



A look ahead...

GUESTS are always welcome at League meetings!

- ☒ **February 14:** **9:30-11:30 am**
Fargo Legislative Forum—Fargo City Commission
Senators Flakoll, J. Pomeroy, Representatives Berg, Schneider, Hawken
- ☑ **February 17—Third Tuesday Discussion** **5:30 pm**
Moorhead Public Library: *Area homelessness*
- ☑ **February 17** **7 pm**
Nativity Church, Fargo: *Human Trafficking*
- ☑ **First Friday, March 3** **12 noon-1 pm**
(Lunch available beginning at 11:30 AM), Sons of Norway,
722 2nd Ave N, Fargo
Human Trafficking
- ☒ **March 7** **9:30-11:30 am**
Fargo Legislative Forum: Fargo City Commission
Senator Grindberg, Representatives Ekstrom, Zaiser, Myxter, Kasper
- ☒ **March 14 and April 4** **10 am**
**Legislative Forums at the West Fargo High School,
801 9th St. E, West Fargo.**
Senator Lee, Representatives Koppelman and Weiland will attend. Sponsored by the West Fargo School District and the West Fargo Chamber of Commerce.
- ☑ **March 21** **9:30-11:30 am**
Fargo Legislative Forum: Fargo City Commission
Senators Fischer, C Nelson, Representatives Thoreson, Gruchalla, Kelsh
- ☒ **April 3 First Friday:** **12 noon-1 pm**
(Lunch available beginning at 11:30 AM), Sons of Norway,
722 2nd Ave N, Fargo
Homelessness presentation by The Centre
- ☒ **April 4** **9:30-11:30 am**
Legislative Forum: Fargo City Commission
Senators Mathern, Fiebiger, Representatives Clark, Grande, Boehning.
- ☑ **April 21— Third Tuesday Discussion** **5:30 pm**
Moorhead Public Library
- ☑ **May 1 First Friday** **noon-1 pm**
(Lunch available beginning at 11:30 AM) Sons of Norway,
722 2nd Ave N, Fargo
Contested Elections

NOTE: Fargo Legislative Forums are held in the Fargo City Commission Chambers, City Hall, Fargo. The Forums are co-sponsored by the FM Chamber of Commerce and the LWVRRV.

President's letter

This is the season of the year that most excites me as a LWVRRV member. It is the season in which after presenting the candidates to the public and studying the issues, we get to present League's positions to the elected officials to make them aware of our concerns with responsive government.

In this LWV there are two states involved and each state has its own way of doing things. That is a challenge as it means that what we do to lobby will be different in each state. In North Dakota, there is a Women's Lobbying Day bus going to Bismarck on February 11. Elected officials will speak to the public in legislative forums in Fargo. In Minnesota individual officials will be interviewed and LWVRRV positions presented to them in conversational manner. This has already been done in Moorhead. By press time, the ND events will be in progress.

We wish to thank two board members who are leaving the board: Phyllis Emmel and Amanda Noce. We appreciate their service to LWVRRV and we hope they will be able to continue to add their voices to league discussions.

*Sincerely,
Patti Roach Kratky
Co-President*

■ 1874:

"New York social worker Etta Angel Wheeler finds a little girl wandering naked through the city's slums after having been beaten, slashed, and turned out by her drunken foster mother. Appeals are made to the 8-year old ASPCA for lack of any other agency, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals decides that the child is an animal and deserving of shelter, the ASPCA prosecutes the foster mother for starving and abusing the 9-year old girl, and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (ASPCC) is organized."

*—From: The Women's Chronology,
James Trager, author.*



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MEETINGS, etc...

■ First Friday meeting

♦ **March 3: Human Trafficking**
Presentation and discussion about the men from India who were arrested as illegal aliens in Cass County. The league recently adopted a position on immigration.

♦ **April 3: Homelessness**

Presented by Centre, Inc. staff.

■ Third Tuesday meetings

♦ **March 17 & April 21**

Continue the exploration of homeless conditions in the FM area, especially as it affects children.

♦ **For more information**, contact Patti Kratky, 218-233-8382, or e-mail: Patty4St04@aol.com

■ Meetings of interest

♦ **February 17**

Nativity Church, Fargo, 7 pm
Human Trafficking

This community meeting is sponsored by Friends of Cass 23. LSS and other organizations are working to provide housing, furniture and such supplies as refugee families receive. These men have their original entry fees and \$15,000 bond to pay back as well as send money to their families in India. ND Congressional offices are being asked to provide work authorizations and that the group who brought them here (Signal) be investigated. This discussion and the March 3 First Friday one should be very interesting and enlightening.

♦ **Legislative Forums** in Fargo and West Fargo. See calendar for dates, times and participants.

■ Thank you

Phyllis Emmel and Amanda Noce have decided to retire from the

LWVRRV board of directors. We will miss their good counsel and hope they will be able to join in other league discussions.

■ SSgt Jessica Clark

On February 3, the LWVRRV sent 2 large boxes to board member and member of the Air Force National Guard Jessica Clark. Jessi is deployed to the United Arab Emirates. The 14-pound boxes contained a Valentine card signed by fellow board members and items that were on her "wish list."

Join the League!

Individual — \$50.00

Student — \$15.00

♦ Send your check to:

*League of Women Voters of the
Red River Valley*

PO Box 295, Fargo, ND 58107

Include your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address.



LWVRRV January board meeting hosted by Alice Hauan.

L-R: Lois Altenburg, co-president, Amy Jacobson, secretary, Cheryl Bergian, strategic planning consultant, Carol Sawicki, treasurer.

Homelessness of Children

The Third Tuesday discussion group has focused on the issue of homeless children. We have collected clippings from The Forum, gathered information from the Fargo Planning Office on the 10-year plan to eliminate homelessness, and identified areas where information was missing.

Of the considerable number of beds in the area, none are dedicated to unaccompanied children and youth.

We attended the 2007-2008 Women's Network production of "Body and Sold" which presented a threat to the social skills of homeless youth. We have identified a major contractor for beds in the area and contacted them to speak to a First Friday meeting.

We will continue to meet on the Third Tuesday at the Moorhead Public Library in the lower level meeting room at 5:30 pm. At this time Ardis Haaland, Frank Kratky, Patti Kratky, Sharon Benzel, and Audrey Richmond have been participating in the group. Others are welcome to join us.

— Patti Kratky

WE Rise: Women Empowered

The League of Women Voters of the Red River Valley has the amazing opportunity to participate in an incredible hand-on learning experience for women and men, right in our state's capital. For one day, February 11, 2009, our members as well as women from across the state will be in the epicenter of our state's legislative activity. **WE Rise: Women Empowered** will offer behind the scenes insight, meetings with our local lawmakers, and training on how to lobby. Women will have the experience of a lifetime.

Demystifying the legislature is the ultimate goal of the Women's Lobby Day. **WE Rise: Women Empowered** is where women will learn, participate, carry their enthusiasm home to the other women in their lives, and have the opportunity to say "represent me." The four focus areas are freedom from violence, reproductive health, women's economic security, and education. These allow and encourage women to advocate

for strong public policy in the justice areas they care about most.

Over the course of the last year the LWVRRV has participated in a local child care coalition. The goal of the coalition is to educate the public and the policy makers about the importance of early child development and access to quality child care across both states.

Because of the unique role the LWVRRV has played in this community discussion we were approached to head up the education issue at **WE Rise: Women Empowered**. At the event League Board member Mary Tintes will do a presentation on the mission and work of the LWV as well as highlight a bill pertaining to early child education. This work exemplifies the mission of the LWV perfectly, encouraging informed and active participation in government, working to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influencing public policy through education and advocacy.

*By Todd Reisenauer and
Amy Jacobson*

MN Legislative Interviews

On January 30, Representative Morrie Lanning, MN District 9 A, and Patti Kratky met to discuss the LWV positions on Child Care and Homelessness for Children. The interview lasted about 45 minutes and a friendly exchange of views was conducted. Rep. Lanning emphasized that Minnesota's budget is severely restrained by the nearly \$6 billion deficit.

On January 31 Representative Paul Marquart, MN District 9B, Patti Kratky and Sharon Benzel met to discuss the LWV positions on Child Care and Homelessness for Children. We also expressed dismay at the progress of the contested election results. The interview lasted about 45 minutes with a friendly exchange of view points. The same budget restraints were noted in the discussion.

— Patti Kratky

League of Women Voters of the Red River Valley 2009 Annual Meeting **VIP Room, 624 Main, Fargo, ND** **Saturday, March 14, 2009**

RSVP: see page 4

- ◆ **Registration:** 9:30—10 am
- ◆ **Brunch & Business Meeting:** 10 am
- ◆ **Program & Speaker:** following
- ◆ **Items to be voted on by the membership include:**
 - ◆ **Nominating Report:**
 - 1st Vice President: Barb Headrick
 - Directors (2):
 1. Portia Danielson
 - 2: Open: to be elected at the annual meeting
 - Nominating Committee (3):
 - Audrey Richmond,
 - Janet Van Amburg
 - Phyllis Emmel.

◆ **2009 Proposed Budget:**

Income:	
Administration	\$9,150
(memberships, fundraising, grants, misc.)	
Committees	550
(community mtgs.)	
Total Income:	\$9,700
Expense:	
Administration	\$7,718
(LWVUS & ND dues, grants website, state filings, etc.)	
Committees	440
(program, voter service, Freedom Lecture, etc.)	
Publications: Voter Meetings	1,000
Misc.	47
Total Expense:	\$9,700

◆ **2009-2010 Program Proposal**

Study: Caring for children
• **Child Care**

• **Unaccompanied homeless children**

2008-2009 LWVRRV Officers

Co-Presidents:
Lois Altenburg, Patti Kratky

First Vice President: open

Second Vice President: Mary Tintes

Secretary: Amy Jacobson

Treasurer: Carol Sawicki

2008-2009 Board of Directors:

Sharon Benzel, Jessica Clark,
Donna Chalimonczyk, Alice Hauan,
Barbara Headrick.

League of Women Voters of the Red River Valley
P.O. Box 295
Fargo, ND 58107-0295

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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages an 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.

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.

League Vision, Beliefs and Intentions:

The goal of the League of Women Voters is to empower citizens to shape better communities worldwide.

- The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political membership organization which:
- Acts after study and member agreement to achieve solutions in the public interest on key community issues at all government levels.
- Builds citizen participation in the democratic process
- Engages communities in promoting positive solutions to public policy issues through education and advocacy.

2009 LWVRRV ANNUAL MEETING

**March 14, 2009 • VIP Room, 624 Main, Fargo
Brunch cost \$15 • Guests Welcome**

→ RESERVATIONS BY MAR 10, 2009

**Mail this form to Audrey Richmond
220 8th St. S., #B-2, Fargo, ND**

- Enclosed: Annual Meeting brunch reservation, \$15
- Enclosed: 2009 LWVRRV dues, \$50
- Enclosed: Student dues, \$15

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

For information, call Audrey Richmond: 701-235-3904

LWV RRV annual meeting program—

Is the "Political Glass ceiling" Weakening?

Despite record numbers of women serving in Congress and state legislatures, women are still vastly under-represented in elective office. In our region, women's representation in the Minnesota legislature exceeds that of most other states, while the number of women in the North Dakota legislature has declined. Dr. Deb White will discuss women's status in local, state, and national-level elective office, and review recent research on factors contributing to women's persistent underrepresentation.

Dr. Deb White is a professor of sociology and chair of the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at Minnesota State University Moorhead. She is also the coordinator of the Tri-College National Education for Women's Leadership (NEW Leadership) Development Institute, a women's public leadership institute.

(See page 3 for Annual Business Meeting information.)