



the Bear Facts

the League of Women Voters of the White Bear Lake Area



Local Study of Police Training

The White Bear Lake LWV's local study of police training and services in Washington County and the cities of White Bear Lake and Stillwater will include some of the key ideas relating to the study. Have you heard the words "implicit bias"? What do

they mean to you? Are there new ways for police to deal with people who have mental illness? In what ways have local police worked to combat domestic violence? What training are police required to complete in order to be licensed police officers in Minnesota? What are the most common challenges and crimes our local police officers deal with? What opportunities do they now have to receive training which will help them successfully perform the duties of their job?

Unit Meetings Times and Place

Feb. 8 -- 7:00 PM White Bear Lake Unit, White Bear Lake City Hall

Feb. 9 - 10:15 AM – St. Croix Valley Unit, Stillwater Library, 224 4th St. N., Stillwater

Feb. 12 - 7:00 PM Mahtomedi Unit, WBL Unitarian Church, 328 Maple St. Mahtomedi, MN

Feb. 14 -12:30 PM North Oaks Unit, Incarnation Lutheran Church, 4880 Hodgson Rd. North Oaks

Program Calendar Changes

Please change your Program Calendar for the months of March and April. The topic for Unit Meetings in March (March 8, 9, 12, 14) will now be Civics Education. The topic for Unit Meetings in April (April 9, 11, 12, 13) will be Action on Redistricting.

- * note that the St. Croix Valley Unit now meets at the Stillwater Public Library, 2nd floor conference room.
- * The time of the meeting will change from 10 am to 10:15 am since the library doesn't open until 10 am.

.....NEW.....NEW.....NEW

LWV WBLA Nonpartisan Policy

Each local League is strongly encouraged to have its own nonpartisan policy which they can use to inform their members, their community, candidates and other individuals who participate in public forums and events, and partner organizations. White Bear Lake Area President-Elect, Lori Soukup, along with Treasurer Liz Nordling and members Heidi Boyd, Sarah Amundson, and Susan Fuller, have developed a nonpartisan policy for our League that the Board has recently approved. It will go before the full membership this April at the Annual Meeting to be officially approved as our local League Nonpartisan Policy, and will be reconfirmed by the membership every year. Thank you to the committee members who gave their time to get the wording just right!

Nonpartisan policy - LWV White Bear Lake Area

At each annual meeting, LWV WBLA members will review and approve the following nonpartisan policy.

LWV WBLA is nonpartisan in both our education and advocacy. We support the informed and active participation of citizens in government. We encourage our members to be informed participants in political activity. As a nonpartisan organization, we neither oppose nor support a political party or candidate even when the office is unaffiliated with a party. We take action on selected governmental issues only after study and consensus by our members.

Board members who are candidates for political office should resign from the Board or take a leave of absence during their campaign. When members are candidates for elective office, they may mention their involvement in LWV as long as they do not infer League endorsement.

The President, Voter Service Chair, Action Chair and moderators will refrain from involvement in political campaigns during their terms of office; such involvement would include having one's name on campaign literature or social media, displaying yard signs and hosting political gatherings. Attending a precinct caucus is permitted. No League member who is highly visible in a political party, closely associated in some way with a candidate, or identified with an issue under discussion at a League sponsored event should be involved in running that event.

The League position on an issue is never stated by the League during a public candidate forum.

Co-sponsorship of voter service activities is encouraged, but can present problems of perceived bias. If LWV WBLA's name is on a project, League guidelines for non-partisanship and fairness must be agreed upon ahead of time and followed. If the group has endorsed issues or candidates before the forum, the League should not be

involved. The League wants to encourage citizen involvement and provide experienced moderators for the community. It does not want to participate in poorly conceived or executed forums. If a League member is asked to moderate for a different group, she/he must explain our nonpartisan policies to them and consider the following questions: What is the motivation of the sponsoring group? Have all candidates been invited? Are they attending? If not, why not? What are the issues in this election? What is the format? What are the ground rules? Are the candidates aware of them? Will timers and ushers for collecting questions be provided?

All voter service projects, including candidate meetings, should include a disclaimer that the League neither endorses nor opposes candidates for political office.

Tribute to passing League members

The White Bear Lake Area LWV recently observed the passing of two of its members.

Nat Watkins often came to general meetings, social events, and the North Oaks unit meetings with his wife and fellow member, Avis Watkins. Nat enjoyed the topics and the conversations and visiting with friends, members, and visitors. He was always interested in what was being discussed, and he always had a smile for everyone. Our condolences to Avis and to the extended Watkins family.

Lillian Michael was a +50 year member of the League of Women Voters. She continued to be passionate about voting rights, educating voters, and reforming government up until her death at age 95. At her memorial service, family members told many inspiring stories about Lil's efforts on behalf of civil rights and voting rights, mentioning the League several times. Lil made everyone feel welcome. She will be missed.

LWVUS Seeks Member Support for Legislation

League members are being asked to contact their US Senators and tell them they support SB 1880, We the People Democracy Reform Act of 2017 (Link to the bill on Congress.gov). Senators Franken and Klobuchar were co-sponsors of the bill. It was introduced on September 27, 2017 and was referred to the Senate Finance Committee, and no further action has been taken on it. The act seeks to, "reform our government, reduce the grip of special interest, and return our democracy to the American people by increasing transparency and oversight of our elections and government, reforming public financing for Presidential and Congressional elections, and requiring States to conduct Congressional redistricting through independent commissions, and for other purposes." These are all positions that LWV supports and members can advocate for under our Program For Action. To contact Sen. Klobuchar's office, write to 302 Hart Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510, or call (202) 224-3244, or fill out the email contact form on her website (<https://www.klobuchar.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/email-amy>). To contact Sen. Tina Smith's office, write to 309 Hart Senate Office Building, or call (202) 224-5641.



Check out our 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. Whenever you don't have your Program Calendar handy, you can check details on times and places on our Facebook Page. Search for Facebook League of Women Voters White Bear Lake Area.

From the President:

The precinct caucuses are Tuesday, February 6th. This is a chance for you, as a voter and League member, to attend and help to shape your political party's platform and choose delegates who will endorse candidates at party conventions. LWV Minnesota has put out a toolkit for attending your local caucus, and you can find it on their website under News & Events (<https://www.lwvmn.org/media-and-events/lwv-minnesota-releases-2018-caucus-toolkit>). It's important to be a participant in the process, so I hope you will locate where your party will be meeting and put the meeting on your calendar.

Another event to add to your calendar is the League's Day At The Capitol, which will be Monday, March 5th. This is an opportunity to hear about the State League's advocacy work for the 2018 session, to meet with your local legislators, and to familiarize yourself with the Capitol (see the results of the recent remodeling!). For more information, and to register, go to the LWVMN website to their Calendar of Events (<https://www.lwvmn.org/media-and-events/events>). If you register before January 30th, the LWVMN staff can schedule a visit for you with your local legislators.

Closer to home, I hope you will go to your unit meeting in February to find out how our local Police Study is going. The committee members have been doing an extraordinary amount of work, interviewing Chiefs of Police in our communities, and learning about how police respond to calls that involve people with mental illness, peoples of color, and domestic violence situations. They have a lot of interesting information to share with us. After hearing their report, you may want to get involved with the study. There are many different ways you can help, so let your Unit Leader know.

Stay warm, everyone!

Liz Lauder.

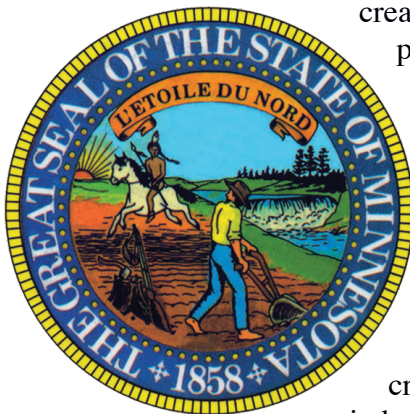
Redistricting: Insuring fair representation

Redistricting is mandated every 10 years by the U.S. Constitution and the U.S. Supreme Court. After the official 2020 U.S. Census, all states must redraw the boundaries of their Congressional and legislative districts, consistent with one-person-one-vote.



Redistricting is one of the most important issues that will come before Minnesota's legislature in coming months; therefore, the White Bear chapter of LWVMN will host a meeting on this topic from 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, March 19, in the White Bear Lake High School South Campus auditorium.

Redistricting is now done by the state legislature, which inherently involves a conflict of interest: Legislators get to choose their own voters. This issue tends to be contentious as legislators seek to protect their own seats and improve the standing of their party. Gerrymandering, or drawing electoral districts in an irregular fashion for partisan gain, may occur, creating safe election districts for specific legislators or a particular political party. There is no incentive for legislators in safe districts to compromise on issues or listen to all their constituents. The result is legislative gridlock and disenfranchisement of some citizens.



Four bills now in the House and Senate could change the redistricting procedure: Two companion bills (S.F. 36 and H.F. 314) would prohibit anyone except legislators from redrawing the boundaries; competing bills (S.F. 370 and H.F. 246), would create an independent nonpartisan citizen commission of retired judges to advise the legislature of a fair redistricting plan. This latter bill is endorsed by the LWVMN. It leaves the final decision in the hands of the legislature, but adds input from nonpartisan sources.

To learn more about redistricting and how to insure a fair representation plan, mark your calendar now for our March 19 meeting. See below.



Learn more about redistricting at 7 to 9 p.m. Monday, March 19, at the White Bear Lake High School South Campus auditorium, 3551 McKnight Ave. (east end of building, toward McKnight Ave.).

Treasurer's Report

January 10, 2018

Elizabeth Nordling, Treasurer

		Current	YTD
Income:	Dues	\$825.00	\$3830.00
	Donations	\$520.00	\$1066.00 (includes \$350 from NOHOA)
	Meetings (socials)	\$335.00	\$915.00
	Service	\$	
	In-kind donation	\$	
	Voters Service	\$	\$362.00 (includes return of \$200 deposit for forum)
	Calendars	\$	\$426.00
	Bank interest	\$0.10	\$0.35
	Total:	\$1680.10	\$6599.25
Expenses:	Meetings (socials)	\$133.00	\$763.72
	2016 National convention	\$	\$100.00
	LWVMN PMP	\$	\$1587.50
	LWVUS PMP	\$	\$2032.00
	Meeting site	\$	
	Voters Service	\$	\$656.57
	Program (includes publicity)	\$366.19	\$490.32
	Bear Facts copying/printing	\$	
	Calendars	\$	\$304.67
	Membership (communication, recruiting & recognition)	\$	\$48.06
	Total:	\$499.19	\$5982.84

Opening balance from Nov 9, 2017:	\$4004.41
Income	+ \$1680.10
Expenses:	- \$ 499.19

Current balance: \$5185.32

Ed fund CD: \$5035.20

2017-18 Paid Members: 48 @ \$60

12 @ \$75

Total: 75 (including our 3 lifetime members)