Leaders see political, cultural barriers to efforts to address region's challenges

Public leaders in government, business and the civic sector don't need to worry about a shortage of problems to work on. The public agenda is plenty full—but changes in political, social and cultural environment are making it harder for leaders to lead the community toward solutions.

That was the message the Citizens League heard from 56 Twin Cities leaders its board and staff interviewed last summer in the first phase of the League's one- to two-year long Public Leadership Initiative. The individuals—who represent a wide variety of leadership posts in state and local government, business, philanthropy and community affairs—candidly shared their thoughts on the state of the art of public leadership in Minnesota. And we agreed to share their views, but to protect the identity of each individual speaker.

The interviews focused on four questions: What are the most important public challenges that
Continued on page 7

Engaging corporate leaders in public life

Editor's note: This month the Minnesota Journal begins a year-long look into the some of the challenges public leaders face today. The series of articles is part of the Citizens League's Public Leadership Initiative, a one- to two-year project to define what public leadership is and ought to be in terms that are meaningful in today's political and social climate and to develop proposals for practical steps the League and others could take to develop and support public leaders in Minnesota and, particularly, the Twin Cities.

This month, we invited three outstanding leaders who have navigated the private and public sectors—Ron James, Shelly Regan and John Rollwagen—to respond to these questions: Why is it important for people with private-sector experience to serve in elected or appointed public office? Why are fewer business leaders doing so? What would encourage more private-sector leaders to do "tours of duty" in government?

Private sector has many roles

by Ron James

I believe answering the question of to engage private-sector executives in public-sector jobs only provides part of a solution to the challenges we face in our commu-
Continued on page 4

Time for leadership

by Shelly Regan

What is the state of the republic as Minnesota and America advance into the next century? Do our institutions enjoy the public's warrant to address the issues of the day?
Continued on page 6

Help steer public car

by John Rollwagen

Four-and-a-half years ago, I had the most terrifying experience of my life, when I accepted a high-level appointment in the brand-new Clinton/Gore administration. It was
Continued on page 6

Metro State evolution supports its mission

by Susan A. Cole

The planning initiative for higher education in the metropolitan area currently being undertaken by the recently merged Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system is the latest in a series of such efforts. Much of the discussion has concerned Metropolitan State University. The present planning effort coincides with a time when Metro State has a record number of enrolled students.

While the planning discussions have continued over the years, Metro State has evolved from a small, nontraditional, upper-division institution into a larger, four-year, comprehensive university serving a more diverse population. This evolution has been guided by many reports and studies identifying the educational needs of the region and by an internal master planning effort. It has been supported by the former Minnesota State University System, the former Higher Education Coordinating Board and by operating and capital funds provided by the state Legislature.

Although much of the best of the
Continued on page 5
Violent African American kids have endured sexual violence

Edited excerpts of remarks by Peter Zenger, League on Sept. 30.

We should use two major “touchstone” questions to structure our approach to governance reform. First, should we strengthen our metropolitan region for successful economic development? The group is cochaired by Glenn Olson and Rep. Lyle Wray, and includes elected officials and others cared about our high value neighborhoods who are more involved in violence—especially those in their family. They’re more likely to feel bad about themselves. They don’t have anything to be proud of, and they feel guilty about their lives. They say that they have an allergy to major structural change. As Americans have said (Sept. 17) "There is absolutely no "schools of choice." "There’s no property tax is more solid, it said, "that we have an allergy to major structural change. As Americans have said (Sept. 17) "There is absolutely no "schools of choice." "There’s no property tax is more solid, it said, "that we have an allergy to major structural change. As Americans have said (Sept. 17) "There is absolutely no "schools of choice." "There’s no property tax is more solid, it said, "that we have an allergy to major structural change. As Americans have said (Sept. 17) "There is absolutely no "schools of choice." "There’s no property tax is more solid, it said, "that we have an allergy to major structural change. As Americans have said (Sept. 17) "There is absolutely no "schools of choice." "There’s no property tax is more solid, it said, "that we have an allergy to major structural change. As Americans have said (Sept. 17) "There is absolutely no "schools of choice." "There’s no property tax is more solid, it said, "that we have an allergy to major structural change. As Americans have said (Sept. 17) "There is absolutely no "schools of choice." "There’s no property tax is more solid, it said, "that we have an allergy to major structural change. As Americans have said (Sept. 17) "There is absolutely no "schools of choice." "There’s no property tax is more solid, it said, "that we have an allergy to major structural change. As Americans have said (Sept. 17) "There is absolutely no "schools of choice." "There’s no property tax is more solid, it said, "that we have an allergy to major structural change. As Americans have said (Sept. 17) "There is absolutely no "schools of choice." "There’s no property tax is more solid, it said, "that we have an allergy to major structural change. As Americans have said (Sept. 17) "There is absolutely no "schools of choice." "There’s no property tax is more solid, it said, "that we have an allergy to major structural change. As Americans have said (Sept. 17) "There is absolutely no "schools of choice." "There’s no property tax is more solid, it said, "that we have an allergy to major structural change. As Americans have said (Sept. 17) "There is absolutely no "schools of choice." "There’s no property tax is more solid, it said, "that we have an allergy to major structural change. As Americans have said (Sept. 17) "There is absolutely no "schools of choice." "There’s no property tax is more solid, it said, "that we have an allergy to major structural change. As Americans have said (Sept. 17) "There is absolutely no "schools of choice." "There’s no property tax is more solid, it said, "that we have an allergy to major structural change. As Americans have said (Sept. 17) "There is absolutely no "schools of choice." "There’s no property tax is more solid, it said, "that we have an allergy to major structural change. As Americans have said (Sept. 17) "There is absolutely no "schools of choice." "There’s no property tax is more solid, it said, "that we have an allergy to major structural change. As Americans have said (Sept. 17) "There is absolutely no "schools of choice." "There’s no property tax is more solid, it said, "that we have an allergy to major structural change. As Americans have said (Sept. 17) "There is absolutely no "schools of choice." "There’s no property tax is more solid, it said, "that we have an allergy to major structural change. As Americans have said (Sept. 17) "There is absolutely no "schools of choice." "There’s no property tax is more solid, it said, "that we have an allergy to major structural change. As Americans have said (Sept. 17) "There is absolutely no "schools of choice." "There’s no property tax is more solid, it said, "that we have an allergy to major structural change. As Americans have said (Sept. 17) "There is absolutely no "schools of choice." "There’s no property tax is more solid, it said, "that we have an allergy to major structural change. As Americans have said (Sept. 17) "There is absolutely no "schools of choice." "There’s no property tax is more solid, it said, "that we have an allergy to major structural change. As Americans have said (Sept. 17) "There is absolutely no "schools of choice." "There’s no property tax is more solid, it said, "that we have an allergy to major structural change. As Americans have said (Sept. 17) "There is absolutely no "schools of choice." "There’s no property tax is more solid, it said, "that we have an allergy to major structural change. As Americans have said (Sept. 17) "There is absolutely no "schools of choice." "There’s no property tax is more solid, it said, "that we have an allergy to major structural change. As Americans have said (Sept. 17) "There is absolutely no "schools of choice." "There’s no property tax is more solid, it said, "that we have an allergy to major structural change. As Americans have said (Sept. 17) "There is absolutely no "schools of choice." "There’s no property tax is more solid, it said, "that we have an allergy to major structural change. As Americans have said (Sept. 17) "There is absolutely no "school...
James

Continued from page 1

tities. There are already multiple roles the private sector should and does play today in helping to build communities.

First, the private sector generates sufficient income to pay adequate wages to families, where the single parent has been indoctrinated in the gang, it’s extremely difficult to get them out. Once a detective knows that a guy is a problem, he’s going to demand things. Kids are adrenaline junkies. The gang provides a lot for a kid who’s looking for ways to stay busy. Many of these kids are on probation. This had a profound effect on the culture.

They get told early on that the gang is your family. You stand up for the gang and protect young people when they often find out it doesn’t work. They join in gang activities and they get into trouble. But there doesn’t seem to be that lack of consciousness about it. They can be caught and reprimanded and change their ways. I’ve met plenty of 13-year-olds that you can see looking in their eyes that they have no idea what they’re doing or telling them. They’ve never been taught how to handle problems other than through violence. This is a little late to start.

A more complete version of Bookmarks is available at the Citizens Bulletin website, minnesota.publicradio.com/podcasts/minnesota-journal/. A list of current Metro State students reading and literacy activities.

In 1987, Metro State offered courses in over 60 dispersed rented facilities that lacked classrooms and laboratories, a library, computer, study spaces and site supervisions. In 1997, Metro State was able to offer its students laboratories, electronics, technology and study facilities, having opened its second new building on its permanent St. Paul campus and begun construction on its third. However, that campus currently can accommodate only 30 percent of the university’s total instruction. The remainder of Metro State’s instruction still occurs in rental facilities in Minneapolis, the Midway section of St. Paul, Brooklyn Center and Bloomington, as well as on community college campuses.

The extraordinary reorganizing of the university that has occurred, especially in the last several years, has been designed to support the placement of key elements of Metro State’s mission, which is strongly regional, in the heart of the city and the business community in the metropolitan area. This focus has been covered directly by the university in the development of academic programs, which have a heavily applied emphasis, aimed at employment opportunities in the region; its facilities, which are designed to be highly accessible and appropriate to the needs of the community; and strong school partnerships.

Metro State has undertaken a major initiative to provide a broader array of academic program options that focus on the needs of business and industry in this region, including applied mathematics, computer and information sciences and management; technical communications and media; instruction. The remainder of Metro State’s instruction still occurs in rental facilities in Minneapolis, the Midway section of St. Paul, Brooklyn Center and Bloomington, as well as on community college campuses.

The extraordinary reorganizing of the university that has occurred, especially in the last several years, has been designed to support the placement of key elements of Metro State’s mission, which is strongly regional, in the heart of the city and the business community in the metropolitan area. This focus has been covered directly by the university in the development of academic programs, which have a heavily applied emphasis, aimed at employment opportunities in the region; its facilities, which are designed to be highly accessible and appropriate to the needs of the community; and strong school partnerships.

Metro State has undertaken a major initiative to provide a broader array of academic program options that focus on the needs of business and industry in this region, including applied mathematics, computer and information sciences and management; technical communications and media; instruction. The remainder of Metro State’s instruction still occurs in rental facilities in Minneapolis, the Midway section of St. Paul, Brooklyn Center and Bloomington, as well as on community college campuses.

The extraordinary reorganizing of the university that has occurred, especially in the last several years, has been designed to support the placement of key elements of Metro State’s mission, which is strongly regional, in the heart of the city and the business community in the metropolitan area. This focus has been covered directly by the university in the development of academic programs, which have a heavily applied emphasis, aimed at employment opportunities in the region; its facilities, which are designed to be highly accessible and appropriate to the needs of the community; and strong school partnerships.

Metro State has undertaken a major initiative to provide a broader array of academic program options that focus on the needs of business and industry in this region, including applied mathematics, computer and information sciences and management; technical communications and media; instruction. The remainder of Metro State’s instruction still occurs in rental facilities in Minneapolis, the Midway section of St. Paul, Brooklyn Center and Bloomington, as well as on community college campuses.

The extraordinary reorganizing of the university that has occurred, especially in the last several years, has been designed to support the placement of key elements of Metro State’s mission, which is strongly regional, in the heart of the city and the business community in the metropolitan area. This focus has been covered directly by the university in the development of academic programs, which have a heavily applied emphasis, aimed at employment opportunities in the region; its facilities, which are designed to be highly accessible and appropriate to the needs of the community; and strong school partnerships.

Metro State has undertaken a major initiative to provide a broader array of academic program options that focus on the needs of business and industry in this region, including applied mathematics, computer and information sciences and management; technical communications and media; instruction. The remainder of Metro State’s instruction still occurs in rental facilities in Minneapolis, the Midway section of St. Paul, Brooklyn Center and Bloomington, as well as on community college campuses.

The extraordinary reorganizing of the university that has occurred, especially in the last several years, has been designed to support the placement of key elements of Metro State’s mission, which is strongly regional, in the heart of the city and the business community in the metropolitan area. This focus has been covered directly by the university in the development of academic programs, which have a heavily applied emphasis, aimed at employment opportunities in the region; its facilities, which are designed to be highly accessible and appropriate to the needs of the community; and strong school partnerships.

Metro State has undertaken a major initiative to provide a broader array of academic program options that focus on the needs of business and industry in this region, including applied mathematics, computer and information sciences and management; technical communications and media; instruction. The remainder of Metro State’s instruction still occurs in rental facilities in Minneapolis, the Midway section of St. Paul, Brooklyn Center and Bloomington, as well as on community college campuses.

The extraordinary reorganizing of the university that has occurred, especially in the last several years, has been designed to support the placement of key elements of Metro State’s mission, which is strongly regional, in the heart of the city and the business community in the metropolitan area. This focus has been covered directly by the university in the development of academic programs, which have a heavily applied emphasis, aimed at employment opportunities in the region; its facilities, which are designed to be highly accessible and appropriate to the needs of the community; and strong school partnerships.

Metro State has undertaken a major initiative to provide a broader array of academic program options that focus on the needs of business and industry in this region, including applied mathematics, computer and information sciences and management; technical communications and media; instruction. The remainder of Metro State’s instruction still occurs in rental facilities in Minneapolis, the Midway section of St. Paul, Brooklyn Center and Bloomington, as well as on community college campuses.

The extraordinary reorganizing of the university that has occurred, especially in the last several years, has been designed to support the placement of key elements of Metro State’s mission, which is strongly regional, in the heart of the city and the business community in the metropolitan area. This focus has been covered directly by the university in the development of academic programs, which have a heavily applied emphasis, aimed at employment opportunities in the region; its facilities, which are designed to be highly accessible and appropriate to the needs of the community; and strong school partnerships.

Metro State has undertaken a major initiative to provide a broader array of academic program options that focus on the needs of business and industry in this region, including applied mathematics, computer and information sciences and management; technical communications and media; instruction. The remainder of Metro State’s instruction still occurs in rental facilities in Minneapolis, the Midway section of St. Paul, Brooklyn Center and Bloomington, as well as on community college campuses.

The extraordinary reorganizing of the university that has occurred, especially in the last several years, has been designed to support the placement of key elements of Metro State’s mission, which is strongly regional, in the heart of the city and the business community in the metropolitan area. This focus has been covered directly by the university in the development of academic programs, which have a heavily applied emphasis, aimed at employment opportunities in the region; its facilities, which are designed to be highly accessible and appropriate to the needs of the community; and strong school partnerships.
Regan

Continued from page 1

Are there effective processes in place to manage and mobilize the resources to solve them? And are there effective processes in place to marshal and manage the new emerging roles and businesses that are growing out of the gap between the so-called large, visible employers and the local governments that serve them? It is this kind of thing that is so crucial to the quality of life in our communities.

In 1987, the Greater Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce (GMCC) Board of Directors passed a resolution encouraging businesses to increase their involvement in community affairs. This is an important trend that will affect the future of our communities. It is an important trend that will affect the future of our communities.

The media's treatment of public policy issues is a critical aspect of the political process.

...If we aren't so darn nice we'd need public leadership!

John Rollwagen—continued from page 1

...What are the main gaps in leadership roles and that leads to an imminent crisis in government. One leader, reflecting on his experience serving on the Twin Cities Board of Directors, observed that the members “didn't understand the big problem we were facing and spent lots of time on the little problems.”

Shelly Regan is president of the Greater Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce.

Rollwagen

Continued from page 1

also the most illuminating and exciting thing I've ever done.

Our government is a long-standing and successful democracy that depends on the active participation of a broad base of its citizens. We all strongly feel it is our duty to be informed and to do our part. But those of us in the private sector have to realize that the government is fundamentally different from anywhere else in our experience. If we do go to the government sector, we will be expected to respond for a huge culture shock.

When I went to Washington, I realized that it is the government advisor to help run the Commerce Department—to make it more efficient and effective and also to accomplish those goals. But that was what was the job, until they decided to put the onus on government to accomplish the goal. And that is why I decided to stay in the government sector.

Today, if you're a politician, it's as if you have your hands on the wheel of a very powerful car. But while you're at the wheel, there are lots of other powerful vehicles on the road, and there are lots of people watching you every move and talking about you.

The media's treatment of public policy issues is a critical aspect of the political process.

As a result, that isn't surprising. The ambitious, according to the report, are willing to do whatever it takes to get elected or get a job, even to harm public interest or to get ahead. The result is that politicians are afraid to take unpopular positions because their entire careers depend on reelection. It's common to see people who have been involved in the hard work of public interest and in the political process and in the media. But it works differently from anywhere else in our experience. If we do go to the government sector, we will be expected to respond.

The media's treatment of public policy issues is a critical aspect of the political process.

The concept of public leadership through the media is making solutions even more elusive. Among the trends that hamper leaders’ efforts:

- Corporations are much less inclined to make financial contributions to public policy than they once were, according to the report. And while the public sector has tried to increase political participation, its efforts have been more divisive and controversial. Not long ago, business people knew that if they wanted to get reelected, they had to make their mark in community and political matters. The Twin Cities Chamber of Commerce, for example, worked for the active leadership of its corporate CEOs. Now, the “CEO” of the corporate sector is more like the CEO of the company. But public sector officials use polling to understand what the public wants and what the public expects. The public sector officials use polling to understand the public's views and to shape the agenda for the public dialogue.

The media's treatment of public policy issues is a critical aspect of the political process.
AP/IB teachers to get stipends if students test well

A sneak preview of merit pay? Teachers of Minnesota high school students who do well on Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) tests will be rewarded with stipends starting next spring, under a new program created by the '97 Legislature.

According to Marlys Peters-Melius, AP/IB coordinator at the state Department of Children, Families and Learning, the Legislature appropriated $375,000 to provide $25 to $50 stipends to teachers for each student in their classes who scores three or better (out of five) on an AP test and four or better (out of seven) on an IB test. An additional $300,000 will go to scholarships for the students scoring at those levels that can be used at Minnesota public or private postsecondary institutions. The amount of the stipends and scholarships will be determined by the numbers of students scoring at the qualifying levels.

Peters-Melius said controversy has erupted over the teacher stipend provision of the program. "Who really should be credited for that score?" she asked. IB courses are often two-year courses, sometimes taught by two different teachers. Even for AP courses, generally one-year courses where the assignment of the stipend should be more straightforward, the students received training from a number of teachers prior to taking the AP class. In addition, she noted, some teachers teach only IB or AP classes, whereas others teach none.

Richard Schwartz, IB coordinator at Minneapolis Southwest High School, expressed concerns about the stipend program. "If you are going to offer this kind of incentive and award, you have to offer it to everybody," he said. "This separates teachers, depending on whether they teach AP or IB courses."

"There's a lot of positioning and a lot of concern," Peters-Melius said. "Maybe it'll be no problem at all and maybe it'll be a disaster."

—Dana Schroeder.

In last month's Journal Citizens League Executive Director Lyle Wray suggested that the state's Truth in Taxation mechanism not only explain what's behind property owners' tax bills, but talk about what taxpayers got for their money, too.

Readers Larry Lee, director of community development in Bloomington, sent us a nifty publication that the city mails to each resident annually. The tabloid-sized newspaper is chock-full of information about city government, public services and spending. Easy-to-read tables and graphs show where Bloomington's tax money goes, how its spending has changed over time and how the city's taxes compare to those in other metro communities.

The prose gets as close as humanly possible to explaining Minnesota's incomprehensible property-tax system and showing what it means for taxpayers. For instance, the report points out that the average home value was $225 per month higher in 1997 than in 1996, while the estimated cost for city services rose only six cents per month.

Best of all, the report shows what the average homeowner pays for various services. City Manager Mark Bernhardson said the goal is to approximate the "value exchange" that happens in the marketplace for other goods and services. Bloomington taxpayers can ask themselves, Is the fire protection I'm getting worth $2.27 a month? Simply writing out a check twice a year for property taxes doesn't prompt that kind of value-for-spending question, Bernhardson said.

We hear some other metro communities have produced similar reports. It's encouraging to see this buzz of innovation.—Janet Dudrow.

A report is due in early November from Conflict Management, Inc. (CMI), the team from Cambridge, Mass., brought in to see if the big lawsuits against the state for "inadequate" education in Saint Paul and Minneapolis can be settled through mediation, rather than in court.

Pushing for trial may look a bit dicier now for the plaintiffs—certainly for the Board of Education, which brought the mainline-about-money suit in Saint Paul. How do you maintain a case for the state to do more when you've just cut your own tax levy?

As a result, those cases (the suit in Minneapolis is brought by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored people) may turn toward charges other than more money. The complaints from parents—as voiced, for example at CMI's hearing at Sabathani Community Center in Minneapolis on Sept. 22—went heavily to problems that more money won't fix.

—Ted Kolderie.

A bird in the hand? Minnesota has long been known for its low prison population, which ranks among the lowest in the nation per 100,000 people. This reflects a number of priorities, including the state's inclination for probation versus incarceration.

For the first time in the state's history, the number of Minnesota criminal offenders on probation topped 100,000, according to the Corrections Department's annual probation survey. This means that one out of every 36 Minnesotans over the age of 12 is currently on probation. So while the state's incarceration rate is comparatively low, its probationary rate is fifth highest in the country.—Ron Wirtz.

Sgt. Jeff Rugel of the Minneapolis Gang Strike Force, speaking at a recent Citizens League Mini-Openers breakfast, (see excerpts on page 4) noted a difference in what might be termed "the business lines" of various gangs operating in the Twin Cities. The gangs that migrated here from Chicago and Los Angeles—such as the Vice Lords, Dealers and Crips—run large drug distribution systems.

But the Asian and Somali gangs—comprised of relatively new immigrants from other countries—tend not to be involved in the drug business. Instead, they run large, profitable auto theft rings. Rugel said a Minneapolis Somali gang is responsible for the theft of dozens of cars each week that are put into trucks—or, sometimes, dismantled first and then put into trucks—and shipped to other cities.—D.S.

Don't be too reassured if the auditors report before long that, yes, indeed, school districts are using the "compensatory" revenue—given to districts by the state based on their concentration of poor students—for the purposes intended. The use of the revenue is not the issue. The issue is two-fold: (a) whether that revenue is or isn't going to the schools the kids eligible for free school lunch attend (it's supposed to) and (b) who gets to decide on how that revenue gets used (the school is supposed to).

Hopefully, the auditors will look at allocation and at decision-making—both major issues this fall in Minneapolis and Saint Paul. They might also look at how money voted originally for low-income kids was shifted to kids having trouble learning, which is not quite the same thing.—T.K.

"Take Note" contributors include Minnesota Journal and Citizens League staff members.
Public leadership activities kick-off in October

As part of its comprehensive Public Leadership Initiative, the Citizens League is sponsoring the first of several Mind-Opener series exploring issues of public leadership and citizenship.

The first series will begin on Tuesday, Oct. 21 with Duane Benson, executive director of the Minnesota Business Partnership. Minneapolis Councilmember Brian Herron will follow on Tuesday, October 28, and Laura Wittstock, executive director of Migizi Communications, will wrap up the series on Tuesday, November 4.

Many people today believe we are in a crisis of leadership. All of our common institutions—government, businesses, nonprofits, even the so-called “private” institutions of family and church—are failing to find solutions to our most pressing problems.

Perhaps most dramatically, people have lost faith in government as the major collective problem-solving mechanism. But people have also “checked out” of many of the traditional forms of civic life. The League believes that the decline of trust in government and civic participation has a negative effect on public leadership.

Many Twin Cities community leaders are disheartened. Most of these elected officials, policy makers and other leaders entered public life because of an earnest desire to make a difference—but the reality of their daily work is that partisanship is paramount, every issue is politicized, and policy analysis too often yields to policy paralysis.

Ultimately, what makes a community vibrant, healthy and just is the wisdom of the public’s decisions. Public leadership is what helps citizens—together—to understand, define and move forward on common community challenges. That won’t happen unless the environment for leadership brightens.

To address these concerns, the Citizens League is investigating the state of public leadership in the Twin Cities metropolitan region today. Through its Mind-Opener breakfasts — along with additional activities in its other lines of business — the League hopes to raise awareness of issues of public leadership, define what public leadership is in meaningful terms for today’s political and social climate, and develop proposals for tangible, practical steps to develop and support public leaders in Minnesota and the Twin Cities.

As part of this Public Leadership Initiative, the Citizens League will be organizing a number of Mind-Opener series throughout the coming months and into next year.

The first Mind-Opener series will provide a broad overview of some public leadership issues from representatives of business, government and nonprofit sectors. All meetings will be held at the University Club, 420 Summit Avenue in St. Paul. Cost of the program is $10 for members and $15 for non-members.

Additional Mind-Opener series on public leadership and citizenship are expected for December, February and April. Some of the expected topics include corporate citizenship, the role of the media and opinion polling on politics, the professionalization of politics, and interest group activism.
Wisconsin Senator Brian Rude to speak at special Mind-Opener meeting

The Citizens League will host a special breakfast meeting with Wisconsin Senator Brian Rude on the issue of historic preservation on Monday, October 27. The event will be held from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. at the University Club, 420 Summit Avenue in St. Paul.

Sen. Rude is the assistant minority leader in the Wisconsin State Senate. He previously served as president of the Senate from 1993 to 1996. A Republican, Rude began his tenure in the State Assembly (Minnesota's version of the House), and later won election to the Senate in 1984.

Sen. Rude's district is in southwest Wisconsin, and includes parts of five counties bordering the Mississippi River. This geographic relationship to Minnesota has led to his chairing the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission for the Wisconsin Senate.

The League is piggybacking its event with Sen. Rude's participation in the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota's (PAM) Fall Festival, which will take place on Sunday, October 26, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at International Market Square, 275 Market Street, Minneapolis.

PAM's Fall Festival will include more than 50 preservation-related exhibitors, and feature its annual award ceremony recognizing the state's most noteworthy achievements in historic preservation. The PAM event is free and open to the public.

To register for the special Mind-Opener on October 27, please call 338-0791.

Forums announced by Twin Cities Project on Media and the Public

The League is pleased to co-sponsor the Twin Cities Project on Media and the Public. Through research, public forums and, ultimately, the creation of a media/public compact, the project hopes to restore public trust in the media; motivate both the media and the public to take responsibility for generating coverage that accurately reflects our region; and identify ways in which the media and the public can work together and stay connected in the future.

The public forums, which begin in late October, are a critical part of the project. Eight to 10 forums, held throughout the Twin Cities, will use interactive keypad technology to gather input from diverse audiences on issues cited most frequently as underlying the loss of public trust in the media (accuracy, fairness, sensationalism, cynicism and market-driven coverage, etc.), and explore the types of coverage that participants say are valuable. Notice of the forums will be mailed soon.

League Board picks next study topic

The Citizens League Board of Directors on September 23 approved "Mobilizing Public Leadership to Address Minnesota's Labor Shortage" as the topic for the next study committee. In keeping with the Citizens League's historic niche that accurately reflects our region, the committee will examine the practice of leadership in the context of public policy-making. The study will focus not just on leadership, or just on a substantive policy problem, but on intersection point between the two.

The charge to the study committee is to answer the following question: How can we as an organization illustrate how the barriers to effective public leadership might be overcome? To accomplish this second purpose, the League will experiment with innovative approaches that involve important stakeholders in solving the problem.

The League will also ask itself the following question: How can we as an organization illustrate how the barriers to effective public leadership might be overcome? To accomplish this second purpose, the League will experiment with innovative approaches that involve important stakeholders in solving the problem.

A detailed description of the project and an application for committee membership will be mailed to all League members.

Thank you members!

Thanks to all of you who made an extra financial contribution to the League during the recent fiscal year-end drive.

While final year-end figures will not be available until after the annual audit is being conducted, preliminary results indicate that extra contributions from individual members increased by more than $22,000 from last year.

The $75,000 contributed by members this year (over and above dues payments) is within a couple of hundred dollars of the League's record for annual giving set in 1993 during the McKnight Foundation's challenge grant.