

League of Women Voters of the Red River Valley

September-October 2005

A look ahead...

GUESTS are always welcome at League meetings!

First*Friday, September 9, 12:00 noon-1:30 PM,
Sons of Norway-Lounge area, 722 2nd Ave N.,
Fargo (buffet lunch available beginning at 11:30
AM),

- Candidates' Forum: Fargo City Commission
- Special Election
- *Meeting is on the second Friday of the month, because of Labor Day weekend

Tuesday, September 13

- Election Day: Special Election for Fargo
- City Commission, 7AM-7PM
- Election Day: Primary Election for Moorhead School Board, 7AM-8PM

Monday, October 3, 12:00 noon-1:30 PM

Ramada Plaza Suites, 1635 42nd St SW, Fargo

- Women's Leadership Luncheon-United Way of Cass-Clay

Featured speaker: Kathleen Kennedy Townsend.
The luncheon is a fundraiser for *Success by 6*, an early childhood development program. Contact CatieTinjum at ctinjum@uwcc.net or 237-5050 for ticket prices and reservations.

First Friday, October 7, 12:00 noon-1:30 PM

Sons of Norway, 722 2nd Ave N, Fargo (buffet lunch available beginning at 11:30 AM)

- Candidates' Forum: Moorhead School Board
Wednesday, October 26, 7-9 PM, Moorhead City Council Chambers, 500 Center Ave, Moorhead
- Candidates' Forum: Moorhead City Council and Moorhead Mayor

Friday, November 4, 12:00 noon-1:30 PM Sons of Norway, 722 2nd Ave N, Fargo (buffet lunch available beginning at 11:30AM),

- Women's Role in Global Democracy,

Tuesday, November 8, 7AM-8PM

Election Day – Moorhead Mayor, Moorhead Council (four seats), Moorhead School Board (three seats)

President's Letter

Welcome to the unofficial beginning of a new League year, with First Friday meetings starting in September (September 9, a Second Friday because of Labor Day weekend). We've got a full schedule of Voter Service candidates' forums coming this fall, with the special election for the Fargo City Commission in September, and the Moorhead City Council, Mayor, and School Board elections in November. And, I am pleased to report that the LWVRRV Board of Directors now has a full slate, with the addition of Sherri Seeba and Helen Rudie over the summer. Thanks to them, and to all the board members, for volunteering their time for the League!

One project the Board has taken up is updating our membership database to include e-mail addresses of all our members - we'll be able to get League information out more efficiently this way. If you haven't received an e-mail from me over the summer, let me know at cherylbergian@cableone.net and we'll get your e-mail address in the database. I'll also mail to League members who don't have e-mail, once we get the database updated.

We'd like to sponsor community forums on topics of interest to us, and our communities. If you have a suggestion for a forum, let me know. We've got some ideas already: Redistricting, Voter Registration Issues, Women Engaging Globally, Women in the Correctional System, and Concerns (and Solutions, I hope) Regarding Child Molesters. We co-sponsored a community forum on Social Security Reform with AARP-North Dakota this summer, and will continue to participate in forums and events as the opportunities arise.

The League is in a unique position in the community to elicit information on a variety of topics that face so many of us today, and I look forward to the League furthering that part of our mission over the next year.

—Cheryl Bergian, LWVRRV President,

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A Legendary Leaguer

Mildred (Millie) Jenkins Treumann

(July 25, 1918 – April 20, 2005)

(excerpts from story written by daughter and son-in-law, Beverly Treumann & Jon Hillson)

Millie Jenkins was born in Albany, NY in 1918. She received a degree in psychology from the University of Rochester (NY) in 1940 and a master's degree in 1941. She worked in Washington, D.C. for the US Dept. of Labor during WWII. After being "bumped" from her job in 1946 by returning war veterans, she then moved to Madison, WI, to work for the Bureau of Industrial Psychology and to teach 2 days per week at the Milwaukee campus of U of Wisconsin. She married Bill Treumann in 1948 and moved to Fargo, ND, where her husband taught at NDAC (now NDSU).

Millie Treumann helped form the ND State Chapter of the American Psychological Association in 1954. However, during the 1950's, there was a shadow cast on the concept of psychology due to the pressure of McCarthyism. During this time, Millie joined the League of Women Voters. Unfortunately, at this same time, Bill Treumann and 3 other faculty members ran afoul of the university president's tyrannical abuse of authority before the days of faculty tenure and, despite vigorous protest, the 4 were fired in 1955. It was a difficult time for Millie and her family (3 children by this time), all victims of the 1950's witch-hunts, especially for her husband and sons in school. But Millie's colleagues and members of the LWV stood by her and in 1963, she was elected state president of LWV, a post she held for five years.

Millie began teaching in the psychology department of Moorhead State College (now MSUM), where she remained until her retirement at age 70 in 1988. Her popular course, "The Psychology of Women" convinced many of her students to become psychology majors. During this time of the civil rights movement and the birth of the women's liberation movement, Millie and a colleague developed the Women's Studies department at Moorhead State. Millie was quoted as saying, "I was a rebel, and I was a feminist, without knowing it, for a long time."

Millie is survived by her husband, Bill, her sons, Dick and Bob, daughter, Beverly and their families. She is fondly remembered and respected by past and current members of the LWV.

Volunteers Needed For Candidates' Forums

Volunteers are needed to help the Voter Service committee conduct the Fargo City Commission Candidates' Forum at our First Friday on September 9th as well as the Moorhead School Board, City Council and Mayor's Candidates' Forums in October.

If you would like to participate in this important League activity, please contact Lois Altenburg at 232-2701 or Carol Sawicki at 232-5676.

LWVRRV Participates In Women's Equality Day

19th Amendment Celebration: What's Next for Women?

Friday, August 26, 2005 was the 85th Anniversary of the passage the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that gave women the right to vote. Local area women acknowledged this momentous event by gathering for an afternoon of discussion, music, food, and networking in Gooseberry Mound Park in Moorhead on Saturday, August 27. Sponsors of the event included the Business & Professional Women of the Red River Valley, Planned Parenthood of MNS, Women's Network of the Red River Valley and the Women's Political Action Committee. The LWVRRV had a table staffed by several League volunteers.

The event featured speakers including Amy Jacobson, Planned Parenthood MNS and Deb White, Women's Studies/MSUM. Participants enjoyed a variety of entertainment and refreshments.

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News From The LWVUS

League Email Contest Announced!

Throughout our 85 years, the League has pushed for fully informed, educated citizens to participate and be active in the issues of the day. Today, we are no different. We want the League membership to be as informed and active as possible and to have some fun! In this spirit, the LWVUS is announcing a contest that will combine those ideas by generating interest in collecting emails. Having more of our members' emails allows us to vastly improve and enhance our communications. All individual members whose email addresses are added or updated in the LWVUS database between September 1, 2005, and January 31, 2006, will be eligible for a drawing of prizes that includes valuable vintage posters, historical note cards and autographed publications. Please spread the word and help LWVUS reach 100% of your members. You can update email addresses via the online database. Questions? Contact membership@lww.org. .

Nominations for LWVUS Board and Nominating Committee Due October 1

For a nomination form go to:
<http://www.lww.org/forms/nominations.cfm> Contact Nominating Committee Chair Trudy Jarratt at ftjarratt@charter.net if you have any questions about the process. *(continued, next column)*

League wants elections to work for the voter August 4, 2005

Management Issues at the Heart of America's Efforts to Improve Elections

Washington, D.C. – The League of Women Voters today issued a new report – Next Steps on Election Reform – that explores issues central to reforming our election system and implementing the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA).

The report is based on a forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters Education Fund and the McCormick Tribune Foundation in March 2005 that examined the 2004 election experience and ways of improving our nation's elections.

The gathering convened experts from different backgrounds, including federal, state and local election officials, academics, journalists and citizen organizations. Participants called attention to a number of issues, which the League has refined to four key steps:

Professionalization,

A new focus on service,

Research and development, and

New federal resources and commitment.

“Better elections management presents a real opportunity for progress,” said Kay J. Maxwell, President of the League of Women Voters of the United States. “We need to professionalize elections management. We need to instill a service focus into elections. We need to ramp up research and development on voting technologies and processes. And we need more resources and steady funding for elections in this country,” stated Maxwell.

The full report is available by request and at <http://www.lww.org/elibrary/pub/issue5.html>.

“Elections need to work for the voter,” said Maxwell. “With democracy gaining hold in new places throughout the world, it is time to ensure that the American election system can be held up as a model. Next Steps on Election Reform helps chart the way.”

Board briefs

The LWVRRV Board met for a planning meeting on July 6, 2005. At this meeting the Board decided on portfolio and committee appointments for 2005-2006.

Those committees and assignments include (among others):

Voter Service: Lois Altenburg, chair; Carol Sawicki, Mary Tintes, Alberta Dobry

Membership: Twylla Conner, Lynne Olsen

Finance Development: Twylla Conner, chair; Carol Sawicki, Mary Tintes

First Friday Meeting: Sherri Seeba, chair; Lynne Olsen, Twylla Conner, Lois Altenburg

LWVRRV 2005-2006

Officers & Board of Directors

President Cheryl Bergian

1st Vice President Carol Sawicki

2nd Vice President Lois Altenburg

Secretary Alberta Dobry

Treasurer Mary Tintes

Board of Directors Margaret Blue, Lynne Olson, Sharon Benzel, Twylla Conner

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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 future.

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.