

# THE VOTER

Volume 64, Issue 4, February- April 2026



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“There was a burden on all of us to be more than we were, to focus on the things that matter, and to operate in a nonpartisan way.” *-Representative Melissa Hortman*

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We have had a lot going on this fall and winter. We had an amazing Holiday Party on December 6th thanks to so many members! We had many new members join New Hope Area LWV and several came to our Holiday Party. We had an amazing speaker, the Executive Director, Thea Bruley, of the NEAR Food Shelf which serves our area communities. We heard about NEAR, the critical services they provide and the increase of food insecurity amongst our communities. As with previous years, thank you to everyone who contributed to NEAR and our annual silent auction. The New Hope Area LWV members always step up and step forward with such generosity and care. We cannot thank you enough!



As we move forward in this trying time for many in our community please continue to share with



us all that you are doing in the community to give. We need you more than ever and want to continue to support you in your efforts.

We are in a unique time in this Country's history where the League of Women Voters is more important than ever! The attack on voter's rights and the need for non-partisan work is ever increasing, both nationwide and locally. Our League has never been more relevant. While all the issues our country is facing may be overwhelming, there are concrete opportunities for you to engage. Read on!

We continue to have many great people step up this year! And so many great activities that are shared below! We continue to have a busy calendar already and lots of things going on in the world that the LWV is trying to address! Please continue to check these websites:

<https://www.lwv.org/> [lwvmn.org](http://lwvmn.org) check their *Take Action* and [lwnha.org](http://lwnha.org)

Interested in helping your community members who are currently living in fear and don't leave their homes? Here is a list of organizations to consider:

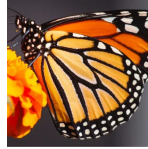


[www.standwithminnesota.com](http://www.standwithminnesota.com)



[WWW.nearfoodshelf.org](http://WWW.nearfoodshelf.org)

**PRISM** [prismmpls.org](http://prismmpls.org)



<https://linktr.ee/mplsmutualaid>

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If you read any LWV emails at all please read mails from LWVNHA to stay current and the All Member News emails from LWVMN.

Also, follow League of Women Voters New Hope Area, Minnesota and United States on social media, like and share posts.

Download the **League In Action** app for the latest actions you can take.

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February, **Black History Month celebrates 100 years**, here are ways to celebrate it:

1. Attend Black History Events
2. Volunteer to help at the LWV table, Cooper High School's Black History Celebration, Thursday, Feb. 25, 10-11:50 am
3. Support Black-owned businesses
4. Uplift black voices by promoting Black History month on your social media, organizing an event with a speaker
5. Learn the history, read books, starting with "Lies My Teacher Taught Me" by James W. Loewen and read books by Black authors



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### 69th Annual Meeting

Plan to attend our 69th Annual Meeting  
Thursday, April 16, 5:30 pm  
Broadway Village Community Center  
6046 West Broadway, New Hope  
5:30 Doors open  
6:00 pm Dinner, cost TBD  
6:30 Guest speaker  
7:00 Business meeting

## \*\*\*\*\*Committee Updates\*\*\*\*\*

### Action & Advocacy *Jill Strykowski, Chair*

#### **Medicaid, What does the Future Hold?**

We had an amazing panel discussion on Medicaid on Monday, December 15th via zoom. On the panel was Trevor Sawallish, CEO of North Memorial Hospital and Laura Mortenson, Communication Director, MN Budget Project for the MN Council of Nonprofits.



We had about 20 people participate with more watching our YouTube recording afterwards. It was well attended, the questions and answers were very enlightening. Big thank you to Jill Strykowski, Julie Lapointe for organizing it and Val Jensen for moderating the program.

**Happy Hour & Take Action!** Did you know the SAVE America Act has been expanded to further reduce access to voting. Join us for the next Take Action Happy Hour, Thursday, February 26, 5:00-7:30 pm. Location TBD. Join League friends or make new friends over conversation and **take action to make our voices** heard by our elected representatives. Friends and family are welcome to join us. Postcards, messages, addresses provided, learn to use the 5 Calls app. <https://5calls.org/>

### **Voter Services** *Debbie White, Chair*

Congratulations to Debbie White for being approved chair of the Voter Services Committee at the February board meeting. Debbie has already been busy calling her first committee meeting, getting organized for the 2026 election season and conducting the annual Legislator Interviews. A huge thank you to Debbie and her committee!

Voter Services is building toward a successful season of educating and registering voters, and hosting several candidate forums. The committee is open to everyone interested in helping us have a great year. Consider being part of the team, **with many of us each taking a part adds up to significant results!** Contact Debbie at [dwhite2us@yahoo.com](mailto:dwhite2us@yahoo.com) for more information or to volunteer.

Here is the breakout of what Voter Services does:.

Voter Registration - look for opportunities to host voter registration tables in our communities and organize National Voter Registration Day events.

Candidate Forums - need a lead person to oversee the organization and promotion of forums

Organize voter education programs. the importance and impact of voting

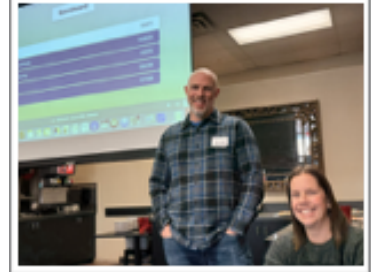
Outreach to disenfranchised voters, just what it says, and work with LWV partners

## **Civics Trivia Event 2026**

Sunday, January 25th, 35+ community members came together to challenge themselves and compete against each other in a friendly civics/history trivia competition hosted by our League, LWV NHA. The committee, led by Julie Lapointe, with technical and trivia guru Jodi Voelker and assisted by Sherry Tyrrell and Patsy Green were thrilled with the energy and enthusiasm of the 8 teams participating.

Kudos to the winning team, Ice Out, they received a \$30 gift certificate to Frankies Pizza and Constitution pamphlets for every team member. Shout out to the second place team, Abby's Army who received a \$20 Frankies gift certificate and Constitution pamphlets.

The event generated positive buzz for our League and netted over \$500. On a weekend of immeasurable grief, it was good to provide a small candle of light.



## **Youth Civic Engagement Fellows, Pam Lindberg, Kathi Hemken, Alicia Ranasinghe, and Rachel Hass**

We received a grant from LWVMN for \$1000 for two students from Cooper High School and two students from Armstrong High School. Two young women, Kylander Nelson-Chupurdi and Kyiaa Cooper, juniors from Cooper, will be 2026 YCE Fellows.

These students will help at our LWV table for Black History Month, conduct mock elections in the fall, help with the school board candidate forum and registering students 18 and older and preregistering 16-17. They already have the *Participate in Your Government* tri-fold listing all elected officials to hand out to students and faculty.

## **Communication and DEI Val Jensen**

Clearly we are under siege by our own government. Open communication is critical. Witnessing and recording what is actually happening is critical for history. We are witnessing the end of DEI and Civil Right by our Federal Government. Please subscribe to the LWVMN *All Member News* email, committee updates and LWV social media sources because the National League is on the front line in fighting for our basic civil rights. Some of the latest important information is that the Trump administration has issued new rules for Naturalization Ceremonies.

New Communications committee members are always welcome, please contact Val, [vmjensen@gmail.com](mailto:vmjensen@gmail.com) to help.

## **Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues Lindsay Stambaugh, CMAL Board**

January 29th, CMAL hosted an online program for all metro area League members with Metro County Administrators on the topic, *"The Impact of Federal Funding on County Government"*. The panel discussed the evolving changes in federal funding to the state and counties and how the adjustments are handled in their respective jurisdictions.

## **Membership** *Chair, Open*

Welcome to our newest members: Jessica Cameron, Carmelina Diaz Loera, Katie Morgan Walsh, Wendy Prehn-Wersal, Diane Van Dierendonck, Jodi Voelker, Jennifer Sunshine and Jean Forrey! We are 65 members strong! We look forward to you being an active part of our organization, ***Empowering Voters & Defending Democracy!***

**Paying dues in 2026.** January first is the first month when several long time members' dues need to be paid, the other time many memberships expire coincide with the April Annual Meeting. Newer members receive notices based on their joining anniversary.

How to pay your LWV dues; watch for emails about renewing starting 60 days ahead of your LWV anniversary. You will be directed to pay online at [LWV.org](http://LWV.org). If you prefer to pay by check please send a check made out to League of Women Voters US or LWV US and mail it to our treasurer, Liz Swickley, 3521 Virginia Ave. N, New Hope 55427. If you have questions about paying your dues contact Liz at [lizswickley@gmail.com](mailto:lizswickley@gmail.com)

Questions about your anniversary date? Contact Jan Dickinson, Member Roster Manager at [natira@aol.com](mailto:natira@aol.com). Membership Committee questions contact Patsy [patsywgreen1@gmail.com](mailto:patsywgreen1@gmail.com)

💔 It is with deep sadness that we announce Mary Gwin-Lenth passed away January 31. Mary and her husband, Jere, have been members of LWV NHA for over 15 years. Mary was a very active community member who also served on the New Hope City Council. A celebration of life is being planned for this spring.

## **Neighbors for Nonviolence Event Report, Tracy Gau**

### **Building Community, Sharing Solutions and Standing Up for Safety**

Notes from the October 12, 2025 program. This was a well attended event following the shooting at Annunciation Church and school, with over 50 people. It was held at Brookview Community Center in Golden Valley. The guest speaker was Kate Richey from Moms Demand Action and she was OUTSTANDING. She provided facts and figures which can be found at <https://momsdemandaction.org/state/minnesota/> The panel included Congresswoman Ilhan Omar, Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan, Reps. Cedric Frazier and Mike Freiberg. The emphasis was on passing the red flag law here in Minnesota and how there is still so much to do. Here area additional links for gun safety and organizations: <https://www.everytown.org/> <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/gun-safety.html> and <https://gunsafetyrules.nra.org/>

### **NAME CHANGE UPDATE!!!**

Our request was approved by the LWVUS. We are now the League of Women Voters of New Hope Area. You can see our wonderful new logo on this Newsletter. The Board (Patsy our wonderful President) is working hard to order new swag for us to have moving forward to use at all our events and to ensure that everyone knows our wonderful new name! Stay tuned as we begin to rebrand all of our swag!! Such an exciting time for our League!

## LWV NHA Calendar January - May 2026

<b>February</b>	Black History Month, American Heart Month National Cancer Prevention Month
<b>14</b> ❤️	Senator Ann Rest Listening Session, 11:00 am Frankie's Pizza, New Hope
<b>14</b> ❤️	<b>Happy Birthday, League of Women Voters!</b> 🎉 You are 106 years old today!
<b>25</b>	Cooper High School Black History Month Celebration, 10-11:50 am
<b>26</b>	Take Action Happy Hour, 5:00 - 7:30 pm, location TBD
<b>28</b>	Senator Ann Rest Listening Session, 11:00 am Frankie's Pizza, New Hope
<b>March</b>	<i>Women's History Month, National Nutrition, Development Disabilities Months</i>
<b>4</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b> , meeting link <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87963066368?pwd=WQfp8Ytx8mZbwca8tOTxGC1BC99m6x.1">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87963066368?pwd=WQfp8Ytx8mZbwca8tOTxGC1BC99m6x.1</a>
<b>8</b>	<b>International Women's Day</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>ERA Rally</b> At MN State Capitol, 10:00 am
<b>14</b>	<b>West Metro Alliance</b> , <i>Defending Immigrant Rights</i> , ACLU presenting
<b>14</b>	Senator Ann Rest Listening Session, 11:00 am Frankie's Pizza, New Hope
<b>28</b>	<b>No Kings Day Rally</b> , details TBD
<b>April</b>	<i>Autism Acceptance Month</i>
<b>1</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b> , <i>NO FOOLING!</i> meeting link <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87963066368?pwd=WQfp8Ytx8mZbwca8tOTxGC1BC99m6x.1">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87963066368?pwd=WQfp8Ytx8mZbwca8tOTxGC1BC99m6x.1</a>
<b>16</b>	<b>69th Annual Meeting</b> , 5:30 pm, Broadway Village Community Center, 6046 W. Broadway, New Hope,
<b>22</b>	<b>Earth Day</b> , "Our Power, Our Planet"
<b>26</b>	<b>LWVMN Council</b> , 9:00 am, virtual event open to all members. Learn about LWV, be one of our 5 voting delegates
<b>May</b>	<i>Mental Health Awareness Month</i>
<b>1</b>	International Workers Day
<b>5</b>	Cinco de Mayo

<b>6</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b> , 6:30-8:00 pm New Hope City Hall <b>Planning meeting for the 2026-2027</b> year, all members are encouraged to attend and participate
<b>June</b>	<i>Pride Month, Juneteenth</i>
<b>19</b>	Juneteenth Day
<b>26-28</b>	<b>National Convention</b> , Columbus, OH, LWNHA has 1 voting delegate

Savor these recommendations - the LWVMN Board starts each meeting with an ice breaker. The January icebreaker was to name your favorite local restaurant(s). Here is the list, *Bon Appétit!*

Minneapolis Area

Bad Rooster Food Truck, Hopkins  
 Los Reyes, Brooklyn Park  
 Ciao Bella, Edina  
 Milton's VVB, Crystal  
 Marna's Eatery, Robbinsdale  
 Kramarczuk, 215 E. Hennepin  
 Bina's, 1404 Quincy St. NE  
 All Square, 4047 Minnehaha  
 Owamni, Mpls  
 Heather's, 5201 Chicago Ave  
 Maria's Cafe', 1113 E Franklin  
 Hola Arepa, 3501 Nicollet  
 Pizzeria Lola 5557 Xerxes S  
 Cahill Bistro, Edina  
 Glam Doll Donuts, 2605 Nicollet  
 Chimborazo, Columbia Heights

St. Paul Area

Mi Sant, Roseville  
 Cajeta Coffee, White Bear Lake  
 Luci Ancora, 2026 Randolph  
 Ena, 4601 Grand Ave. S  
 Hot Hands Pie & Biscuit, 272 Snelling Ave  
 Finnish Bistro Coffee & Cafe, 2264 Como

Greater Minnesota

LaPasta, Companeros, the 218 Venture Bar & Eatery and Lobo's Bar & Grill near Park Rapids and Itasca-the self proclaimed "Restaurant Capitol of MN"  
 Azteca, Willmar  
 Bode Gray's, Waconia  
 Rolling Hearth Bistro, Willmar  
 The Bellows, Chaska (Dungeon & Dragons theme)



Officers

President, Patsy Green  
Vice President, Lindsay Stambaugh  
Secretary, Valerie Jensen  
Treasurer, Liz Swickley

Board Meetings are on the first  
Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm.  
May - October meetings are in person  
November - April meetings are online

Committee Chairs

Membership, OPEN  
Roster Mgmt, Jan Dickinson  
Action & Advocacy, Jill Strykowski  
Voter Services, Debbie White  
Communications, Valerie Jensen  
West Metro Alliance, Kathy Lund  
CMAL, Lindsay Stambaugh  
Local Programs, OPEN  
Youth, Pam Lindberg, Kathi Hemken  
At-Large, Carol Foster, Julie  
Lapointe, Open

[lwvnha.org](http://lwvnha.org) [lwvnha@lwvmn.org](mailto:lwvnha@lwvmn.org)



Patsy Green, President  
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