change polling location

For the special election on May 3rd the following
precincts will be voting at new locations:

**27-2, formerly at Village Square Office Park, now
at West Acres, Sears Wing**

**27-5, formerly at the Convention & Visitor’s
Bureau, now at Southwest Hockey Arena,**

4404 23rd Ave SW

**44-1, formerly at St. Mary’s Cathedral, now at
Roosevelt Elementary, 1026 10th St N**

Cass County Legislative Forums

The League, along with the Chamber of Commerce, sponsored four legislative forums in February and March during the 2005 North Dakota legislative session. The attendance at these meetings was excellent, and many interesting issues were raised and discussed.

The format was somewhat different this time than in past years. The Legislators were asked to give only their name, district number and committees they served on during their opening remarks. At the end of the forum, they were then given an opportunity to give a 2-3 minute closing statement. This format gave an opportunity to spend more time on questions. Another change was to give the audience an opportunity to send a card forward asking any particular legislator or legislators for clarification on a previous question. The feedback from both participants and audience members was positive for these changes.

March First Friday

The March 4th First Friday meeting was very well attended. The audience included several members of the Bismarck/Mandan area League. Lois Altenburg first spoke to the group about the federal "Clear Skies" legislative initiative, and the LWVUS opposition to this, as shown by the letter from League President Kay Maxwell, which is reprinted on page three of this Voter.

After this Lois spoke about the subject of sex education, and who should be responsible for providing this to our young people. Should it be the schools, churches, communities, or families? In past years she has taught sex education to different groups of children and teenagers, sometimes in a church setting, and in other venues in the community and schools. She talked about some new concerns that have arisen in recent years, such as Internet-based sexual encounters, AIDS and date-rape drugs.

Public Forums—Your Vision for Fargo's Libraries

The first in a series of public forums, "Your Vision for Fargo's Libraries," will be held on Tuesday evening, March 29 at 7 PM at the downtown Fargo Civic Center. Free childcare will be provided at the Fargo Public Library. This is the major public input event for site selection of the downtown main library as well as the two branches. All possible downtown and branch sites will be included and discussed—at this meeting the options will be narrowed down based on public feedback. Future public meetings will be held to present a short list of sites for discussion and selection.

Renaissance Center meetings

A series of public meetings has been scheduled to discuss the proposed Fargo Renaissance Center. Fargo citizens will vote on May 3 on whether to approve an extension of the Fargodome's half-cent sales tax to pay for this \$40 million arena and events center. Representatives from Cityscapes Development, which hopes to construct an office, retail and condominium project next to the arena, will also be on hand at these meetings.

All of these meetings will begin at 7:00 PM:

March 29: Bennett Elementary, Centennial Elementary

March 30: McKinley Elementary, Lincoln Elementary

March 31: Hawthorne Elementary, Lewis & Clark Elementary

April 5: Longfellow Elementary, Roosevelt Elementary

April 6: Clara Barton Elementary, Madison Elementary

April 11: Horace Mann Elementary

April 12: Washington Elementary

April 13: Jefferson Elementary

News from the LWV-US

Letter to the U.S. Senate from Kay J. Maxwell, President of the LWVUS

League Opposes Gutting the Clean Air Act

Kay J. Maxwell, President of the LWVUS

January 13, 2005

TO: Members of the U.S. Senate

FROM: Kay J. Maxwell, President

RE: The President's "Clear Skies" Initiative

The Administration's "Clear Skies" legislative initiative would substantially weaken public health and environmental protections under the Clean Air Act. The League of Women Voters urges you to oppose it. Instead, the Clean Air Act should be fully implemented and strengthened to reduce pollution, improve the health of all Americans and stop global warming.

For over three decades, the Clean Air Act has worked. Air pollution has been cut at the same time that the nation's economy has grown dramatically. The "Clear Skies" pollution plan, on the other hand, will move the country backward in its efforts to improve air quality, in the following ways:

The plan delays deadlines to meet the health standards in the Clean Air Act while relaxing pollution reduction requirements for power plants and other major pollution sources. Pollutants such as nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide and mercury would increase to dangerous levels under the plan, resulting in more harmful air for those most at risk – the elderly, children, pregnant women, and people with asthma.

The important New Source Review program would be gutted, allowing oil refineries, chemical plants, power plants, factories and other industries to escape upgrading to modern pollution controls. Also under the plan, critical state authority to protect air quality would be repealed, as would protections for our national parks.

Finally, global warming will worsen. Power plants are the greatest source of carbon dioxide emissions, responsible for 40 percent of CO₂ emissions in the United States. The "Clear Skies" plan allows CO₂ pollution to continue to increase and relies on ineffective voluntary approaches to reduce carbon pollution.

We must enforce the Clean Air Act, which protects public health and provides critical tools that the states and the Environmental Protection Agency can use to achieve clean air. Please do not weaken industry's responsibility to clean up power plants and other smokestacks. Do not postpone the requirements to meet health-based standards. Do not diminish the rights of downwind states to protect their citizens from pollution produced outside their borders.

All Americans have a right to breathe clean, healthful air. That is the promise of the landmark Clean Air Act. The League of Women Voters urges you not to break that promise.

The League of Women Voters

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LWVRRV Annual Meeting

The 2005 LWVRRV Annual Meeting was held on Saturday, March 12, at PD's on First restaurant. The League elected new officers to the Board, including a new President, Cheryl Bergian. We voted to approve the continuation of our local study of fees and costs charged to local public school students.

We were then treated to a lively presentation by Diane Wray Williams, who is currently on the Moorhead City Council. Her talk was entitled, "Process, Participation, and other P's." Through stories about her experiences in politics and government, she encouraged all of us to get involved as well.

League of Women Voters of North Dakota

State Convention- March 5, 2005

The State Convention was held at the Radisson Hotel in Fargo. One of the main orders of business was the election of officers. Many of the new officers on the State League Board come from the Bismarck/Mandan area. They include President - Marnie Soggie, Secretary - Sue Thom, Treasurer – Kathi Osteen and two other directors, Heather Steffl and Gail Erickson. Lois Altenburg, of Fargo, is the new Vice President and Bonnie Askew of Fargo will also be on the Board .

Several program proposals for 2005-2007 were accepted. These included continuing work on election/campaign finance reform and the study of wind energy in North Dakota as well as new studies on issues relating to women and children

The program at this convention included a round table discussion on Legislative Forums and a presentation on the Status of Women in North Dakota.

2005-2006 Local Study Program

The LWVRRV approved this local study program for 2004-2005 and again for 2005-2006:

A continued study of fees and costs charged to public school students in Fargo, West Fargo, and Moorhead and how they impact students and their families.

. During the last year, the League made very little progress in researching the topic, although several Leaguers expressed an interest in working on it.

An article in the January 30, 2005 Forum, with the headline, "Footing activity bill real spendy," contains a table of the costs for students to participate in some co-curricular activities. Gymnastics is listed as the most expensive activity, with a price tag of over \$1300/student/year to participate at any of the three school districts. This article goes on to imply that the high cost may be keeping some students from becoming involved in school co-curricular sports and activities.

The information that the League collects during this study and the decisions that we reach may have an impact on the way our local schools deal with this issue. If you would like to help the LWV make a difference through this study this year, please contact any of our Board members.

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/individual; \$15/student, \$67.50/household

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

LWVRRV 2004-2005 Officers & Board of Directors

President	Cheryl Bergian
First Vice President	Carol Sawicki
Second Vice President	Lois Altenburg
Secretary	Alberta Dobry
Treasurer	Mary Tintes

Board of Directors

Margaret Blue, Lynne Olson , Becky Lommen, Sharon Benzel and Twylla Conner

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.

League Vision, Beliefs and Intentions: The goal of the League of Women Voters is to empower citizens to shape better communities worldwide.