



Annual Meeting Recap

LWVEdina’s annual meeting on May 7 included a buffet dinner, a great speaker, approval of the budget and program, and election of new board and off-board members for 2015-16.

Speaker: About 31 Leaguers and guests heard Prof. Edward Goetz discuss “Concentrations of White Affluence in the Twin Cities”. Prof. Goetz directs the U of MN Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA).

The federal government has identified racially-



Prof. Edward Goetz

concentrated (>50% minority) and poor areas in major US cities. Going beyond that, Prof. Goetz has also mapped out many racially-concentrated affluent areas, where 90% of the residents are white and the median income is four times the poverty level. When a metro area like Mpls-St. Paul has such “self-segregated” white affluent areas, Prof.

Goetz asks whether there is less will to

solve big regional problems like the achievement gap or racial inequality. Do people have less social empathy for other people’s problems when they are so separated by race and income?

Prof. Goetz also researched whether low-income people receive an inordinate amount in federal housing benefits. He found that actually the affluent benefit from more housing financial assistance. In the Twin Cities, people in white affluent areas receive a total of \$170 million in housing subsidies, mostly from the mortgage interest income tax deduction.

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School Board Candidate Forum is September 10

LWVEdina is sponsoring an Edina Board of Education candidate forum, on Thursday Sept. 10 from 7-9 PM at Edina City Hall. Three seats will be up for election on the seven-member school board. All candidates who file for office will be invited to attend.

The forum is a great chance to hear the candidates’ views. The community is welcome to attend. Our league will pay to have the forum professionally video-recorded. The video will be available afterwards for viewing on our website, lwvedina.org and elsewhere.



The general election for school board is Tuesday, November 3rd.

Come and volunteer at the forum! The jobs are fun and your help is greatly appreciated. To volunteer, contact Voter Service chair Susan Clark.

Table with 2 columns: Inside This Leaguer, page. Includes items like Annual Meeting Recap, Bouquets, Book Club, Member in the Spotlight, etc.

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But people living in diverse, low-income areas receive only \$60 million in federal housing subsidies overall.

Business Meeting: LWVEdina members voted to keep all current positions and not undertake a new study this year. Members also approved a budget, which includes a dues increase to \$55 from \$50, starting April 1, 2015.

Here are the 2015-16 Board and off-board committees. Members in bold were elected at the annual meeting. Thank you to everyone who has agreed to serve!

**OFFICERS**

President	<b>Lonni Skrentner</b>	2015-16
1 <sup>st</sup> VP/Voter Service	Susan Clark	2014-16
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP/Action	Suzanne Kerwin*	2015-16
Secretary	Vivien Talghader	2014-16
Treasurer	<b>Colleen Feige</b>	2015-17

\*appointed by the board

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Membership Chair	<b>Joni Bennett</b>	2015-17
Publicity	<b>Germana Paterlini</b>	2015-16
CMAL Liaison	<b>Idelle Longman</b>	2015-17
Membership Directory	Ann Keenan	2014-16
Newsletter Editor	Debby McNeil	2014-16

**OFF-BOARD POSITIONS**

Newsletter Assistant	<b>Barb Green</b>	2014-16
Budget Committee		2015-16

**Sandy Fox, Chair**  
**Ellen Jones, Mary Yee,**  
**Treasurer**

Nominating Committee		2015-16
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**Andy Otness, Hope Melton,**  
**Julie Rogers Bascom,**  
**Doris Grimes, Debby McNeil,**  
board member to be appointed

Unit Meeting Chairs		2015-16
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Thursday: Kay Bach, Doris Grimes,  
Karen Knudsen

Saturday: Debby McNeil

Website/Facebook	<b>Keeya Steel</b>	2015-16
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Finance Drive Letter	<b>Paulette Hutton</b>	2015-16
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**Photos from the Annual Meeting –pages 2-3**



Lonni Skrentner



Audience listens to Prof. Goetz



Susan Clark



L-R: Kay Bach, Connie Hondl, and Joann Buie



Colleen Feige



Judy Van Osdel

## Bouquets To:

Outgoing LWVEdina board members

**Jennifer Janovy,  
Judy**

**Van Osdel,  
& Andy Otness**  
for their service on  
the board.



### All members

who served on off-  
board committees and  
positions in 2014-  
2015.

**Lonni Skrentner**, for organizing the buffet  
served at the Annual Meeting.

## Here's What the Book Club is Reading

The LWVEdina book club is meeting through the  
summer. You are cordially invited to drop in on any of  
these Saturday mornings at 10:00 AM, at Barnes &  
Noble Galleria, lower level coffee shop:

July 18: Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in  
the End, by Atul Gawande (discussion led by Keeya)

August 15: Boys in the Boat, by Daniel James Brown  
(discussion led by Andy)

September 19: Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger  
(discussion led by Sandy)



Some book club members meeting at  
Barnes & Noble

## Member in the Spotlight

In this new column the Leaguer will profile an LWVEdina member each month. Learn something new here about your fellow Leaguers!

**Judy Van Osdel** kindly agreed to be the first Member in the Spotlight. She just completed four years as LWVEdina treasurer and has served our League in many other capacities.



Judy Van Osdel in Costa Rica

You may not know that for years Judy has been, and continues to be, an avid supporter of Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity.

She realizes her passion by donating money and volunteer time to this worthy organization. She has also traveled to Costa Rica four times as part of Habitat teams that build houses for families who need a permanent home. The Habitat team and the families build the home together.

Judy plans to join more trips like this in the future and do more of this rewarding work. She says, “I believe in the mission and that everyone deserves a decent place to live. [I]t’s a way to break the cycle of poverty.”

The Leaguer acknowledges the Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity blog, [tchabitat.org/blog/motivated-by-the-mission-carpenters-club-member-spotlight](http://tchabitat.org/blog/motivated-by-the-mission-carpenters-club-member-spotlight) for the spotlight idea and for information in this article.

## LWVMN Convention Recap

The biennial LWVMN convention, called “Innovation & Inclusion: LWVMN 2020”, took place June 12-14 in Duluth. Almost 100 Leaguers attended; 80 of them were delegates. Four delegates represented LWEdina: Susan Clark, Colleen Feige, Carol Frisch, and Chip Howard.

LWVUS President Elisabeth McNamara attended both days of the convention and gave a keynote address.

[continued column 2]

[continued from column 1]

Following the theme of “innovation & inclusion”, various speakers supported these goals for LWVMN and local leagues:

- 1) increase our membership and also diversify it by age, gender and ethnicity;
- 2) be more inclusive and culturally competent;
- 3) engage people, whether or not they join LWV;
- 4) attract community partners to our work;
- 5) focus more on metrics.

People felt strongly that LWVMN needs a policy manager/lobbyist, to follow bills on elections, voting rights, and other issues at the state Capitol. It is not clear whether LWVMN can afford to hire someone for this job, which was formerly held by Sherri Knuth. LWVMN already has a tight budget because of fundraising challenges.

Under the newly-adopted two-year budget, PMP will increase from \$21 to \$25 in 2016-17. PMP is a “per member payment” that LWVMN assesses to local leagues according to the number of members they have.

Delegates voted to ask the LWVMN board to propose to LWVUS that non-citizens and people under 18 be voting members of the League. Currently under LWVUS by-laws, voting members are citizens and at least 18 years old. There would need to be a vote at the LWVUS 2016 convention, in order to change the by-laws and allow non-citizens and people under 18 to vote.

Delegates also voted for this two-year program:

- 1) keep current LWVMN positions.
- 2) Briefing paper on the impact of systemic pesticides, in particular neonicotinoids, on honeybees. (Proposed by LWVSouth Tonka). A core committee is already formed and a draft paper is started.
- 3) Update LWVMN’s position on campaign finance reform. (proposed by the LWVMN board). A chair is being sought for this committee.
- 4) Review the LWVMN position on how MN amends the state Constitution. (Proposed by LWV St. Peter).

Would you like to join any of these review committees? Just email LWVMN President Terry Kalil.

Thanks to Colleen Feige, Mary Stanton, Carol Frisch and Susan Clark for providing information for this article.

## LWVUS News

At the last LWVUS convention in 2014, delegates voted for “Key Structures of Democracy” as the national League of Women Voters program for 2014-2016.

To carry out this program, three different committees are collecting and disseminating information about-

- 1) money in politics;
- 2) the process of amending the US Constitution;
- 3) redistricting in the states.

LWVEdina President Lonni Skrentner is a member of the first national study committee above, on money in politics.

Here is how local leagues can be involved:

Spring 2015: Education materials will be posted periodically on the League Management website, at [forum.lwv.org](http://forum.lwv.org). Under the tab “our work”, select a topic such as money in politics and read what is posted.

Fall 2015: Study guides and consensus questions will be posted for the money in politics review and the constitutional amendment study. Local leagues can hold consensus meetings.

April 2016: National LWV board meeting. Consensus reports and resulting positions, if any, may be approved.

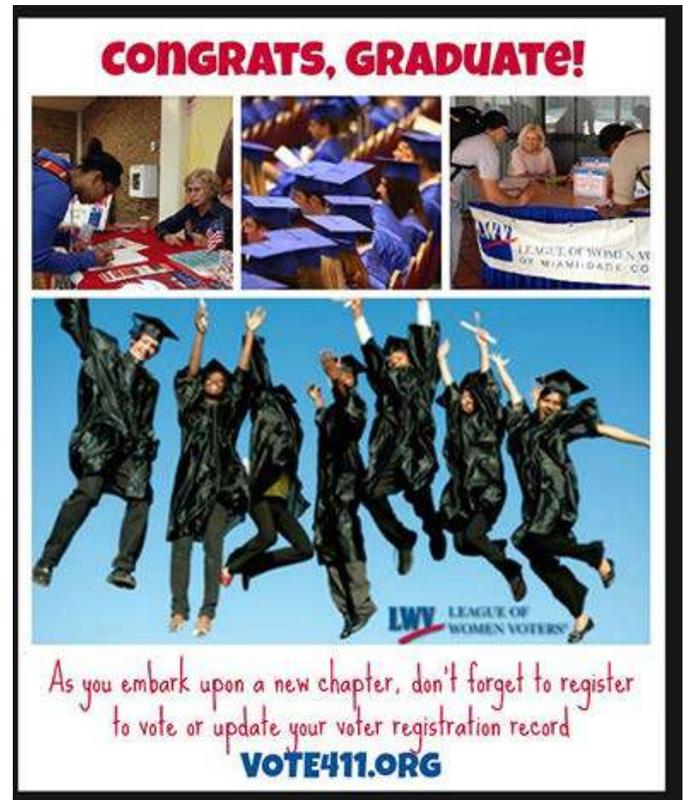
Lonni’s committee, money in politics review, has already posted some materials on the League Management website, [forum.lwv.org](http://forum.lwv.org). Updated information is posted regularly.

In the meantime, LWVUS suggests that local leagues like ours start identifying experts who are willing to present educational forums on money in politics and the constitutional amendment process. Reform is needed at all political levels, not just in Washington, DC.

To know about the latest work from these three committees, subscribe to the weekly League Update at [database@lwv.org](mailto:database@lwv.org).

The LWVEdina board is meeting this month to talk about topics for unit meetings starting this fall. Money in politics is certainly a topic that the board will discuss.

## Send This League E-card to the Graduates in Your Life



Here’s a great gift for all the graduates you know. E-mail them this e-card. You will be sending congratulations and reminding them to register to vote. The e-card is easy to email from this link:

[http://participate.lwv.org/c/10065/p/salsa/web/postcard/public/?postcard\\_KEY=255](http://participate.lwv.org/c/10065/p/salsa/web/postcard/public/?postcard_KEY=255)

There is space for your personal message along with the e-card. And it’s all free!

## LWV Edina Calendar

JULY		
Saturday July 18 10:00 AM	LWV Edina book club discusses <u>Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End</u> by Atul Gawande	Barnes & Noble Galleria Lower level coffee shop
AUGUST		
Saturday August 15 10:00 AM	LWV Edina book club discusses <u>Boys in the Boat</u> by Daniel James Brown	Barnes & Noble Galleria Lower level coffee shop
SEPTEMBER		
Thursday September 10 7:00 – 9:00 PM	Edina School Board Candidate Forum	Edina City Hall City Council Chambers
Saturday September 19 10:00 AM	LWV Edina book club discusses <u>Ordinary Grace</u> by William Kent Krueger	Barnes & Noble Galleria Lower level coffee shop



The Edina Leaguer

Edina, MN

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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](http://www.lwvedina.org).