

the Bear Facts

The League of Women Voters of the
White Bear Lake Area

Equal Rights Amendment-Updates

Is there an Equal Rights Amendment for Women?

Many people talk as if that was a done deal? Right? After all, we have an Equal Rights Amendment, right? Wasn't the campaign for women's rights fought a long time ago creating an ERA??

No, we don't have an ERA. Our country doesn't have one. Our state doesn't have one. Do We Need one?

Yes, women are equal to men when it comes to being able to vote but are not equal to men due, for instance, to the gender pay gap.

Please attend your February unit meeting to learn more about the ERA and its status? **Please read materials emailed earlier to you by Dick and Judy Ottman. Questions?: Contact Gladys Ritter**

February Unit Meetings

North Oaks - Feb. 8, 12:30 p.m., Incarnation Lutheran Church
White Bear Lake - Feb. 9, 7 p.m., White Bear Lake City Hall
St. Croix Valley - Feb. 10, 10.00 a.m., Steamboat Springs Lounge,
Boutwells Landing
Mahtomedi - Feb. 13, 7 p.m., WBL Unitarian Church, Mahtomedi

New Member Profiles

Gerre Carley is new member of WBLALWV. She moved back to Minnesota from living in Seattle to be with her mother. When she retired, she went back to college to complete her BA and Master degrees at Metropolitan University. Her main



interest was in American government and policy formulation. A favorite course of study was in constitutional law, especially regarding civil rights and civil liberties. She said that the LWV fills in the gap left by the news media regarding current events and that she looks forward to LWV programs.

Another member new to the LWVWBLA is Kathy Pratt. She is a retired elementary school teacher. She said she enjoys being a Docent Emeritus of the Minnesota Museum of American Art, and being a Patron of the White Bear Center for the Arts. She is currently taking classes in watercolors and acrylics. She has also enjoyed traveling in the Caribbean, including Cuba and Mexico.

Other activities Kathy gets pleasure from are being with her two grandchildren and reading. She said that she looks forward to being a member of the LWV because of the insightful discussions and learning about pertinent public policy issues.

WELCOME

Ruth Jones



Voter Service 2016 Election Recap

Number of Races Covered -16
Number of Attendees - 519
Number of Voters registered - 286
Number of Volunteers - 31
Number of Volunteer Hours - 487

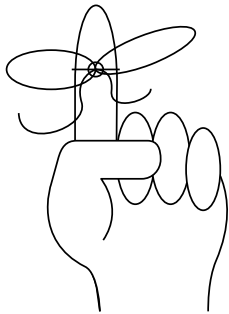
HOORAY FOR VOTER SERVICE

THANK YOU to the **31** volunteers who spent **487** hours helping out during the election. A special call out to **Mary Santi** for her efforts to update our Facebook page and get rebroadcasts of our candidate forums available for viewing online. Nice work, Mary!

As the 2016 election season ramped up, it became evident that we weren't going to be able to hold forums in all of our districts. If you want to be sure a forum is held in your area, please volunteer and get involved early.

The way voters get their information continues to change. The rise of fake news, misinformation, phony facts or whatever it's called, is troubling. This is why I believe our voter service work is as important now as ever. We are not the loudest voice nor do we have the flashiest messaging, but we must continue our efforts to bring fair, honest information to the voters in our communities. And while much of the voter registration process can now be done online, our physical presence at schools, retirement homes and in our communities cannot be overstated.

Thanks!
Lori Soukup



Don't Forget:We have a Facebook page!
You will find it if you search on Google for LWV White Bear Lake Area. It is set up as an organization page. That means we don't know who has liked it unless they post something. If you are on Facebook, check out our page, "like it" and post something on it at least once a month.

Also.....

The link to our website: www.lwv-wbla.org



Sympathy to Stephanie McNamara and her family on the death of Stephanie's mother, Marlys Oliver, who passed away on January 14th. There will be a memorial service on Friday, February 10th, 3 PM, at the White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church, 328 Maple Street, Mahtomedi, MN 55115. Memorials are preferred to The Lakeshore Players, White Bear Lake, MN.

(There is a complete notice in the January 22nd Sunday edition of the St. Paul Pioneer Press.)

Board Notes from January 11, 2017

+The Board of the LWV WBLA passed a motion in support of the Women's March held on January 21, 2017.

+ Annual Meeting: discussion was held regarding plans for the Annual Meeting, to be hosted by St. Croix Valley. The Annual Meeting will be on April 20th 2017. It was noted that the Nominating Committee will need to meet and consider members to be nominated to the Board. Nominating Committee members are:

Carolyn Folke, CH, Ann Haase, Mary Santi, Gretchen Davidson
There were several suggestions for topics and speakers for the annual meeting. If you have any suggestions, please contact Stephanie McNamara.

+The Board wishes to thank all of the volunteers who did ballot counting in North Oaks for the election in November. Thank you. Thank you!

+ Next Board Meeting will be February 8, 2017 at Cerenity Care Center, 2nd floor meeting room.
1900 Webber St., White Bear Lake. 7:00 PM.

+SEE YOU ALL AT THE POLICY AND PASTA MEET ON SATURDAY,
JANUARY 28TH, AT DONATELLI'S

Treasurer's Report**January 11, 2017**

	<u>Current</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income:		
Dues	\$195.00	\$3680.00
Donations	\$	\$556.00
Meetings (socials)	\$725.00	\$1125.00
Service(North Oaks Home)	\$300.00	\$300.00
In-kind donation	(\$47.90)	(\$47.90)
Voters Service	\$	\$755.00
Calendars	\$	\$420.00
Bank interest	\$	\$0.24
Total:	\$1220.00	\$6836.24
Expenses:		
Meetings (socials)	\$677.83	\$925.89
2016 National convention	\$	\$568.70
LWVMN PMP	\$	\$1512.50
LWVUS PMP	\$	\$1936.00
Meeting site	\$	\$
Voters Service	\$584.80	\$1176.35
Program (includes publicity)	\$63.24	\$255.95
Bear Facts copying/printing	\$	\$
Calendars	\$	\$304.67
Check printing	\$	\$16.27
Total:	\$1325.87	\$6696.33

Opening balance from November 9: \$4151.05
Income + \$ 1220.00
Expenses: - \$1325.87

Current balance: **\$4045.18**

Ed fund CD: **\$5025.76**

2016-17 Paid Members: 47 @ \$60
12 @ \$75
Total: 74 (including our 3 lifetime members)Notes:
49 people attended our Holiday Party

We received \$300 from the North Oaks Homeowners for ballot counting. Thank you to the Leaguers who counted those ballots!

The \$47.90 in kind donation was received from the Holiday Party. The Voters Service expenses include \$100 honoraria to Mary Santi and Liz Nordling for moderating all of the forums, and \$200 to Helene Anderson for online expertise (total of \$400).

WOMEN'S MARCH JANUARY 21, 2017

Four members of the St Croix Valley unit joined thousands of Minnesotans in the peaceful Women's March at the St. Paul Capitol on Saturday. Bayport business owner Julia Kaemmer from L'Etoile du Nord started out organizing a carpool to the march and ended up with an entire busload of citizens eager to participate. The youngest person on the bus was 7 years old and the oldest was our very own Gloria Phillips at 89 years young!

There are several familiar faces here and on the next page. Hooray to all of you for taking part.





Gladys Ritter



Lori Soukup,
Gloria Phillips,
Gloria's
granddaughter,
Sarah and her
daughter, Ann.