

## A LOOK AHEAD...

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

**Friday, Nov. 2** 12:00 noon-1 pm (Lunch available beginning at 11:30 am)

First Friday Sons of Norway, 722 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. N., Fargo.

**Topic: League Immigration Study, Information Session Part II—Discussion on Diversity & Inclusion, Enforcement Issues & the Role of Family Reunification in Immigration Policy**

*Read more about the LWV-US Immigration Study on page 2 of this Voter, including links to resources available on the Web.*

**Tuesday, Nov. 6 ELECTION DAY 7 am—8 pm**

Moorhead City Council (four seats)

Dilworth City Council (2 four-year seats; 1 two-year seat)

**Friday, Dec. 7** 12:00 noon-1 pm (Lunch available beginning at 11:30 am)

First Friday, Sons of Norway, 722 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. N., Fargo

**Topic: Children's Health in the Red River Valley**

**Speaker: Brenda Menier**, Public Health Nurse Consultant for the West Central region of MN. Brenda had been the director of a rural county public health agency in northwestern Minnesota for 18 years, and in her current position for 3 years. Clay County is included in the West Central region.

## MOORHEAD CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE FORUM

On October 17<sup>th</sup> the LWVRRV, in partnership with the F-M Chamber, hosted a Candidates' Forum for the Moorhead City Council election, which will take place on Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. The Forum was well attended, with candidates fielding questions about economic development, building of a new library and Moorhead infrastructure.

This League forum was one of three that have been scheduled for the Moorhead City Council candidates. Fargo's *Forum* webcast the event on their website: [www.in-forum.com](http://www.in-forum.com) and Moorhead Community Access television will rebroadcast it throughout the rest of October and into early November.

*If you would like to learn more about candidates' forums or participate in the planning process, please contact Amy Jacobson, Voter Service Chair at [ajacobson@ppmns.org](mailto:ajacobson@ppmns.org) or 701-261-4858.*

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Have you been to resort areas in our region lately? I was a bit surprised to find temporary workers on the North Shore of Lake Superior and in Medora. I hadn't realized the extent to which we're importing workers to the United States to work on a temporary or permanent basis. I knew that the "high-tech" industries were importing workers, but I hadn't realized that entry-level, full-time temporary workers were being imported, also.

There's also a new development in the legal profession (I'm an attorney) - legal work is now being done overseas. It's a big deal in this profession, because of ethical questions about law firms that contract with foreign attorneys for legal advice to clients. If you were in need of legal services, would you like to know if your local firm was contracting with a lawyer in India or China as your attorney works on your case? Quite frankly, I didn't anticipate seeing this development, even though I knew that other professions have had jobs exported overseas (engineers and software designers come to mind).

What else is around the corner for us as a nation? What options do we have to address the emerging global economy and impact of our place in an increasingly interdependent world? Those questions are part of the reason that we're engaging in an immigration study and why your participation is so important. We'll be meeting on January 7 as the League of Women Voters in the Red River Valley, to come to a consensus on recommendations to our national league for the league position and action on immigration reform. From the considered decisions of leagues across the nation, we'll be affecting how our country addresses the changes we're seeing. Join us: study the information we provide through the national league over the coming months, and help guide our decision-makers in making the best decisions possible for our future.

—Cheryl Bergian, President  
LWVRRV

## IMMIGRATION STUDY

At our September First Friday meeting, we discussed some aspects of the present immigration quandary in the U.S. At the November 2nd First Friday, we will get information on a different group of immigration concerns.

Then, at a meeting on Monday, January 7, local League members will work to reach **Consensus** on a number of questions and submit our results to the national League of Women Voters. The LWV-US will then formulate a **Position** on this issue as a basis for **Action**.

The terms **Consensus** and **Position** and **Action** have specific meanings in league terminology; their definitions are listed below:

**CONSENSUS:** Collective opinion of a substantial number of league members, representative of the membership as a whole, after objective study of an issue.

**POSITION:** A statement of the league's point of view on an issue, arrived at through member study and agreement (consensus or concurrence), approved by the appropriate board and used as a basis for league action.

**ACTION:** Promoting the league's positions on local, state and national public policy issues to government officials, the media and the public.

So through our efforts at the local level, we will have an influence on public policy in this vital area through the national league.

Here are two of the questions we will be considering for consensus on January 7.

**Question 1: Federal immigration laws should take into consideration criteria such as the following (not listed in any particular order or hierarchy):**

- a. Ethnic and Cultural Diversity
- b. Economic, Business and Service Employment Needs
- c. Environmental Impact/Sustainability
- d. Family Reunification of Authorized Immigrants and Citizens with Spouses and Minor Children
- e. History of Criminal Activity
- f. Humanitarian Crises/ Political Persecution in Home Countries
- g. Immigrant Characteristics (health and age)
- h. Rights of All Workers to Safe Working Conditions and Livable Wage
- i. Rights of Families to Remain Together
- j. Rights of all Individuals in the U.S. to Fair Treatment Under the Law (Fair Hearing, Right to Counsel, Right of Appeal and Humane Treatment)
- k. Education and Training

**Question 2: Unauthorized immigrants currently in the U.S. should be treated as follows: (rate each one)**

- a. Deport Unauthorized Immigrants
- b. Some Deported/Some Allowed To Earn Legal Adjustment of Status Based on Length of Residence in the U.S.
- c. Some Deported/Some Allowed to Earn Legal Adjustment of Status Based on Needs of U.S. Employers
- d. All Allowed to Earn Legal Adjustment of Status by Doing Things Such as Paying Taxes, Learning English, Studying Civics, Etc.
- e. If Deported, Assess Fines Before Possible Re-Entry  
Assess Fines Before Allowed To Earn Legal Adjustment of Status

*The following are excerpts from a Background Paper that the LWVUS has published on their website, [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org). Many other papers are available on this site, discussing a variety of aspects of their Immigration Study. The complete list of consensus questions is also available there.*

### **From: U.S. Immigration Policy: Family Reunification**

Any reform of immigration policy that ignores the powerful "pull" of family reunification and offers no resolution for the increasingly unreasonable backlogs will be as unsuccessful as the current policy. There are no easy fixes for our family-based immigration system. However, unless our nation finds the political courage to come to grips with the short- and long-term implications of our current untenable policy, tens of thousands of families desperate to be together rather than face interminable separation are likely to continue resorting to unauthorized immigration.

### **From: Effects of Global Interdependence on Migration**

Pressures to emigrate from developing countries will remain intense, fueled by poverty, lack of jobs, population growth and political instability. At the same time, globalization will increase access to information about lifestyles and opportunities in industrialized countries. The global integration of the labor market for both highly skilled and unskilled workers is also a continuing trend. Immigration laws and policies should take these realities into account, along with the effect of other laws and policies such as farm subsidies and NAFTA.

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## **OBSERVER CORPS: FARGO PLANNING COMMISSION**

Barbara Headrick attended the Fargo Planning Commission on September 12<sup>th</sup>. The first part of the meeting included the City of Fargo giving a brief review of the initial study on the conversion of the one-way streets downtown. The F-M Metro Council of Governments' report examined a number of economic and infrastructure impacts of totally eliminating the one-way streets or of partially doing so.

The commission approved the rezoning of a property on the corner of South University and 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue and also approved a petition to a "Plat of Liberty Square Third Addition" south of Gander Mountain.

## **ARE YOU INTERESTED IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT? JOIN THE LWVRRV OBSERVER CORPS**

Did you know that there are over 20 boards & commissions under the umbrella of Fargo city government? There are 12 separate boards in Moorhead, and others in West Fargo, Dilworth and Cass and Clay Counties. There are the Planning Commission, School Board, Parking Commission, Liquor Control Board and many others.

If you have a special interest in any of these facets of local government, you can be involved by being a League Observer. These agencies make decisions that concern all of us. And since many of the meetings are televised on a local cable channel, observing can often be done by watching the meeting in your home at a time that is convenient to you.

By attending public meetings of various local governmental agencies, the Observer Corps keeps our elected officials aware of the league's interest in local government. By reporting on these meetings in the *LWVRRV Voter*, the corps helps all league members be informed citizens.

Each observer regularly attends the public meetings of an elected or appointed government entity. An observer is a listener, not a participant, and interprets and summarizes the debates and decisions. The observer also identifies problems, proposals and actions that bear upon league program items or that might be significant in future program development and alerts the league's board. If so instructed by the president or a vice president, an observer may present a prepared, official statement on behalf of the league before the government board.

The national LWV has recently published an excellent guide for local Observer Corps, and we have copies available. The guide is entitled: Observing Your

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## **LONG TIME FARGO LEAGUER WILL BE MISSED**

**Margaret Blue**, a member of the League of Women Voters in the Fargo area for the last 10 years, is planning on moving to Austin, MN sometime this fall.

Margaret has been a cheerful member and contributor on the board of the LWVRRV for the past five years. During this time she has been our representative to the Naturalization Ceremonies, where immigrants are sworn in as United States citizens.

In this area, Naturalization Ceremonies generally occur twice a year, serving about 40 people each time. Margaret would speak to the group, welcoming the new citizens & presenting them with a gift from the league. In recent years, this gift has been a brochure that she helped create: *A Guide to Voting in North Dakota*.

## **MEET SOME MEMBERS OF THE LWVRRV BOARD**

### **Patti Kratky**

Patti Kratky is a new but old member of LWV boards. She served on the LWV Moorhead Area board for 10 years and rejoined LWV recently and the board this year.

She was born and raised in Fargo, having degrees from NDSU and the U of Minnesota. She retired from nutrition/dietetics about 10 years ago having earned her gray hair! Frank is her husband and she is active in church affairs, volunteers at Rosewood and the Moorhead Public Library.

### **Alice Hauan**

Alice Hauan began her association with League of Women Voters in 1961 in St. Peter, MN where she and a friend chartered a new League in that community. She was president until moving to New Ulm, MN in 1963. She has been president, secretary and board member of leagues there and in Brookings, SD.

Since moving to Fargo in 1976, she has been on various committees, served as secretary and president of both the local and state leagues. She has been a delegate to the national convention and continues her dedication to the LWV currently as a member of the LWV of the RRV.

*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*

*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.*

## Join the League!

Individual — \$45.00; Household— \$67.50

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.**

2007-2008 LWVRRV Officers

President:	Cheryl Bergian
First Vice President	Carol Sawicki
Second Vice President	Mary Tintes
Secretary	Alberta Dobry
Treasurer	Sherri Seeba

***Board of Directors***

*Lois Altenburg, Margaret Blue, Jessica Clark, Alice Hauan, Barbara Headrick, Amy Jacobson, Patti Kratky and Carol Zielinski.*