



October Unit Meetings

Thursday Oct. 8: Prof. David Schultz Money, the Root of All Political Evil

Saturday Oct. 10: Lonni Skrentner Money and Corruption in Politics Refreshments 9:45 / Program 10:00 – 11:30

This fall LWVEdina continues to spotlight money in politics. Come and learn more about this important topic. Your guests are welcome! Each program is different, so consider attending them all if you are able.



Prof. David Schultz

On Thursday October 8, Prof. David Schultz will discuss Money, the Root of All Political Evil. A renowned speaker, Prof. Schultz teaches at Hamline and the University of Minnesota School of Law. He has written over two dozen books and many articles on democracy, campaign finance reform, and media and politics. He is also a TV political analyst.

On Saturday, October 10 Lonni Skrentner addresses Money and Corruption in Politics. Lonni is a member of the LWVUS Study Committee on Money in Politics. She will introduce and then show a video TED talk, We the People and the Republic We Must Reclaim, by Prof. Lawrence Lessig of Harvard Law School. Prof. Lessig introduces the concept of “dependence corruption”, the amount of time that lawmakers must spend raising the huge amounts of money necessary in modern campaigns. After the video, the audience will break into small groups to read articles related to campaign finance, and then share with others what they have learned. It’s a jigsaw method, of learning more than you have time to read. There will be time for Q and A.

The Sky’s the Limit? Money in Minnesota Elections

Thursday November 12 Bloomington City Council Chambers 6:30 reception; 7:00 program

Money has become a huge factor in Minnesota elections. It affects the information that voters receive. LWVs of Edina, Bloomington, and MEPH (Minnetonka, Eden Prairie, Hopkins) organized this forum to discuss: Where does the money come from? Are there any limits on political donations? When are donors required to disclose their names? We will take a look at actual TV and print ads from recent MN campaigns. Speakers will advocate for or against the current contribution and disclosure rules. Join us! Forum participants are: Moderator: Lori Sturdevant, StarTribune Panelists: Jeremy Schroeder, Executive Director, Common Cause MN Anthony Sanders, JD, Institute for Justice MN Peggy Leppik, member, MN Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board (CFPD) Jeff Sigurdson, Ass’t Executive Director, CFPD Lonni Skrentner, LWVUS Study Committee on Money in Politics

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## November Unit Meetings Planning for the Future of Edina's Parks

**Speaker: Ann Kattreh**  
Director Edina Parks and Recreation

**Thursday, Nov. 12, Edina Senior Center**  
**Saturday, Nov. 14, Edina City Hall**  
**Refreshments 9:45 / Programs 10:00 - 11:30**

The City of Edina is developing a comprehensive Park, Recreation and Trail Strategic Master Plan to guide development and redevelopment over the next 10 to 15 years. On Thursday, November 12 and Saturday, November 14, Edina Parks and Recreation Director Ann Kattreh will explain how well existing resources meet community needs and what is recommended for the future.



Ann Kattreh

In 2014, the City conducted a Community Needs Assessment Study, along with key stakeholder focus group meetings and a public workshop. So far in 2015, a draft plan has been presented to the Park Board and City Council.

Parks and Recreation

Director Kattreh is a native of Wisconsin and a member of both the Wisconsin Basketball Hall of Fame and Track and Field Hall of Fame. She began work with the City of Edina in 1992 and became Parks and Recreation Director in 2012. Together with her family, she actively enjoys the outdoors by hiking, skiing (downhill and cross country), boating, geocaching, camping, swimming and kayaking.

Everyone is welcome to come and learn more about the Parks Master Plan and what citizens can do to shape the future of Edina's parks.

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## CMAL Program at Edina Library Saturday Oct. 17, 10:00 – noon

The Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL) holds its first meeting for 2015-16 on Saturday Oct. 17 at Edina Library from 10:00 – noon. Refreshments will be served and the meeting is free and open to all.

The program will explain the current process for updating all metropolitan area city/town comprehensive plans. Every ten years, metro area cities and towns must update their comprehensive plans, according to the policy of the Metropolitan Council. Comprehensive plans address such matters as use of land, affordable housing, population, airports, regional parks, sewage management, transportation and water supply.

There will be speakers from both metro cities and the Metropolitan Council. They will address the comprehensive planning process, and how you can get involved. Q and A will follow. We would love to have you join us!

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### Seeking CMAL Alternate Rep

Idelle Longman is LWV Edina's long-serving representative to CMAL, the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues. CMAL holds four meetings each year on topics of interest to local leaguers in the Twin Cities metro area. If you would be willing to be an alternate representative to CMAL, contact Lonni Skrentner at [lwvedina@gmail.com](mailto:lwvedina@gmail.com).

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### Book Club's Fall Reading

The LWVEdina book club meets on the third Saturday of the month at 10:00 AM, at the lower-level coffee shop in Barnes & Noble, Galleria. Come and join in the discussion! Here are their upcoming selections:

October 17: Tell the Wolves I'm Home

By Carol Rivka Brunt

Discussion led by Pattiann Nordgren

November 21: How to Be Both

By Ali Smith

Discussion led by Carol Frisch

## December Unit Meetings

**Thursday Dec. 10: LWVUS Proposed New Positions on Money in Politics**

**Saturday Dec. 12: Lively Issues  
Refreshments 9:45 / Meetings 10:00 – 11:30**

The LWVUS Study Committee on Money In Politics will be seeking local league consensus on whether to modify the League's positions on money in political campaigns. Our President, Lonni Skrentner, is a member of that LWVUS study committee. Our December 10 unit meeting will discuss and try to reach consensus on the national study committee's recommendations. Our December 12 meeting will be Lively Issues, where we review LWVEdina's positions and decide whether to do any local updates or studies. Come to these meetings and participate in League process in action!

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### "Homework" on Money in Politics

by Lonni Skrentner

While we study this complex topic (September and October unit meetings plus the forum in Bloomington on November 12, followed by consensus meeting on December 10) it is important to get beyond what is presented in meetings. These links below will also come in a member email, and will be posted on the LWVEdina web site! Go to <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/lwvus-money-politics-mip-review-meetings-box-education-resources-and-sugges> . Scroll down and pick one or two of the Background Briefing Papers to read. Think about at least one fact you learned and bring it to a discussion on Money in Politics!

Also consider signing up for the Google Group on this topic - <https://groups.google.com/forum/?hl=en#!forum/lwv-money-in-politics>. You can simply browse the posts from League members all around the country. Or you can go to settings in the upper right corner (little guy with the gear). Click on email settings, asking to receive an email when there are new posts.

This is a very important topic. After working on the national committee for over a year, I still don't feel that I totally understand it. The Supreme Court has decided that lots of money, even secret money, is not a corrupting influence. Personally, I strongly disagree. Somewhere I heard this example - if one candidate got to speak for 60 minutes and his/her opponent got to speak for 1 minute, we would all say that wasn't fair. In my mind that is what unlimited money is doing. I am proud of LWV for wading into this "swamp". As individual members I feel we have a responsibility to study up and help our national organization to craft the best position possible - one that will help tackle this issue!

## LWVEdina Registers New Voters at Edina High School

On September 22, National Voter Registration Day, LWVEdina staffed registration tables at Edina High School at the beginning and end of the school day and at the lunch hour. Altogether 30 new voters were registered, and about 10 more took home forms in order to add their ID information.

Many thanks to LWVEdina members Andrea Bender, Colleen Feige, Hope Melton, Ellen Jones, Germana Paterlini, and Lonni Skrentner for volunteering. LWVEdina also thanks City Clerk Deb Mangel, EHS students Natalie Omodt and Kjell Redpath, and EHS staff members Betsy Nimmo and Rachael Grenier, for their help.

Below, Lonni Skrentner, herself a retired EHS social studies teacher, speaks to students in World Literature class about the importance of registering to vote.



Lonni Skrentner, center, and students in an Edina High School World Literature class.

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Do you have a comment or question about LWV Edina?

Email us at [LWVEdina@gmail.com](mailto:LWVEdina@gmail.com) !

## Member in the Spotlight

This month's featured "member in the spotlight" is LWVEdina treasurer Colleen Feige. If you have not yet met Colleen in person, you can learn about her here before meeting her at a future LWV Edina event.

Colleen has lived in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and Washington, DC, in addition to Minnesota. She has lived in the Minneapolis area for 23 years. Professionally, she worked for the US Department of the Army and the Department of Veterans' Affairs for 40+ years. At the VA she worked in the areas of Academic Affiliations and employee education.

She is married and both of her children graduated from Edina High School. From 2000-2008, Colleen served on the Edina School Board. She was chairperson of the Board during the 2003 referendum's planning and implementation.

Colleen joined LWVEdina in 2013, and considers herself a "committed newish member". She hopes that LWVEdina will attract new members who reflect the diversity of our community, and we will offer the kind of monthly unit meeting programs that attract many community members.



Colleen Feige, right, together with membership chair Joni Bennett, staffing the LWVEdina information table at the September 10 Edina School Board candidate forum.

## Bouquets To:

**Lonni Skrentner**, for speaking on Money in Politics: Basics, Issues and Possibilities, at both September unit meetings.

**Doris Grimes and Kay Bach**, for providing refreshments for the Thursday September unit meeting.



**Susan Clark, Vivien Talghader, Judy VanOsdel, Carolyn Jackson, Hope Melton, Sandy Fox, Chip Howard, Joni Bennett, Colleen Feige, Suzanne Kerwin and Lonni Skrentner**, for volunteering at the September 10<sup>th</sup> Edina School Board candidate forum.

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## School Board Candidate Forum Held September 10

LWVEdina hosted a candidate forum for the seven candidates running for three seats on the Edina School Board. The forum was moderated by Judy Duffy, who is a member of the White Bear Area League, former President of LWVMN, and former board member of LWVUS.

All candidates were invited and six of them participated in person in the forum. A seventh candidate sent an opening statement which was read by the moderator.

The candidates answered written questions from the audience. There was also a lightning round, in which each candidate was asked a different question and which he/she had to answer in one sentence.

The candidates for school board are: Melanie Allen, Layla Avila, Claudia Carr, Cathy Cella, Amir Gharbi, Leny Wallen-Friedman, and Sarah Patzloff. The school board election is Tuesday November 3.

LWVEdina paid the city to videorecord the entire forum. The video will be available for viewing on our website, [lwvedina.org](http://lwvedina.org). It will also be replayed on the city of Edina's cable channel 16 through Election Day, on this schedule:  
Mondays at 10 PM, Tuesdays at 6 AM and 2 PM  
Thursdays at 7 PM  
Fridays at 3 AM and 11 AM.



Left to right: Candidates Sarah Patzloff, Amir Gharbi, Leny Wallen-Friedman, Cathy Cella, Layla Avila and Claudia Carr.



Judy VanOsdel, left, and Vivien Talghader served as the question sorters at the candidate forum.



Lonni Skrentner welcomed the audience to the candidate forum. Moderator Judy Duffy is behind her to the left.

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## Welcome New and Returning Members!

Sue Arneson

Pat Corcoran

Anita Jones

## LWVEdina Calendar

OCTOBER		
Thursday October 8 9:45 – 11:30 AM	Unit meeting: Prof. David Schultz Money, the Root of All Political Evil	Edina Senior Center
Saturday October 10 9:45- 11:30 AM	Unit Meeting: Lonni Skrentner Money and Corruption in Politics	Edina City Hall
Saturday October 17 10:00 AM - noon	CMAL meeting: Comprehensive Plans for Metro-area Cities and Towns	Edina Library
Saturday October 17 10:00 AM	Book Club: <u>Tell the Wolves I'm Home</u> By Carol Rivka Brunt	Barnes & Noble Galleria lower level coffee shop
NOVEMBER		
Thursday November 12 and Saturday November 14 9:45 – 11:30 AM	Unit Meeting: Ann Kattreh Planning for the Future of Edina's Parks	Thursday at Edina Senior Center  Saturday at Edina City Hall
Thursday November 12 6:30 reception / 7:00 program	The Sky's the Limit? Money in Minnesota Elections	Bloomington City Council Chambers
Saturday November 21 10:00 AM	Book Club: <u>How to Be Both</u> By Ali Smith	Barnes & Noble Galleria lower level coffee shop
DECEMBER		
Thursday December 10 9:45 – 11:30 AM	Unit Meeting: Consensus Discussion on LWVUS Money in Politics Study	Edina Senior Center
Saturday December 12 9:45 – 11:30 AM	Unit Meeting: Lively Issues	Edina City Hall



The Edina Leaguer

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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).