



## A look ahead...

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

**First Friday, May 5, 12:00 noon-1:00 PM**

Lunch available beginning at 11:30 AM)

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

**Topic: Summer in the City**

**Speaker:** Cole Carley, Fargo Moorhead  
Convention & Visitor's Bureau

**Saturday, May 6, 10:30-12:00 noon**

Fryin' Pan Restaurant, 302 Main Ave., Fargo

**Membership Meeting**

All LWVRRV members are invited to discuss action items scheduled to be on the June LWV-US Annual Convention agenda. Delegates from the local and state Leagues will be attending this national convention in Minneapolis and would welcome your input.

**Wednesday, May 24, 5:00-10:00 PM**

Fargo City Commission chamber, 200 3rd St. N.

**LWVRRV Candidates' Forums**

(See page 2 for details.)

**Tuesday, June 13, 7:00 AM-8:00 PM**

**2006 ND PRIMARY ELECTION**

**City & School elections for Fargo, West**

**Fargo, Central Cass & Northern Cass Public  
School Districts**

## President's Letter

*Greetings!*

This has been a very exciting year for me in my roles at the League. In January I answered an open call for Board members, which I saw advertised in the City Snapshot because I decided it was time for me to become active.

Growing up in Fargo I was always aware of League and admired its work in our community. I think I share with most League members an innate sense of interest, almost romanticism, with citizen participation, voting, and education. Civic engagement has become a passion of mine. In 2004 I co-founded Women's Political Action, a grassroots organization dedicated to seeing more women in elected and appointed office. Citizens today, particularly younger people, are apathetic to the electoral system. I see the role of the League as a link to connect these potential voters with the information they need to make informed decisions to affect public policy.

I am excited to represent our League chapter at this year's National Convention in Minneapolis. It will be a huge learning experience for me in my novice year as President. I along with our other representative will learn in-depth about League policies and issues. I hope we will harness the excitement and energy and bring it home to Fargo with us. I look forward to working hard to further the mission of the League and to working with all of you to increase civic engagement in the Red River Valley. Thank you.

*--Amy Jacobson, President*

*League of Women Voters of the  
Red River Valley*

*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 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.*

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## Board briefs

On April 10, the board held a special meeting to elect a new president, Amy Jacobson. This election was necessary to replace Cheryl Bergian who had resigned after accepting the Dem-NPL nomination for the office of ND Public Service Commissioner.

For this reason, there is now an opening on the League Board of Directors. If you would like to join the Board, or if you would like to nominate someone for that position, please contact Amy Jacobson at 261-4858 or at [ajacobson@ppmns.org](mailto:ajacobson@ppmns.org)

The next meeting of the LWVRRV Board will be Saturday, May 6 at 8:30 AM at the Fryn' Pan restaurant, 302 Main Ave. in Fargo. This will be followed by a Membership Meeting as described in *A Look Ahead*. All League members are invited to join us.

## League Candidates' Forums

### May 24<sup>th</sup> –volunteers needed

The LWV RRV Voter Service Committee has set up a schedule of Candidates' Forums for all the local contested races on the June 13<sup>th</sup> ballot. These forums will be held in the Fargo City Commission chamber the evening of Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> according to the following schedule and will be taped & rebroadcast on cable access television.

<b>Fargo Mayor</b> (6 candidates)	<b>5:00-5:15 PM</b>
<b>Fargo City Commissioner</b> (4 candidates for 2 seats)	<b>6:00-6:30 PM</b>
<b>Fargo Park Board</b> (7 candidates for 3 seats)	<b>6:40-7:30 PM</b>
<b>Fargo School Board</b> (9 candidates for 5 seats)	<b>7:40-8:45 PM</b>
<b>Cass County Sheriff</b> (3 candidates to be cut to 2 for 11/06 election)	<b>8:55-9:20 PM</b>
<b>Cass County Recorder</b> (3 candidates to be cut to 2 for 11/06 election)	<b>9:30-9:50 PM</b>

As you can see it will be a long session. We need a lot of volunteers to help the forums run smoothly.

**If you would like to participate in this important League activity, as a moderator, or a question screener, or by collecting questions from the audience, please contact Lois Altenburg (232-2701) or Carol Sawicki (232-5676).**

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## Why are League dues so high?

Per Member Payments, PMP, are made to both state (ND or MN) and the national League (LWVUS).

Of the \$45 that each individual pays as annual dues, \$10 goes to the state and \$23.80 is paid to the national office. This leaves only \$11.20 per member for the local chapter. And LWVUS is suggesting an increase in PMP of \$2.50 for 2006-2007, to be voted on at the National Convention in June.

## Join the League!

### Send your check to:

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

Individual	\$45.00
Household	\$67.50
Student	\$15.00

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

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## Who gets the Voter

The Voter is a publication for current members of the League of Women Voters of the Red River Valley.

It is also mailed to all elected officials in the area and to all persons who are running for an elected position. The League would like to encourage you to join us in our mission of building citizen participation in the democratic process.

We welcome all input and suggestions from those of you who are actively involved in the political arena.



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## News from the LWVUS

### • DC Voting Rights Educational Outreach

The LWVEF (League of Women Voters Education Fund) has received funding from the DC City Government to undertake a year-long citizen education and outreach program in communities across the country to build wider awareness of District of Columbia citizens' lack of full voting rights and full self-government. The LWVEF has long been an advocate for full voting rights for the citizens of DC and will work with Leagues to launch a public educational campaign about District residents' lack of voting rights in Congress. LWVEF will distribute a Request for Proposals (RFP) soon so that interested Leagues may apply for pass-through grants. More project details will follow shortly.

### • The People Speak 2006

The League is partnering for a fourth year with the United Nations Foundation to organize forums across the country. The overall theme for 2006 is: *Working Together with the World: What's in it for the U.S.?* There are three sub-themes:

- Working Together Toward Peace, Security and Human Rights: What's in it for the U.S.?
- Working Together on Energy and Global Climate Change: What's in it for the U.S.?
- Working Together to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals: What's in it for the U.S.?

### • ACTION ALERT: Don't Let Congress Make a Mockery Out of Lobbying Reform

The House of Representatives is scheduled to take up "lobbying reform" legislation on Thursday, April 27. Unfortunately, the proposed bill, H.R. 4975, is very weak and does little to curb corruption in Congress. Several key amendments to improve the legislation will be proposed, including the Shays-Meehan Amendment to create an Office of Public Integrity (OPI).

However, before the House can vote on strengthening amendments, the leadership must allow them to be offered on the floor, instead of using the rules to prohibit key amendments, like Shays-Meehan. The process for considering H.R. 4975, the "Lobbying Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006," must be fair and open!

**Tell your Representative that Members must be allowed to vote on key amendments to the lobbying reform bill!**

The nation is deeply concerned by the recent scandals in Congress. Yet H.R. 4975, the "Lobbying Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006" that emerged from House

committees, is completely inadequate. The legislation includes a temporary "ban" on privately financed travel for Members that expires — just after the 2006 elections. It continues to allow corporations to provide private jets to Members. And just last week, important disclosure requirements for lobbyists providing campaign funds and financial benefits to Members were dropped from the bill!

H.R. 4975 fails to deal with one of the most important lobbying reform issues before the Congress — the nonfunctioning ethics process. The House Ethics Committee has been AWOL during the current crisis. The Shays-Meehan Amendment would remedy this failure. The amendment would establish an Office of Public Integrity (OPI) to serve as an independent, nonpartisan, professional office to investigate allegations of ethics violations filed by Members or by outside groups or individuals. The OPI would present cases and evidence to the Ethics Committee, and would recommend sanctions where violations are found.

**Tell your Representative to vote YES on the OPI and other strengthening amendments!**

Establishment of a new Office of Public Integrity and other necessary reforms will not be possible unless the process to consider the legislation allows amendments to be offered. H.R. 4975 could be considered under a Rule sponsored by the leadership that would block consideration of vital amendments. This would be totally unacceptable.

**Tell your Member of Congress to vote against any Rule that prohibits a vote on the OPI and other strengthening amendments!**

<http://takeaction.lwv.org/lwv/issues/alert/?alertid=8706986>

### • TAKE ACTION

1. Contact your Representative in the U.S. House **now**, by phone and by email, and urge her/him to support open debate and meaningful amendments to H.R. 4975 like the Shays-Meehan Amendment to create an Office of Public Integrity. Tell your member of Congress to vote against any Rule that prohibits a vote on the OPI and other strengthening amendments. Your Representative should vote against the "Lobbying Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006" if it is not improved in a fair and open process.

**Phone calls can be made through the Capitol Hill switchboard at 202-224-3121 or 202-225-3121.**

2. Send this alert to other concerned citizens — your grassroots network, your friends and coworkers. Encourage them to contact their Representative today!

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

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## LWVRRV Annual Meeting

The 2006 LWVRRV Annual Meeting was held on Saturday, March 25, at the Trollwood Café in Fargo.

The League elected a new board treasurer. We voted to approve a 2006-2007 local study program on Voter Turnout and Voter Involvement.

We were then treated to a lively presentation by PEPP, the People Escaping Poverty Project. Lysa Ringquist and Duke Schempp spoke about their past experiences and how they led them to an understanding of the importance of civic engagement. We heard of creative Get Out The Vote efforts, like Trick or Vote on Halloween and the Rock the Vote rally.

Now LWVRRV members need to step forward and work on our local study program. Voter Turnout and Voter Involvement are core goals for the League. We can make an impact on the level of civic participation in the area, and “change the world,” one small group at a time.

### 2005-2006 LWVRRV Officers

President:	Amy Jacobson
First Vice President	Carol Sawicki
Second Vice President	Mary Tintes
Secretary	Alberta Dobry
Treasurer	Diane Briggs

### Board of Directors

Margaret Blue, Barb Headrick, Lynne Olson,  
Sherri Seeba and Carol Zielinski.

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## 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.

*The League of Women Voters Education Fund is a nonpartisan public policy educational organization which:*

- Builds citizen participation in the democratic process.
- Studies key community issues at all governmental levels in an unbiased manner.
- Enables people to seek positive solutions to public policy issues through education and conflict management.

*We believe in:*

- Respect for individuals.
- The value of diversity.
- The empowerment of the grassroots, both within the League and in communities.

*We will:*

- Act with trust, integrity and professionalism.
- Operate in an open and effective manner to meet the needs of those we serve, both members and the public.
- Take the initiative in seeking diversity in membership.
- Acknowledge our heritage as we seek our path to the