

# WREY Radio

## Quarterly Issues/Program List

January 1<sup>st</sup> – March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014

## Minnesota's Affordable Housing Crisis

**For the week of January 5th, 2014**

While the collapse of the housing market is several years behind us, renters continue to feel its impact. Some call it the worst rental affordability crisis in our nation's history. As demand increases, so do rents, and some low-income renters are spending more than half of their monthly income on rent. On this week's Access Minnesota, Theresa Nesbitt, President of the Minnesota Council for Affordable and Rural Housing, joins us to discuss the challenges facing the state's renters.

- **Guest:** Theresa Nesbitt, President of the Minnesota Council for Affordable and Rural Housing, and Regional Manager at MetroPlains Management
- **Issues:** What "affordable housing" means; How and why demand is far exceeding supply; What government programs could be expanded to ease the crisis

**8 January 2014**

## Reforming Minnesota's State Boards and Commissions

**For the week of January 12th, 2014**

There are more than 160 state boards and commissions that collectively cost Minnesota taxpayers \$160 million per year. Some have governing bodies that are too large, purposes that are too vague or requirements for membership that are too political. Governor Dayton and some legislators say greater oversight is needed. On this week's Access Minnesota, House Speaker Paul Thissen and Representative Mary Liz Holberg discuss legislative efforts to address this issue.

- **Guest:** Rep. Paul Thissen (DFL-District 61B), Speaker of the Minnesota House; Rep. Mary Liz Holberg (R-District 58A), Ranking Member of the House Ways and Means Committee
- **Issues:** How and why Minnesota developed so many boards and commissions; What kind of reforms are practical; Why reform is so difficult; Prospects for change

**15 January 2014**

## Reviving the Hive: The University of Minnesota's Bee Squad

**For the week of January 19th, 2014**

Bee populations throughout the world are in rapid decline. These tiny creatures make a big impact on agriculture by pollinating crops. Researchers at the University of Minnesota are recruiting backyard beekeepers in an effort to reverse this alarming trend. On this week's Access Minnesota, Becky Masterman, coordinator of the U of M's Bee Squad, tell us how hobbyist beekeepers can gather valuable scientific data, as well as honey, from their hives.

- **Guest:** Becky Masterman, coordinator with the University of Minnesota's Bee Squad
- **Issues:** What is causing bee populations to decline in recent years; Why bees are so important to agriculture; How the University of Minnesota Bee Squad researches bees and aids beekeepers

**21 January 2014**

## Fast Food Wages and Income Inequality

**For the week of January 26th, 2014**

In recent weeks, fast food workers have taken to the streets to protest low wages. Supporters of a minimum wage increase say it's long overdue and will benefit not only low paid workers but the economy as well. Critics say it will drive up costs for businesses—and ultimately consumers—at a time when the economic recovery is still tepid. On this week's Access Minnesota, a conversation with Ken Jacobs, co-author of a study called "Fast Food, Poverty Wages."

- **Guest:** Ken Jacobs, Chair at the UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education, co-author of "Fast Food, Poverty Wages."

- **Issues:** What minimum wage workers cost taxpayers in public assistance; Efforts to organize workers and improve wages and benefits; How raising the minimum wage would impact the economy; Why rising income inequality jeopardizes our economic future

**29 January 2014**

## **Toward A More Perfect Union: A Conversation about the Constitution**

**For the week of February 2nd, 2014**

It's been more than two-and-a-quarter centuries since the United States Constitution was ratified. While the nation has changed dramatically since then, the Constitution is aging remarkably well. Its enduring relevance is a credit to the framers whose governing philosophies continue to guide America through turbulent times. On the this week's Access Minnesota, a look at the Minnesota Humanities Center's ongoing public dialogue on the Constitution called "Toward A More Perfect Union."

- **Guests:** David O'Fallon, President and CEO of the Minnesota Humanities Center; Catherine Allan, Executive Producer of 'CONSTITUTION USA' on Twin Cities Public Television; Ryan Else, Attorney with Brockton D. Hunter P.A.
- **Issues:** The Minnesota Humanities Center's "Toward a More Perfect Union" initiative for community conversations about the Constitution; Why our Constitution has endured for so long; Balancing state and federal power

**5 February 2014**

## **The 50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964**

**For the week of February 9th, 2014**

In the 1960's, the Civil Rights movement invaded America's living rooms with flickering black and white TV images of peaceful protesters being beaten by police, bitten by dogs and doused with fire hoses unsettled many white Americans. On this week's Access Minnesota, University of Minnesota African American and African Studies Professor Keith Mayes recalls the struggle for racial equality and the 50th anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

- **Guest:** Keith Mayes, Professor in the Department of African American and African Studies at the University of Minnesota, expert on the African American experience, and the Civil Rights and Black Power Movements
- **Issues:** The impact of the 1964 Civil Rights Act; Why the movement took place when it did and why it was so successful; Historical bias towards Martin Luther King Jr.; How the Civil Rights movement evolved after the 1960's

**11 February 2014**

## **The Decline of Female Head Coaches in Women's Athletics**

**For the week of February 16th, 2014**

Title IX is credited with spurring the growth of girls and women's athletics. But there's an ironic twist. In 1972, the year Title IX became law, more than 90 percent of women's collegiate sports teams had female coaches. By 2012, that percentage had been cut in half. On this week's Access Minnesota, Nicole La Voi from the University of Minnesota's Tucker Center for Research on Girls and Women in Sports discusses a new study on the dramatic decline in female coaches.

- **Guest:** Nicole LaVoi, Professor in the School of Kinesiology at the University of Minnesota, Associate Director of the Tucker Center for Research on Girls & Women in Sport, and Co-Founder of the Minnesota Youth Sport Research Consortium

- **Issues:** How Title IX lead to a decline in female coaches in women’s college athletics; Why the percentage varies from sport to sport; Why men hire more male coaches; What can be done to reverse this trend; Gender balance among head coaches at the University of Minnesota

**19 February 2014**

## **The 2014 Nobel Peace Prize Forum**

**For the week of February 23rd, 2014**

Each March, Minnesota is home to a unique event that many who attend have called a life changing experience– the Nobel Peace Prize Forum. For four days, Nobel Peace Prize recipients share their visions and experiences before audiences in the Twin Cities, and tens of thousands more who participate worldwide via live streaming and social media. On this week’s Access Minnesota, a conversation with the Forum’s executive director, Dr. Maureen Reed.

- **Guest:** Dr. Maureen Reed, Former chair of the Board of Regents at the University of Minnesota, Executive Director of the Nobel Peace Prize Forum
- **Issues:** Guests and themes for this year’s forum; A look back at the 2013 forum; Why the Nobel Peace Prize is so revered and sometimes controversial; How the forum impacts the lives of participants

**26 February 2014**

## **Immigration Law Enforcement and the Future of Comprehensive Reform**

**For the week of March 2nd, 2014**

Midway through 2013, the prospects for comprehensive immigration reform legislation in Congress appeared good. But momentum has since stalled, and fellow Republicans turned thumbs down on House Speaker John Boehner’s recent immigration reform initiative. On this week’s Access Minnesota, entrepreneur and Minneapolis School Board Chairman Alberto Monserrate talks about immigration reform, and how enforcement actions against undocumented workers are impacting Latino-owned businesses in Minnesota.

- **Guest:** Alberto Monserrate, President/CEO of the Latino Communications Network, Chair of the Minneapolis School Board
- **Issues:** How immigration law enforcement is affecting local businesses; Why the system is broken; What current immigration law means for undocumented immigrants; How reformers are pushing Congress to act on comprehensive immigration reform

**5 March 2014**

## **Non-Stop: A Turbulent History of Northwest Airlines**

**For the week of March 9th, 2014**

It started out flying airmail and grew into one of the nation’s premier airlines. For more than 80 years, Northwest Airlines ruled the skies over Minnesota. But it wasn’t always smooth flying, as the airline dealt with labor disputes, financial problems and complaints about poor customer service. On the next Access Minnesota, Jack El-Hai, author of “Non-Stop: A Turbulent History of Northwest Airlines,” joins us to discuss the colorful story of this iconic Minnesota company.

- **Guest:** Jack El-Hai, author of “Non-Stop: A Turbulent History of Northwest Airlines,” published by the University of Minnesota Press
- **Issues:** How Northwest Airlines began; What the airline meant to the Twin Cities region; How it evolved throughout its eight decades of operation; Northwest as a reflection of popular fashion and culture

**11 March 2014**

## **Minnesota's Extraordinary Winter Weather**

**For the week of March 16th, 2014**

William Shakespeare, John Steinbeck and we Minnesotans share something in common: A winter of discontent. Between the snow and subzero temperatures, this winter ranks among the most severe in the state's history. But strangely enough, we've seen relatively few record low temperatures this winter. On this week's Access Minnesota, University of Minnesota climate expert Kenny Blumenfeld takes a look at our brutal winter and what's shaping our weather and climate trends.

- **Guest:** Kenny Blumenfeld, Sr. Research Director at ORC International, Hazardous Weather Research Specialist with Hennepin County Emergency Management, and Adjunct Professor and Research Associate in the U of MN Department of Geography and Metro State University
- **Issues:** What caused our unusually severe winter weather; How Minnesota's weather may be linked to climate change and other abnormal weather patterns; Positive effects of the cold

**19 March 2014**

## **Climate Change and Adapting Weather Emergency Systems for a New Generation**

**For the week of March 23rd, 2014**

We may argue about the causes, but one thing is clear: our weather is becoming more extreme and global temperatures are rising. Even subtle changes to the climate can have significant long term consequences. On this week's Access Minnesota, part 2 of our conversation with University of Minnesota climate expert Kenny Blumenfeld, we'll look at the economic and environmental impact of climate change here in Minnesota and elsewhere.

- **Guest:** Kenny Blumenfeld, Sr. Research Director at ORC International, Hazardous Weather Research Specialist with Hennepin County Emergency Management, and Adjunct Professor and Research Associate in the U of MN Department of Geography and Metro State University
- **Issues:** How Minnesota's winter weather may impact summer; Getting past the politics of climate change; How emergency warning systems must adapt to new technology and more diverse communities

**26 March 2014**

## **Oral Health Access for Disadvantaged Youth**

**For the week of March 30th, 2014**

Many young children in Minnesota have no access to dental care. This at risk-group is highly susceptible to caries—the decay that produces cavities. When untreated dental issues grow serious, these children often end up in emergency rooms which are ill equipped to deal with oral health issues. On this week's Access Minnesota, University of Minnesota Pediatrician Dr. Amos Deinard tells us about a new initiative to improve the dental care for kids in 41 Minnesota counties.

- **Guest:** Dr. Amos Deinard, associate professor in the Department of Pediatrics and adjunct professor in the School of Public Health's Division of Epidemiology and Community Health at the University of Minnesota
- **Issues:** Problems with oral health access for disadvantaged youth; Fluoride varnishing treatment; Deinard's Oral Health Zone Project; What parents can do to improve their children's **oral health**