



January 7, 2020

Member/Public Meeting

# Meeting Agenda



- Welcome/Call to Order
- Nonpartisan Policy Reminder
- Featured Topic: “Dakota County Aquifers: Water Supply to the U.S. Southwest?”
- Member Survey Results
- Local League Application Project Update
- Observer Corps Update
- Announcements
- Adjourn



# Nonpartisan Policy Reminder



- Keep your comments non-partisan. Talk about ideas – not partisan labels.
- Promote political actions that are not party-specific such as researching a topic, educating voters or contacting lawmakers in general regarding an issue.
- Refrain from endorsing or opposing specific candidates or elected officials.
- Only state facts, not judgments about the facts, when it is not possible to avoid mentioning a specific candidate, lawmaker, or party.
- Avoid discussing your individual activities supporting or opposing any candidate or party.

# Featured Topic

## Dakota County Aquifers: Water Supply for the U.S. Southwest?



Commissioner  
Joe Atkins  
(District 4)



Commissioner  
Mike Slavik  
(District 1)

# Southwestern States, keep your hands off Dakota County water!

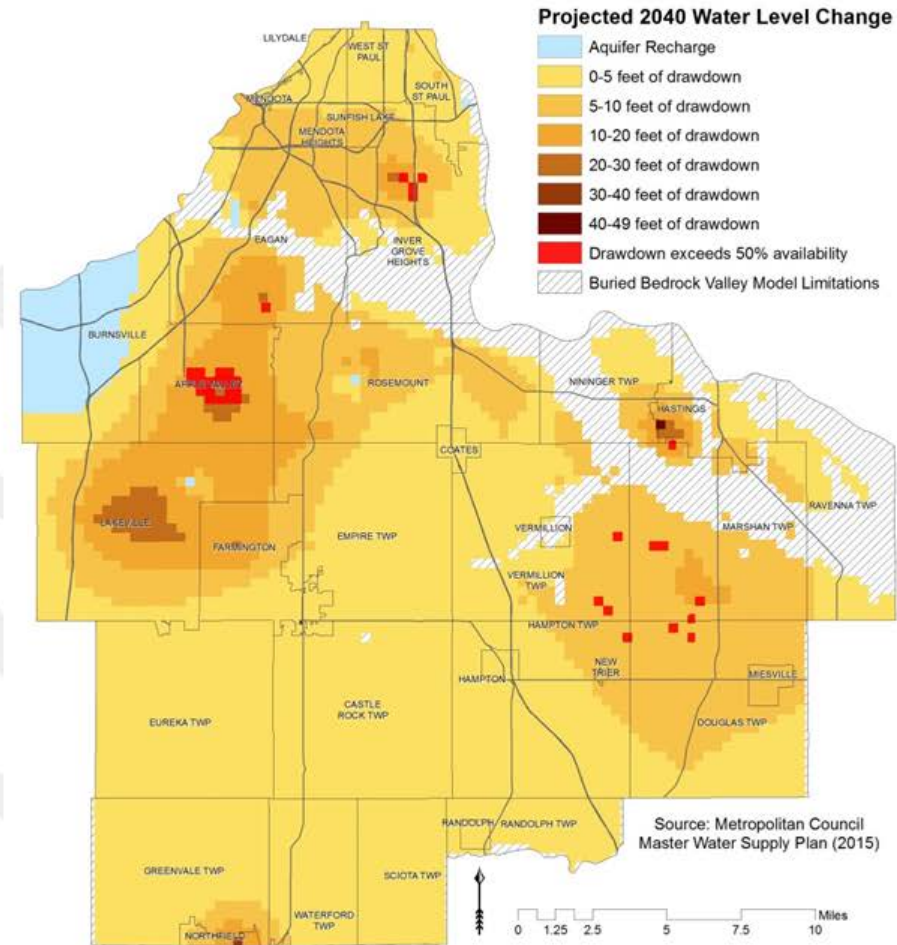
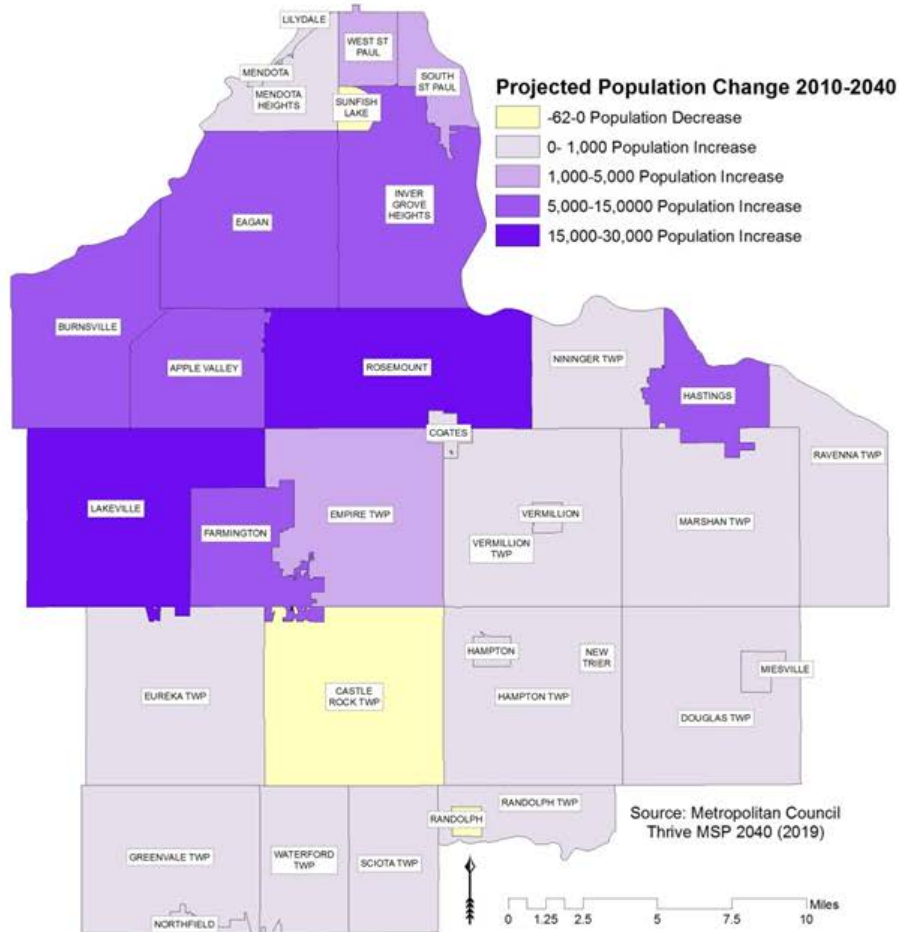
League of Women Voters

January 7, 2020

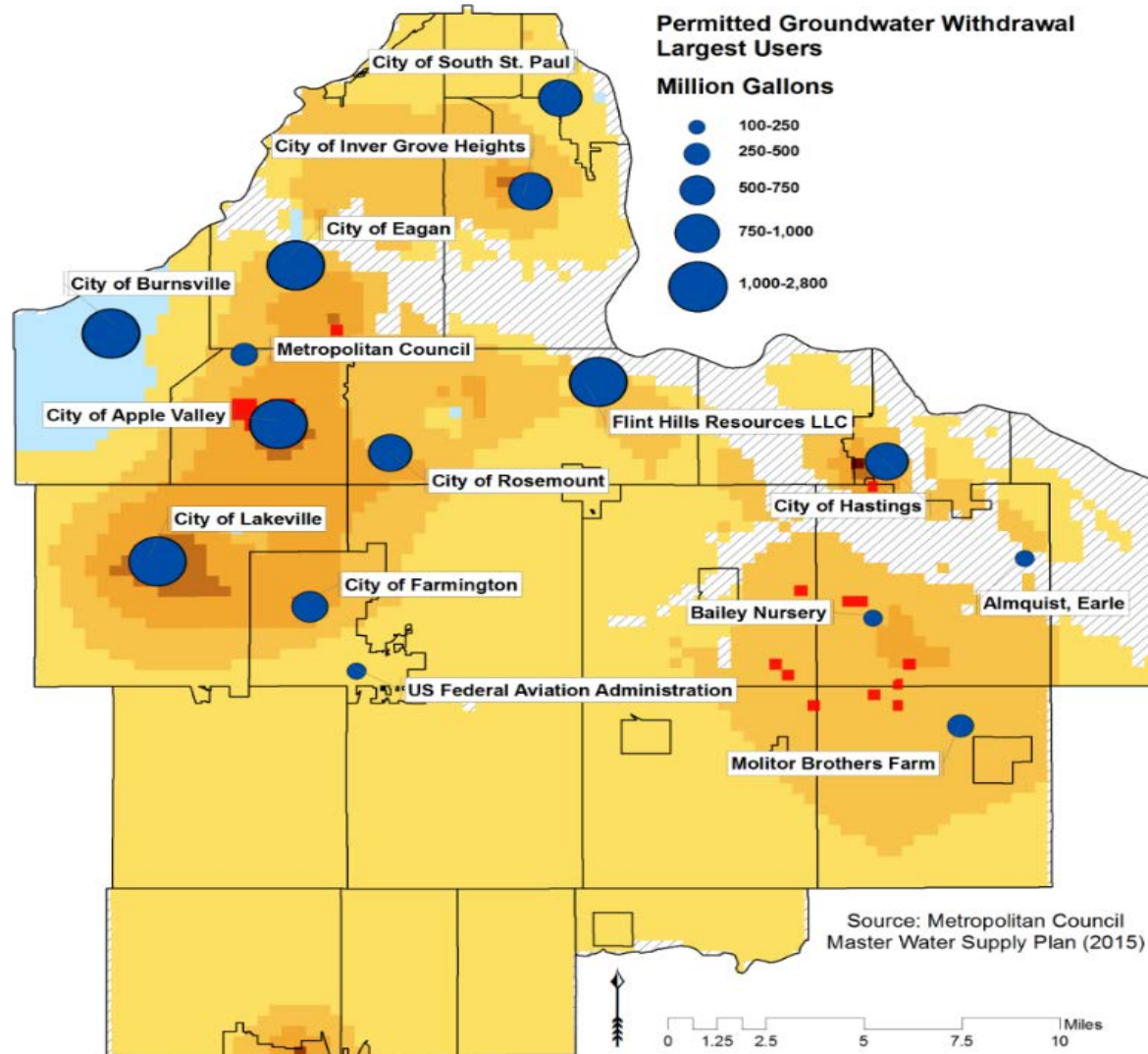
# Water Concerns



Efficient, Effective, Responsive



# Water Quantity Concerns Largest Water Users





# Background

- Preliminary Assessment Application submitted to DNR to withdraw 500 MG of groundwater per year from Dakota County
- Water would be shipped via rail to Southwest U.S.





# Background (cont.)

- DNR stated project was not authorized under Minnesota law:
  - Upper Mississippi River Basin Charter requires notification for diversion of water out of the basin exceeding 5 MG/day
  - DNR cannot issue permits to appropriate water from the Mt. Simon-Hinckley aquifer

# More Concerns

- Additional water appropriation requests to export groundwater:
  - Company could modify proposal
  - Similar requests from other companies
- Groundwater is critical to Dakota County
  - Supplies 90% of drinking water (14 BG/year)
  - Important to agriculture irrigation (7 BG/year)
  - Used for large industrial processes (3 BG/year)
  - Vital to groundwater dependent ecosystems
- Future population growth will put additional demand on groundwater needs

# Board Action

- Protect Dakota County groundwater from bulk exportation
- Submitted letter to DNR Commissioner highlighting the following:
  - Importance of groundwater in Dakota County
  - Potential concerns with future water availability
  - Opposition to bulk exportation of groundwater
  - Request DNR develop legislative action to restrict exportation

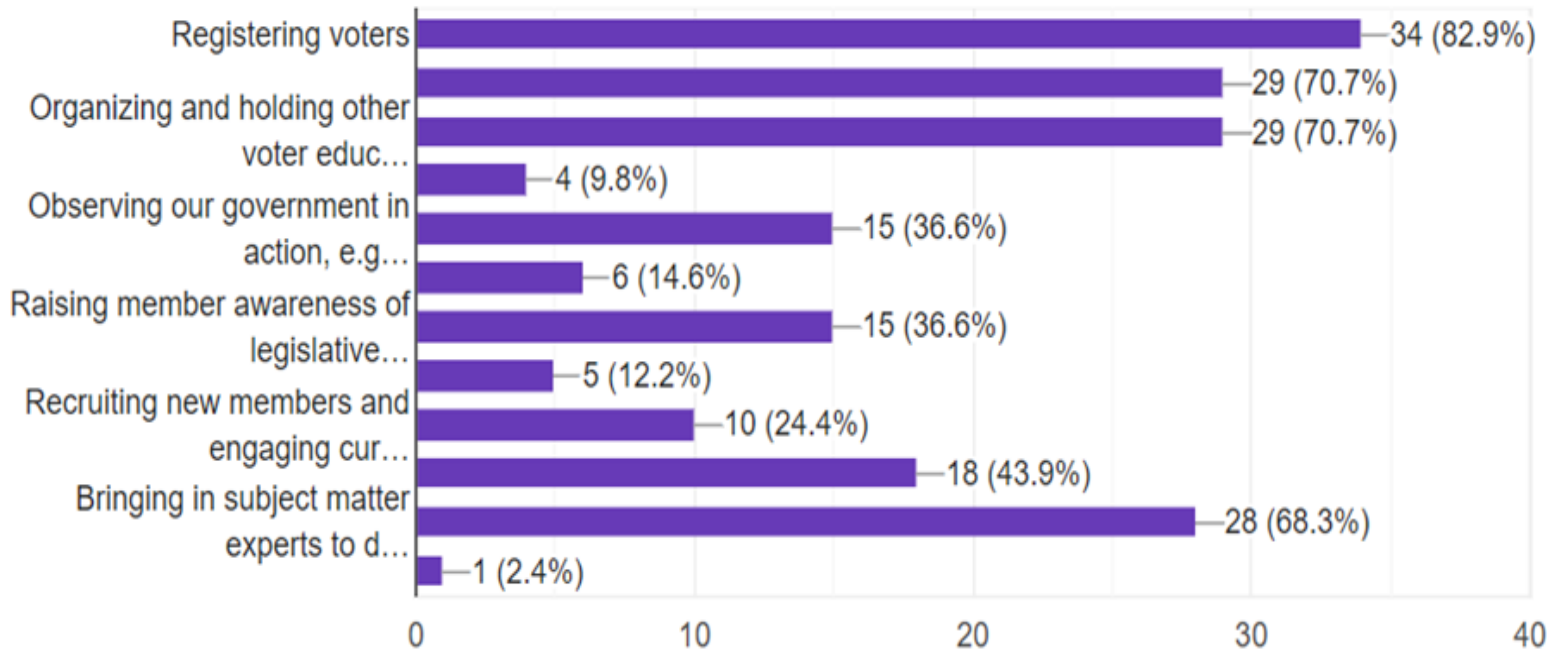


- Potential legislation
  - Delegated authority to local units of government
  - Lower threshold for review
  - Financial assurance for well interference
  - State Fees
  - Local Fees
- Awareness and Advocacy

# Questions and Comments

- Response rate was 47.6% (41 out of 86 members!)
- Membership – key results
  - Members joined LWVDC because they...
    - “...wanted to be politically active and engaged with a nonpartisan organization.” (34.1%)
    - “...wanted to learn about various political and public policy topics, e.g. attending meetings, joining book club.” (17.1%)
  - We met or exceeded the expectations of all of the respondents when they first joined LWVDC.
  - 92.7% of respondents plan to renew their membership!

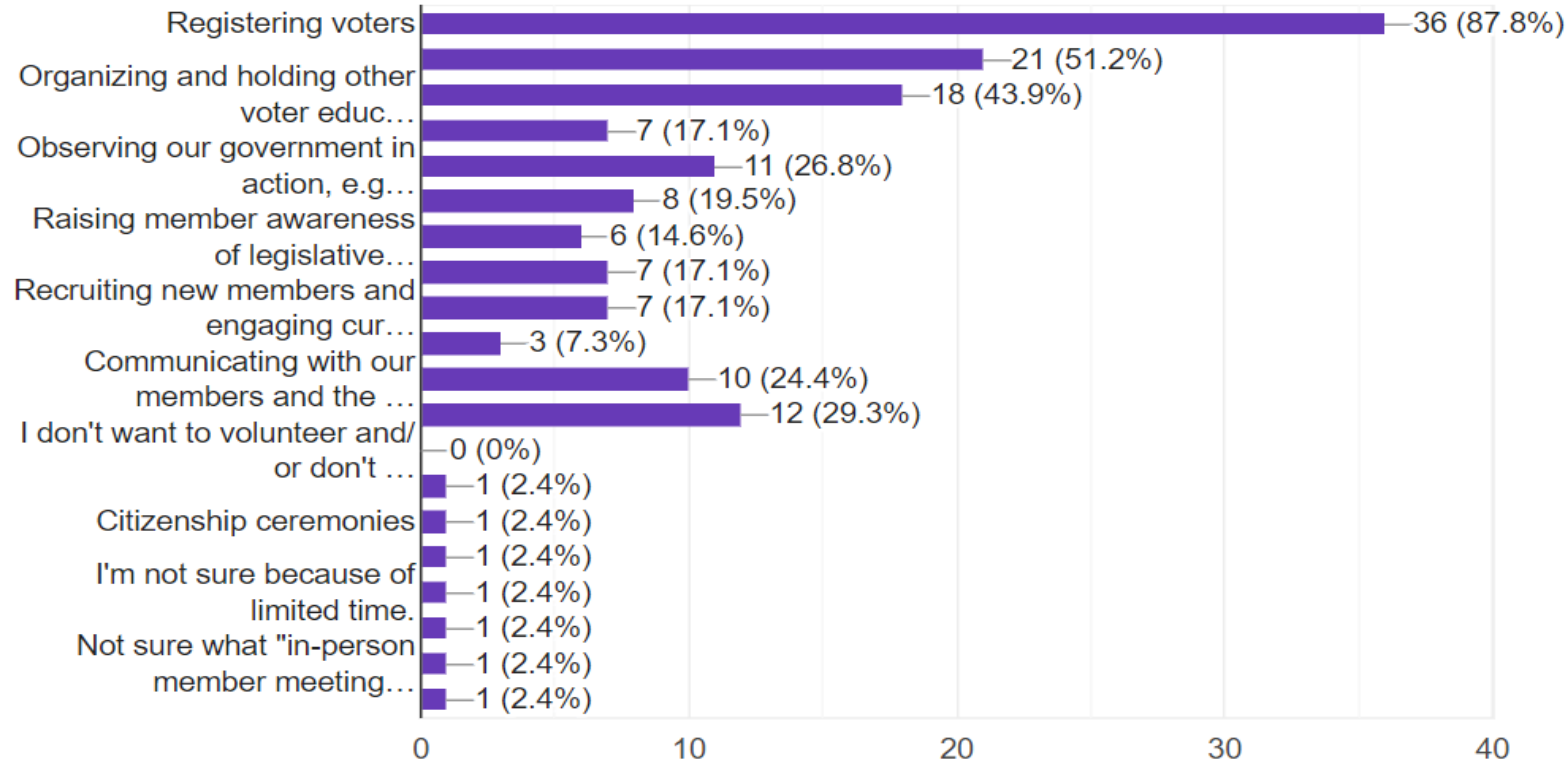
# Member Survey Results continued...



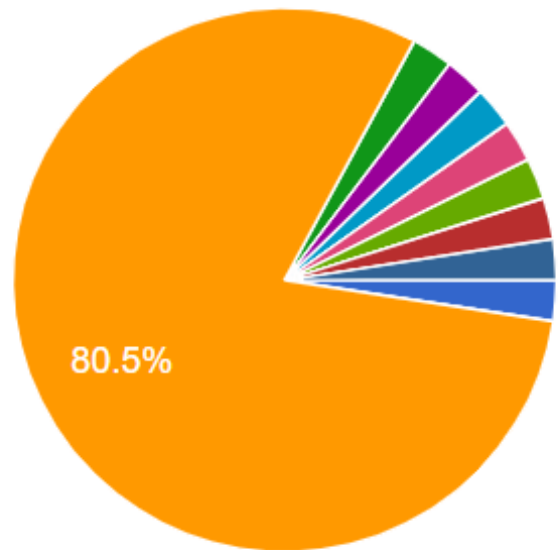
If LWVDC could only do 5 things from the list of activities below, which five things would you choose?



# Member Survey Results continued...



For which activities are you willing to volunteer in any capacity?



- Too often - we should consider quar...
- Not often enough - I'd like meetings...
- About right.
- Too often but perhaps fewer winter...
- There should probably be at least 9...
- I'm not sure about this. If we contin...
- Monthly or every other month seem...
- Since I cannot make the meetings, I...

▲ 1/2 ▼

## LWVDC meetings frequency

- Opportunities
  - Find a new meeting time and location
  - Add some variety to our meeting structure
    - Increase attendee interaction, re-work mix and mingle
    - More time for Q&A with speakers
  - Stayed focused on highest priority activities
  - Diversify our membership
  - Do a better job with new member orientation



# Local League Application Project Update



- What's this all about?
- Why does it matter?
- How does this benefit LWVDC?
- What decisions will members have to make?
- When will this happen? What's the timeline?
- Other questions you might have!

## What's this all about?

- Since our founding in February 2017, LWVDC has been a “state unit” meaning we are in provisional status while we form, organize and test our viability and sustainability.
- LWV Minnesota’s bylaws say, “When a Minnesota state unit has attained **at least ten members and completed their third year of operation**, or under special circumstances by decision of the Board, the state unit may complete the process for Local LWV Recognition within a six-month period.

## Why does it matter?

- As a state unit we have less independence than other Local Leagues and we are governed by the LWVMN Board, including:
  - Bylaws
  - Nonpartisan policy
  - Membership dues structure
- We do not have our own voice at state or national councils or conventions. We can send delegates if the state allows, but those delegates represent LWV Minnesota, not LWV Dakota County.
- As a state unit, LWV US doesn't even know we exist. We are entirely under the purview of LWV Minnesota.

## How does this benefit LWVDC?

- Greater autonomy and independence—we get to make more choices!
  - Establish our own bylaws
  - Elect our own Board of Directors
  - Maintain our own funds
  - Create our own nonpartisan policy
  - Set our own membership dues
  - Receive an allocation of delegates to LWV Minnesota and LWV US councils and conventions, allocation is proportional based on our membership count
- Recognition by LWV US
- Makes us “official”—a vote of confidence in our future



## What decisions will LWVDC members have to make, and when?

- Approve LWVDC bylaws, which are nearly ready:
  - Board minimum of 3 to maximum of 12
  - Staggered terms of two years in length
  - Officers: President (could be a shared role), Secretary, Treasurer
  - Fiscal and program year = April 1 through March 31, annually
- Elect a Board of Directors and Officers
- Adopt a Nonpartisan Policy
- Adopt a membership dues structure
- Soon!
- Goal is getting application to LWV Minnesota for consideration at its February 24<sup>th</sup> Board meeting

- Corridor Study of Cliff Road (Eagan) – study phase is complete, review included:
  - Current and forecasted traffic operations
  - Potential for any future roadway and/or intersection improvements
  - Trail locations along the corridor
  - Pedestrian crossings
  - The location for a grade separated crossing of County Road 32 for the Mendota Lebanon Hills Greenway.
- A five-minute video about the study is available on the Dakota County website (search for Cliff Road Study):  
<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/Transportation/TransportationStudies/Current/Pages/cliff-road-corridor.aspx>



- Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL) - *Holly Jenkins, LWVDC CMAL Delegate*
  - Saturday, January 11, 9:30AM – noon
  - Autumn Grove Park Gathering Center
  - Featured presentation: "Peering into the Future of the Metro Area" by Todd Graham, Principal Forecaster with Metropolitan Council
- Book Club, The Soul of America: The Battle for our Better Angels by Jon Meacham.
  - Discussion meeting, Thursday, 1/23/2020, 6:00-7:30PM, Galaxie Library room L106

The text "TAKE ACTION!" is written in a large, red, handwritten-style font. It is centered within a white rectangular area that is framed by a thick, dark grey L-shaped border on the top-left and bottom-right sides.

- Read your LWV Minnesota All Member News
- Follow us on our website, Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube!
- Join LWV and tell a friend! Everyone is on the membership committee!
- Volunteer and get involved!
- Sign up for LWVMN's Capitol Letter
- Sign up for LWVUS and LWVMN Action Alerts

- Next LWVDC meeting will be Tuesday, February 4, 2020 location **\*Robert Trail Library (Rosemount)\***, social time beginning at 5:30 pm and regular meeting beginning at 6:00 pm. The topic will be “Picking the President: Part 1 – The Presidential Nominating Primary.”
- **\*\*Members** please drop your name badge at the check-in table
- Adjourn

See you next time!