



the Bear Facts

the League of Women Voters of the White Bear Lake Area



Looking Forward to May Units:

May Units

For our May Units we are inviting a Mayor or city administrator for an informal conversation to learn what it is like to run a city. Members will ask questions.

North Oaks Unit is 12:30 pm on Wednesday, May 9 at Incarnation Lutheran Church, 4880 Hodgson Rd, St Paul, MN 55126. Invited guest is: ***Katy Ross, North Oaks City Council member. Katy is the liaison to the planning commission as well as coordinator of tours of the recycling facility. 1***

White Bear Lake Unit is 7:00 pm on Thursday, May 10 at White Bear Lake City Hall, 4701 Highway 61, White Bear Lake, MN 55110, 2nd floor conference room. The invited guest is: ***White Bear Lake Mayor, Jo Emerson.***

St. Croix Valley Unit is 10:15 am on Friday, May 11 at Stillwater Public Library, 224 3rd St N, Stillwater MN 55082. Invited guest is: ***J. Thomas McCarty, Stillwater City Administrator/Treasurer.***

Mahtomedi Unit is Monday, May 14 at 7:00 pm at WBL Unitarian Universalist Church, 328 Maple St, Mahtomedi. Invited guest is: ***Birchwood City Administrator-Clerk Tobin Lay.***

More on May Units and Membership Survey

Member survey

We are very fortunate in the White Bear Lake Area LWV to have many new and existing members. Some of you are longtime members, and have served in many ways at the local, regional, state, and national levels. Some of you have joined more recently, and are just getting started with helping out and learning about the League. Believe it or not, we don't know everything there is to know about you, even you long-term members! The Membership Committee (Chair Mary Johnston, Mary Santi, Lori Soukup, Carolyn Folke, and Liz Lauder) would like to find out more about each and every one of you, and we have developed a brief survey (only 8 questions) that we hope will help us to make your time with the LWV WBLA interesting and challenging. The survey can be completed during your unit meeting in May, or you can complete it online by following this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1fObxAQgUInc4uvCm2wTuDi6xj_wJK-6k2L20UK7IWDY/edit

By answering these questions, you will be helping the Membership Committee, and our other committees (such as Voter Service and Program), know where you would like to get involved, what special skills and talents you have that we can help you utilize, and which topics you want to learn more about. So, please take a moment to help all of us get to know you better and get the most out of your League membership. Thank you!

Did You Know?

LWV United States has an online Clearinghouse where local LWVs can post their past studies. It's a great place to see what local LWVs around the country have done and get ideas for program without having to reinvent the wheel.

Our White Bear Lake Area LWV has placed a few of our previous studies in the Clearinghouse that you may be interested in seeing, like our study of the WBL Conservation District, a report on Protecting Water Resources and our Open Meeting Report.

Here is the link to the Clearinghouse. <https://sites.google.com/a/leagueofwomenvoters.org/clearinghouse/> Just put White Bear Lake in the search box to find our documents. Or look around. Maybe there is a topic you think we should pick up on.

Our Report on Civics Education, that you received with your March Bear Facts and heard about at March Unit Meetings, has been submitted to the Clearinghouse for other LWVs to use. You can also find that report on our local LWV website www.lwv-wbla.org . Look under the Newsletters tab and the March 2018 Bear Facts.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Here it is, the end of the year already! We've learned a lot this year about:

- Repercussions from pulling out of the Paris Climate Accords
- How to get around in the North East Metro without a car
- Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing
- Solutions for providing effective health care
- History of voting rights in the U.S.
- How local law enforcement is trained to handle calls dealing with domestic violence, mental illness, and racial bias
- Redistricting
- Civics education
- What it's like to run a city/township

This is my favorite part about what the League does - educating voters on important issues. What is your favorite part? Is it giving voters a chance to hear from candidates for public office? We put on several candidate forums for local races. Is it communicating with lawmakers? We included time and materials at some of our unit meetings to write letters to our representatives. The State also offered opportunities with its Lobby Corps for League members who wanted to advocate using some of our existing positions. Is gathering together your favorite part about being in the League? We had three meetings where members of all four of our units met and ate and socialized. I hope whatever your favorite part is about being a League member, you got to participate and feel good about what we as an organization are capable of.

Think about what the next year can bring. What issues do the people in our community need to know more about? What questions would they like to ask a candidate for public office? Which of our current positions can we use to advocate for change? What events would you like to be a part of? If you don't want to jump feet first into the work that it takes to bring these opportunities to our members and our communities, what *can* you do? Take a step. Ask a question. Join a group that is doing the work. That is the best way to experience your favorite part about being in the League of Women Voters. I'm glad I did!

Liz Lauder



Don't forget to 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.

Annual Meeting Recap and Pictures

Thank you to the North Oaks unit for providing a delicious dinner of sandwiches, fruit, and yummy deserts. It was great to see many familiar League faces as well as a number of new ones.

We listened to two very articulate women on their roles and the successes of the “Joint Domestic Abuse Prosecution Enhancement Project”. Ramsey County Attorney, Anna Chrisite and Heather Monnens, Prosecuting Attorney for the City of White Bear Lake reported on their project. They outlined the success of the Joint Program between Ramsey County and the City of White Bear Lake and how by working jointly they were able to prosecute domestic abusers more effectively.

In the business meeting a new budget was approved, (see at end of BF with April Treasurer’s report), the non-partisan policy was amended and approved, and there was a review of our local program positions. Michelle Witte, the Executive Director at LWVMN, attended the Annual meeting and offered suggestions and answered questions on the proposed policy and program changes. There was one proposed change to our local program on Education and was adopted by the membership. The new wording will state: “Emphasize civics education knowledge and skill development along with reading, writing, mathematics, science and technology, speaking and listening as the primary goals of K-12 schools.” A list of possible programs for local study, brought forward at the Policy and Pasta Meeting”, was also available.

Further actions at the Annual Meeting included a slate of officers and directors proposed to the membership by the nominating committee. The following members were elected to the Board or will be continuing a term:

Position	Name	Term Ends
President	Liz Lauder	2020
V. President	Joan Neumiller	2020
Secretary	Kathy Gaylord	2019
Treasurer	Liz Nordling	2020
Publicity		
(Director)	TBD	2019
Voters Service	Lori Soukup	
Directors	Sheila Bennett	2020
Membership		
Director	Sharon Guiser	2020
Program		
Director	TBD	2019
Bear Facts		
Director	Gretchen Davidson	2019
Action		
Director	Kathy Tomsich	2019

Nominating Committee 2019
 Chair, Margaret Westin, Carol Bergeson, Mary Ann Linser

(Annual Meeting Recap, con't)

Lori Soukup presented the "Revolving Bear Award" in place of Gladys Ritter, last year's recipient, to co-recipient's Lisa Larson and Mary Santi. Below is Gladys' introduction of the award:

REVOLVING BEAR AWARD 2017-2018

In this box is the Revolving Bear Award statue given every year to one deserving member of the League of Women Voters White Bear Lake Area. It is always presented to the member who displays wisdom and true leadership when she, at first, gingerly steps to the edge of Alice's "rabbit hole", stares down, and then decides to fling herself into it.

But... we're not talking about a "she" here. We are talking about a "them" - two members who flung themselves into that rabbit hole holding hands as they jumped from its edge.

We know one of the recipients due to her years of devoted service. She's the Leaguer who always steps up when no one else steps up and someone needs to step up. She leads us forward as she fills in the holes and she's been doing this year after year after year. Her name has become synonymous with the League of Women Voters White Bear Lake Area.

We've just recently come to know the other award recipient. She's the Leaguer who challenges us to consider why we do what we do, every time we do it. And, she also knows a lot of stuff about a lot of stuff.

The bear statue in this box could, but will not be, sawed in half. Neither will the statue be crushed with a hammer so the pieces can be equally divided by weight. Instead, the bear will awarded, for the first time, **jointly and severally** to two Leaguers. Awarding the Revolving Bear under the umbrella of this legal fiction allows both Leaguers to share ownership of the bear equally while, at the same time, owning the entire bear herself. So...



This time the Bear Award is **jointly and severally awarded** to long time Leaguer **Mary Santi** and newbie Leaguer **Lisa Larson**, the dynamic duo who dynamically duo'ed on the impressive civics education report and worked together to make our redistricting public forum awesome.

Congratulations **Mary and Lisa!**

Gretchen Davidson

Annual Meeting Speakers



Anna Christie, Assistant County Attorney for Ramsey County, where she prosecutes felony crimes, focusing on domestic violence and criminal sexual conduct cases.



Heather Monnens is a part of the GDO Law Office in White Bear Lake representing the cities of White Bear Lake and other cities in criminal and municipal matters. Heather serves as a White Bear Lake city prosecutor.



Members at Annual Meeting:
Becky Siekmier, Judy Ottman, Kathy
Gaylord, Joann Youngstrom, Avis
Watkins

Mary Ryan giving her report.



Kathy Tomsich

Kathleen Thalhuber



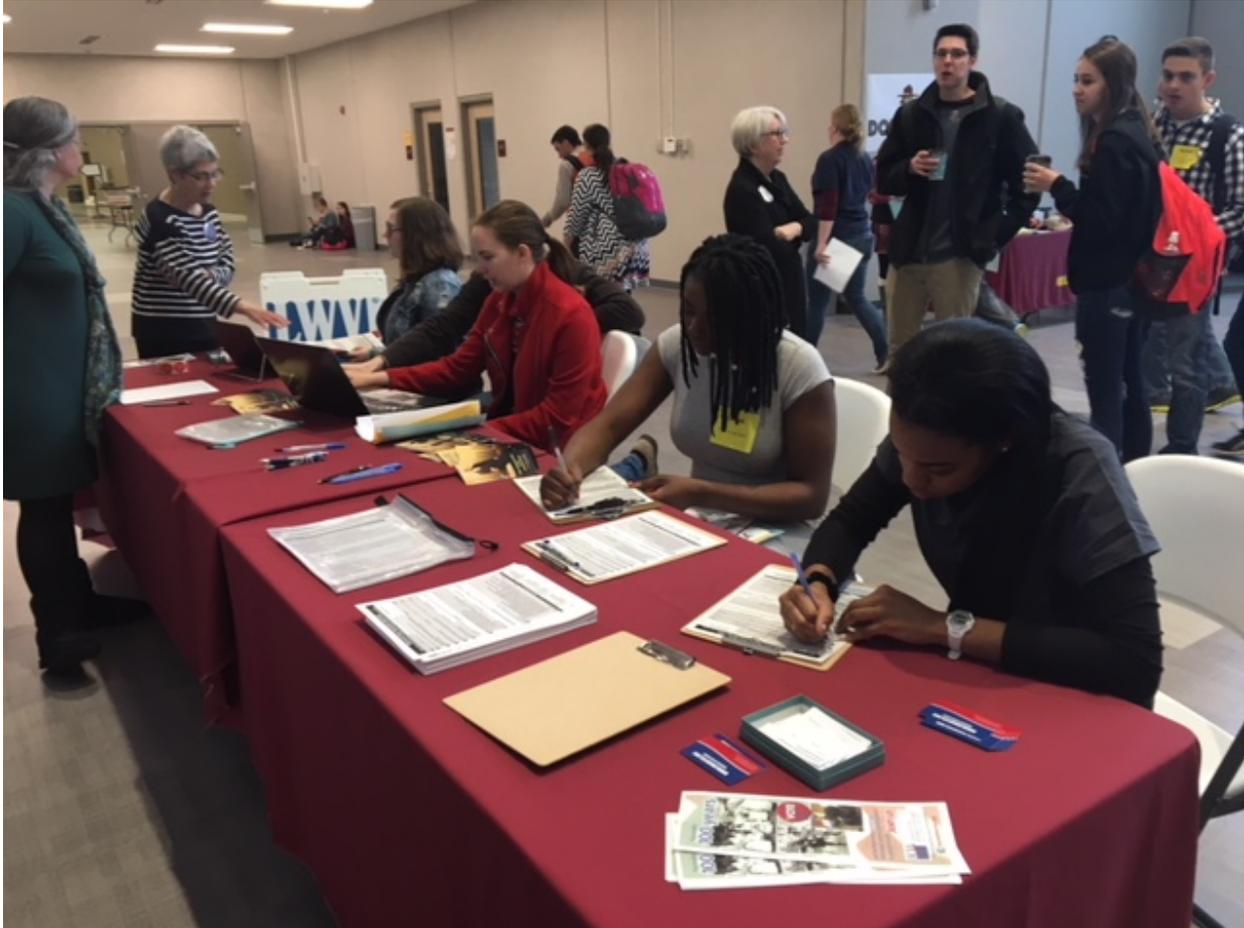
Annual Meeting Presenters:
Anna Christie and Heather Monnens

**Mary Johnston announced that we have added
5 new members in the last month!**

Please welcome:

2 new members to the Mahtomedi Unit--- Julie Dahl and Pauline Kruger and

3 new members in the North Oaks Unit, Gene and Mary Coffman and Lori Delahunt



A busy day registering new voters

Voter's Service News

Spring Voter Registration Event Planning is Underway!

On May 1st we'll have a table set up at the South Campus in White Bear Lake from 11:00 - 12:30pm.

We'll be assisting students at Stillwater Area High School with registration on May 22nd. The details are being finalized.

We are also connecting with staff at Mahtomedi HS to offer voter registration on that campus.

Molly Anthony will update the Voter Services Committee members on these opportunities. It is exciting to see the interest and enthusiasm among young people around our political and electoral system.

Molly Anthony

Treasurers Report

April 11, 2018

Elizabeth Nordling, Treasurer

		Current	YTD
Income:	Dues	\$367.50	\$367.50
	Donations	\$	\$
	Memorials	\$	\$
	Meetings (socials)	\$	\$
	Service	\$	
	In-kind donation	\$	
	Voters Service	\$	\$
	Calendars	\$	\$
	Bank interest	\$0.13	\$0.13
	Total:	\$367.63	\$367.63

Expenses:	Meetings (socials)	\$	\$
	2016 National convention	\$	\$
	LWVMN PMP	\$	\$
	LWVUS PMP	\$	\$
	Meeting site	\$	
	Voters Service	\$	\$
	Program (includes publicity)	\$57.73	\$57.73
	Bear Facts copying/printing	\$	\$
	Calendars	\$	\$
	Membership	\$	\$
	(communication, recruiting & recognition)		
	Total:	\$57.73	\$57.73

Opening balance from April 1, 2018:	\$5563.14
Income	+ \$ 367.63
Expenses:	- \$ 57.73

Current balance: \$5873.04

Ed fund CD: \$5037.06

2017-18 Paid Members: 56 @ \$60 13@ \$ 75 Total: 85 (including our 3 lifetime members)

Treasurer's Annual Report 2017-18

Elizabeth Nordling, Treasurer

Income:	Dues	\$4205.00
	Donations	\$1466.00
	Meetings (socials)	\$821.00
	Service(North Oaks Home)	\$350.00
	Voters Service	\$512.00
	Calendars	\$426.00
	Bank interest	\$0.46
	Total:	\$7871.46

Expenses:	Meetings (socials)	\$769.59
	2017 State convention	\$100.00
	LWVMN PMP	\$1587.50
	LWVUS PMP	\$2032.00
	Meeting site	\$100.00
	Voters Service	\$565.57
	Program (includes publicity)	\$907.36
	Bear Facts copying/printing	\$71.27
	Calendars	\$304.67
	Membership	\$346.08
	(communication, recruiting & recognition)	
	Total:	\$6875.04

Opening balance from April 1, 2017:	\$4566.83
Income	+ \$7871.46
Expenses:	- \$6875.04

Current balance: **\$5563.14**

Ed fund CD: **\$5035.20**

2016-17 Paid Members: 53 @ \$60

12 @ \$75

Total: 80 (including our 3 lifetime members)