



## A look ahead...

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

- First Friday, December 3**                      **12noon--1 PM**  
 Sons of Norway, Lounge area, 722 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. N., Fargo  
 (Lunch available beginning at 11:30 AM)  
**Topic: Issues facing the Lake Agassiz Regional Library**  
**Speaker:** Kathy Fredette, Director
- Third Tuesday, December 21**                      **Noon**  
**LWVRRV Member's Discussion Meeting**  
 Speak Easy Restaurant, 1001 30th Ave. S, Moorhead
- First Friday, January 7**                      **12 noon--1PM**  
 Sons of Norway, 722 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. N., Fargo  
 (lunch available beginning at 11:30 AM)  
**Topic: What are essential city services?**  
**Speakers:** Brad Wimmer, Fargo City Commission &  
 Diane Wray Williams, Moorhead City Council
- Monday, January 17**                      **TBA**  
**Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration**  
 Fargo Theatre, 314 Broadway, Fargo.  
*Fearless: Walking in our Neighbors' Shoes*
- Tuesday, January 18,**                      **Noon**  
**LWVRRV Member's Discussion Meeting**  
 Speak Easy Restaurant, 1001 30th Ave. S., Moorhead
- First Friday, February 4**                      **12 noon—1 PM**  
 Sons of Norway, 722 2nd Ave. N., Fargo  
 (Lunch available beginning at 11:30 AM)  
**Topic: Immigration issues in Fargo/Moorhead and beyond**  
**Speaker:** Darci Asche, Supervisor, Community Support Services, Lutheran Social Services of ND
- Tuesday, February 15**                      **Noon**  
**LWVRRV Members' Discussion Meeting**  
 Speak Easy Restaurant, 1001 30th Ave. S., Moorhead
- Thursday, February 24**                      **time and place TBA**  
 A showing of *Iron Jawed Angels*, a Golden Globe Award-winning film about the American women's suffrage movement in the 1910s.

## President's letter

*Congratulations to all members of the League of Women Voters of the Red River Valley!*

Thank you for your wonderful volunteer work and sustained support. We successfully gifted the citizens of Cass and Clay counties with four separate evenings of candidates' meetings.

The first evening in Moorhead was a marathon accomplishment. Members of LWV were at Probstfield School from 5:30 P.M. until 10:30 PM. Susan Altenburg made an earlier journey to the school to make certain the sound system, seating, and refreshment space were in good order. We were pleased with the new location, but realized we probably should have had two forums instead of one. By 9 PM many of the candidates were beginning to fade. We didn't bring refreshments, which might have boosted our fading energy. We remembered to bring cookies to the rest of the forums!

We learned a lot of new tricks, such as how to transport a tape of a meeting from West Fargo Public Access Services to Fargo Public Access Services. We are very impressed with the television operators and editors. They did a marvelous job. Each service had varied and impressive skills which made our efforts look sleek and professional.

Several of the candidates made special requests, mostly because of conflicts with previously scheduled governmental meetings. We tried to accommodate everyone. One of our limiting factors is access to city hall chambers or other locations with Public Access Television.

Microphones are temperamental creatures. One squealed and grunted every time anyone got close to it and a couple were resolutely silent. Name card placement improved after we viewed our efforts on television. Colors improved our presentation. When Frank Kratky moderated the meeting for Districts 13 and 27 he looked very professional in his light green shirt. At that meeting Boy Scouts from troop 214 greeted people, offered refreshments, and did the timing. Each received public service acknowledgement for their efforts.

Special appreciation goes to LWV members who assisted at our four forums: Jan Jackson, Amy Jacobson, Barbara Headrick, Portia Danielson, Ardis Haaland, Mark and Susan Altenburg, Ruth and Bob Stefanowicz, Bonnie Askew, and Frank and Patti Kratky. Our members distributed cards and pencils for questions. They screened the questions and welcomed our candidates and audience. They smoothly and considerately timed each presentation. They handed out literature and performed numerous tasks to ensure a clean production. I am certain I have forgotten several members, but you must know your work is definitely appreciated.

Thank you!

— Lois Altenburg, Co-President

## Naturalization services

For the past several years members of the LWV have worked with the District Court to provide a welcome to our newest citizens. We present each person with an American Flag lapel pin and literature relating to LWV and voting rights. We give a short speech describing the role the LWV plays in helping all citizens to be prepared to vote intelligently.

We talk about how the League's founders were women who, after working to abolish slavery and grant full citizenship to all American men, went on to fight for full citizenship for women. Our history makes us especially sensitive to the needs of immigrants. The LWV has always been concerned with human rights, civil rights, and access to excellent public education.

Each person who has worked to become a citizen of the USA has a special story to tell. We all are educated when we listen to these stories. Judge Ralph Erickson, in addressing the new citizens, emphasizes the importance of making certain each of immigrant's foreign-born children take the steps to become citizens if they so desire. He reminds us that people who have lived in this country nearly all their lives can still be deported if they are found guilty of certain crimes. Deportation to the country of your birth may mean separation from all of your relatives, your means of support, and even your language. I have personally known individuals who delayed seeking formal naturalization and created scary situations for themselves and their families.

There is an opportunity for many members of LWV to share in this joyful welcoming ceremony for new citizens.



## News from The LWVRRV Board:

Here is a summary of Executive Board discussion topics. We want you to be informed of the board's activities and concerns because you may be asked to serve, and even more wonderful, you may ask if you can serve!

- ◆ It was noted that new *LWV of RRV buttons* will be ordered. Again, a reminder, if you have any of buttons from prior years lying about, please bring them with you to the next First Friday, which will be December 3.
- ◆ We discussed whether we can hold *ND Legislative Forums* during the session this year. Maybe or maybe not. Historically, four forums have been held, with 6 legislators from Cass County at each forum. It is getting difficult to get the legislators to find time and inclination to participate. We'll see.
- ◆ Plans are underway for *LWV-RRV Annual Meeting*. We're looking at Saturday, March 12. The nominating committee will be looking for new officers and board members. If you are interested, please let us know.
- ◆ Lois Altenburg will find one, two (or more) folks and head for the Winter Show in Valley City with the *redistricting petitions*. If you would like a petition to gather some signatures, they are available. If you haven't already signed, there will be one available at our First Friday events.

## Calling all League of Women Voters (LWV) Buttons

Members: Liberate those LWV buttons that you may have languishing in a drawer. We are looking for some of these distinguishing badges for use at our meetings by those who are greeters and those at the sign-in table.

We also would like to use them at the voter forums for LWV members who are managing the events.

## Help Wanted

### League is actively recruiting members to serve on committees.

The committees are:

special events, finance/fund-raising, communications, voter service (candidates' forums and more), programs for First Friday and Third Tuesday, membership, and historian.

**We can do more in this region if there are more people involved.  
Your help is needed!**

*If you are interested in serving on one or more of these committees,  
let Patti Kratky know (233-8382 or [patty4st04@aol.com](mailto:patty4st04@aol.com))*

## News from LWVUS

DISCLOSE Act Coalition Press Event – November 18, 2010

### League of Women Voters Remarks

Good morning, I am Elisabeth MacNamara, the national president of the League of Women Voters.

I stand here today representing a nonpartisan organization of citizen activists and volunteers from communities across the country. In its 90-year history, the League has always fought for a government that is open and transparent and that works on behalf of all Americans.

We support passage of the Disclose Act because secret spending in elections undermines the basic pillars of our democracy. Secret cash has no place in America's electoral process.

Fair and clean elections, determined by the votes of American citizens, should be at the center of our democracy. Enhanced disclosure is the most basic step toward protecting the role of voters and ensuring that they can make informed decisions.

Voters deserve to know the sources of funding for election advertising. They should be told if it is a corporation, union, trade association, or non-profit advocacy group making unlimited political expenditures and influencing elections.

In its ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, the Supreme Court opened the floodgates for big-money special interests in our elections, but the court also made clear that disclosure of this spending could be required by congress.

Disclosure will require CEOs to stand by their ads, and expose special interest groups behind last-minute attacks. It stops manipulation of elections by fly-by-night hit groups, and prevents special interests from pumping secret money into our elections.

How can individual voters compete with organizations that not only have vested interests in Washington, but millions of dollars to spend in secret to make sure those interests are protected?

They can't, and disclosure is the best voter protection plan we can offer right now.

We can and must preserve the integrity of our electoral process by increasing transparency and letting the sunlight shine in. Disclosure is the key to allowing voters to make their own decisions and this bill accomplishes that fundamental purpose.

This is not only common sense – it is crucial if voters are to remain the cornerstone of our democracy.

In the recent elections, we were all overwhelmed by millions of dollars in negative ads, but didn't know who paid for many of them.

The voters lose out when they can't find out if their elected officials are in Washington to serve the public interest or the special interests.

Secrecy also exposes our elected officials to corruption and extortion. Here's how it works. A lobbyist visits a member of congress and says, 'if you don't do what I ask, we'll spend a million dollars in secret to knock you off in the next election'. What is a member of congress to do? How are the voters served by such a corrupt system? They aren't.

We say once again that sunlight is the best disinfectant. The League will continue to fight for enhanced disclosure because our democracy belongs to all voters.

The League and citizens across the country ask our elected leaders to take action now to protect future elections by passing the disclose act.



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

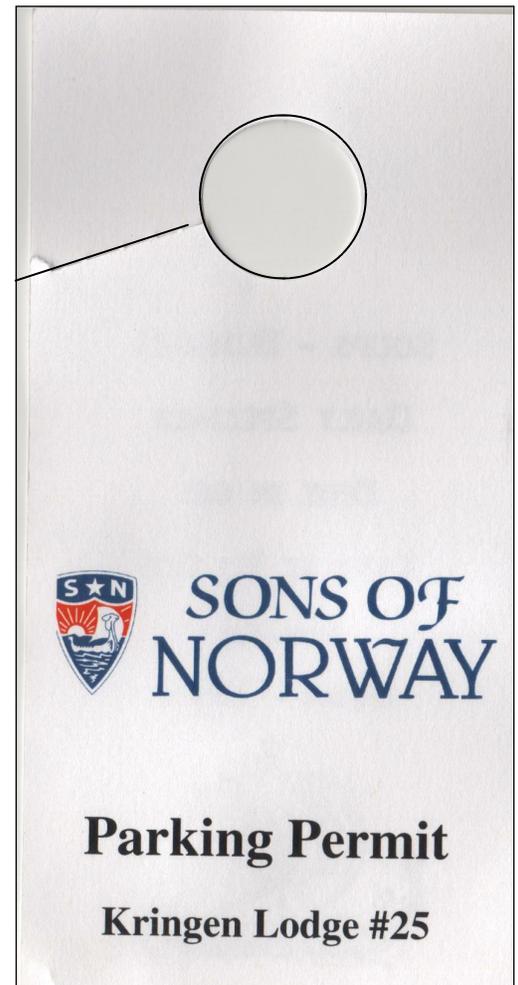
**Members:** Cut out this Parking Permit and use during each LWV meeting to park in the Sons of Norway parking lot.

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**



### **2010-2011 LWVRRV Officers**

Co-Presidents: *Lois Altenburg, Patti Kratky*

Vice President: *Barbara Headrick*

Secretary: *Amy Jacobson*

Treasurer: *Carol Sawicki*

### **2010-2011 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.*