



the Bear Facts

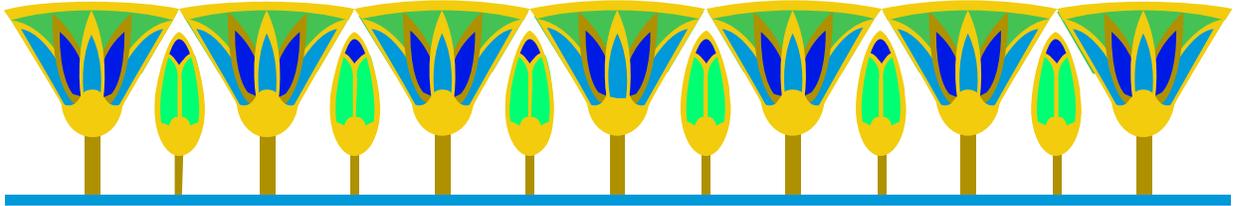
the League of Women Voters of the
White Bear Lake Area

Unit Meetings for May - New Topic Focus on Basics (aka- League Action Training)

Has the recent barrage of attacks against voting rights, education, the environment, or other issues got you thinking about getting to your battle stations and advocating for your positions? Are you sure you know the most effective way of getting a lawmaker's attention? Are you aware of the League's current legislative priorities? Do you wonder how to get involved? Because so many of you have commented that you feel compelled to "do something" about what has been happening in Washington and St. Paul, the Program Committee is postponing our scheduled topic on affordable housing in favor of putting together some guidelines for advocacy and steps for action that local League members can take to make their voices heard with policymakers. This meeting is also an opportunity for us to discuss how we as League members feel about the future direction of our organization as we approach our Centennial in 2019 (in Minnesota). What originally drew you to join the League, and are you still committed to the work that the League has been doing? What changes would you like to see in your local League? How can we support the priorities of the State League's strategic plan? This meeting will offer both practical steps and thoughtful discussion. Your local League: where the grassroots effort begins.

Units

May 8: Mahtomedi, 7:00 PM - UUC on Mahtomedi May 10: NO, 12:30 PM-at Incarnation Church
May 11: WBL, 7:00 PM- WBL City Hall May 12: SCV, 10:00 AM-Boutwell's Landing



NEW MEMBER BRUNCH
June 3, 2017, 10:00 am to Noon

New members will receive an invitation with all the necessary details. Board members are also invited. Mary Hauser is at 616 Hall Ave. in Birchwood. From Mahtomedi, go west on 244, turn right onto Birchwood Ave/Hall Ave. Birchwood Ave. turns into Hall Ave. after about 2 blocks. Mary's house is on the left side of street, just past Jay St. Coming from White Bear, take E County Line to Cedar to the east. Cedar turns into Hall Ave. after going down a hill and curving to the right. 616 is about 1/2 mile on your right.

LWVMN Member Handbooks will be available for new members, but also may be downloaded by going to:

<https://www.lwvmn.org/sites/default/files/downloads/Member%20Handbook%202015.pdf>

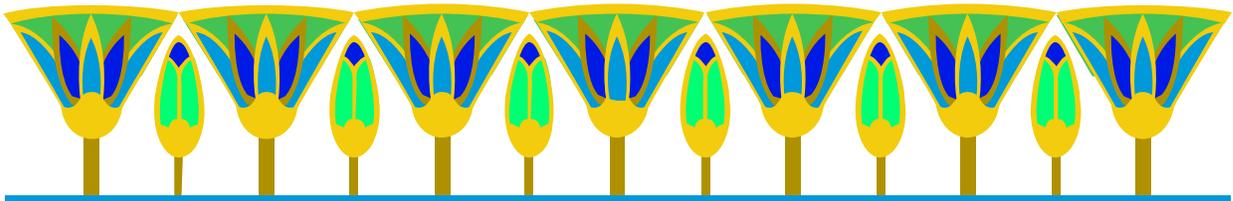


Don't Forget.....We have a Facebook page!
If you are on Facebook, check out our page, "like it" and post something on it at least once a month.

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.

Also.....The link to our website:

www.lwv-wbla.org



Annual Meeting Highlights



Congratulations to Gladys Ritter, this year's Revolving Bear Award recipient. Becky Siekmeier, last year's recipient made the presentation.

Each year, a member of the LWVWBLA is chosen to receive the Revolving Bear Award in recognition of her contributions to the League. Gladys has served on the program committee and voter's service committee and is presently the unit leader for the St. Croix Valley unit. She has also served on the state board.

She is known to be quite the wordsmith, offers solutions to problems in a very tactful manner, is positive, extremely helpful, and dependable. Not only that, she has a great sense of humor. She often brings treats to the unit meetings for members and even to the host's dog.



Liz Lauder, elected President of the LWVWBLA for 2017-2018



Betty Folliard, Annual Dinner speaker. Betty is a former representative from Hopkins and spoke as the current president of ERA Minnesota.

Board Members Elected and Appointed for 2017-2019

Office	Nominee	Term Ending
President -Elect/President	Lori Soukup	4/19
Secretary	Diane Wigglesworth	4/19
Director – Public Relations	Joan Sullivan	4/19
Director – Bear Facts	Gretchen Davidson	4/19
Director - Membership	Mary Johnston	4/18
Director – Voter Service	Molly Anthony	4/18

Nominating Committee

Chair – Beverley Driscoll
Stephanie McNamara
Sharon Guiser

Continuing Officers

President	Liz Lauder	4/18
Vice President – Action	Ruth Jones	4/18
Treasurer	Liz Nordling	4/18

Note: Members are needed to serve on the Program Committee. If you are interested and available, please contact President Liz Lauder as soon as possible. The program committee will begin work this summer.

Closing out the Year

The St. Croix Valley unit were wonderful hosts for this year's annual meeting! We were in the auditorium at Boutwell's Landing and the venue provided the food, which was delicious! Then we heard from former state representative and current President of ERA Minnesota, Betty Folliard. Betty told us about how close we are to having the requisite number of states voting to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment (in March, Nevada became the 36th state to do so). Will Nevada's vote count, because there was a deadline for passing the ERA: June 30, 1982. There is some work being done to remove the deadline, and some momentum out there to finally pass the ERA, so let's hope we can keep it going.

After Betty's talk, we conducted some business. We made some changes to the Program for Action, we voted on some new officers, and we approved the budget. I'd like to welcome Molly Anthony (North Oaks unit) as our new Voter Service Chair, and Mary Johnston (Mahtomedi unit) as the Membership Chair! We also approved the Program Committee's recommendation for conducting a 2-year study on the training of the police forces of Ramsey and Washington counties and the cities of White Bear Lake and Stillwater as it pertains to addressing racial bias and responding to incidents involving domestic violence, and mental illness. Then Becky Siekmeier topped off the evening by presenting the Revolving Bear award to this year's recipient....Gladys Ritter! Congratulations, Gladys! Gladys was honored for the many ways she has contributed her creativity and intelligence to come up with new approaches to topics, and for the hours of hard work she has put in behind the scenes to get the job done. Having worked with Gladys on several committees, I can tell you that she is all that and more. We're blessed to have her as part of our local LWV.

I want to thank our outgoing Board members, and especially President Stephanie McNamara, for their diligence, hard work, and dedication to the work of LWV!

Onward we go!

Liz Lauder
White Bear Lake Area LWV President

Photo Highlights from the General Meeting about the Upper Mississippi Region Inter League Organization, a presentation by ILO member Lonnie McCauley. The meeting was held at White Bear Lake City Hall on March 23, 2017.

Audience in WBL City Hall.



Betty Folliard speaking.



Betty speaking to audience member.



Capitol Tour Enjoyed by Seven

Seven Leaguers enjoyed a guided tour of the renovated state capitol on Wednesday, April 26th.

Susan Fuler, from our North Oaks Unit, made arrangements for this tour which included the house and senate chambers, the governor's reception room and the state supreme court. Most interesting was a closer look at the architectural details and restored art work including the second largest self supporting dome in the world.

Many of the murals in the capitol had been so darkened by smoke and dust that the original colors were gone and details went unseen. Light fixtures have been restored to their original configuration, skylights have been uncovered, the tile floors have been revealed and in general the building reflects the original intent of quality and high artistic standards.

Here are two pictures from the tour, taken by Susan Fuller: The Governor's Reception Room and the North Star Emblem which is on the floor under the dome.

