

THE VOTER

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LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
CRYSTAL, NEW HOPE, EAST PLYMOUTH, ROBBINSDALE

Educating and Empowering Voters in Our Communities

Happy New Year!

We may look different but we are definitely the same LWV VOTER newsletter!!



By Patsy Green and Val Jensen December 2024

Welcome to our new format. We will try this one for now and determine long term which iterations we want of our Newsletter! We

were so fortunate to have had Michelle formatting and producing our Newsletter for several years, but as Michelle pursues other life goals, we will need to create our own version of our Newsletter for 2025. Let us know what you think.

Pictured are of some of the attendees at the Holiday Luncheon December 7, 2024

Inside this Issue:

New Newsletter Look	1
President's Letter Name Change Process	2
Committee Reports National Federal Judiciary Study Update	3-6 3

LWV US Membership Changes	4
Calendar of events	7

✓ President's Letter

What does LWV do when it's not Election Season?

We don't rest! We continue to grow in knowledge and defend democracy.

You've probably, hopefully, have already read the above statement in recent emails.

With the Inauguration of President Trump there will be a significant change in what information is received and how it will be received. It is imperative that League members stay informed and help combat mis & dis-information. Please read emails from LWV and LWVMN. Yes, there are way too many emails asking for money from LWV US but there are those that share important updates and positions.

New! Federal Judiciary Study is happening now and all local Leagues will be asked to respond to the Consensus Questions coming to us soon. Please take time to review information links in this newsletter to be prepared.

Also! **Membership changes** are being implemented by LWV US. While it will simplify dues and joining League, there are changes happening right now. See Membership for all the details. Remember to read emails from LWV.org and Dianna Wynn, president, LWV Minnesota and your local League.

Thank you for all you do, it takes a League to preserve democracy, protect and grow our rights!

Patsy



Name Change!

Crystal New Hope East Plymouth Robbinsdale, say that three times as fast as you can! It's a mouthful, an alphabet soup full of words, or just a long name that some members have trouble remembering. Therefore your board has approved a process to pursue a name change for our League in order to simplify and yet recognize the communities we serve. Watch for and respond to emails regarding the name change process.

First, all members are welcome to submit name suggestions along with a rationale for the suggestion. Send your suggestion(s) to our email, lwvcnhepr@lwvmn.org.

Deadline is Sunday March 2!

Second, your board will review all of the submissions at the March 5th board meeting and narrow the suggestions to three names.

Third, all members will be asked to vote on a name before or at the Annual Meeting, April 8.

Finally, the name we pick will be submitted to LWVUS and LWVMN for final approval.

(Continued)

This is not the first time we have gone through a name change, we added Robbinsdale in 2019. Other Leagues have simplified their names, consider White Bear Lake which serves 31 communities <https://lww-wbla.org/> or Roseville Area <https://lwwrosevillearea.org/> . LWV Wayzata Plymouth Area has expanded its area and is now LWV Lake Minnetonka Plymouth Area.

Questions? Please contact Patsy Green, patsywggreen1@gmail.com or 612-306-3981



Committee Reports

National Federal Judiciary Study - Consensus-March!

Kathy Lund and Patsy Green

At the 2024 LWV National Convention it was voted by the delegates to conduct a study of the Federal Judiciary to develop a position as an essential component of US democracy. The purpose of the Study includes, but is not limited to addressing concerns and clarifying judicial accountability, transparency, independence and ethics. The scope addresses the Supreme Court as well as the other Article III Federal Courts. Plan to attend the February 4 Fed. Judiciary Study Committee's Town Hall to hear experts and ask questions. [town hall](#)

Local Leagues are asked to hold an all-member meeting to complete the consensus questions in March or early April. Once all the steps are completed in the process and a position is set, this is what is used for lobbying. Here is the link to the Study timeline and [study resources to review](#). Plan to attend the West Metro Program on Saturday, March 22, meeting link to follow.

<https://www.lww.org/league-management/advocacy-litigation/2024-2025-federal-judiciary-study-process-committee-and>

West Metro Kathy Lund

The West Metro InterLeague's March event will be Saturday, March 22, via Zoom. The topic is the LWV Study on the Federal Judiciary. We hope to have a retired Federal Judge as presenter.

This is a League of Women Voters study leading to a consensus position. Each league member will have a voice. Here is the link to the information from LWVUS about the study to date.

https://www.lww.org/league-management/advocacy-litigation/2024-2025-federal-judiciary-study-process-committee-and?utm_source=salsa&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=LU&utm_content=01.09.25&eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=a521b4b3-c205-4a0b-8042-12f6f9f69686

Local Leagues are waiting for the study to come to us for our input through the Consensus Study and questionnaire. Watch for an email in March or April about our Consensus meeting.

Membership Patsy Green

Welcome to our Youth Civic Engagement Fellows from Robbinsdale Cooper High School, Marnida McCronsky and Carlie Jones. Thank you to Pam Lindberg and Kathi Hemken for being our League mentors for them.

LWV is switching to a new membership portal for all League members across the US and it launches February 3! Here is what this means to you and what all members can expect:

1. All membership information will go through LWV.org. New members will join on the LWV.org site via the new membership portal.
2. There are only two types of membership now, individual and Lifetime. Household memberships go away.
3. Dues will no longer be at a fixed rate but at a pay-what-you-can. The recommended amount for all members is \$75 but members may pay any amount with a minimum request of \$20.
4. All dues will be paid directly to LWV.org online.
5. LWV will send our portion of dues back to the local and state Leagues.
6. In the next month all League members will receive an email from LWV.org directing you to log into a portal and fill out a new profile. You will get a passcode to fill out the profile. Please let Patsy know if you need help with this.
7. All members will be given the option to sign up for auto renewal through their bank.
8. There will still be the option to renew by check for members who don't use the internet. Send your check to your local League and it is forwarded to LWV US.
9. You will not be asked to renew your dues until a year after your most recent renewal
10. Renew annually. Once you have access to the membership portal you will be able to update your own information, including contact information.
11. Donations, make donations to your local League on "the next page" of the website or directly to your local League.
12. Members will receive reminder emails from LWV.org to pay dues, there are 60 days to pay dues before becoming "inactive". Dues can be paid after the 60 days and members will be "reactivated".
13. Making an additional donation with your dues, say \$100 (e.g. \$75 dues, \$25 donation) that \$100 will be split between US, MN and CNHEPR on the same percentages as the dues.
14. A higher dues amount benefits the League as a whole and allows LWV to offer the option of lower dues to increase our member base but does not exclusively support the local League.
15. Members will receive tax receipts from LWV.org. The dues portion to LWV US is not tax deductible as it is a 501(c)(4). LWV MN and CNHEPR are 501(c)(3) tax deductible organizations.

Please let Patsy know if you have questions. patsywgreen1@gmail.com 612-306-3981

Diversity Committee Val Jensen

As we enter 2025 there will be a lot of changes in our government's policies especially regarding DEIB (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging). In many states, like Florida, where Black History has been outlawed in public education and attacks on LGBTQIA+ individuals and their civil rights will be curtailed even more, we must remember that voting locally is more critical than ever because States rights will determine the access and opportunities marginalized communities will have to all resources and protections. Spread the word, even now and continue to fight disinformation.

LWV members from CNHEPR, Golden Valley and St. Louis Park attending Sweet Potato Comfort Pie's MLK Holiday of Service Event.



Youth Civic Engagement Pam Lindberg and Kathi Hemken

The Black History Month Event at Cooper High School is Friday, February 21. LWV will have a booth sharing the Participate in Your Government brochure of all elected officials and voting information. More details and opportunity to volunteer to follow.

Local Programs Pam Lindberg

Thursday, February 27, 7 pm, location TBD

Mary Hartnett, Executive Director of Clean Elections MN will present on the integrity of MN elections, what laws work, why, what still needs to be done and what's happening at the Capitol followed by a summary of the program, *Limit the Power of Super PACs?* and a Q&A. Clean Elections MN is a partner of LWVMN, building an inclusive and healthy democracy for Minnesota. This event is open to the public. Feel free to invite people interested in the topic or want to learn about LWV.

Voter Services Nancy Intermill

Feeling like it's time to make your voice heard by public officials? You have probably picked up a copy of our chapter brochure, *Participate in Your Government* as a prospective or current member. These brochures are typically out on our information tables at events like community fairs, our picnic, and at Candidate Forums. But now it is time to update that brochure with current office holders and how you can reach them.

The exciting news is that this project is in process and the brochure will be available soon-maybe before the snow melts! You can get your copy soon!

Thanks for your interest in Voter Services. If you are interested in being part of the Voter Services Committee, please let me know!

68th Annual Meeting & Nominations for 2025-2027

Our 68th Annual Meeting will be April 8, 6:00 pm at Frankie's in New Hope. Thank you to Kathi Hemken for securing the location and working with their chef to provide us a nice dinner. Details and cost to follow. We hope everyone will attend.

Nominations are open for LWV Officers and Committee Chairs for the 2025-2027 term. Please let Kathi Hemken know if you want to serve in any of the open positions or to nominate someone. kbhemken@gmail.com 763-537-7990 Here are the open positions:

Officer Openings - President, Vice President

Board of Directors Openings - Membership Chair, West Metro representative, Local Programs, State & National Program, two positions for At-Large members.

A huge thank you to officers and committee chairs whose terms end, Patsy Green, president, Pam Lindberg, Local Programs, Kathy Lund-West Metro, Teri Blonigan, Youth Civic Engagement.

Thank you to current officers and board members serving 2024-2026 terms: Val Jenson-secretary, DEI and Communications, Liz Swickley-treasurer, Jan Dickenson-Member Roster Mgmt, Jill Strikowsky-Action and Advocacy, Nancy Intermill-Voter Services, Lindsay Stambaugh-CMAL representative, Pam Lindberg and Kathi Hemken-Youth Civic Engagement mentors, Joann Brown-At-Large.

The Annual Meeting is the opportunity for all members to sign up for one or two committees so be thinking about what interests you and how you can help CNHEPR be the League we want to be, now and in the future to preserve voters rights and democracy.

LWV Calendar	2025	Mark Your Calendars!
January	22-29	January Jumpstart, LWVMN trainings for all members
February	4	LWV Fed. Judiciary Study Committee Watch the Town Hall here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o0gEKqafpg4
	5	CNHEPR Board Meeting, 6:30 via Zoom
	21	Youth Civic Engagement at the Cooper High School Black History Month Event
	27	CNHEPR Program, Mary Hartnett-Clean Elections MN 7 pm, Crystal City Hall
March	2	DEADLINE to submit new name suggestions
	5	CNHEPR Board Meeting, 6:30 via Zoom
	22	West Metro program: Federal Judiciary Study Program
	30	CNHEPR BOOK DISCUSSION/Wine & Chocolate Event James by Perceval Everett, 1:00 pm, Anthony James Senior Apartments Community Room, 6100 W. Broadway, New Hope. Did you love it? We need 1-2 discussion leaders
April	2	CNHEPR Board Meeting, 6:30 pm, Location TBD
	8	68th Annual Meeting, 6:00 pm at Frankie's, 3556 Winnetka Ave. N, New Hope
	16	LWVMN Day at the Capitol
	30	CMAL Annual Meeting
May	7	CNHEPR Annual Planning Meeting, 6:30pm, location TBD, all members participate in planning the calendar of events for the year
	TBD	Happy Hour TBD
June	4	CNHEPR Board Meeting, 6:30 pm, location TBD
	6-7	LWVMN Convention, Hastings, MN

LWV Celebrates February Black History Month

February is home to Black History Month, a time to reflect and celebrate, as well as uplift the contributions of Black activists who power our democracy. In celebrating Black voting rights activists from Ida B. Wells to Stacey Abrams and LaTosha Brown, Black women have played a pivotal role in the advancement of voting rights. Although there have been obstacles along the way, Black women as a collective power are a force to be reckoned with. While Black women are not a monolith in any shape or form, they have and continue to use their voices to make progress on many issues, especially voting rights. Vice President Kamala Harris is one of only 11 Black US Senators ever elected in history so it is imperative that we support and urge Congress to pass the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and oppose all voter suppression.



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