



A Look Ahead...

MN House 9A and 9B Candidate Forum

Tue., Oct. 7th, 7:00 pm

Churches United for the Homeless, 1901 1st Ave N, Moorhead, MN

Co-sponsors MN Coalition for the Homeless, LWVRRV, Churches United for the Homeless

ND State Senate Districts 44 and 46

Tue., Oct. 14, 6:00 pm

ND Fargo City Commission Chambers, 200 3rd Street North, Fargo, ND

Co-sponsors LWVRRV, FM Chamber of Commerce

LWVRRV Board of Directors Meeting

Sat., Oct. 18, 8:30 a.m.

Atomic Coffee on Broadway

The Community Issues Forum: Strong Families, Strong Future

Sat., Oct. 18

10:00 am - Noon

Babb's Coffeehouse Meeting Room

604 Main Ave. Fargo, ND

Clay County Commission Candidate Forum

Tue., Oct. 21, 6:30 pm

Moorhead City Council Chambers, 500 Center Avenue, 1st Floor, Moorhead, MN

Moorhead School Board Candidate Forum

Tue., Oct. 21, 7:30 pm

Moorhead City Council Chambers, 500 Center Avenue, 1st Floor, Moorhead, MN

The Annual Freedom Lecture

Sat., Oct. 25

Concordia Campus

Co-sponsors CHARIS and the League of Women Voters

President's Letter

By: Co-President Lois Altenburg

I have been researching the history of England from 1200 to 1500. A few biographies and novels sent me first to the encyclopedia and then to the atlas and off to histories of the Royal and Aristocratic families of Great Britain. After Richard the Lion-Hearted nearly bankrupted England with his continental wars and crusades, the powerful families of Great Britain forced his brother King John to sign the Magna Charta. The king was obligated to share the power of governance with others. Hundreds of power struggles finally led to the creation the English Parliament and English Law. This concept of sharing the power to govern and create laws traveled a bumpy, often violent, road to our American democracy.

The leaders of the United States slowly and painfully over the last 220 years have allowed nearly all citizens of legal age the right to vote. Women have been voting since 1920. On November 4th, 2008 we have the opportunity to vote for presidents, governors, senators, legislators, county officers, judges and numerous other officials. The League of Women Voters wants each voter to be an informed and intelligent voter.

In addition to voting for the candidates, we have the opportunity to vote directly on proposed legislation. To be precise, the language of proposed measures is written in careful legal language. Since the passage of the measures will quickly affect the life and governance of citizens it is very important to know exactly the implications of a "yes" or "no" vote.

This summer Amanda Noce and I were fortunate to attend the national convention of the LWVUS. Our program for the next two years was decided. Despite intense lobbying pressure, the delegates decided to not endorse a national department of peace. Our carefully studied consensus on immigration was approved by the national board and accepted as part of our program for 2008-2010. We will be become informed about the process of redistricting and be prepared to lobby for our new position in 2011. The North Dakota state convention in 2007 also decided to study redistricting. Being involved in this process is definitely democracy at work.

Otto Bremer Foundation awards grant to League

The LWVRRV was recently informed by the City of Fargo that the League’s contract for the provision of a city-wide quarterly newsletter, the City Update, was being cancelled. The LWVRRV started the City Update approximately twenty years ago and the income from the City of Fargo for this newsletter was the primary source of funding for League activities.

Because of this recent development, the LWVRRV recognized the need to develop a variety of new income possibilities to continue to support its activities. In February, the League applied for a grant from the Otto Bremer Foundation. With the forming of a grant committee, many hours meeting over coffee and several grant revisions over the span of a few months, the Otto Bremer Foundation awarded the LWVRRV with \$16,800.

Funding was requested for the costs of hosting two issues forums, including meeting rooms, publicity, office expenses, and consultant fees for organizing the forums, and costs of engaging in and implementing strategic planning for operational effectiveness. The LWVRRV anticipates using approximately 2/3 of the grant funds from the Otto Bremer Foundation for strategic planning activities and approximately 1/3 of the grant funds for costs related to issues forums.

Thank you to the Otto Bremer Foundation for recognizing the League’s commitment to civic engagement in the Red River Valley.

Our Community
Our League

New Member Corner

My name is Phyllis Emmel. I am a former counselor turned political activist. I was involved with the creation of Churches United Homeless Shelter and one of the co-founders of People Escaping Poverty Project. I currently serve on the Moorhead Human Rights Commission and am active with A.A.R.P., P.E.P.P. and the Voter Collaborative.

I am an artist and poet. My work has been in the Women’s Perspective Art Exhibit and I have read my poetry for their galas. I recently started facilitating a writer’s group at the Moorhead library. I live in South Moorhead with my husband, Bruce.

I am joining the League at this time because of the high stakes, especially for women, in the coming election.

The LWVRRV Committees

Voter Service Committee

The Voter Service Committee organizes and promotes the LWVRRV Candidate and Legislative Forums for the Red River Valley. If you are interested in becoming actively involved in the work of this committee, please contact Amy Jacobson, Voter Service Chair at (701) 261-4858 or amyjacobson@hotmail.com.

Program Committee

The program committee finds topics, speakers and sets the location for the First and Third Friday events. It will also be in charge of fundraiser events and promotion of the League. If you would like to be of assistance to the committee, please contact Amanda Noce at fanatizzare@gmail.com.

Publicity Committee

The publicity committee is in charge of updating the League’s Web site, The Voter publication, press releases for the League’s candidate and legislative forums and media opportunities within the Red River Valley. If you would like to become involved with the publicity committee, please contact Jessica Clark at (701) 866-3263 or jessic Clark344@hotmail.com.

Collaborative Candidate Forums

The League of Women Voters of the Red River Valley in conjunction with FM Chamber of Commerce Churches United for the Homeless, MN Coalition for the Homeless, AARP Moorhead/Clay, Senior Connections, Chamber of Commerce of Fargo-Moorhead and the Voter's Collaborative are sponsoring Candidate Forums for local contested races.

The Candidate Forums for ND State Senate Districts 44 and 46 will be held Tue., Oct. 14, 6 pm . The event will take place at Fargo City Commission Chambers. MN House 9A and 9B Candidate Forum will be held Tue., Oct. 7th, 7 pm at Churches United for the Homeless in Moorhead. Clay County Commission and Moorhead School Board Candidate Forums will be held Tue., Oct. 21 at 6:30 and 7:30pm at Moorhead City Council Chambers.

The League will also be conducting a community issues forum titled Strong Families, Strong Future. This will take place Sat., Oct. 18, 10 am – noon at Babb's Coffeehouse, Fargo.

The forums operate under the following guidelines; candidates will have an opportunity for opening and closing statements, and will have answer each question from the audience. Questions are screened by a League member for duplication and clarity, and read by the moderator. Audience members ask questions about issues most important to them and hear how the candidates measure up. The public is encouraged to attend and there is no fee for the forums.

- We are -**
- **Acting as a force to create positive, lasting change in our communities**
 - **Empowering millions of voters to protect their right to vote.**
 - **Educating citizens and fostering dialogue on pertinent issues - from healthcare and climate change to openness in government.**
 - **Working to ensure that ALL votes are counted and ALL voices are heard.**
 - **Preserving our constitutional rights.**
 - **Working together to make democracy work!**



LWVRRV Members at VIP Room in Fargo

Annual Freedom Lecture

The Annual Freedom Lecture co-sponsored by CHARIS and the League of Women Voters has been changed from the spring to fall. This will be highlighted in the CHARIS brochure and will work nicely for Jim Leahy, the founder of the lecture series. He lives in Arizona and it's easier for him to get to Fargo in the fall.

Susan Helgeland and Alice Huan met with Arland Jacobson from the CHARIS office on July 25 to begin plans for this years lecture. This year's lecture has been set for Saturday evening, October 25 on Concordia campus. The speaker this year will be Kate Martin, Director of the Center for National Security Studies, a non-profit human rights and civil liberties organization located in Washington, D.C. since 1992. She is an attorney and has litigated cases involving the entire range of national security and civil liberties issues, including serving as lead counsel in the lawsuit brought by more than 20 organizations challenging the secret arrests of 1200 persons in the wake of September 11.

More information on the lecture and speaker will be forthcoming in a later issue of the VOTER. Meanwhile, contact those who you think would be interested in this event and have them mark their calendars.

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

Return Service Requested

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.

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!

Student - \$15.00
Individual - \$50.00

Include:
Name, Address, Telephone
Number, Email Address

Send your check to:

League of Women Voters of the Red River Valley
PO Box 295, Fargo, ND 58107

2008 - 2009 LWVRRV Officers

Presidents:	Lois Altenburg Patty Kratky
Vice President:	Mary Tintes
Secretary	Amy Jacobson
Treasurer:	Carol Sawicki

Board of Directors

Donna Chalimoncyk, Jessica Clark, Alice Huan, Barbara
Headrick, Amanda Noce