



# the Bear Facts

the League of Women Voters  
of the White Bear Lake Area



## President's Letter

I attended the Bi-annual LWV Minnesota Council in April, along with Kathy Tomsich (North Oaks unit) and Miriam Simmons (St. Croix Valley unit). Council is a less-formal affair than the statewide Convention, that is held in alternate years with Council. Business still gets done at Council. We voted to amend the budget, which increased our deficit, but is providing some "seed money" to put on a Gubernatorial candidate forum that will be broadcast on TPT statewide, creating events around our Centennial, and building relationships with foundations, corporations, and wealthy individual donors. All of these expenditures will hopefully raise our visibility around the state and in our own communities, and lead to more members and more money coming in.

We also voted to amend our Program for Action on the decennial Census. The next federal Census will take place in 2020, and work is underway to vote on funding

for it and on the questions it will contain. At Council, we voted to add a paragraph to our current position to be inclusive of all persons living in the United States, and for it to be adequately funded and led by qualified non-political officials. Adding this paragraph will enable us to advocate with our federal representatives and senators for a fair and accurate census.

After the formal work was done, we got to attend workshops that helped us to build a better local, regional, and state LWV. I also got to have lunch with the other local League Presidents and our State President, Terry Kalil. I enjoyed hearing about what other local Leagues are doing, and the kinds of challenges they are facing. I made some great connections, as well. I would like to build on those relationships and share ideas and resources with our neighboring Leagues.

I hope you will all consider going to the next Council in 2020. It will be the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Constitutional Amendment. It will be a

great way to celebrate the birth of the League of Women Voters and to chart our path forward into the next 100 years.

#### Member survey

There were a few glitches at first, but now our Member Survey is available for you to fill out online. Go to <https://goo.gl/forms/A8huZonuWt72jbtX2> if you haven't already, and answer some questions about who you are and what you want to learn more about and how involved you want to be in the WBLA LWV. Your answers will help us to plan programs and events and hopefully make your membership more rewarding and meaningful. We the members of the Membership Committee (Sharon Guiser, Mary Johnston, Carolyn Folke, Mary Santi, Lori Soukup, and Liz Lauder) thank you for your help!

*Liz Lauder*

#### Report on State Council

➤ The Minnesota Women's Building has been sold. The new owner was not identified but wants to keep current tenants there.

➤ Voter Service Grant requests are due May 11.

➤ LWVMN can set up a way for people to give to our League via GiveMN. This would be done under their EIN.

➤ Kristin Smith, a staffer at the LWVMN office, will be setting up template documents on GoogleDrive. She is very creative as to design, and could be a big help when we need a document, a sign, or a form.

➤ LWVMN sends out All Member News every second Monday. If you want this, and are not getting it, you need to make sure the office has your correct email. (651 224 5445)

➤ Council voted on a new Program item for LWVMN: an amendment to our position on Election Process: Apportionment. The amendment was to add the following language:

*•The census of all persons be accurate and complete without bias toward any person based on religion, country of origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, immigration status or other potentially discriminating factors. Achieving an accurate Census also depends on it being adequately funded and led by qualified non-political officials.*

- An amended budget was adopted at Council. Some expenses were increased substantially. The amended budget shows a deficit of almost \$90,000. If some grants do not materialize (it is thought there is a strong chance for grant money in 2018), the deficit can be funded from the reserve funds.
- There is a new League in Minnesota: The Fillmore County League. Lanesboro is one of the larger towns there.
- Two workshops dealt with diversity and inclusion. One way to find out about the diversity of a population in your area is to go to

[factfinder.census.gov](http://factfinder.census.gov).

Miriam Simmons  
2 May 2018

Topic for May Units:  
Interviews of local Government  
Officials: Clerks, Managers or  
Council Members

Picture below showing Tobin Lay,  
City of Birchwood Village City  
Manager with Mahtomedi Unit  
members, Margaret Westin and  
Judy Duffy.



### Voter Service News

The voter service volunteers have registered 219 voters at area schools this spring.



## Treasurer's Report

**May 9, 2018**

**Elizabeth Nordling, Treasurer**

		Current	YTD
<b>Income:</b>	Dues	\$1200.00	\$1567.50
	Donations	\$50.00	\$ 50.00
	Memorials	\$	\$
	Meetings (socials)	\$105.00	\$105.00
	Service	\$	\$
	In-kind donation	\$	\$
	Voters Service	\$	\$
	Calendars	\$	\$
	Bank interest	\$	\$0.13
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$1355.00</b>	<b>\$1722.63</b>

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

**Total: \$0.00                      \$57.73**

Opening balance from April 11, 2018:		\$5873.04
Income	+	\$1355.00
Expenses:	-	\$ 0.00

**Current balance:                      \$7228.04**

**Ed fund CD:                              \$5037.06**

2018-19 Paid Members: 23 @ \$60 7@ \$75

Total: 40 (including our 3 lifetime members)