



October Units – Redistricting and Gerrymandering

There's a lot to know about those big words redistricting and gerrymandering. Why is it important to know about them? And why is it critical right now? October Unit meetings will give you the answers to these questions.

The choices you have when you go to vote depend on district boundary lines that were drawn almost ten years ago in a process called redistricting. Members of Congress, state legislators, and other public officials are elected by voters and are grouped into districts. We are learning that, after the last census, both parties found ways to draw district boundaries so as to manipulate district lines to favor their own party. Gerrymandering! In some states this decade, gerrymandered maps have allowed a political party to entrench its majority, despite receiving a minority of the votes, and thus creating an environment in which the majority of voters may not see their preferred policies enacted.

According to the Brennan Center for Justice, redistricting affects political power. It determines which party controls Congress as well as state and local governments across the country. Consequently, redistricting has a direct bearing on what matters a legislature chooses to tackle, and which to ignore. And votes on those matters in gerrymandered districts are skewed toward the party in power.

Redistricting also affects whether the nation's diverse communities, like communities of color, are represented in its legislative bodies. Redistricting can

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ensure that these groups have a fair shot at electing candidates who represent their worldview and will fight for their concerns. Or it can exclude them from having a seat at the table. Ditto all other kinds of communities of interest.

Attend the October Unit Meetings on Oct. 9, 10 and 14 to find out what LWV and others in our state are doing to make the redistricting that will follow the 2020 Census a fair one.

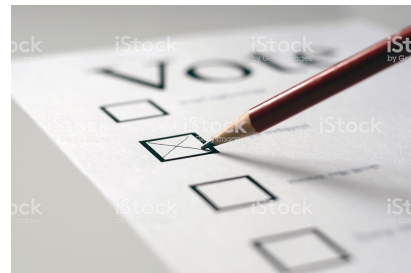
October Unit Meetings:

***North Oaks Unit: Wednesday, October 9th, 12:30 pm
Incarnation Lutheran Church
4880 Hodgson Rd, North Oaks, MN 55126***

***St. Croix Valley Unit: Thursday, October 10th, 3pm.
Tin Bins Cafe, 413 E Nelson St
Stillwater, MN 55082***

***White Bear Lake Unit: Thursday, October 10th, 7pm
WBL City Hall, 2nd floor
4701 Hwy 61 N, WBL, MN 55110***

***Mahtomedi Unit: Monday, October 14th, 7 pm
WBL Unitarian Universalist Church
328 Maple St., Mahtomedi, MN 55115***



The Work of The Suffragettes Continues . . .

As I was researching some suffrage history for the September unit meetings, I began to wonder what a suffragette would think of the world if she suddenly woke up 100 years later. What work is left to be done for voting rights?

I think she would see the same forces at work today that tried 100 years ago to keep the powerless disenfranchised. Municipalities are trying to close polling places in poor and minority districts, and states are purging "non-voters" from voter rolls.

*She would also see the League still fighting for the rights of voters to elect a government that represents each and every person. On the national level, the League is lobbying to pass the "For the People Act" and the "Voting Rights Advancement Act," to expand voting rights, limit the influence of private donor money, limit partisan gerrymandering, and provide standard voting criteria for all states. And, because of a recent Supreme Court ruling (*Rucho v Common Cause*), the League is focusing now on what the states can do to stop partisan gerrymandering using legislation, constitutional amendments, and civic engagement through its strategic "People Powered Fair Maps Campaign."*

The suffragettes faced opposition from the privileged group in power and from women like them who didn't see the need for change. They were successful because they continued to challenge the status quo and to question previously undisputed assumptions. The fight today is against entrenched systems, secretive deal-making, and voter apathy. Can the grit and tenacity of the suffrage women teach us something about winning this fight?

Liz Lauder

A Celebration of A Woman's Right to Vote



The League of Women Voters of Minnesota, and partner organizations such as ERA Minnesota and Fair Vote Minnesota, hosted Women's Suffrage Day at the Minnesota State Capitol on Sunday, September 8th.

It was on that date in 1919 that the Minnesota legislature voted to ratify the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, giving women the right to vote.

The commemoration was hosted by LWV Minnesota Executive Director, Michelle Witte, and featured speakers who had a connection to women, government, and voting. Former Secretary of State, Joan Grove, was singled out for her 24 years of strengthening and simplifying the voting process in Minnesota, and influencing countless women to get involved in public service. Many female current and former elected officials attended the event, and a group photo was taken on the steps leading to the House chamber. Other speakers included first lady Gwen Walz, MN Supreme Court Justice, Margaret Chutich, and descendants of the suffragists who spent years advocating for women's rights.



After the speeches, the University of Minnesota marching band played the Battle Hymn of the Republic on the front steps. It was the same song that was played in the rotunda just after the vote to ratify the amendment. The band then led a short parade down to the Suffrage Memorial Garden.

The tribute to women's suffrage showcased what achieving the vote has done for the people of this state. Those of us who braved the rainy weather felt a real sense of camaraderie with, and appreciation of, the women who accomplished so much, and a desire to continue to follow in their footsteps.



Current and former female elected officials at the State Capitol

PROTESTERS, PRISONERS, AND POLITICAL PERSUADERS: WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE AND 100 YEARS OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Our September topic gave us an historical framework from which to view the current status of women's rights and how hard the women who came before us fought to secure those rights. Here are some recaps from the unit meetings:

There were a number of announcements regarding opportunities to participate in LWV events and activities including the "First Night" 100th Anniversary Gala, candidate forums, The Bear Facts, Publicity Committee, Waking Up White book discussion, Night of Camp David book discussion, and National Voter Registration Day.

Members were then honored by a surprise guest, suffragette Mrs. John Siekmeier, who led a very informative and interesting presentation/discussion of the remarkable individuals involved in the history of Women's Suffrage and the League of Women Voters.

-Terri Houle, Mahtomedi

The White Bear unit of LWV met Thursday night at the Presbyterian church since their usual spot at city hall was taken. We had a smallish group, 9 people, ..it was Dem debate night.

We had an educational evening with Liz Lauder and Shannon Moore giving a presentation on the little known heroic struggles of the suffragettes, including Abigail Adams, Lucretia Mott, Eliz Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Victoria Woodhall and many more like Mary Santi's favorite, Alice Paul, who worked to get women the right to vote. It seemed possible early on, about 1848, but it got complicated by the efforts and difficulty of getting rights for ex slaves. So, finally male ex slaves were able to vote in 1870 while it took until 1920 for the 19th amendment to give women the right to vote! 70 years. Then we had some lively discussion of current political issues including the decision by White Bear Press to charge 25.00 for an endorsement letter.

-Carolyn Wensman, White Bear Lake

Susan Travis and Avis Watkins relayed information about the pioneers of the women's suffrage movement. Many of the early leaders were also women who were abolitionists. It was interesting to hear the various reasons that people opposed women having the vote- including the fear that women (who tended to be more likely to support temperance than men did) would have an undue influence on the liquor industry. Woodrow Wilson came to support women's suffrage because of the important role women played during World War I, taking on many of the traditional roles previously carried out by men who were then fighting overseas. As with so many important issues in the United States, this one came down to the question of whether it should be settled nationally with an amendment to the constitution, or seen as the right of each state to determine its fate. Surprisingly, many of the western states such as Wyoming, Colorado and Idaho were the first to allow women to vote - because they were trying to attract more women to that area of the country.

At the end of our meeting, the discussion focused on how many young women today do not have a good sense of the hard fought battle to procure voting rights for women- or how recently those rights were won. Hopefully, the events planned to commemorate the anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment and the longevity of the League of Women Voters will bring these efforts into the limelight in the coming year.

-Lori Delahunt, North Oaks

Four members of the St Croix Valley Unit met at our new location, The Tin Bins, for our first meeting of the 2019/20 season. We enjoyed a spirited discussion centered around the movers and shakers of the women's suffrage movement and marveled at how much we didn't know! A big thank you to those who worked on the September topic.

-Lori Soukup, St. Croix Valley

*thank
you*

**To: Liz Lauder, White Bear Lake Unit
Shannon Moore, White Bear Lake Unit
Becky Siekmeier, Mahtomedi Unit
Susan Travis, North Oaks Unit
Kathy Tomsich, North Oaks Unit
Avis Watkins, North Oaks Unit**

IT'S TIME TO GET INVOLVED!

2019 Candidate Forums

We have two candidate forums scheduled this fall and are still in need of volunteers.

Let me know if you're available to help out at either event.

Thanks!

Lori Soukup soukup524@gmail.com 651/491-4735

Tuesday, Oct 1, Shoreview Council Chambers 7 pm Ramsey County Commissioner

Thursday, Oct 3 WBL City Hall, 7 pm ISD 624 School Board candidates

National Voter Registration Day is September 24th! Do your part to encourage voting!

We have three upcoming voter registration drives set up for the fall and Sarah Wombacher Amundson is looking for 2-3 volunteers to help at each event.

1) September 27, 2019, Forest Lake High School, 11am - 1pm

2) October 1, 2019, Mahtomedi High School, 11:21am - 12:44pm

3) October 9, 2019, White Bear Lake High School (South Campus), 11 am - 12:35

Contact her at 651-238-0329 or swombacher@hotmail.com

Mark Your calendar!

This year's Holiday Party will be held on Sunday, December 8th, from 2-4PM at the home of Kathleen Ferguson Quinn in Lakeland.



You won't want to miss it!!!

Coming to the Stillwater Library Jan 2-20, 2020! Watch for more details to follow....

A CENTURY OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT: LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS MINNESOTA

To celebrate the 19th Amendment's centennial year, LWV Minnesota created a traveling exhibit to recognize the organization's mission and history over the past century. Exhibit visitors will discover that:

"Growing from the deep roots of the suffrage movement in the 19th century, Minnesota's non-partisan League of Women Voters uses a statewide network of local chapters to encourage informed and active participation in government, register and empower voters, work to increase understanding of public policy issues, cultivate women leaders, and influence public policy through education and advocacy."

Specifically, the goals of the 12-panel exhibit are:

- To recognize and celebrate a century of activism by LWV Minnesota
- To recall our history through a lens of diversity, equity and inclusion
- To activate visitors to educate themselves and to vote
- To remind visitors that democracy depends on their participation
- To empower visitors to act in defense of democracy.
- SEE YOU AT THE LIBRARY!!!!

This year's annual kickoff picnic was hosted by the North Oaks unit and was held at the Wilkinson Pavillion. At this time members were introduced to the topics that will be covered for the year and given the opportunity to volunteer to help in planning events, and researching and leading topics of discussion. This calendar year should be an exciting one with many "extra" events to commemorate 100 years since Minnesota women formed a League of Women Voters and 100 years since the ratification of the 19th Amendment. The following pages include photos from the picnic and the roster of events that members signed up for. If you have not signed up, please let your unit leader know at your next meeting how you would like to help out! As we all know, many hands make light work!



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS WHITE BEAR LAKE AREA 2019-2020 PROGRAM VOLUNTEER SIGNUP



	Volunteers Needed	Name and phone or email
9 Mahtomedi Unit 11 North Oaks Unit 12 WB Lake Unit 13 SCV Unit	PROTESTERS, PRISONERS, AND POLITICAL PERSUADERS Volunteers will meet to develop program content, determine how to promote to members and lead discussion in unit meetings.	SEPTEMBER UNIT MEETINGS Lead: Liz Lauder
9 North Oaks Unit 10 SCV Unit 10 WB Lake Unit 14 Mahtomedi Unit	LWV'S FIGHT AGAINST GERRYMANDERING Volunteers will meet to develop program content, determine how to promote to members and lead discussion in unit meetings.	OCTOBER UNIT MEETINGS Lead: Liz Nordling Gretchen Davidson - Maht Mary Santi - WBL Lisa Larson - Maht
7 General Meeting, 7 pm WBL City Hall	COMMUNITY COUNTS IN 2020 Volunteers develop theme, arrange location, cable coverage, invite and assist speaker, help publicize, serve as ushers.	NOVEMBER PUBLIC MEETING Lead: Lisa Larson Gladys Ritter - SCV Kathy Gaylord - WBL
8 Holiday Party	HOLIDAY PARTY St. Croix Valley unit responsible for arranging location and food. No program.	DECEMBER HOLIDAY PARTY Lead: SCV unit
8 North Oaks Unit 9 WB Lake Unit 9 SCV Unit 13 Mahtomedi Unit	BOOK DISCUSSION, NIGHT OF CAMP DAVID Volunteers will meet to develop discussion questions, take paid book orders in unit, deliver books to members at a later meeting and lead the discussion at units.	JANUARY UNIT MEETINGS Lead: Mary Santi Mary Johnston - Maht Kathy Gaylord - WBL Molly Anthony - NO Lisa Larson - Maht Susan Fuller - NO Shannon Moore - WBL
22 General/ Public Meeting, location TBD	ARE YOU READY FOR SUPER TUESDAY Volunteers will plan, arrange location & cable coverage, invite and assist speaker, help publicize, serve as ushers, staff LWV table.	FEBRUARY PUBLIC MEETING Lead: Kathy Tomsich Jane Bacon - WBL Lisa Larson - Maht

	Volunteers Needed	Name and phone or email
9Mahtomedi Unit 11North Oaks Unit 12WB Lake Unit 12SCV Unit	ROLE OF THE MEDIA IN ELECTIONS <i>Assist unit leaders to secure speaker and develop questions to ask the speaker.</i>	MARCH UNIT MEETINGS Lead: Unit Leaders
16 Annual Meeting	ANNUAL MEETING <i>Mahtomedi unit is responsible for arranging location and food. Speaker is already arranged.</i>	APRIL ANNUAL MEETING Lead: Mahtomedi Unit Gretchen Davidson - Maht Lisa Larson - Maht
11 Mahtomedi Unit 13North Oaks Unit 14WB Lake Unit 14 SCV Unit	METRO COUNCIL GOVERNANCE <i>Materials for this topic are already developed. Volunteers will meet to decide how to present materials in units, promote the topic to members and lead the discussion in units.</i>	MAY UNIT MEETINGS Lead: Mary Santi Susan Travis - NO Peg Olson - NO Shannon Moore - WBL Avis Watkins - NO



Don't forget to check out our Facebook page. You will find it if you search for League of Women Voters White Bear Lake Area. This is where we post and discuss our day-to-day happenings. Our page has a calendar for upcoming events. We post replays from our forums that have already taken place. Check out our page, "like" it "share" it and post your own comments on it.

May I Recommend?

In the coming months, we would like to introduce a recurring section to The Bear Facts where League members can pass along information about books they have read which they think other members would have an interest in, or movies that relate to topics we have discussed as well as upcoming lectures, podcasts, or plays in areas of topical interest. If you have something to share with others in our wider group, please send the information to me at ldelahunt@comcast.net and I will pass it along in the next issue. Please put the words “Bear Facts” somewhere in the title, so that I don’t inadvertently delete your suggestion in my morning email purge!

To start us off, I will suggest a podcast called MORE PERFECT which “connects you to the decisions made inside the court's hallowed halls, and explains what those rulings mean for ‘we the people’ who exist far from the bench.” More Perfect tells stories behind some of the court's biggest rulings. There is even a great,short episode on Gerrymandering! Check it out at <https://www.wnycstudios.org/podcasts/radiolabmoreperfect/episodes/whos-gerry-and-why-he-so-bad-drawing-maps>

www.lwv-wbla.org

LWV White Bear Lake Area also has a Website. You will find it at <http://www.lwv-wbla.org>

It includes an events calendar, back issues of the Bear Facts, board information and an invitation and instructions on how to join. We have recently updated and improved our website, so check it out!

January Unit Meetings Group Book Order

*For our January Unit Meetings we are reading **Night of Camp David**, a novel written in 1965 by a man named Fletcher Knebel. It has the premise of a U.S. President who begins to act dangerously paranoid and hatches unhinged ideas about remaking the international order. The men around him, and they were all men, struggle with what to do about that.*

At unit meetings we will review the book, but also examine the 25th amendment on presidential succession and talk about issues the book raises, like power and keeping it.

Books are available from the library, and probably from your local bookstore or you may even already have a copy.

If you would like to order your own copy, I will place a group book order.

Here's how it will work:

- 1. At your October unit meeting, one of the people who volunteered for this unit at the picnic will take **paid** orders.*
- 2. Books **cost \$11 each** including tax.*
- 3. Books will be delivered to you at your choice of the November 7 General Meeting, the December 8 holiday party or you may pick up from my home in White Bear Lake.*

*Volunteers who signed up for this unit at the picnic are Mary Johnston, Lisa Larson (Mahtomed Unit), Molly Anthony, Susan Fuller, Susan Travis (North Oaks Unit), Shannon Moore and Kathy Gaylord (White Bear Unit)
Mary Santi, Lead (White Bear Unit)*

Mary Santi

Treasurer's Report

September 11, 2019

Margaret Westin, Treasurer

		Current	YTD
Income:	Dues	\$120.00	\$2280.00
	Donations	\$	\$ 110.00
	Memorials	\$	\$
	Meetings (socials)	\$190.00	\$190.00
	Service	\$	\$
	In-kind donation	\$	\$
	Voters Service	\$	\$
	Calendars	\$	\$
	NOHOA	\$	\$
	Bank interest	\$	\$0.28
	Total:	\$310.00	\$2480.28
Expenses:	Meetings (socials)	\$	\$130.49
	LWVMN PMP	\$	\$
	LWVUS PMP	\$	\$2,248.00
	Meeting site	\$	\$350.00
	Voters Service	\$	\$
	Program (includes publicity)	\$	\$32.38
	Bear Facts copying/printing	\$	\$
	Calendars	\$267.31	\$267.31
	Membership	\$141.39	\$270.24
	(communication, recruiting & recognition)		
	Total:	\$408.70	\$3,298.42

Opening balance from June 12, 2019:		\$3987.96
Income	+	\$310.00
Expenses:	-	\$408.70

Current balance: **\$2889.26**

Ed fund CD: **\$5040.68**

2019-20 Paid Members: 45 @ \$60 10@ \$75

Total: 67 (including our 3 lifetime members)