

Schedule 2008 Policy Open House

Workshop Sessions:

Room	4:30	4:45	5:00	5:15	5:30	5:45	6:00	6:15	6:30	6:45	7:00
137B			5:00 - 6:15 Long Term Care						6:30 – 7:00 School Funding/ Property Taxes		
139	4:30 - 5:00 Redistricting			5:15 – 5:45 Redistricting				6:15 - 7:15 Surface Water Management			
140							6:00 - 7:15 Long Term Care				

Long Term Care: Imagining Aging – and the Services We’ll Need

5:00 – 6:15 p.m., Room 137B

6:00 – 7:15 p.m., Room 140

In this session, participants will articulate the services they hope will be available to them as they encounter health problems in older age. The purpose of the workshop is to specify a set of services or products to be developed, so that the long term care industry can be reoriented around goals that are based on the choices that families make when faced with health challenges. This session is a pilot of an upcoming policy design workshop being organized by the Citizens League and sponsored by Ecumen.

For more information, talk to: Lisa Edstrom, Eric Schubert, Paul Taylor, Stacy Becker (staff)

Surface Water Management

6:15 – 7:15 p.m., Room 139

How are Minnesota's lakes, rivers and streams managed, and by whom? What are the things that we really value about this great resource, and does our surface water management actually protect this? And what are the responsibilities of the state, local government, business and individuals to make sure we protect these values? Learn about surface water management and develop a list of the principles that should define the way Minnesota manages surface water, and the responsibilities of all of us to achieve these values. This session will help to preface the Citizens League's upcoming study on water policy.

For more information, talk to: Larry Baker, Janna Caywood, Bob DeBoer (staff), Annie Levenson-Falk (staff)

Redistricting

4:30 – 5:00 p.m., Room 139

5:15 – 5:45 p.m., Room 139

An interactive presentation to learn more about redistricting and provide your opinion about what the priorities should be. Your answers will help the Citizens League formulate an action plan for redistricting in Minnesota.

For more information, talk to: Aaron Street, Stacy Becker (staff), Erin Sapp (staff)

School Funding and Property Taxes: How Should We Pay for K-12 Education?

6:30 – 7:00 p.m., Room 137B

In this session, participants will examine recent K-12 trends and join in a discussion of whether those trends are troublesome or not. The results of the session will be used to help the Citizens League frame its ongoing property tax work and assess renewing its historic work on school funding.

For more information, talk to: John DeSantis, Stacy Becker (staff), Bob DeBoer (staff)

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CITIZENS LEAGUE POLICY OPEN HOUSE – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2008

Information Tables and Other Activities:

Students Speak Out

In the summer of 2007, the Citizens League launched www.StudentsSpeakOut.org, a social networking website designed to elevate student voices in education policy conversations. A group of students is now exploring how trust among students and teachers could reduce bullying and harassment in schools. Hear students' stories and share your own in videotaped interviews.

For more information, talk to: Cori (student), Nora (student) Victoria Ford (staff)

CitiZing!

CitiZing! will be Minnesota's first online civic networking platform, providing a space for citizens, policymakers, and other interested parties to come together to work out real solutions to common problems. Check out examples of how this will work, and provide your feedback on how to make it better for collaborative problem solving.

For more information, talk to: Tim Schuster (staff), Erin Sapp (staff)

Discussion on Poverty

Carl Goldstein and Marnita Schroedl of Marnita's Table join us for to talk about poverty in an informal setting, leading up to our upcoming study project.

For more information, talk to: Jody TallBear (staff), Bob DeBoer (staff)

Energy and the Environment Action Group

This group of young Citizens League members is working with school classes to build rain gardens in the Twin Cities. Rain gardens collect storm-water runoff so that pollutants are filtered through the ground rather than running directly into our lakes, streams, and rivers. Each rain garden is small, but collectively they produce substantial neighborhood and regional environmental benefits – and the construction process is a great hands-on learning experience for children.

For more information, talk to: Michael Moriarity, Jenny Morris, Sean Skibbie, Danielle Waldschmidt, Annie Levenson-Falk (staff)

Immigration and Higher Education

As Minnesota's immigrant population has increased over the last three decades, our institutions of education have wrestled with questions of how to integrate immigrant students into our schools – and whether our schools are up to the task. Our 2006 study committee identified policy questions that we believe are key to increasing immigrant students' readiness for and success in higher education, and a second study committee is developing specific recommendations in response.

For more information, talk to: John DeSantis, Anna Farrell, Traci Parmenter, Victoria Ford (staff), Annie Levenson-Falk (staff)

Civic Leadership Development

This year, we will be implementing a civic leadership development program, including workshops and a leadership-building course. We're also working to make sure that all Citizens League activities help members build their civic capacity, from gatherings like Policy and a Pint[®], to study committees, to structured classes.

For more information, talk to: Nena Street, Brian Bell (staff), Sean Kershaw (staff), Ann Kirby McGill (staff)

Policy Advancement

Learn about the positions the Citizens League will be advancing this year, including:

Medical Care – Sean Kershaw, the Citizens League executive director, just finished serving on the Governor's Health Care Transformation Task Force, and the Citizens League strongly supports the provisions of that work relating to information and governance. We are currently assessing our historic work in the areas of access, insurance and payment.

For more information, talk to: Candace Dow, Bob DeBoer (staff), Sean Kershaw (staff)

Transportation – The Citizens League is calling for more choices and more transparent funding mechanisms in order to create a transportation system that is fiscally sustainable and responds to the choices of users and beneficiaries.

For more information, talk to: Steve Elkins, Robert Scroggins, Scott Halstead, Bob DeBoer (staff)

Judicial Selection – The Citizens League is using groups of members to evaluate and update our historic work. We are currently considering an updated position on the judicial selection process.

For more information, talk to: Erin Sexton, Lynn Gitelis, Bob DeBoer (staff)

Minnesota Mental Health Action Group (MMHAG)

The Minnesota Mental Health Action Group is a public-private partnership working for better mental health care in Minnesota. The Citizens League has convened MMHAG since 2003.

For more information, talk to: Donna Zimmerman, Sean Kershaw (staff)