



the Bear Facts

the League of Women Voters of the
White Bear Lake Area



March Units Replaced by Open General Meeting

Topic: A Report on the Upper
Mississippi

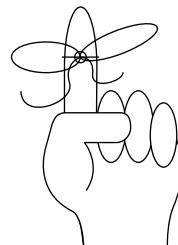
March 23, 2017

7:00 PM Vadnais Heights
City Council Chambers

Speaker:

Lonnie McCauley, Board Member
Upper Mississippi Inter League
Organization

Save the Date
Annual Meeting
April 20th
Details to follow next month



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.or

Policy & Pasta 2017

With the lasagna and salad provided by Donatelli's restaurant under our belts, twenty-two members on Saturday, January 28th, buckled down to brainstorm some program ideas for the 2017-18 year. We were helped by longtime members Mary Santi, Carol Bergeson, and Judy Duffy, who navigated us through the process of how LWV does program planning.

On the local level, there was significant interest in doing a public meeting or unit meetings on redistricting. With two competing bills in the Minnesota legislature right now, the time seems right to educate ourselves and the general public about the importance of drawing fair and inclusive boundaries for voting districts, and what the options are. There was also interest in using the Roseville Area LWV's report on municipal police training as a model for our own study. We have 26 cities and 5 townships in our service area, some of which have their own police force and some that contract with the counties. We could follow Roseville's lead and look into how officers are trained to handle domestic abuse situations, incidents involving people with mental health issues, and how to avoid racial profiling. Another option for a local study would be to look into the frequency of town hall meetings held by our local legislators. With our increasingly divisive political atmosphere, it seems that some lawmakers are playing to their base by holding selective and not general publicized meetings with their constituents. A third popular topic was to hear from leaders in the field of education about why the skills gap between white students and students of color continues to be so significant in Minnesota, and to learn about the skills gap in our own school districts.

Other items for discussion included updating the language in some of our local Program for Action to reflect more current terminology, or to include new areas that were not included in the original position (these could take the form of resolutions to be passed by the membership at the annual meeting, or they could become updates that a subcommittee could research and present to

the membership at unit meetings for consensus). And if observing local meetings is your bag, there is interest in checking up on the White Bear Lake Conservation District Board to see if any of our recommendations from our 2012 study have been implemented.

Time ran out before we could really delve into any regional or national issues, however it was noted that the State program position on immigration opposes residents with legal immigrant status running for public office. As their children are allowed to attend public schools, should we re-examine our position and not oppose them running for their local school board?

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to put this gathering together, and to everyone who came and brought such thought-provoking ideas. These will be passed on to the Action Committee after the Annual meeting in April.--Liz Lauder, Program Committee Ch

Keep Up with Legislative Action in the League By Reading the Capitol Letter

LWV Minnesota advocates on public policy issues for the purpose of creating a strong democracy. Our positions are reached through a study and consensus process and are detailed in our Program for Action. The reports in each Capitol Letter™ are largely the work of volunteer citizen lobbyists. The work of LWV Minnesota is entirely nonpartisan; we never support or oppose parties or candidates. Go to

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS HEIDI, JESSICA AND MATT

New Member Profile Heidi Schmidt Boyd

Heidi Schmidt Boyd has lived in White Bear Lake since 2000. Her two college-age children keep her and her husband Scott busy traveling to see them across the nation and the globe. Heidi has a BA in Business and an MBA in Non-Profit Management from the University of St. Thomas. She works for Hennepin County in housing and homeless services. She is a beekeeper and loves to bike for transportation. Joining the League is part of her commitment to being a better citizen and community member.

New Member Profiles Jessica & Matt Ellison

Matt and Jessica Ellison have lived in Birchwood for four years, after living in St. Paul for several years. Matt is a former chef (most recently, he was the head chef at Muffuletta in St. Anthony Park), and now is a sales representative for Upper Lakes Foods. Jessica is a teacher educator at the Minnesota Historical Society, and is currently serving as president of the Minnesota Council for the Social Studies.

Matt and Jessica have been married 10 years, and have four children, ages 9, 7, 5 and 3. The oldest three attend White Bear Lake schools, and the youngest is in preschool at St. Jude's in Mahtomedi. The whole family loves baseball and was so excited to see the Cubs win the World Series last year.

March Open Meeting Details

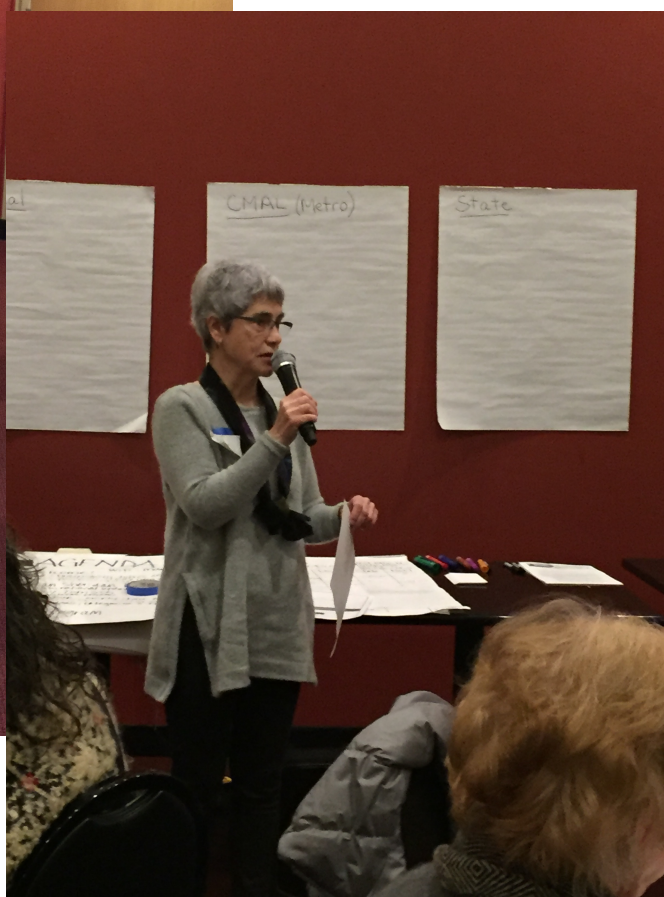
Hear from Upper Mississippi Inter League Organization board member, Lonni McCauley about the importance of understanding this critical and endangered river system. Let's find out what can we do to help, individually and collectively?

March 23rd, 7:00 PM - Vadnais Heights City Hall
Address: 800 County Rd E. (Just West of Walmart).

Policy and Pasta Meeting at Donetelli's January 28th



Liz Lauder, Directing Discussion



Kathy Tomsich, presenting news on
LWVMN redistricting study.



State

Study - legislators host
in-district meetings/year to engage

^{update}
Immigration ~~for~~ running for public
office

Concur US position on mental health

Local

Action on principles survey
Study - legislators frequency of town
hall

¹⁶
Update educ. position to add science
& technology / ^{1a} Sex bias → gender

^{skills}
^{update} disparities white/color students

police ^{training} racial bias / mentally ill
domestic violence / public mtg

^{update}
Observer corps - WB conserv
dist.

^{etc}
Complete streets

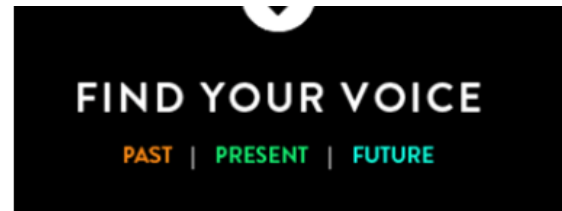
init mtg Redistricting
Public mtg

re: Sanctu

Treasurer's Report

February 10, 2016

		<u>Current</u> (Jan 13-Feb 10)	<u>YTD</u>
Income:	Dues		\$3450.00
	Contributions		\$285.00
	Meetings (Pasta & Policy)	96.00	\$637.00
	Program		\$100.00
	In-kind donation		(\$123.78)
	Calendars		\$99.65
	North Oaks Hwers		\$200.00
	Dividend	.11	\$0.39
	Total:	\$96.11	\$4773.50
Expenses:	Meetings (Pasta & Policy)	161.17	\$355.20
	2015 state convention		\$396.90
	LWVMN PMP		\$1282.50
	LWVUS PMP		\$2112.00
	Meeting site		\$100.00
	Voters Service		\$256.00
	Program		\$701.99
	Publicity		\$480.15
	Total:	\$161.17	\$5647.34
Opening balance from Jan 13:		\$3771.44	
Income	+	\$96.11	
Expenses:	-	\$161.17	
Current balance:		\$3706.38	
Ed fund CD:		\$5011.29	
2015-16 Paid Members:	45 @ \$60		
	10 @ \$75		
	Total: 65 (we also have 3 lifetime members)		



The Word is :

ACTION

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Subscribe to the Capitol Letter [here](#).

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[Join](#) The Voter – Virtual Edition

A Facebook group for LWV members and friends

Subscribe to Action Alerts so you can take action when a bill is in committee or going to the floor. The Capitol Letter keeps you informed about legislative activity. Email, phone, write your legislators, attend Town Hall meetings and speak up. Legislators listen to their constituents.

Local Leagues = Grass Roots Power

Equity & Inclusion

A broad cross-section of citizen organizations partner with LWV Minnesota to achieve great success. See lwvmn.org for more information on League Partners.