



A look ahead...

GUESTS are always welcome at League meetings!

- Third Tuesday, April 20* *1 PM*
TOPIC: Finance and Redistricting.
 Place to be announced . Contact: Patty4St04@aol.com
- First Friday, March 5* *12noon - 1PM*
 Sons of Norway Lodge-Lounge area, 722 2nd Ave. N., Fargo
 (Buffet lunch available beginning at 11:30 AM)
**TOPIC: Water Issues in the Red River Valley —
 Sometimes too much & sometimes too little**
*Speaker: Jon Lindgren, Cass Co. representative,
 Garrison Diversion Conservancy District*
- March 6* *9 - 10:30 AM*
Northtown Grill, 3500 12th Ave. N., Fargo
*Membership meeting for North Dakota LWVRRV
 members to reach consensus on Redistricting.*
- Saturday, March 20* *9:30 AM Registration*
 Maxwell's, 1380 9th St. E., West Fargo
EVENT: LWV-RRV Annual Meeting
More information about this event is on page 2 of this Voter
- Friday, April 9* *12 noon - 1PM*
 (NOTE that this is actually the 2nd Friday, due to
 Good Friday observances.)
 Sons of Norway Lodge, 722 2nd Ave. N., Fargo
 (Buffet lunch available beginning at 11:30 AM)
**TOPIC: When all the stoplights in Moorhead are
 red— railroads & the Quiet Zone**
- First Friday, May 7* *12 noon -1 PM*
 Sons of Norway Lodge, 722 2nd Ave N, Fargo
 (Buffet lunch available beginning at 11:30 AM)
TOPIC - Lighting Pollution in Fargo/Moorhead
- Third Tuesday, May 18* *1PM*
TOPIC: Reuse for the Moorhead Power Plant
 Place to be announced . Contact: Patty4St04@aol.com

President's letter

The public television channel has been presenting its series on the development of the national parks in the United States of America. The program emphasized that national parks were an invention of our country. However, again and again it was shown that a small group or a single individual was the impetus for the creation of a national park. John Muir was certain that without the protection of the redwood forests no one living today would ever enjoy the sight of a redwood tree. Thousands of acres of redwood trees were clear cut and the wood processed to build the western cities. The lumbermen seemed to believe that redwood trees were an unlimited resource to be exploited. John Muir wrote, lectured and mailed letters to all levels of government officials. The preservation of our natural treasures was a tedious and frustrating process. John Muir never gave up and today our nation recognizes him as an environmental hero.

In the ninety year history of the League of Women Voters we have endured the same difficult process as we work to improve our country. Although we celebrate all we have accomplished, we continue to work together on new and challenging projects. Our study and consensus on immigration has created important action and awareness in our government in the two years since it was accepted at our national convention in June of 2008. At national conventions I have always been impressed with broad national and international influence of the LWV. The 2010 convention is in June in Atlanta.

This spring we will present material for a membership meeting on redistricting. The national LWV has a strong position endorsing a fair and representative process based on population for the creation of state and national electoral districts. We need to provide the citizens of North Dakota and Minnesota with the tools to ensure equal representation in our state and national legislatures.

Consensus questions will be ready and will allow us to act to improve our redistricting process, if approved. Consensus is a responsible and stimulating activity for all LWV members.

—Lois Altenburg- Co-President- LWVRRV

LWVRRV annual meeting

■ Nomination Committee Report

Officers (2010-2012):

2nd VP: Mary Tintes
Treasurer: Carol Sawicki

Directors—2 years (2010-2012):

Cheryl Bergian
Jocie Izler
Janice Jackson

Director-1 year (2010-2011):

Lauri Winterfeldt

Nominating Committee (2011)

Gerri Fairfield,
Margaret McMorro
One to be nominated from the floor

Continuing Officers 2010-2011

Co-Presidents: Lois Altenburg, Patti Kratky
1st VP: Barb Headrick
Secretary: Amy Jacobson

Continuing Directors 2010-2011

Portia Danielson
Frank Kratky

Retiring Directors: Sharon Benzel, Donna Chalimonczyk,
Alice Hauan, Nancy Jardine

■ Budget: 2010-2011

INCOME:

Administration

Membership	\$3000.
Fundraising	300.
Lunch with Leaders	1,600.
Bank Interest	100.
LWVUS PMP rebate	55.

Committees

Meetings/Annual	475.
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TOTAL INCOME

\$5,530

EXPENSE

Administration

Board/Office	100.
Sec. of State	35.
Per Mbr Pymt	2,352.
Website	100.
PO Box	40.

Committees

Program	75.
Membership	75.
Voter Service	68.
Postage	20.
Naturalization	70.

Publications

Voter	750.
Voter Guides	400.

Meetings

General	20.
Annual	475.
Lunch with Leaders	950.

TOTAL EXPENSE

\$5,530

Annual meeting brunch March 20

Someone wants to sell you an idea, get you to vote yes or no, or form an opinion on an issue that our political representatives will vote on. Have you ever wondered about the thinking and the how-do-they-do-that when viewing or listening to those 30-second sound bites? If so, then you will want to attend the LWVRRV's Annual Meeting and brunch Saturday, March 20th, at Maxwell's, 1380 9th St. E., West Fargo (in a mall just southwest of the 13th Ave. W. Menards/SunMart stores).

Campaign Advertising: Politics and Marketing, will be presented by Dr. Philip Bauman, Professor of Political Science at MSU Moorhead, will discuss the tools, techniques and tricks used in successful political advertising. He will explain how ads evolved from simple cartoons and jingles to a sophisticated manipulation of words and images.

The same marketing expertise that is used to sell us soap, pizza and movies is selling us candidates and issue positions.

Registration is at 9:30 AM, brunch at 10 AM.

■ Reservations by March 15 (Guests are welcome):

LWV office, 701-297-6815,
e-mail: lwvrrv@q.com.

■ Reserved cost \$15; \$20 at the door.

Maxwell's—Site of the LWVRRV Annual Meeting brunch



(Mall at 13th Avenue & 9th Street E., West Fargo)

A distinguished 90-yr history –

—The following Letter to the Editor, written by LWVRRV Board member Mary Tintes, was published in The Forum on February 10, 2010.

Ninety years ago, Carrie Chapman Catt first proposed a League of Women Voters to “finish the fight” and work to end all discrimination against women. And so the League of Women Voters was founded on Valentine’s Day in 1920, six months before the ratification of the 19th Amendment giving American women the right to vote.

Today we are a grassroots organization with 850 Leagues throughout all 50 states. Although the League is known widely for our voter education efforts, the League of Women Voters of the Red River Valley (LWVRRV) has been an institution in Fargo, Moorhead, West Fargo and Dilworth for many years. We have hosted candidate and legislative forums and facilitating public discussion on issue such as: childcare, education, homelessness, environmental health, voter participation and immigration. Our *First Friday* (of each month) noon luncheon meetings focus on im-

portant local and national issues and are free and open to the public. Information about meetings and events can be found at www.lwvnd.org/rrv

The League is strictly *non-partisan*, but we have always been political, advocating to effect change at the national and local level. As we enter into a new year, we don’t know exactly what issues will confront our communities, but we do know that the League will be there doing what it has been trusted to do for more than 90 years: discuss the important issues, ask the difficult questions and demand accountability from our local government.

Our members, women and men of all ages, join the League because they know that whatever happens to our democracy over the next 90 years, it should be up to us, the people. The League of Women Voters is *the* organization where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement, and this year, on our 90th Anniversary, we hope you will join us and stand with us in this work. If we don’t do it, who will?

Voter Service news

2010 will see elections on many levels, starting in ND in June with school district board elections, city elections and primary elections for Federal, Statewide, District and County positions.

MN primary elections are in September, with general elections in November.

The LWVRRV will be hosting candidate forums for many of these races, with dates, times and locations to be determined.

Elections to be held on June 8, 2010:

- ♦ City of West Fargo- Mayor, City Commissioners (2), Park Board (3), and Municipal Judge
- ♦ City of Fargo –Mayor, City Commissioners (2) and Park Board (3)
- ♦ School Board Elections - Fargo and West Fargo School Districts
- ♦ ND Primary elections to be held are: Congressional, Statewide, Legislative District (odd-numbered), Judicial District, and County Offices.
- ♦ General election for these positions is November 2, 2010.

For more election information, please visit the following websites:

LWVRRV:

<http://www.lwvnd.org/rrv>

ND LWV: <http://www.nd.gov/sos/>

MN LWV:

<http://www.sos.state.mn.us/>

JOIN THE LEAGUE!

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.**

2009-2010 LWVRRV Officers

Co-Presidents: Lois Altenburg, Patti Kratky
First Vice President: Barbara Headrick
Second Vice President: Mary Tintes
Secretary: Amy Jacobson
Treasurer: Carol Sawicki

2009-2010 Board of Directors:

Sharon Benzel, Donna Chalmonczyk, Portia Danielson, Alice Hauan,
Nancy Jardine, Frank Kratky,

Help Wanted

**Volunteers will be needed at
the forums – to help,
please contact:**

Amy Jacobson

amyljacobson@hotmail.com

Mary Tintes

mctintes@msn.com

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

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Membership report

The Red River Valley LWV board committed itself to building league membership during the past year with a goal of reaching 60 members.

We initiated the Luncheon for Leaders in September 2009. For a first-ever event, we felt turnout was very good with about 60 people attending. We attracted many men and women who had not attended a league event in the past. Several women joined the league and many requested to be included on our electronic newsletter and calendar notices. We plan to do another special event in 2010.

A letter was mailed to people who had shown an interest in the league by attending meetings and other events. New members will now receive a membership folder with basic membership information.

Non-renewing members were mailed dues reminder postcards and a phone call from board members. Phone call visits to our past members will help us find ways that league activities can fit into already busy lives.

Members will also receive a membership card when paying their dues. To date we have 55 members.

We continue to look for ways and programs that will generate lively discussions at our First Friday meetings. We have instituted a "feed-back" card at our First Friday meetings with the hope of providing future meetings that address members' public policy issue concerns.

It has been a distinct honor to work with league members on this initiative. Their creativity and problem solving made this project a fun one to work on. Thanks to one and all!

Donna Chalimonczyk - Fundraising & Membership Committee

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.