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**BOARD MEETINGS**

All members are welcome to attend! You may attend via phone or videocall. A Zoom Link will be sent out to members prior to the Meeting:

**QUESTIONS?**

Email [lwvcnhepr@lwvmn.org](mailto:lwvcnhepr@lwvmn.org) or call 763-290-0288

**Wednesday, April 6th**  
6:30 p.m.  
Online via Zoom

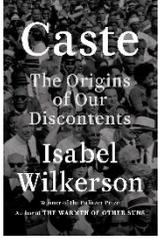
**Wednesday, May 4th**  
6:30 p.m.  
Online via Zoom

**Wednesday, June 1st**  
6:30 p.m.  
Online via Zoom



**Spring is Around the Corner & Our League is Busy at Work!**

**Check Out Our Upcoming Events!**

<p><b>Book Club (Virtual)</b> <b>Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm</b> <i>Join Us for Wine &amp; Chocolate Book Discussion!</i> <b>Discussion Leaders: Sue Isenhart and Pam Lindberg</b></p> <p>Enjoy some chocolate and remember to join your League friends virtually for our annual literature event, whether you have read the book or not.</p> <p><b>Join Zoom Meeting</b> <a href="https://zoom.us/j/94244958543?pwd=N2pmWk5OZHltUGFjUDJhUjk1ZW93UT09">https://zoom.us/j/94244958543?pwd=N2pmWk5OZHltUGFjUDJhUjk1ZW93UT09</a></p>	
<p><b>DEI Roundtable (Virtual)</b> <b>Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:30 pm</b></p> <p>Our League hosts a virtual monthly Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Roundtable for local leagues doing or wanting to do DEI work through their league.</p> <p>All League members welcome.</p> <p><b>Register here:</b> <a href="https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEtceytrTMshNNt_QHtZqaZLxFpPs0eveCe">https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEtceytrTMshNNt_QHtZqaZLxFpPs0eveCe</a></p>	
<p><b>SAVE THE DATE: Annual Meeting (Virtual)</b> <b>Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm</b></p> <p>Be on the lookout for more information regarding our upcoming 65<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting. League Updates, Door prizes &amp; Zoom Buddies, Oh My!</p>	
<p><b>SUMMER PICNIC (IN-PERSON!)</b> <b>June 2022, Date TBD</b></p> <p>We're excited to announce our first in-person League event for the year. More information forthcoming!</p>	

## *President's Letter*

March 2022

Dear League Members,

Happy Belated New Year! As we enter a third year of a pandemic, virtual meetings and social distancing ensure that there is a place for everyone in League of Women Voters. While social events help make League fun, League also takes positions on a multitude of issues. That is how and why you can find your niche in League and let your voice be heard.

League MN and US have positions on a broad range of policy issues, in addition to voters' rights. Position statements are adopted after extensive studies and with feedback from local Leagues. You can review these positions at: [LWVMN.org/our-positions](http://LWVMN.org/our-positions).

This year LWVMN is looking at three issues; Firearms Study, Death With Dignity/Medical Aid in Dying, and Metropolitan County Government Study. It is unusual to have this many issues come to local Leagues for review and feedback during a single year. Stay tuned for dates and times when our League will review each of these studies. *Your input is important* as LWVMN considers adopting or updating a position on each of these issues.

Once a study is adopted at Convention it becomes part of LWVMN's Program For Action and it is then is automatically our local League position, which is why your input is important in the earlier stages. LWV Minnesota is part of LWV United States, LWVMN automatically adopts all LWVUS positions within their *Impact on the Issues* publication (found at [LWVMN.org/our-positions](http://LWVMN.org/our-positions)). LWVMN's *Program For Action* provides an overview of the US positions alongside the state-specific positions LWV Minnesota has adopted as well. Great bedtime reading!

Please visit the [LWVMN.org](http://LWVMN.org) website - it is packed with information about where League MN and US stand on a number of issues, voter information, advocacy opportunities, committee supports and updates on other Leagues around the state.

As I wrap up this letter I want to thank you for your confidence in me as acting-president and invite all members to attend virtual board meetings held on the first Wednesday of each month and to participate in discussions. This is one way we can stay connected while in-person is not possible or comfortable for most people.

***Patsy Green***

Acting President of the LWV-CNHEPR



## MEMBERSHIP NEWS



With spring just around the corner and an election on the horizon, there are going to be more opportunities to get involved with the League. Currently, we have 47 members, so we've been able to maintain our membership through these strange pandemic times. Technology helped us a great deal, but has its limitations. We know that people get involved with the League for many reasons, but staying engaged often has to do with connection. For some members, virtual meetings have been convenient and useful, for others,

difficult to access, and off-putting. We hope to enliven and re-engage our membership, so that we can continue to do our mission effectively.

**The benefits of being in the League** mean we can learn about the policies and elections in our communities and in our country. We serve our communities by providing information to and encouragement for citizens to stay engaged with the process. Another benefit is the connection we can make with others in our communities. This has been the challenge over the last couple of years.

We're on the verge of shifting to more in-person activities and opportunities to get to know each other and connect, so this is a great time to join!

Know someone who wants to get more involved? They can join through our website at [www.lwvchnhepr.org](http://www.lwvchnhepr.org) or email me at [lwvchnhepr@lwvmn.org](mailto:lwvchnhepr@lwvmn.org).

*Michelle Jayne, Membership Chair*

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### Welcome to Our New Members!

Tracy Gau from Crystal and Pauline Wahl from Maple Grove have joined our League. We can look forward to seeing some new faces, as well as reacquainting ourselves in the spring!

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### Thank you for Volunteering!

Thank you to **Patsy Green** for stepping up as Acting Vice President.

We greatly appreciated **Kathy Pederson's** service to the Board and are delighted that she continues to do great work with the Action and Advocacy Committee.

Many thanks to **Cheryl Felix** for serving as Treasurer for our league and who continues to be a valuable member of our League.

Applause for **Lois Wendt** who dealt with the frustrating process of planning for in-person events only to have them cancelled. We're grateful for her efforts!

**Sherry Tyrell** deserves a shout out for facilitating and walking us through LWV US policy stances for our 2022 Lively Issues event. It was a small group, but a great conversation.

Thank you to **Kathy Lund** who has, for the last year or more, shepherded our League through the redistricting process, keeping us informed and educated about events and timelines.

With gratitude to **Marty Charbonneau**, **Patsy Green**, and **Kathy Pederson** for facilitating our 2022 Legislative Interviews in February and to our member Senator Ann Rest, for participating. If you have not seen those interviews, but need the links, call Michelle at 763-923-3787 or email [lwvchnhepr@lwvmn.org](mailto:lwvchnhepr@lwvmn.org).

## ***Around Our League***

### ***Welcome and Thank You to Our 2021-2022 Youth Civic Engagement Fellows!***

Last year, our League submitted a grant application to the LWVMN's Youth Civic Engagement Fellowship Program. We were awarded a grant to sponsor two students to develop civic/voter activity projects geared towards youth voter engagement. Teri Blonigan is facilitating the program and is working with our students to develop their projects. One of the projects is to create posters with QR codes that will take eligible voters directly to the voter registration website. These will be put up in Armstrong and Cooper high schools.

We're delighted to introduce Shani Anduru and Alenna White!

*"Hello, I'm Shani Anduru! I'm an 11th grader at Robbinsdale Armstrong High School. The reason for my interest in LWV was the fact that I think voting is essential to our society, and I liked what it stands for. I'm excited to be a part of it, especially since I haven't done anything like this before."*



*"Hi, I'm Alenna and I am really excited to be a part of LWV this year! I am a junior attending Armstrong High School. I love to sing and I am a part of Chamber singers, Girls United and Armstrong Fastpitch. Outside of school I play fastpitch for Midwest Speed, I love to hike and make covers of my favorite songs with my guitar and piano."*

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### ***DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI):***

#### ***What Does It Mean? How Does It Impact Our Mission to Educate and Encourage Active Participation in Our Political Processes?***

We are seeing references to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in workplaces, local politics, and education. The League also has policy positions related to DEI. Last year, our local league added a DEI board position, committee, and line item to our budget, but do you know what it means?

DEI is inextricably linked with our mission to encourage active voter participation. It serves as a framework through which we can view all of our voter services events, our membership recruiting process, and how we function as a League. It gives us an opportunity to reach out and engage those community members who are not actively engaged in the process, make welcoming space for new members, and gain new perspectives on how to best reach potential voters.

DEI is about growing our league's potential to be an active and positive force in our community, to ensure that all citizens have access to information and are empowered to use their voices and their votes.

## *Around the State*

### Concurrences & Consensus

This year, LWVMN has three issues for local leagues to consider for concurrence or consensus: Firearms Study, Death With Dignity/Medical Aid in Dying, and Metropolitan County Government Study. Information regarding these issues will be sent out via email. If you have trouble accessing the links, please call Michelle at 763-923-3787 or email: [lwvcnhepr@lwvmn.org](mailto:lwvcnhepr@lwvmn.org) to request mailed information.

#### **What is a concurrence versus a consensus?**

**Concurrence** is an agreement among a substantial number of members, reached after study, leading to acceptance, reaffirmation, or rejection of a *previously formulated statement of position*.

**Consensus** is an agreement among a substantial number of members, reached after study, leading to the *formulation of a statement of position*.

#### **Resolution for concurrence on LWV Utah position on medical aid in dying**

The League of Women Voters Minnesota shall adopt into its Program for Action by concurrence the position on Medical Aid in Dying adopted by LWV Utah, as written below.

1. The League of Women Voters Minnesota believes state laws should grant the option for a terminally ill person to request medical assistance from a relevant, licensed physician to end one's life.
2. The League of Women Voters Minnesota believes such legislation should include safeguards against abuse for the dying and/or medical personnel.

#### **Resolution to conduct a consensus study on the LWVMN Firearms position**

The League of Women Voters Minnesota shall conduct a full consensus study to determine whether to change or add elements to its Firearms position in its Program for Action. The causes and effects of gun violence now exist in a vastly changed landscape that is important to understand in order to seek reasonable solutions.

**Reason for Study:** The Firearms Study Update Committee recommends a consensus study in order to address the changed landscape regarding firearms and firearm violence. The study would provide background information on several subjects including, but not limited to, changes in firearm technologies, court rulings affecting existing firearms regulations, populations most affected by gun violence, and a changed political landscape which has impacts on firearms and firearm violence.

#### **Consensus Questions in Response to Council of Metropolitan Leagues (CMAL) 2022 County Government Study**

##### *Purpose of the Study on County Government*

The purpose of this study is to update the 1975 position of the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues of Women Voters on county government in the metropolitan area. The 1975 position was adopted following publication in January 1975 of its study "Seven Counties in Transition," a groundbreaking publication that compared, for the first time, the seven counties making up the newly-established metropolitan area as a geographic area subject to specific types of regulation by the newly-created Metropolitan Council. The 1975 study focused on the structure and functions of county government.

The study, questions, and individual ballot were emailed out to all members.

# Volunteer Opportunities

As we prepare for our 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, we are also seeking members who want to contribute more to the League's Mission over the next year.

All volunteer positions are flexible,  
requiring as much or as little time as you are able to devote it.  
*If everyone does a little, then no one has to do a lot!*



## COMMITTEE OPPORTUNITIES

### Advocacy & Action

- Looking for members to keep tabs on city council issues that would be of interest to our league. One representative for each city in our League to read city council agendas, which are posted online and potentially watch city council meetings if there are issues of interest.

### Membership

- Committee members needed to generate ideas for and plan membership recruitment events.
- League mentors – looking for members willing to be partnered with new League members to invite them to events, introduce them to other League members, and to make them feel welcomed to our League.

### Voter Service

- Seeking Director for Voter Services
- Committee members to help plan voter registration events and outreach in our communities.

### Local Program

- Members to plan annual public program on subject of community interest.
- Plan and organize local league events.

### National & State Program

- Keep our local league apprised of LWVMN and LWVUS policy positions.

### Communications

- The Voter Newsletter
- Know Your Government document and other printed materials
- Social Media-including Webpage, Facebook
- Public Relations

### Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Community Outreach

- Cultivate connections/network with community organizations in service to DEI goals.
- Work with Voter Services to organize events/programs to provide voter education/resources to underserved communities.
- Work with Membership to create inclusive organizational environment for members.

There is a place for everyone in our League and choosing what you can contribute to the League helps to make us an effective and useful organization in our communities. If you're not sure what you can do or need more information, please call Michelle at 763.923.3787 or email [lwvcnhepr@lwvmn.org](mailto:lwvcnhepr@lwvmn.org).

**You are critical to the League and together, we can be amazing!**

# Did You Know?

Welcome to our new section, “Did you know?”.

There’s a lot to learn about the League and we’re going to share history, current policy issues, and profiles from the League of Women Voters.

## Knowing Our History is the Way Forward

The League was founded in 1920—just months before the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment—by American suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt. Catt was a complicated character, a political operative, and by modern standards, yes, racist. While fighting for the 19th Amendment and lobbying Southern senators, she famously claimed, “White supremacy will be strengthened, not weakened, by women’s suffrage.”

These remarks are sometimes brushed over as a sign of the times or a political strategy. But actions speak louder than words, and our organization was not welcoming to women of color through most of our existence.

Even during the Civil Rights movement, the League was not as present as we should have been. While activists risked life and limb to register black voters in the South, the League’s work and our leaders were late in joining to help protect all voters at the polls. It wasn’t until 1966 that we reached our first position to combat discrimination. Still, our focus on social policy was from afar—not on the front lines.

Today, we acknowledge this shortcoming and that we have more work to do.

The League of Women Voters serves millions of voters in underrepresented communities across America every year, but as an organization, our membership does not always reflect the communities we serve. We are not only striving for better, we will do better.

- Excerpted from LWV.org

## There’s a policy position for that?

As some of us learned during our 2022 Lively Issues meeting, while the League is a nonpartisan organization, it does take strong public policy positions on all aspects of our government and political processes. We’ve seen from the three issues LWVMN is reviewing, that these issues impact our communities and our individual lives, as well as globally.

### The League’s Position on Arms Control

*Statement of Position on Arms Control, as announced by the National Board, December 1983 and updated by the 2010 Convention:*

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that arms control measures are essential to reduce the risk of war and increase global stability.

Toward that end, the U.S. government should give the highest level of importance to arms control efforts that:

- Limit or reduce the quantity of weapons;
- Limit proliferation and prohibit first use of nuclear weapons;
- Prohibit first use and possession of chemical, biological, and radiological weapons;
- Prohibit explosive testing of nuclear weapons; and
- Reduce tensions in order to prevent situations in which weapons might be used.

You can read more about  
LWVMN and LWVUS policy positions at  
<https://www.lwvmn.org/our-positions>

LWV Calendar	2022	
March	15	Wine & Chocolate Book Discussion, 6:30 p.m.
	19	CMAL: Met Council Livable Communities Act Grant Program, Virtual, 10:00am
	21	DEI Roundtable, 6:30 p.m.
April	6	Virtual Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
	18	DEI Roundtable, 6:30 p.m.
	23	LWV St. Louis Park, "Averting the Insect Apocalypse", 10:30 a.m.
	30	LWVMN Council 2022, 8:30 a.m.
May	4	Virtual Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
	12	LWV CNHEPR 65 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
	16	DEI Roundtable, 6:30 p.m.
June	1	Virtual Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
	20	DEI Roundtable, 6:30 p.m.
	TBD	Summer Picnic



[www.lwvcnhepr.org](http://www.lwvcnhepr.org)

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**President** Patsy Green

**Voter Editor** Michelle Jayne

**Empowering Voters.**  
**Defending Democracy.**