



61st Annual Meeting –Thursday May 5

St. Alban’s Church, 6716 Gleason Road, Edina

6:00 PM light dinner/social time

6:30 PM Prof. David Schultz speaks on

The Hunger for Political Tolerance: Social Discourse in Today’s Political Environment

8:00 PM business meeting and elections

At our Annual Meeting, Prof. David Schultz will discuss how our country’s conflicted political discourse can turn toward civility and tolerance.



Prof. David Schultz

Prof. Schultz is well known for incisive political commentary. He teaches at Hamline and the U of MN Law School, and he is also a prolific writer.

In addition to Prof. Schultz, the Annual Meeting includes a light dinner, a short business meeting, and elections. Guests

are most welcome at the dinner and Prof. Schultz’ talk. The members’ business meeting will include elections for board and committees, and voting on the 2016-17 program and budget. We will also have a special recognition for LWVEdina’s 50 year members, Virginia Bodine, Joann Buie, and Mary Hartwig. Please read the article about them in the right column.

The whole evening costs only \$5, for dinner. If you have not already sent in your dues renewal, you can write one check to cover both dues and the dinner. Send your check to Joni Bennett, membership chair. Payment may also be made at the door on May 5.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting!

Three Life Members To Be Honored at Annual Meeting

At the May 5 Annual Meeting (see left column) we will honor Virginia Bodine, Joann Buie, and Mary Hartwig, who have attained life membership as 50-year members of LWV. What an accomplishment! Join us on May 5 at St. Alban’s church, and help celebrate this milestone.

In separate phone interviews, Virginia, Joann and Mary shared a few of their memories of LWV Edina, and ideas for the future of our League.

Joann and Mary joined around the same time. They recall that at one point LWV Edina had 300 members and 12 units. Virginia first joined LWV in Acton, MA. She was a member there for four years, before moving to Minnesota and joining LWV Edina.

When Joann first joined, LWV Edina did a library study. At that time the library was located in an old house kitty-corner from Lund’s at 50th and France. LWV Edina lobbied the city council, and eventually a new library was built on the property where city hall sits now.

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Table with 2 columns: Inside This Leaguer, page. Includes items like Life Members Honored [continued], Delegates to Attend LWVUS Convention, etc.

[Life members, continued from page 1]

When Joann was LWV Edina president (1981-83) one issue was whether Edina East High School should be closed. LWV Edina engaged in hands-on advocacy for a community center. LWV Edina organized a bus trip to St. Louis Park, and provided lunch, for city council, school board, and LWV Edina board members. The bus tour visited three SLP schools that had been converted into community centers. Sometime after that, the school board decided to convert the Edina East High School to a community center instead of closing the building.

Joann recalls that she developed and led a cookbook project, raising \$30,000 for LWVMN. She credits Connie Hondl with playing an essential role in this project's success.

Mary recalls neighborhood unit meetings with stimulating discussion topics, particularly a study about the pollution of lakes and rivers. Mary moved to Bloomington many years ago, and has been a member of either the Edina or Bloomington Leagues, attending events at both Leagues. Lately, she enjoyed volunteering at a citizenship ceremony in Bloomington and she hopes to do that again.

Virginia served as LWV Edina president from 1975-77. She recalls being unit meeting chair when units 5 and 11 merged. She also remembers doing a study on Appalachia, which was incorporated into an LWVUS position. Virginia appreciates the League's even-handed non-partisan studies. She is delighted that LWV Edina is publicizing the issue of money in politics.

All three women suggested ways to attract new members - Recruit high school students, and people whose children have grown up, to be members. (Mary)

Present programs on public school education that may be of interest to families, who may become members. (Virginia)

Highlight how LWV is great a place to meet interesting people, stay informed and learn about what is happening in our community, state, and nation. (Joann)

Mary, Virginia, and Joann, we look forward to honoring you at the Annual Meeting on May 5 !

Delegates To Attend LWVUS Convention

LWV Edina President, Lonni Skrentner, and Voter Service Chair Susan Clark, will be LWV Edina's delegates to the LWVUS biennial convention June 16 – 19 in Washington, DC. To contact them in advance with any questions or suggestions, please email lwvedina@gmail.com.

Bouquets to:

Colleen Feige, for organizing the April unit meetings on the facilities referendum, and for providing refreshments at both meetings.

**Connie Sanville,
Nancy Gooch,
Suzanne Kerwin,
Vivien Talghader
and Colleen Feige**
for assisting new Americans with voter registration at the South View Middle School citizenship ceremony.



Julie Rogers Bascom, for organizing the South View citizenship ceremony, as service learning coordinator for the Edina Public Schools.

Book Club Meets In May

The book club is meeting this month! Everyone is welcome anytime. Drop in for any book that interests you. The book club meets on Saturday mornings at 10 AM at Barnes & Noble, Galleria, in the lower level coffee shop. Here are the club's selections through the summer, with discussion leaders in parentheses:

May 21 Boston Girl
by Anita Diamond
(Lonni Skrentner)

June no book

July 16 Dead Wake
by Erik Larson
(Sandy Fox)

August 20 Straight Man
by Richard Russo
(Carol Frisch)

Still Seeking Newsletter Editor

A new editor is free to change or simplify the Leaguer's format. If you are interested in learning more, contact Debby McNeil. If no one volunteers, the Leaguer will be discontinued after the next issue, (summer), which comes out in July.

League Facilitates Voter Registration at Edina Citizenship Ceremony

Based on an article by Suzanne Kerwin

On April 11 South View Middle School hosted a naturalization ceremony for 20 new US citizens from 16 different countries. The event was organized by Julie Rogers Bascom. She is service learning coordinator for the Edina Public Schools, as well as a member of LWV Edina.

Both LWV members and middle school students assisted with voter registration for the new Americans. Nineteen of the twenty new citizens completed voter registration applications.

Ninth grade government students also set up a voting booth so the new citizens could see what to expect when they vote for the first time. These same ninth grade students have attended LWV Edina meetings this year, mentored by Suzanne Kerwin. This is part of their US government class project related to their interest in voting rights.

US Bankruptcy Court Judge Katherine A. Constantine presided at the citizenship ceremony. In brief remarks, she quoted Thomas Jefferson as saying, “A people cannot expect to be both ignorant and free”. In that one sentence, President Jefferson anticipated the League’s mission: to make democracy work by encouraging informed and active participation in government.

Thanks to Colleen Feige, Vivien Talghader, Connie Sanville, Nancy Gooch, and Suzanne Kerwin for helping with voter registration at the ceremony. Many thanks also to Judy Stuthman for her tireless work promoting voter registration at all citizenship ceremonies on behalf of LWVMN.



L-R: Nancy Gooch, Connie Sanville, Judy Stuthman, Colleen Feige, Suzanne Kerwin, and Vivien Talghader at the South View Middle School citizenship ceremony.

CMAL Annual Meeting Held

Based on an article by Idelle Longman, CMAL delegate for LWV Edina

CMAL held its Annual Meeting on March 19, 2016. The program was entitled, “How to Win Friends and Influence Your City Council”. The speakers were Pat Naumann, the Executive Director of Metro Cities MN, Tammy McGehee, Roseville Councilmember, and Dave Bartholomay, the Executive Director of Mediation Services and Mayor of Circle Pines, MN.

This last CMAL meeting of the year stayed with the theme of examining city comprehensive planning process, and specifically how citizens can get involved. Each speaker addressed getting to know our community, both the officials running it, and the residents who live there. The more details and specifics we know about our community, the more effective we can be in getting things done. Dave Bartholomay was very helpful in suggesting that we keep interactions with local government officials positive and civil.

LWV MEPH To Sponsor Forum for Hennepin County Commissioner Candidates

League of Women Voters – Minnetonka/Eden Prairie/Hopkins will sponsor a candidate forum for Hennepin County Commissioner districts 5 and 6. Edina is in district 6, and the current district 6 commissioner is Jan Callison. The forum will be held in the Minnetonka City Council chambers on Tuesday evening September 13.

Before the Commissioner forum begins, there will be a mini-forum for the Three Rivers Park district candidates for district 5. Edina is in Three Rivers Park district 4, which is not up for election this year. The schedule on September 13 is expected to be:

- 7:00 – 7:20 – Three Rivers Park District 5 forum
- 7:20 – 8:30 – Hennepin County Commissioners districts 5 and 6 forum.

LWV Edina Calendar

MAY 2016		
Thursday May 5 6:00 light dinner/socializing 6:30 Prof. David Schultz 8:00 business meeting and elections	Annual Meeting Prof. David Schultz speaks on <i>The Hunger for Political Tolerance: Social Discourse in Today's Political Environment</i>	St. Alban's Church social hall 6716 Gleason Road, Edina
Saturday May 21 10:00 AM	LWV Edina Book Club discusses <u>Boston Girl</u> by Anita Diamond	Barnes & Noble Galleria lower level coffee shop
JULY 2016		
Saturday July 16 10:00 AM	LWV Edina Book Club discusses <u>Dead Wake</u> by Erik Larson	Barnes & Noble Galleria lower level coffee shop



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The League of Women Voters of Edina is a non-partisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. For more information, please visit www.lwvedina.org.

