



August-September 2021

## CO-PRESIDENT'S LETTER

### Changes to Unit Meeting Structure

Change happens. It's inevitable. And with change comes opportunity to take a look at what we're doing and how we're doing it.

The LWV WBLA has for many years had four separate units, resulting in four unit leaders, four monthly unit meetings, and four times that the program topic is presented to members whenever we didn't hold a public meeting or all-unit gathering. While there are certainly benefits to this format, it also creates a great deal of redundancy. So, when two unit leaders recently stepped down, the openings created an opportunity for the Board of Directors (BOD) to examine some alternatives to the structure of how our units function.

The BOD discussed several options, using two questions to guide us: What are the benefits and what are the disadvantages to the current arrangement? This robust discussion led to the decision to try a new structure in 2021-2022 that will be evaluated at the annual meeting next spring.

Here's what the new structure entails:

Rather than having four separate units configured by geography, the LWVWBLA will essentially function as one unit with two monthly meetings. One meeting will be held during the day and one will be held in the evening. Any member can attend either meeting, whichever works best for their schedule. In the winter months (January-March), the evening meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.

This new format has multiple advantages:

- Flexibility to attend meetings at a time that works in one's personal schedule, whether retired or working fulltime
- Easier to get to know others outside of your geographic area
- Streamlines responsibilities for monthly meeting organizers and the Program committee.
- Virtual meetings in the winter months provide snowbirds and those who don't want to venture out at night in the cold the ability to participate

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Look for more details to come before the September meetings. Both the day and evening meetings will be in-person as we take on the exercise of redistricting: we'll be drawing our own maps and getting a taste of what this entails. (Please bring your mask!)

Again, the plan is to give this new format a try and see how it goes. We will reflect on it at the annual meeting.

As an all-volunteer organization, we *can* and *do* great work. But this only happens when members like you and me step forward and get involved. I invite you to get engaged. Volunteer to help with something for an hour. At an event. On a committee. The options are essentially endless. Together, we make the dream work.

In League,  
Becky Siekmeier, Co-President LWVWBLA

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## 2021-2022 PROGRAM CALENDAR

### The League 100 years on – Still about voting rights



Susan Travis and her program team have put together a great calendar of programs for us! Redistricting. Racial justice and women's equality. Student voter education. End-of-life options. Firearms. Local politics. Watershed efforts. See the full program calendar on page 3 and mark the dates now!

As mentioned above, for each unit program, you will need to decide if you want to go during the day on Wednesday or if you would rather go to the meeting on Thursday night. Each time we have unit meetings you can decide according to your schedule for that week.

As you look over the schedule for the year, you can still sign up to work on preparations for a number of these presentations. Let us know at your September meeting on which ones you'd like to help.

### September 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> – Redistricting



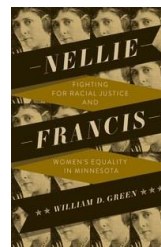
LWV MN supports redrawing Minnesota's decennial congressional and legislative district maps without relying on courts to undertake the process by default. Paul Huffman, LWV MN redistricting coordinator, will help us use 2019 demographic and policy trend data to try drawing congressional and legislative district boundaries.

**Sept. 8 – 12:45 PM @ Wildwood Library, Mahtomedi**  
**Contact: Molly Anthony - msanthony3@gmail.com**

**Sept. 9 – 7:00 PM @ WBL City Hall, WBL**  
**Contact: Kathy Gaylord – kbgaylord@gmail.com**

### October 9<sup>th</sup> – Book discussion & MN History Center Visit

This year we will read **Nellie Francis: Fighting for Racial Justice and Women's Equality in Minnesota**, written by Prof.



William D. Green of Augsburg College. We'll take a field trip to the Minnesota History Center to view their exhibit **Extraordinary Women** (including Nellie) and then over lunch we'll discuss the story of this

African American suffragist and activist of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Get your book now – and see the "Save the Date" page for information on a play about Nellie at MN History Theatre.

# VWBLA 2021-2022 PROGRAM CALENDAR

The League 100 Years On - Still About Voting Rights

Month	Date	Activity	Lead	Topic	Details
<b>AUG 2021</b>	Thurs, 8/19	Annual Picnic	Mahtomedi Unit	Local LWV WBLA updates	Lakewood Hills Pavilion - 5 PM 2110 Orchard Lane, White Bear Lake, MN
<b>SEPT 2021</b>	Wed, 9/8/21 Thurs, 9/9/21	Unit Meetings	Lisa Larson	Redistricting	LWV MN supports redrawing Minnesota's decennial congressional and legislative district maps without relying on courts to undertake the process by default. Paul Huffman, LWV MN redistricting coordinator, will help us use 2019 demographic and policy trend data to try drawing congressional and legislative district boundaries.
<b>OCT 2021</b>	Sat, 10/9/21	Field Trip, lunch and book discussion at MN History Center	Jackie Reis	Book: Nellie Francis: Fighting for Racial Justice & Women's Equality in MN & Tour of Extraordinary Women exhibit at MHS	Books will be available for purchase (\$20) at the August picnic. Car pool options will be announced.
<b>NOV 2021</b>	Tues, 11/9/21	Public Meeting	Heidi Boyd	Student Voter Video Project & Report	Location and time tbd
<b>DEC 2021</b>	Sun, 12/5/2021	Holiday Party	Dick Ottman	Have fun!	Gable Pines, 1260 E Cty Rd E, Vadnais Heights, 1:45-3:45 PM
<b>JAN 2022</b>	Wed, 1/12/22 Thurs, 1/13/22	Unit Meetings	Shannon Moore	MN End of Life Options	States are passing Dignity in Dying legislation. MN currently has MN - End of Life Option Act, SF 1352 and HF 1358. Speaker Rebecca Thoman from St. Paul LWV will provide an overview.
<b>FEB 2022</b>	Wed, 2/9/22 Thurs, 2/10/22	Unit Meetings	Mary Santi	Firearms Update Consensus Questions	Many changes have occurred around gun policy since LWVMN's 1990 study and resulting position on firearms. Members will consider current and possibly new policy positions. Current positions: <a href="http://www.lwvmn.org/our-positions">http://www.lwvmn.org/our-positions</a>
<b>MAR 2022</b>	Wed, 3/9/22 Thurs, 3/10/22	Unit Meetings	Liz Lauder	All Politics is Local: Evaluation of Metro LWV County Gov't Position	CMAL delegates voted to review the metro area ILO's position on county government. A committee has been researching local government's visibility, transparency, accountability and inter-governmental relations. WBLA members will discuss findings and vote on consensus questions.
<b>APR 2022</b>	Thursday 4/21	Annual Meeting	Board of Directors	Guest Speaker	TBA
<b>MAY 2022</b>	Wed, 5/11/22 Thurs, 5/12/22	Unit Meetings	Stephanie McNamar a	Watershed 101	Water Matters - do you know what your Watershed is doing? Where does the water go from your yard and street? Is your local water healthy? How does a watershed organization fit into the matrix of local government? Who is paying for watershed efforts? Let's tackle those questions and more.

## LWV MN TRAVELING EXHIBIT

September 18-30, 2021  
A Century of Civic Engagement



The White Bear Lake Area Historical Society and the White Bear Lake Area League of Women Voters are excited to host the traveling exhibit, “A Century of Civic Engagement” created by the League of Women Voters of Minnesota celebrating the 19th Amendment’s centennial year and recognizing the League’s mission and history over the past century. Because of COVID, the exhibit was unable to come to White Bear Lake in 2020.

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.

### 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

The exhibit will open first at the **Armory** in downtown White Bear Lake (Sept. 1-16) and then will move to the **Historic White Bear Town Hall** in Polar Lakes Park, 1280 Hammond Road, White Bear Township (Sept. 17-30). Members of our League will provide staffing for the exhibit from noon-4:00 PM on Sept. 19, 25, and 26. We’re looking for additional volunteers at the Armory on Sept. 4 and 11 (from 11:00-1:00) and for any weekday hours so that the exhibit can be open more frequently (see page 16).

### WHITE BEAR LAKE AREA



### HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Note: *The White Bear Town Hall was designed by a young Cass Gilbert who would go on to design the Minnesota State Capitol, the United States Supreme Court Building in Washington, D.C. and many other significant public and commercial buildings across the country. From 1885 to 2011 this was the official meeting place of the three member Town Board. Today, the building is undergoing a restoration to serve as an interpretive center for students to interact with the history of our area.*

## 2021 ELECTIONS: VOTERS SERVICES SCHEDULES CANDIDATE FORUMS

Heidi Boyd and the Voter Services Committee have been hard at work following candidate filings and scheduling candidate forums for this fall. There will be five forums:

September 14 6:30 – 7:30 PM	City Council Mahtomedi (3 candidates)	Moderator: Mary Santi (WBL)
September 21 6:30 – 7:30 PM	School Board Mahtomedi (3 candidates)	Moderator: Mary Santi (WBL)
September 22 6:30 – 7:30 PM	City Council White Bear Lake (3 candidates)	Moderator: Liz Nordling (Mahtomedi)
September 22 7:45 – 8:45 PM	Mayor White Bear Lake (2 candidates)	Moderator: Liz Nordling (Mahtomedi)
September 29 6:30 – 8:00 PM	School Board White Bear Lake (14 candidates)	Moderator: Liz Nordling (Mahtomedi)

All forums will be conducted as a Zoom Webinar. Due to the number of candidates for the White Bear Lake School Board, no questions will be taken during that webinar; questions may be submitted prior to the forum and will be reviewed by the voter services team to determine if they will be used. There also will be no time for rebuttals during the WBL school board forum.

See page 16 to learn how you can be involved in this year's forums!

### Voter Services

*I'm a citizen, soon I'll be voting*

*The forums for candidates noting*

*Positions they take*

*To lead White Bear Lake*

*Clean water for boating and floating!*

*Submitted by Barb Memory*

# SUMMER 2021

LWV Picnic  
Manitou Days Parade  
Marketfest



## LWV PICNIC

Thanks to our Mahtomedi members for organizing a delightful event and delicious meal at Lakewood Hills Park in White Bear Lake! Close to 40 League members and friends gathered for an evening of fellowship with old and new friends. Our co-president, Liz Lauder, gave us the opportunity to learn who likes gardening, who was born in Minnesota, who eats pineapple on their pizza, who sleeps less than 8 hours a night...and many more intriguing questions!

We learned about change from co-president Becky Siekmeier, who described our new structure and format for meetings this year (see page 1). Susan Travis presented an ambitious and informative calendar of programs for the coming months (see pages 2 & 3), and other board members provided updates on voter services, membership, communications, and opportunities to serve as action liaisons.

The excitement for the evening was the silent auction! Proposed as a fundraising idea by Barb Memory and with the organizing help of Carol Bergeson, Becky Siekmeier, and Margaret Westin, items and services donated by League members ranged from airport rides, to pies and soups, to violin and piano lessons, to housecleaning, to wine, and more. And, of course, Mary's Amazing Home Made soap.

Drumroll please...while not official, according to our treasurer, Margaret Westin, it appears the total raised was almost \$1,500! Thanks to the auction team and to all League members—those who made donations and those who participated in the auction. What a fun way to add some necessary dollars to our budget!



## MANITOU DAYS PARADE



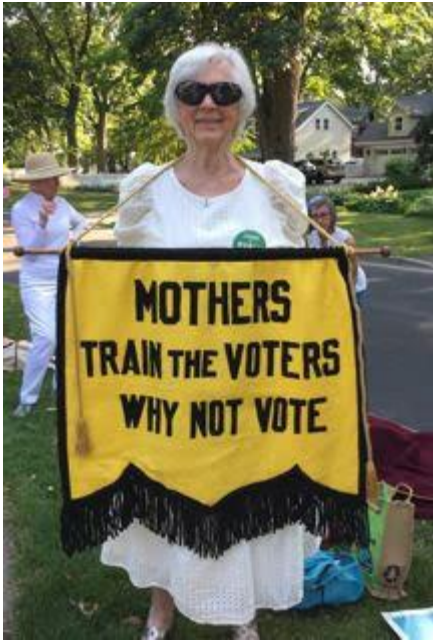
### THE BAND PLAYED ON

BY Carol Bergeson

As the nine marchers, ages ranging from early 40s to 89, and five Leaguers, aged 50s to 90, riding in Heidi Boyd's '75 red Chev Caprice convertible, approached the judge's stand at the Manitou Days Parade July 2<sup>nd</sup>, we heard the announcer proclaim: "Last year was the 100th Anniversary of the League of Women voters as well as Women's Suffrage. Since the mid-1930s, the League has been providing Voter Education and informative forums for candidates of all parties for all elective offices to enhance informed voter participation in the White Bear Lake Area. Today the women and men of the White Bear Lake Area League of Women Voters serve residents in 32 municipalities, two counties, five school districts and five legislative districts...On to victory!"

With TV cameras in our faces and the crowd cheering their approval, we began our fabulous walk through White Bear Lake in perfect weather.

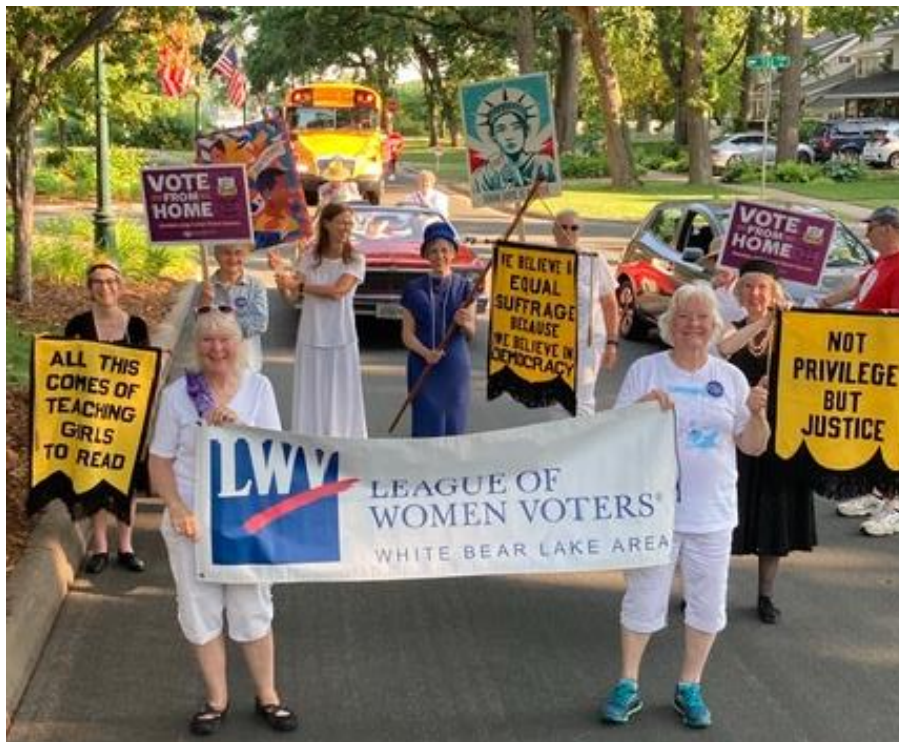
Parade participants were Barb Memory, Avis Watkins, Carolyn Wensman, Becky Siekmeier, Kathy Tomsich, Shannon Moore, Margaret Westin, Liz Lauder, Lori Delahunt, Kathy Gaylord, Michelle Wood, and special helpers Heidi Boyd and Mary Santi, whose extra help made this such a successful event. Sorry more of you couldn't have joined us in the fun. Maybe next time!



*The cheers and applause were mesmerizing. I loved seeing the faces of all the women -- and little girls & even teens -- light up as we walked by. [Michelle Wood](#)*

*I had a wonderful time being in the parade! Thank you for encouraging me to go and for making the League's participation the notable and informative event that it was. [Kathy Gaylord](#)*

*I definitely enjoyed being with you all in the parade. It was tons of fun - and the crowd overall was very supportive of the League which was nice to see. [Lori Delahunt](#)*



*It was so much fun! I loved getting together before the parade and having our picnic. [Shannon Moore](#)*



*The vintage look was a big hit with people! - Elizabeth Lauder*

*It was so gratifying to have spontaneous support for the organization. - Margaret Westin*



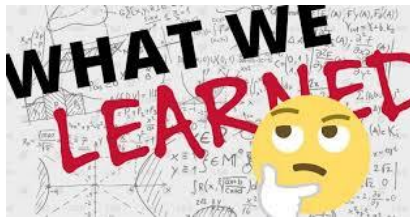
## MARKETFEST

Thanks to Heidi Boyd for organizing our booth at this year's Marketfest and to Lori Delahunt, Megan Haugen, Terri Houle, Theresa Casey-Wolf, Christina Ogata, and Jackie Reis for volunteering to "staff" the booth. We were there for the first and last evenings of Marketfest and enjoyed the opportunity to talk with people about registering to vote!



**THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO VOLUNTEERED THEIR TIME AND CREATIVITY  
TO MAKE THIS A MEMORABLE SUMMER FOR  
THE LWV OF WHITE BEAR LAKE!**

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## Action Summary Report for 2021 Legislative Session

By Kathy Tomsich and Lori Delahunt

### Election Law

The Special Session ended with very little done that related to LWV MN. None of the voter suppression proposals, voter ID and provisional ballots, were included in the State Government Omnibus Bill. While we did not see improvements in election law such as automatic voter registration or restore the vote for felons living in the community, no change means Minnesota is still in a good place.

During the last election, all counties used drop boxes but there were few statutes relating to procedures for using drop boxes. Concerned about security of the ballots, the legislature approved rule changes requested by the Sec. of State to guide local election officials on how to handle drop boxes. This is a good step; there will now be uniform rules for all counties to follow when using drop boxes during elections.

### Money in Politics

An amendment to a bill that passed bans current legislators from being employed by a firm that lobbies the state legislature starting 2022. Current law does not allow a sitting legislator to work as a lobbyist but does not forbid the legislator from being employed by a lobbying firm. This is one step that will limit the influence money can have on public policy decisions.

### Redistricting

Both the House and the Senate pledged to hold public hearings over the summer on redistricting. Public testimony will be allowed but no votes will be taken. LWV MN realizes it is too late to establish an independent redistricting commission so the focus will be on establishing redistricting principles and transparency in drawing maps. Local leagues are asked to participate in drawing maps that effect local communities such as regions for county commissions or wards for city council seats.

### Climate Change Group report by Kathleen Dorn-Norton, [kdorannorton@gmail.com](mailto:kdorannorton@gmail.com)

The Climate Change Group, a subgroup of the Advocacy Committee, requested each local league to appoint a Climate Committee that would advocate for local and state environmental issues by contacting/meeting local legislators and members of Congress. Please contact Kathleen for more information about the Climate Change Group.

Members should read Governor [Walz's Climate Report Card](#) that was presented in April 2021. The Report Card, created by several groups including the Minnesota Environmental Partnership of which LWV MN is a member, is an educational piece. It points out where we need the governor and state agencies to make changes. In general, there's a lack of good government and decision making on environmental issues: little transparency, documentation, and data.

## PEOPLE



Congratulations to **Barb Memory** on her election to the board of directors for the state League of Women Voters! Barb is serving this year on the White Bear Lake League's board as vice president and membership chair. Thanks to Barb for welcoming and interviewing new members for Bear Facts.

### Welcome New Members

#### **Diana Willson**

Diana is a new member who moved to North Oaks from Washington, D.C. in Oct. 2020. She is enjoying Mid-west culture and the outdoors while settling in to her new home. She met Carol Bergeson in an exercise class, heard about the League, and decided to join. She is new to political involvement and wishes to learn from and contribute to our activities. Welcome, Diana!

#### **Karen Millet**

Karen is a new LWV-WBLA member living in Grant but originally hailing from Drayton, England, close to Norwich and the ocean. The area is 110 miles NE of London and is known for its little lakes, or "broads," as well as its medieval city and long history as East Anglia.

Karen has long been interested in political matters, and now feels that she needs to be active and not 'sit by' as troublesome political concerns rise. Her mother-in-law was active in the Boston LWV, and Karen researched the WBLA LWV and decided to join.

Karen met her husband while working at the Univ. of East Anglia; he was an American chemistry student from Boston. They came to MN in 1979 when he, and eventually she, worked at 3M. After 3 years at 3M, Karen stayed at home while they started their family and while also attending Century College off and on. She eventually worked in the Century College Library, helping students and faculty with research references and teaching classes in library research techniques. It was Karen's Dream Job, and she stayed for 12 years. Her husband became very ill, and passed away in 2014, and she decided to do volunteer work after that. She was active with "Reading Partners," where she helped school students learn to read. When the pandemic closed down that program, Karen began volunteering at the Stillwater Library as a front-desk greeter. She helps with other tasks as needed and loves the work!

Karen's three daughters live in San Diego (optometrist), Minnetonka (with an 18-month-old child), and in Melilla, a Spanish enclave in Morocco, N. Africa. That daughter and her Spanish husband are moving back (for 2 years) to St. Louis Park where both will work as teachers at a Spanish Immersion school in Richfield.

Karen's interests include learning Spanish, cooking, walking, biking, and foraging! Foraging is collecting items in nature that can be used in cooking, like elder-flowers (making a cordial), wild walnuts, and occasionally mushrooms (with caution!).

Karen and her husband have enjoyed traveling up until Covid hit. They have visited England every other year or so, Boston, and enjoy visiting her brother in Grenada in Jan. A planned England trip will be postponed until the British quarantine rules for dual-citizenship people get sorted out. Welcome, Karen!

### **Fern Panda**

The League welcomes Fern Panda, who is transferring her long-time membership in New Brighton to White Bear Lake. Fern was introduced to the League as a teenager at a candidate forum! Fern is originally from Indiana, where she graduated from Purdue University in 1976, moving to New Brighton in 1978 and finally to White Bear Lake in 2002.

In 1978, Fern joined the New Brighton League and has held almost every office, sometimes repeatedly, since then. Her first time as President was 1985-87, when it was a huge job, sometimes 20 hours a week and that was the day of typing on typewriters to respond to Action Alerts. She has been newsletter editor, secretary, Voter Service and even worked part time in LWV of Minneapolis office for a few years. She attended state and national conventions, worked with study groups, all while raising 2 children!

Fern retired from General Mills in 2019, after years of the long drive to Golden Valley where she was a Food Scientist. The Pandas have a son in Seattle and a daughter in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Fern enjoys walking around the Lake and exercise classes – on Zoom since the Pandemic. Fern is interested in re-districting and other government topics.

Now, about her wonderful name. Fern grew up on an Indiana farm and her father was a great lover of ferns- a fern hobbyist! He planted ferns all over their yard, some grown from spores. Fern's last name "Panda" comes from her husband who is from India. "Panda" is not about the bear; it is from the Indian derived word "pundit" or "pandit". Fern believes she must be the only Fern Panda in the universe. Aren't we fortunate to have her here with us? Welcome, Fern!

#### *On Members*

*League members we need them a lot*

*With new ones we're rather besot*

*Ideas and energy*

*Action and synergy*

*Partisan? Definitely not!*

*Submitted by Barb Memory*

## The League Honors Karen Gochberg for 50+ Years of Membership

*We extend our sympathy to Karen Gochberg, whose husband, Howard, recently passed away. The following article was written in July, before Howard's passing.*

The League is pleased to honor Karen Gochberg for over 50 years of membership. Karen has been an active leader, first in Eau Claire, WI, where she joined as a young mother, and then in Grant, MN where she joined the Mahtomedi unit.

Karen's 11 years in Eau Claire included presidency of the local league and as the LWVWI State Board member, where she designed flyers and publications, and attended a national convention. It was there that her work with Cable TV began. She was appointed to the Eau Claire Planning Commission and served on a city committee to bring cable TV to town. She organized efforts to establish PEG (the Public, Education & Government channel) so that citizens and the city council could air events and issues of concern to the local public. She worked with the City Council to obtain start-up funding and a location.

Karen's husband worked for Land O' Lakes and was transferred back to the Twin Cities in 1979. They settled in Grant, and Karen joined the Mahtomedi unit, serving as Voter Services Chair, organizing candidate forums. She contributed to a study of the WBL Conservation Area. While on the LWVMN State Board she organized statewide candidate and other forums. She served on the Metropolitan Council Task Force, which studied the need and feasibility of bringing an integrated cable TV channel to municipalities in the 7-county metro area. The MN State Cable Board appointed her to the Twin Cities Regional Cable Channel board, now known as Metro Cable Channel 6. The Board consisted of members whose organizations had an interest in the new channel. Karen, as a member of the LWV (a trusted organization with no interest in running the channel), was elected Chair. While living in Grant she served as the city's commissioner on the Ramsey/Washington Suburban Counties Cable Commission and now represents Mahtomedi where she lives.

Karen has a son (now retired in OH as a mechanical engineer and planning to move back to MN) and two daughters, one of whom died of breast cancer and the other who lives in an assisted living facility in WI after suffering a stroke.

When asked her advice for the future of LWV, Karen said, " 'Keep doing what we've been doing!' The League has a trusted and vital role in educating voters to vote in an intelligent way," to be involved in their communities personally, via evolving technology and to lobby legislators on important issues. She said it is vital to get new members, especially noting the number of aging members.

Congratulations and thanks to Karen for over 50 years of League leadership and for making lasting contributions to our communities.



It's the start of a new League year which means opportunities for members to get involved. Listed below are some of the opportunities. Find your passion and sign up!

#### **LWV Travelling Exhibit**

The exhibit will be open only during the times volunteers are available. Find a friend and sign up for a two-hour shift (11:00-1:00) on Sept. 4 or 11 at the Armory or for a two-hour shift between 4-6 PM on any Monday through Friday, September 20-24 and 27-30 at WB Township Hall. Contact Jackie Reis ([jreis.wbl@gmail.com](mailto:jreis.wbl@gmail.com)).

#### **Nellie Francis Book Discussion**

Are you a book club regular? We could use your help in designing questions for our October discussion of the book about Nellie Francis. Contact: Jackie Reis ([jreis.wbl@gmail.com](mailto:jreis.wbl@gmail.com)).

#### **Voter Services Candidate Forums**

With five forums, a number of volunteers are needed. Contact Heidi Boyd ([heidischmidtboyd2@gmail.com](mailto:heidischmidtboyd2@gmail.com)) to volunteer to develop the questions to ask the candidates at each forum, to serve as timekeeper, or to monitor the time during the forums.

#### **Voter Services Registration**

Volunteers are also needed to register new voters. We have not identified specific times or locations at this time. Please contact Heidi if you are interested ([heidischmidtboyd2@gmail.com](mailto:heidischmidtboyd2@gmail.com)).

#### **Be an Action Liaison**



Kathy Tomsich and Lori Delahunt are still looking for people to serve as **Action Liaisons**. Starting this Fall, we hope to have representatives who will relay to their unit members relevant legislation being proposed and the action they might take in relation to League positions. Often, this will have to do with whether a legislator in a member's district is on a particular committee where his/her vote will be crucial in advancing a bill. Action Liaisons will be the unit contacts with the LWVWBLA Action Co-chairs, Kathy Tomsich and Lori Delahunt. They can get to know which issues resonate with individual members of their unit (e.g., education, environmental issues, etc.) and encourage members to bring up local issues we may want to get more involved with. The time commitment should not be more than 1-2 hours per month during the legislative session. Ready to sign on? Please contact Kathy Tomsich at [ktomsich@comcast.net](mailto:ktomsich@comcast.net) or Lori Delahunt at [ldelahunt@comcast.net](mailto:ldelahunt@comcast.net). (See page 12 for a summary report for the 2021 legislative session.)

## SAVE THE DATE!

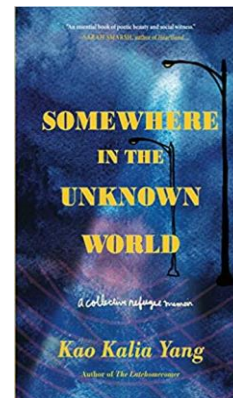
### September 30



Many Faces of the White Bear Lake Area invites the community to read “Somewhere in the Unknown World: A Collective Refugee Memoir” by award-winning author Kao Kalia Yang. In her latest book, Yang, a Hmong-American writer, tells the stories of 15 refugees living in the Twin Cities, far from their original homes in Bosnia, Thailand, Somalia, Russia and elsewhere. As a Star Tribune book review stated, “Reading these stories is like opening doors and finding yourself in the living rooms of neighbors you’ve hardly talked to.”

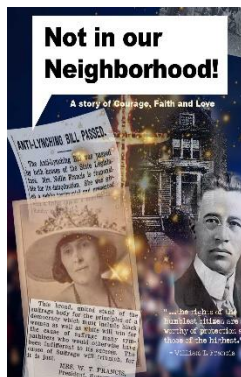
Yang is the author of two previous memoirs, “The Late Homecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir” and “The Song Poet,” as well as several award-winning children’s books, including “A Map Into the World” and “Yang Warriors.” Her essay, “Dark Trees in the landscape of Love,” was included in “A Good Time for the Truth,” a community read in both Mahtomedi and White Bear Lake in 2017-18.

On the evening of Sept. 30, Yang will be at the Chautauqua Fine Arts Center at Mahtomedi High School for a reading and discussion of her book. Registration information for this free event is at [www.manyfaceswblarea.org](http://www.manyfaceswblarea.org).



### October 14-24

MN History Theatre  
Not in our Neighborhood!



1925. Nellie and William Francis, residents of St. Paul’s Rondo neighborhood, had the courage to buy a home in the ‘all-white’ Groveland Park. Although William was a successful lawyer and prominent figure in the Republican Party and Nellie was a leader in the Suffragist Movement and responsible for Minnesota’s Anti-Lynching Bill, they found themselves forced to STAND TALL in the face of ugly, racist protests and KKK-like behavior when they bought the home of their dreams. Witness a story that never made it into the history books. This couple pursued the American dream, despite the efforts of their new neighbors to intimidate them. They would not be denied!

***Interested in attending this play about Nellie Francis at the History Theatre as a follow up to our book club discussion? Contact Liz Lauder ([lizlauder@gmail.com](mailto:lizlauder@gmail.com)) for more information.***

# ***Treasurer's Report, LWV WBLA***

**August 1, 2021**

**Margaret Westin, Treasurer**

## **Income**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>2021-2022 Budget</b>
Dues	\$630.00	\$2,580.00	\$3,800.00
Donations, Memorials	160.00	925.00	300.00
Calendars	0	0	280.00
Member Meetings	0	0	800.00
Service (e.g. NOHOA)	0	0	500.00
In-Kind Donations	0	0	0
Voters Service (including grants)	120.00	120.00	0
Program (including grants)	0	0	0
Misc. (bank interest, other)	0.18	0.19	0.26
Transfer from Savings	0	0	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$910.18</b>	<b>\$3,625.19</b>	<b>\$4,880.26</b>

## **Expenses**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>2021-2022 Budget</b>
Bank Expenses, Review of Books	0	0	0
Bear Facts, copying/mailling	0	0	\$175.00
Calendars	0	0	220.00
Conventions	0	\$25.00	200.00
LWVUS Council Meeting	0	0	50.00
Member Meetings	0	0	800.00
Per Member Payment LWVUS	0	0	2,496.00
Per Member Payment LWVMN	0	0	1,846.80
Program	0	0	300.00
Voter Service	0	0	100.00
Membership	0	0	400.00
Unit Meeting Space Support	0	0	0
Social Media	0	0	0
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25.00</b>	<b>6,541.00</b>

Total Paid Members 2021-2022: 33@\$60, 8@\$90, 8 Lifetime

Current Checking Account Balance: \$8,531.83

Ed fund CD: \$4,229.04

## CONTACT INFORMATION LWV WBLA

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- Website: <https://lwv-wbla.org/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LWVWBLA>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/lwvwbl?lang=en>
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