



# the Bear Facts

the League of Women Voters of the  
White Bear Lake Area



**Welcome to the 2018-2019 LWVWBLA Year**

## **LWVWBLA President's Column**

By Liz Lauder

September 2018

We had great weather and a great turnout for the annual, end-of-summer picnic on August 22<sup>nd</sup>! Thanks again to the St. Croix Valley unit for hosting us and for providing such an extensive selection of goodies for us to eat and drink. "It takes a village..." I don't think Hillary Clinton coined this phrase, but her book by that title certainly made it part of our collective vocabulary. It takes a village to put on an event like the picnic. We have three all-unit social gatherings each year, and we rotate the hosting responsibilities among our four units, so everyone has an opportunity to participate in the planning or hosting, and once in a while, you get to rest.

Think about a special party you helped plan or execute (a wedding, a special birthday or anniversary, a family reunion). I'm guessing you had help. And even though it was work, it was also fun. Why? Because you were accomplishing something big, together. Think about what

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you were able to achieve and imagine having that feeling at the end of a candidate forum, or a talk by a guest speaker, or one of our monthly unit meetings. You would feel good about having completed your work, and you would have developed new friendships and feel more connected to your local League sisters and brothers.

The picnic signals the start of a new year of League of Women Voters activities. I encourage every one of you to check out the calendars for candidate forums, voter registration, and program topics for the year, and sign up to do...something, however small it may seem to you. We need our village to come together and do its part to accomplish something big. Be a greeter at a table, sign people up, bring refreshments, put up signs and flyers, gather information, brainstorm questions, write a Facebook post... We can't do this big thing called League without everyone doing their part!

Thanks to those of you who signed up for something at the picnic! We appreciate your



**President Liz Lauder at “Kick-off” picnic, August 22.**



willingness to dive right in. If you couldn't make the picnic, contact your unit leader or sign up at the first unit meetings in September. I have already signed up to help with the September and March program topics to research and write and give the information to my fellow White Bear unit members. Won't you join me? I think we would have fun!



**Members and guests  
hearing about the coming  
program year.**

**Member participation  
(Here is your chance! Sign up now!)**

**The LWVWBLA 2018-2019 program  
needs volunteers to succeed.** Only  
members can make the 2018-2019  
programs succeed. Ideally, to build  
LWVWBLA cohesiveness and develop  
member expertise, members from all four  
units are encouraged to work together to  
present a program or activity at a monthly meeting.



Please participate in at least one of the monthly programs and activities listed below. Members who already volunteered are listed below. If you didn't sign up at the August picnic, please sign up at the September Unit meeting or contact Program Chair Lisa Larson ([Larson.lisa.f@gmail.com](mailto:Larson.lisa.f@gmail.com); 612-508-9195). Many members indicated on the May 2018 member survey an interest in participating in a short-term project.

**Program organization.**

Members who sign up for a program or activity organize it, starting with an initial meeting to determine “next steps.” Unit leaders and the program chair will help members identify information sources or outline program content if/when asked. Ideally, to build LWVWBLA cohesiveness and develop member expertise, members from all four units are encouraged to work together to present a program or activity.

**September Unit Meetings – Fair Representation**

Liz Lauder and Lisa Larson volunteered.

Seeking additional members, including from NO and SCV.

**Why is fair representation important to democracy and how can redistricting support or thwart fair representation?**

Discuss fair representation and elections, including gerrymandering, the decennial redrawing of election district boundaries, and voter suppression.

Participate in candidate forums, including by asking candidates to explain their position on MN’s redistricting process and any legislative proposals for establishing an independent redistricting commission.

**October Unit Meetings – Minnesota’s Redistricting Process**

Carolyn Folke, Mary Johnston, and Karen Gochberg volunteered.

Seeking additional members, including from WBL and SCV.

**What redistricting process best aligns with the LWV interest in a “representative, accountable, and responsive government” and how is that process effected in MN?**

Discuss MN-specific redistricting process and history, including legislators’ difficulty in reaching an agreement and the “default” role of the MN State Supreme Court.

Participate in candidate forums, including by recording and reporting on candidates’ responses to queries about their position on MN’s redistricting process.

**November General Meeting - Retired Supreme Court Justice Paul Anderson**

Gretchen Davidson, Kathy Tomsich, and Gladys Ritter volunteered.

Seeking additional members, including from NO.

November volunteers organize a general meeting for members to hear the invited speaker.



**What is the position of recently elected state legislators and their legislative majorities on MN's redistricting process and what advocacy might LWV members undertake in response?**

Hear retired MN Supreme Court Justice Paul Anderson discuss voters, voting, and redistricting in MN. Discuss federal, state, and local election results and possible member advocacy.

**December.** Hold holiday party; no unit meetings.

**January Unit Meetings – Effective Citizen Advocacy**

Lori Delahunt volunteered.

Seeking additional members, including from WBL, Mahtomedi and SCV.

**What must citizens know to effectively persuade state and local government officials?**

Discuss with experienced lobbyists and/or formerly elected officials the “how to” of effective citizen advocacy at state and local government levels.

**February General Meeting - Attorney Advocate from St. Paul Immigrant Law Center**

Lisa Larson volunteered.

Seeking additional members, including from WBL, NO and SCV.

February volunteers organize a general meeting for members to hear the invited speaker.

**How might immigrants' experience in MN and their reaction to the 2020 census affect fair representation and federal funding in MN?**

Hear Mirella Ceja-Orozco, attorney advocate from the St. Paul Immigrant Law Center, discuss immigration in MN, including immigrants' responses to the controversial 2020 census question on citizenship status. Discuss how immigrants' responses to the census can implicate both fair representation and federal funding in MN.

**March Unit Meetings – Book Discussion *The People's House* by David Pepper**

Anne Johnson, Liz Lauder, and Molly Anthony volunteered.

Seeking additional members, including from SCV.

**How do enormous amounts of money enable politicians and others to acquire and use granular data on voters to target swing districts and swing voters and how does money affect fair representation?**

Read and discuss *The People's House* by David Pepper, an international thriller for political junkies. The story, written just before the 2016 election,

involves a Russian oligarch who rigs voting machines in 31 swing districts throughout the US, hoping to elect a new congressional majority that will enact energy legislation to benefit the oligarch. Jack Sharpe, a jaded political reporter in Youngstown, Ohio, discovers election irregularities in his swing district after the incumbent legislator who lost the election dies a violent death. Sharpe's perilous investigation leads him to uncover an international plot to undermine American democracy and along the way the reader gets a fascinating lesson in voting machines, swing districts, political data analysis, high priced lobbyists, and all manner of political maneuvering and shenanigans in Washington DC.

**April.** Attend annual meeting.

**May Unit Meetings – Role of Local Police in Domestic Violence; End-of-Year Review**

Ruth Jones, Kathy Gaylord, Mary Santi, Mary Ryan, and Carol Bergeson volunteered.

Seeking additional members.

Although domestic violence affects people in all socio-economic and demographic categories and exists everywhere, it remains fairly hidden. Women are typically the victims. This study explores how local police handle crimes involving domestic violence, what kinds of data police collect and keep (or don't keep) and who has access to the data, what relevant training police have, and other related issues. New and long-term members are invited to help with this study, including members with preparation, training, or professional experience in domestic violence, chemical abuse, or mental illness.

Evaluate the outcomes of the legislative session and the LWVWBLA year. Ask members about program topics for the 2019-2020 year.

IN ADDITION, there are two program calendars for your convenience. One, a colored month by month layout on one page. Two, a month by month concise summary of the unit topics and type of presentations. Both are included in your Bear Facts.



**September Units Background and Focus Question for Discussion:**  
*(Please bring this section to your unit meeting)*

**Fair Representation and Elections.**

**What is fair representation?**

Fair representation means:

- the full range of demographic, ideological, and economic interests
- present among residents of a national, state, or local governmental jurisdiction
- who find expression and an effective voice in making public policy
- through electing public officials.

Fair representation also means:

- universal suffrage with certain exclusions
- secret ballots without technical impediments or interference
- free exercise of the right to vote without intimidation or suppression
- each vote equally weighted
- equitable access to money, media, data, and other campaign resources

Without fair representation, election districts become “safe” (uncompetitive) and polarized. This leads to hyper-partisanship and denies voters an equal say in their government and its affairs.

**Redistricting**

**What is redistricting?**

Redistricting next begins in 2020. It occurs every 10 years and requires states to redraw legislative district boundaries to reflect demographic and population changes reported in the national census. States must ensure each legislative district has about the same number of people and reflects and represents the people in that district. Redistricting affects members of the US Congress, state legislatures, and local governments and how congressional districts are apportioned to the states.

### **Why is redistricting important?**

**Redistricting affects:**

- **parties' political power**
- **which party controls federal, state, and local governmental bodies**
- **whether legislative bodies fairly represent competing constituencies and interests.**

**The comparative number of elected officials affiliated with each party determines which party is the majority party in a legislative body. The majority party controls the work of a legislative body, including the redistricting process.**

**Who draws the redistricted boundaries?**

**State legislatures draw state and congressional district boundary lines and maps. State governors can veto the maps. Sometimes bipartisan or nonpartisan commissions help legislatures draw the maps. A good redistricting process is open and transparent and lets the public ask questions and give meaningful input.**

### **What is Gerrymandering?**

**Gerrymandering occurs when legislators in the majority party use the redistricting process to gain electoral advantage by holding onto more congressional or state legislative seats than the party would otherwise have based on the proportion of voters who support that party. Gerrymandering lets a political party that represents a minority of voters:**

- **control a state legislature or the US House of Representatives**
- **disenfranchise voters**
- **unfairly help or hinder particular constituencies or communities**

**In some states, gerrymandered districts have entrenched a political party despite the fact the party represents a minority of voters; Georgia is an example of this.**

### **How is gerrymandering accomplished?**

**The law on redistricting authorizes politicians to redraw legislative district boundaries and maps. Politicians' inherent conflict of interest in this process often results in litigation alleging the redrawn boundaries and maps unfairly protect or change the political party in power or unfairly protect incumbent legislators.**

**"Packing" and "cracking" are two main gerrymandering strategies:**

- **"packing" concentrates voters of the opposing political party in one or few legislative districts to reduce their voting power in other legislative districts**



- “cracking” disperses voters of the opposing political party across many legislative districts to dilute their voting power

A third strategy of “stacking” concentrates low income, less well educated minority voters in a legislative district with higher income, better educated majority voters, expecting minority voters to vote at lower rates and majority voters to vote as a bloc.

### How does redistricting affect fair representation?

Decennial redistricting decisions can threaten fair representation. State elected officials in the majority party directed by law to redraw legislative district lines can create partisan, gerrymandered electoral maps to protect incumbents and give their political party an unfair advantage.

Both major parties draw gerrymandered maps but Republicans are more successful at it. For example, Wisconsin Republicans redrew legislative districts in 2010 to concentrate Democratic voters in a few districts (“packing”) and divide remaining Democratic voters among many districts (“cracking”) so they would never be a voting majority. In the 2012 election, Republicans received 48.6 percent of the statewide vote but won 60 of 99 seats in the Wisconsin Assembly.

Voter suppression and manipulation, effected through voter ID laws, restricted early voting opportunities, purged inactive voter rolls, social media campaigns, and unlimited campaign funding, also threaten fair representation.

### What is voter suppression?

Voter suppression is a strategy to influence the outcome of an election by dissuading particular groups of people, assumed to favor one political party, from voting in the election. State laws reducing early voting opportunities, imposing strict voter ID requirements, and directing purges of voter rolls before an election make it harder for eligible voters, including African Americans, Native Americans, the elderly, students, and people with disabilities, to vote.



**Schedule of Voter Forums**  
**Please contact Lori Soukup to help at one or more of these Forums.**  
 651-439-2796 or [soukup524@gmail.com](mailto:soukup524@gmail.com)

**2018 FORUMS** to date

## Volunteers

<b>Sep 6<sup>th</sup></b> (Thur)	Shoreview City Hall 4600 Victoria St. N	Ann Haase Molly Kathy Gaylord
	6:30 pm Shoreview mayoral/council forum	Carolyn Folke
	7:45 pm MN House Dist <b>42A/B</b> Jessup/Moller Yang/Becker-Finn	Sharon Guiser (late)
<b>Sep 17<sup>th</sup></b> (Mon)	North Oaks City Hall <b>*NEW LOCATION</b> 100 Village Center Dr Ste 100	Gene Molly Mary J
	6:30 pm North Oaks mayoral/council forum	Heidi
	7:45 pm MN House Dist <b>38B</b> Anderson/Wazlawik	Carol Bergeson Kathy Tomsich
<b>Sep 20<sup>th</sup></b> (Thur)	Mahtomedi City Hall 600 Stillwater Rd	Shelia, Sharon S, Gretchen, Linders, Joan N, Mary H, Barb Memory, Mary J, Lisa L, Gretchen
	6:30 pm ISD 832 School Board (not confirmed at time of printing)	
	7:45 pm MN House Dist <b>43A</b> Fischer/Cardinal	
<b>Sep 24<sup>th</sup></b> (Mon)	Oak Park Heights City Hall 14168 Oak Park Blvd 55082	Gretchen, Shelia, Becky S, Sharon S, Linders, Kathy T, Ruth J,
	6:30 pm ISD 834 School Board	
	7:45 pm MN House Dist <b>39B</b> Lohmer/Christensen	
<b>Oct 2<sup>nd</sup></b> (Tue)	Forest Lake City Hall 1408 Lake St S	Mary Jo, Molly, Shelia,
	6:30 pm Forest Lake city council forum (7 candidates, 2 positions)	
	7:45 pm Forest Lake mayoral forum (4 candidates)	
<b>Oct 9<sup>th</sup></b> (Tue)	Marine on St. Croix Village Hall 121 Judd Street	Molly,
	6:30 pm Washington County Sheriff forum Hoppe/Starry (not confirmed)	
	7:45 pm MN House Dist <b>39A</b> Dettmer/Mozey	

## UPDATE ON POLICE STUDY



### **Police Study Changes its Focus to “The Role of Local Police in Domestic Violence”**

Because the Police Training study that members adopted at the 2017 Annual Meeting is no longer relevant\*, the committee has decided to change its focus. For the coming year we will look at the role of local police in cases of domestic violence.

Even though this issue crosses income, education, racial and class boundaries, and is present in all of our communities, it is still fairly hidden. Women are typically victims in these cases.

We plan to explore how these crimes are handled by our local police, what kinds of data are kept (or not kept) and who has access, what kind of training our officers have and other areas of interest. We invite new and seasoned members to join us in exploring this serious issue. We especially urge you to join if you have background, training or experience around this issue or related areas of chemical abuse and mental illness.

The committee that plans to explore this topic plans to meet regularly through the fall, winter and spring. There will be research and most likely interviews with our local police. The committee plans to report its findings to members at unit meetings next May. The committee will hold its organizational meeting Wednesday, **Sept. 5 at 6:30 pm at Boutwell’s Landing** in Oak Park Heights. Carpools will go from the White Bear Lake area. Contact Ruth Jones 651-275-3700 to get specific details on the location or if you want to carpool. If you are interested in helping with this study, please let Ruth know.



\*The Minnesota Legislature passed a new law in 2017 mandating and funding training for every police officer in the state in the areas of racial/cultural awareness and treatment of the mentally ill.

## Spotlight on National Convention Delegates



LWV WBLA National Convention attendees:  
Liz Lauder, Miriam Simmons, Kathy Tomsich

Minnesota Delegates at LWVUS Convention  
LWV US Convention





## **Ruling the Convention**

### ***A report from the LWWUS Convention in Chicago.***

We hadn't even adopted the agenda yet, and already there was a main motion, a proposed amendment, a vote (main motion adopted by 2/3 vote), a re-statement of the amendment, a ruling by the chair, an appeal, a vote on the appeal (majority vote, chair's decision sustained), and a vote on the amendment (2/3 vote required, lost). Did you follow that?

Robert's Rules really do rule. A little knowledge of these can go a long way.

National and state LWW conventions are when bylaws are amended. This national convention was a bit unusual in that no amendments to the bylaws were suggested by any league but instead came only from the LWWUS Bylaws committee. There were five Board-recommended amendments (three of them were adopted).

What happens if you want to amend an amendment?

There are rules as to what is allowed and it's helpful to have an idea of the proper way to amend.

And there's another element: **the scope of notice**. What does this mean?

Briefly it means an amendment can't amend outside the bounds of that proposed. This is because notice is required to make an amendment, in our case, we must be informed at least six weeks in advance of Convention that an amendment will be proposed. A simple example of this is an amendment to increase the number of elected directors to ten from eight. An acceptable amendment would be to strike "eight" and insert "nine". An amendment outside the scope of notice – and therefore out of order – would be to strike "eight" and insert "eleven".

Confused yet?

At the 2016 LWWUS Convention, we wanted to amend the bylaws as to *Voting Members*. We amended to strike "citizens at least 18 years of age" and insert "persons". After much debate, the motion was lost. (The delegates were opposed to removing an age limit.) During debate, the Chair ruled that no amendment to the amendment was allowed – but this was incorrect! Why? Because a reduction in the age limit anywhere between 18 and zero was within the **scope of notice** for this amendment. This all eventually got sorted out, and an amendment finally was adopted that read: "persons at least 16 years of age".

At the 2018 Convention, an amendment to an amendment was proposed that would have (among other things) removed "a committee of the Board" and inserted "the Board". The Chair ruled that removing "a committee" was outside the scope of notice and therefore the motion was out of order. The only way to argue this point was to appeal the decision of the Chair. This means that the Chair would have a chance to explain why the motion is out of order, the person appealing gets to argue that it's not, and the assembly gets to vote on whether to sustain the Chair's decision.

Miriam G. Simmons, PRP  
Delegate for the White Bear Area League

## Treasurer's Report

**August 8, 2018**

**Elizabeth Nordling, Treasurer**

	Current	YTD
<b>Income:</b>		
Dues	\$120.00	\$1927.50
Donations	\$	\$ 75.00
Memorials	\$	\$
Meetings (socials)	\$	\$105.00
Service	\$	\$
In-kind donation	\$	\$
Voters Service	\$452.50	\$452.50
Calendars	\$	\$
Bank interest	\$0.17	\$0.30
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$572.67</b>	<b>\$2560.30</b>

<b>Expenses:</b>	Meetings (socials)	\$	\$
2016 National convention		\$	\$
LWVMN PMP		\$1543.75	\$1543.75
LWVUS PMP		\$2144.00	\$2144.00
Meeting site		\$	\$
Voters Service		\$470.59	\$470.59
Program (includes publicity)		\$	\$57.73
Bear Facts copying/printing		\$	\$
Calendars		\$	\$
Membership		\$325.35	\$668.00
(communication, recruiting & recognition)			

**Total: \$4483.69    \$4884.07**

Opening balance from June 13, 2018:	\$7150.59
Income	+ \$572.67
Expenses:	- \$4483.69

**Current balance:                    \$3239.57**

**Ed fund CD:                         \$5038.94**

2018-19 Paid Members: 28 @ \$60 8@ \$75

Total: 47 (including our 3 lifetime members)

# LWV WBLA 2018-2019 PROGRAM CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER - 2018							TOPIC: Fair Representation: Overview
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
						1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	10 Mahtomedi 7:00 PM
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	12 North Oaks 12:30 PM
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	12 Board 6:30 PM
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	13 WBLake 7:00 PM
30							14 SCV 10:00 AM

OCTOBER - 2018							TOPIC: Minnesota's Redistricting Process
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	8 Mahtomedi 7:00 PM
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	10 North Oaks 12:30 PM
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	10 Board 6:30 PM
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	11 WBLake 7:00 PM
28	29	30	31				12 SCV 10:00 AM

NOVEMBER - 2018							Public Mtg: Voting and Redistricting with Justice Paul Anderson
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	MEETINGS
				1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	6 General Election
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	8 Public Meeting
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	14 Board 6:30 PM
25	26	27	28	29	30		

DECEMBER - 2018							All Unit Holiday Party hosted by Mahtomedi Unit
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	NO UNIT MEETINGS
						1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	2 Holiday Party
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	12 Board 6:30 PM
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
30	31						Holiday Party Dec. 2

JANUARY - 2019							TOPIC: Effective Citizen Advocacy
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	MEETINGS
		1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	9 North Oaks 12:30 PM
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	9 Board 6:30 PM
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	10 WBLake 7:00 PM
27	28	29	30	31			11 SCV 10:00 AM
							14 Mahtomedi 7:00 PM

FEBRUARY - 2019							Public Mtg: Immigration with Mirella Ceja-Orozco
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
					1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	13 Board 6:30 PM
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	21 Public Meeting
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28			

MARCH - 2019							TOPIC: Book: The People's House by David Pepper
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	MEETINGS
					1	2	8 SCV 10:00 AM
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	11 Mahtomedi 7:00 PM
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	13 North Oaks 12:30 PM
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	13 Board 6:30 PM
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	14 WBLake 7:00 PM
31							

APRIL - 2019							Annual Meeting hosted by White Bear Lake Unit
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	10 Board 6:30 PM
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	18 Annual Meeting
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30					
							Annual Meeting - 18th

MAY - 2019							TOPIC: Role of Local Police in Domestic Violence; Year in Review: Topics for 19-20
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	MEETINGS
			1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	8 North Oaks 12:30 PM
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	8 Board 6:30 PM
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	9 WBLake 7:00 PM
26	27	28	29	30	31		10 SCV 10:00 AM
							13 Mahtomedi 7:00 PM

## MEETING LOCATIONS:

**Mahtomedi Unit:** WBL Unitarian Universalist Church  
328 Maple St., Mahtomedi, MN 55115 (2nd Monday)  
**North Oaks Unit:** Incarnation Lutheran Church  
4880 Hodgson Rd, North Oaks, MN 55126 (2nd Wed.)  
**White Bear Lake Unit:** White Bear Lake City Hall, 2nd floor,  
4701 Hwy 61, White Bear Lake, MN (2nd Thurs)  
**St. Croix Valley Unit:** Stillwater Public Library,  
224 3rd St N, Stillwater, MN 55082 (2nd Friday)

## Board Meeting Location:

2150 2nd St.,  
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

The Board meets the 2nd  
Wednesday of the month  
at 6:30 PM

## COLOR KEY:

Unit Meetings  
 Board Meetings  
 All Unit Events  
 Public Meetings  
 Bear Facts Deadlines

**Bear Facts Deadlines:** 3rd Tuesday of the month

## Unit Leaders:

Mahtomedi: Anne Johnson, johns745@umn.edu,  
651-429-6420  
North Oaks: Carolyn Folke, cbwf40@gmail.com, 612-414-9503  
White Bear Lake: Judy Ottman, dick.ottman@usfamily.net,  
651-426-0159  
St. Croix Valley: Lori Soukup, soukup524@gmail.com,  
651-491-4735

**September Units  
Dates, Locations, and Time**

**Topic: Fair Representation**

**September 10, Mahtomedi Unit, 7:00 PM  
WBL Unitarian Universalist Church  
328 Maple St., Mahtomedi**

**September 12, North Oaks Unit, 12:30 PM  
Incarnation Lutheran Church  
4880 Hodgson Road, North Oaks**

**September 13, White Bear Lake Unit, 7:00 PM  
White Bear Lake City Hall, 2nd Floor  
4701 Hwy 61, White Bear Lake**

**September 14, Saint Croix Valley Unit, 10:00 AM  
Stillwater Public Library  
224 3rd St., Stillwater**

**Attend a Unit, Bring a Friend,  
Greet New Members**