



A look ahead...

GUESTS are always welcome at League meetings!

- Friday, September 10, 12:00 noon-1:00 PM (lunch available beginning at 11:30 AM)**
 - ◆ **First Friday, Sons of Norway, 722 2nd Ave. N., Fargo**
(note that this is actually the 2nd Friday-due to Labor Day)
ND Public Service Commissioner Candidate Forum - Kevin Cramer (R) and Brad Crabtree (D)
- Friday, September 17**
 - ◆ **Absentee ballots available in Clay Co., MN**
Contact the Clay Co. Auditor, lori.johnson@co.clay.mn.us or (218) 299-5006
- Monday, September 20, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM, Courtyard by Marriott Convention Center, 1080 28th Ave. S., Moorhead**
 - ◆ **Lunch with Leaders - Featuring Heidi Heitkamp**
More information about this event on page 2 of this *Voter*
- Thursday, September 23**
 - ◆ **Absentee ballots available in Cass Co., ND**
Contact the Cass Co. Auditor, www.casscountynynd.gov or (701) 241-5600
- Friday, October 1, 12:00 noon- 1:00 PM (lunch available beginning at 11:30 AM)**
 - ◆ **First Friday, Sons of Norway, 722 2nd Ave. N., Fargo**
Get acquainted with the Red River Basin Commission
- Tuesday, October 5, 6:30-9:30 PM**
 - ◆ **Moorhead Candidate Forums:** District 9 Senate, District 9A House, Clay Co. Commission District 3, and Moorhead School Board
Probstfield School- 2410 14th St. S., Moorhead
- Tuesday, October 12, 6:30-9:30 PM**
 - ◆ **West Fargo Area Candidate Forums:** Districts 13 & 27
*West Fargo City Commission Chambers
800 4th Ave. E, West Fargo*
- Thursday, October 21, 6:30-9:30 PM**
 - ◆ **Fargo Area Candidate Forums:** Districts 11 & 21
Fargo City Commission Chambers, 200 3rd St N, Fargo

(continued next column)

President's letter

This is an exciting time of year for LWV Red River Valley. We have many activities that strengthen being a democratic society.

All of the Candidates' Forums will allow the public to observe candidates presenting their views at many Forums for both North Dakota and Minnesota.

The First Friday events will expand our knowledge of the impact on local issues on the environment. Our 2nd Annual Lunch with Leaders speaker will be Heidi Heitkamp, who helped create the Laurie Loveland Lecture series at NDSU and worked on the lawsuit against tobacco companies.

The Third Tuesday events will give us detailed information on the District 152 (Moorhead) School Board levy measure that will be on the ballot this fall.

I encourage you to take part in as many activities as you are able. Consider working at a Candidates Forum. This is an area that brings us pride and we are doing our part to make you proud of the openness of the political process.

Patti Kratky, Co-President- LWVRRV

A look ahead (continued)

- Monday, October 25 - Friday, October 29, 10 AM-7 PM**
 - ◆ **Early Voting in Cass County, ND**
Doublewood Inn, 3333 13th Ave S., Fargo
Veterans Memorial Arena, 1201 7th Ave. E., West Fargo
 - ◆ **Governor's Inn, 2050 Governor's Drive, Casselton (Tuesday, October 26-Thursday, October 28 only)**
- Tuesday, October 26, 6:30-9:30 PM**
 - ◆ **Fargo Area Candidate Forums:** Districts 41 & 45
Fargo City Commission Chambers - 200 3rd St. N., Fargo
- Tuesday, November 2, 7:00 AM-8:00 PM**
 - ◆ **Election Day**
- Friday, November 5, 12:00 noon- 1:00 PM (lunch available beginning at 11:30 AM)**
 - ◆ **First Friday, Sons of Norway, 722 2nd Ave. N., Fargo**
North Dakota Legislative Preview - Updates and Q & A with available ND legislators

Lunch with Leaders

The LWV has always been a way to develop leadership, to be active in our communities, businesses, and the wide variety of government offices. To further that goal, the League initiated Lunch with Leaders. Lunch guests have an opportunity to meet others who have a broad experience as leaders. They can network, look for ways to broaden their experiences and build their resumés, and find mentoring opportunities.

The featured speaker at the second annual LWVRRV Lunch with Leaders event will be Heidi Heitkamp. Her experience as a political leader, professional, and volunteer is well known.

Heidi Heitkamp is a lawyer and politician from North Dakota. She was ND Attorney General from 1993 to 2001. She is currently spearheading the Laurie J. Loveland lecture series at North Dakota State University.

While serving as ND Attorney General, one of Heitkamp's biggest achievements was working with Laurie Loveland on the lawsuit filed against big tobacco. She helped lead the campaign to hold big tobacco companies responsible for their actions and succeeded in obtaining large amounts of money for each state to use in tobacco cessation programs. The lawsuit also placed restrictions on allowable advertising for tobacco companies.

The **Lunch with Leaders** event will be held September 20 at 11:30 a.m. Marriott Convention Center in Moorhead. Registration is \$25 and includes a buffet lunch.

**RSVP by Sept 15 to Sue Altenburg, LWV,
LWVND@q.com, 701-297-6815
or mail to 508 4th St. N., Fargo, ND 58102.**

Would you like to help with League work? (But don't have much free time?)

As an organization that is dedicated to civic engagement, the LWVRRV carries out a number of different activities. These include, among others, our First Friday meetings, publication of this Voter newsletter, candidate & legislative forums, participation in naturalization ceremonies, and the Lunch with Leaders event.

2010 will be a busy election year. The League will be hosting candidates' forums on five different days and volunteers will be needed at all of these events.

Or would you like to help with any other of these activities? For example, by being a greeter at a First Friday meeting? Or by helping maintain the Voter mailing list database?

We know that all of you are busy and would likely find it difficult to make a substantial time commitment. But there are many ways to contribute to the League in smaller ways, partnering with one of our board members and helping to keep the LWVRRV as a vibrant contributor to our communities.

If you are interested or would like to learn more, please call the League office at 701-297-6815, or email lwvrrv@q.com

North Dakota Redistricting Reform Initiative

At the May 25, 2010 meeting the Board of the North Dakota League of Women Voters voted to sponsor a constitutional amendment initiated measure that, if passed, would create an independent legislative redistricting commission for North Dakota.

As an organization that is dedicated to the principles of nonpartisanship, representative government and citizen involvement in public policy, the League of Women Voters is the ideal group to promote such an initiative for redistricting reform.

As long as new legislative district boundaries are set by the Legislature, gerrymandering is apt to occur. An independent commission would be more likely to draw district lines based on communities of interest and geographic features and would be less biased by the political affiliation of the voters. Elections would be more competitive, and the voters would be more engaged in the process.

In order for the citizens of North Dakota to have a chance to vote on this initiated measure, petitions must be circulated and signed. Although we were not able to get onto this November's ballot, signatures can still be collected on the petitions until June of 2011 and the measure will then be on the 2012 ballot.

Several League members collected hundreds of signatures at a booth at the Red River Valley Fair in July 2010. There are plans to have booths at other events in upcoming months, such as the Winter Show in Valley City. Many interested people all over the state have already returned filled petitions to the League office and are continuing to collect signatures.

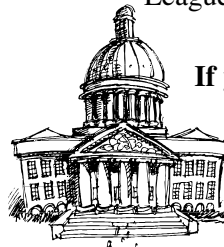
Of course, the more people who circulate petitions, the better the chances of this important initiative making it to the North Dakota ballot. If you would like to help, go to the www.lwvnd.org website where there is a link to download and print your own copy of the initiative.

Any eligible North Dakota voter may sign a petition, (although a person may not sign a petition that he or she is carrying). Get as many signatures as you can, take the petition to a notary public and have your signature notarized on the last page of the initiative.

Then mail the entire document to the state League office:

League of Women Voters of North Dakota
508 4th St N, Fargo, ND 58102

**If you have any questions, please call
701-297-6815 or email
lwvnd@q.com**



Naturalization Ceremony at MSUM

MSU Moorhead is proud to host a naturalization ceremony for new citizens as they take their oath of allegiance to the United States of America. The swearing-in ceremony will be on Friday, September 17, 2010 at 11 a.m. in the MSUM Comstock Memorial Union Ballroom.

The LWVRRV has been invited to share in this event.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Patti Kratky at:

patty4st04@aol.com



Looking for election information?



We never need information—until we NEED it and need it NOW... oh, how I relate to that truism!

Keep these websites handy for when you DO NEED information for yourself or to help others find good and timely information:

- ◆ League of Women Voters RRV: www.lwvnd.org/rrv
- ◆ North Dakota: www.nd.gov/sos/
- ◆ Minnesota: www.sos.state.mn.us/

RSVP by 9-15

For League members, friends, guests, leaders-in-training, and all who want to hear a leader share what it means (and the personal costs—but great return) to build leadership skills and be out in front taking charge in building a better community.

Lunch with Leaders, 11:30 AM, September 20.

Time is running out. . .

RSVP A.S.A.P. to

LWVND@q.com, or 701-297-6815

or mail your check for \$25 to:

LWVRRV, 508 4th St. N., Fargo, ND 58102

(See page 2 for more information.)



First Friday parking at the S.O.N. parking lot

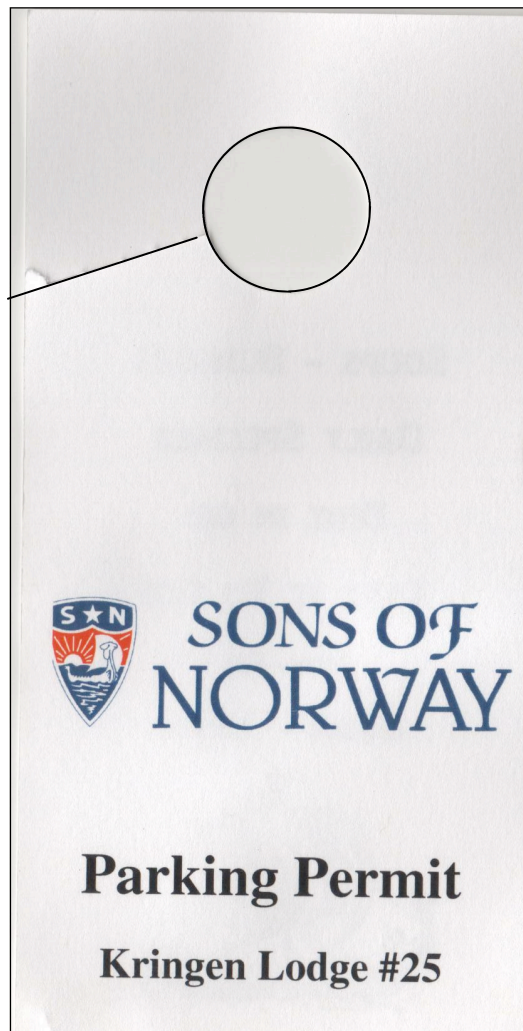
Members: Cut out this Parking Permit and use during each LWV meeting to park in the Sons of Norway parking lot.

This lot is directly north, across 2nd Ave. from the Sons of Norway building, and includes spaces on the west side of Klai Hall. The area is well marked as to NDSU and S.O.N. parking territory.

The parking lot is patrolled and tickets will be issued if you do not have a permit.

This permit has been okayed by Sons of Norway personnel.

(Sept. 2010-May 2011)



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

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org
U.S.Postage
PAID
Fargo, ND
Permit Number #234

JOIN THE LEAGUE!

Membership Dues:

Individual: \$50, students: \$15

Send your check to:

LWV RRV, PO Box 295, Fargo, ND 58107-0295

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

Membership year: April 1–March 31



2009-2010 LWVRRV Officers

Co-Presidents: *Lois Altenburg, Patti Kratky*

Vice President: *Barbara Headrick*

Secretary: *Amy Jacobson*

Treasurer: *Carol Sawicki*

2009-2010 Board of Directors:

*Portia Danielson, Jocie Iszler, Janice Jackson,
Frank Kratky, DelRae Williams, and Lauri Winterfeldt*

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.