

the Bear Facts

the League of Women Voters of the White Bear Lake Area

Joint Unit and Public Meeting Retired Minnesota Supreme Court Justice, Paul Anderson Speaks on: Manipulating the Right to Vote: Redistricting, Gerrymandering, Voter ID, and More

> Thursday, November 8th 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM White Bear Lake City Hall Council Chambers 4701 Highway 61N White Bear Lake, MN.

Justice Paul Anderson, retired MN Supreme Court Justice, is speaking about voter manipulation and suppression and redistricting in MN at the November general meeting in the WBL City Hall on Thursday evening, November 8, two days after the 2018 general election. The 2018 general election is when MN voters elect the next governor, 134 MN house members, and one state senator who determines the majority party in the MN senate, and also help elect the next U.S. Congress. State election results may or may not leave Minnesotans with a divided state government. The majority parties in the U.S. Congress and the MN legislature can propose and advance legislation, including laws affecting fair representation.



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

On Mon, Oct 15, 2018 at 11:46 AM Liz Lauder <<u>lizlauder@gmail.com</u>> wrote:

Hello, all,

As a fellow League member recently reminded me, there will be a November 7th. Some former candidates will become newly-elected officials. We can go back to watching television without being inundated by political ads. Robo calls will once again be selling us Disney vacations instead of asking us to support candidate X. Before we close the books on the 2018 election, though, what can we and have we learned about this and other recent elections when it comes to voter manipulation? I hope I will see you on Thursday, November 8th at White Bear Lake City Hall to hear former Minnesota Supreme Court Justice, Paul Anderson, when he gives a talk entitled, Manipulating the Right to Vote: Redistricting, Gerrymandering, Voter ID, and More. As someone who has had to decide where to draw district lines during two redistricting cycles (because our legislature and governor could not agree), he is a great source of knowledge on how votes can be maneuvered by one group or another. Bring a skeptical friend!

And for those newly-elected officials I just spoke of, they can expect to start hearing from every special interest group under the sun, starting on November 7th. How can the average person's voice be heard amidst such clamor for attention? Who better to ask than former legislators? In January, we will have an opportunity to hear from several, as our units host the likes of Mindy Greiling, DFL member of the House from 1992 to 2012, and Carol McFarlane, Republican House member from 2007 to 2012, and more quests to be determined. They will be speaking to their own experience, and referencing our own Lisa Larson's very helpful guide to citizen advocacy. Every guest will have such unique and personal stories to share, it will be difficult to decide which meeting to go to. The best thing is, you can go to more than one! Form a carpool and road trip to multiple meetings. Each one promises to be different, so put them all on your calendar now!

Liz Lauder, President

P.s. If you haven't already, vote on November 6th!

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Background for Judge Anderson's Presentation

Voter Suppression and Digital Manipulation

Varius state and local laws and administrative practices can make it more difficult for voters to vote. These include:

•early deadlines for submitting voter registration forms with penalties for late filing

•strict voter ID laws, disproportionately impacting disabled, elderly and minority voters

purged voter registration lists, disproportionately impacting minority voters
early voting limitations, disproportionately impacting voters without flexible working hours who cannot take time off from work to vote

•disenfranchising felons who complete their prison term and parole, disproportionately impacting minority voters

•disinformation about when and how to vote, including deadlines for absentee ballots and the locations and hours of polling places

•underfunded local election day resources causing long lines at polling places, especially in urban minority neighborhoods

•too few Department of Motor Vehicle branches issuing voter IDs in minority neighborhoods

•registration challenges of voters registered with another political party

•partisan state office holders using sophisticated computer technology to draw gerrymandered electoral district boundaries, disproportionately benefitting one party (gerrymandering allows elected officials to pick voters rather than the reverse) or incumbent

Compounding the effect of voter suppression laws and practices is digital manipulation through hacking and information warfare. For example, many states' voting machines are vulnerable to tampering and hacking (and errors and malfunctions) and 14 states lack a paper ballot for auditing voting results. Voter rolls stored digitally are also vulnerable to hacking. Cash-poor communities with failing machines can't replace their aging systems. Voters or candidates rather than state or federal officials or political parties generally have the burden to prove an election is stolen. Furthermore, a democracy is only as good as the information voters receive. Polarizing news on social media, among other sources, can transform uninformed voters to misinformed voters. Voters' confidence in government is undermined when voters believe a particular candidate's vote totals were unfairly increased or depressed.

Possible Member Questions for Justice Anderson

At the November general meeting, Justice Anderson is discussing voter manipulation and suppression and redistricting in MN, and then responding to member/audience questions. Below, in no particular order, are somquestions for Justice Anderson that members raised at their October unit meetings onredistricting in MN.

•Which Minnesotans are most affected by a voter ID law and why? How necessary is a voter ID law in MN to counteract voter fraud?

•How can voters recognize manipulation of information, disinformation, fabrication of information, lobbying, and other attempts to influence public opinion and gain political benefits?

•What are some notable examples of information warfare?

•What is an effective response for friends and acquaintances so discouraged about voting they say they won't vote?

•What do voter-related data show about the relative competitiveness of MN's legislative and congressional districts?

•What role, if any, should the judiciary have in redrawing electoral district boundaries? Should an independent entity separate from state legislators and the judiciary redraw electoral district boundaries and, if so, what is that entity and how does it operate?

•What are "best practices" for maintaining current voter registration lists? What do you think about Ohio's practice, upheld by SCOTUS in 2018, of purging voter rolls four years after a voter skips one federal election cycle?

•Should convicted felons who complete their prison term and parole have their right to vote restored? Why or why not?

• The LWVWBLA asked all MN House candidates who participated in a League-sponsored candidates' forum to state their position on MN's redistricting process. Candidates' responses suggest most candidates have limited understanding of the redistricting process. Given that fair representation is a core interest of the LWV, what do you recommend the LWVWBLA do to inform newly elected legislators about redistricting?

Candidate Forum Report by Lori Soukup

2018 Candidate Forums

As of this writing we are on the home stretch of an ambition candidate forum schedule. There seems to be a heightened interest in the mid-term elections; we've counted over 700 attendees at our events so far!

Watch for a complete forum wrap up next month.....

All candidates for MN House were asked the following question. A recap of their responses follows.

WHAT DO THE CANDIDATES FOR MN HOUSE THINK ABOUT REDISTRICTING? For the past four decades, by default, the MN Supreme Court has had to redraw election district boundaries and maps because the legislature and the governor couldn't agree on the boundaries. As a state legislator, what, if anything, would you do to change this redistricting process?

MN HOUSE 38B

- Anderson Anderson would change nothing and assume that the courts will set the boundaries as in the past.
- Wazlawik Wazlawik supports an independent commission, made up of retired judges, to take the decision out of the hands of the legislators.

MN HOUSE 39A

- Bob Dettmer did not participate in forum
- Ann Mozey Mozey understood the question to be about whether or not district boundaries should be redrawn at all. She was not in favor of redrawing them as she has gotten to know her would-be constituents.

MN HOUSE 39B

- Christensen Christensen is in favor of an impartial committee or panel to set the boundaries. She feels legislators are too concerned with self preservation to be independent.
- Lohmer did not participate in forum

MN House 43 B

Both candidates participated.

MN HOUSE 42A

- Jessup Jessup feels the current method of defaulting to the courts to draw boundaries after the legislature and or governor can not agree is working well and should continue.
- Moller Moller supports setting up an independent commission to draw boundaries

MN HOUSE 42B

- Becker-Finn Becker-Finn feels the first component is an accurate census. She supports an independent panel to draw up redistricting lines.
- Yang Yang feels the current method is working and would not change it.

MN HOUSE 43A

- Cardinal Cardinal is not in favor of an independent commission, saying the idea is a "joke." He questions the ability anyone to make decisions independent of party affiliation.
- Fischer Fischer is in favor of having an independent commission to draw district boundaries.



Candidate Bob Detmer did not attend.

Would You Like to Review Candidate's Forums? See Below for Replays

MN House District 43A race between Peter Fischer & Bob Cardinal that was held September 20, 2018 at Mahtomedi City Hall. https://youtu.be/2b1hUX8GMQk

Mahtomedi City Council candidate forum held Sept. 20 at Matomedi City Hall. Candidates are Gary Baumann, Mike Chevalier, Kevin Donovan and Julie McGraw. https://youtu.be/mgL4DawEuNk

MN Legislative District 38B and city of North Oaks mayor and council forums from Sept. 17 at this link:

http://ctvnorthsuburbs.org/.../684-north-oaks-council-state-r...

The North Oaks forum precedes the forum for legislative candidates. Candidates for 38B are Patti Anderson and Ami Wazlawik. Candidates for North Oaks mayor are Mark Azman and Gregg B. Nelson. Council candidates are Kara Ries, Katy Ross and Sara Shah.

MN Legislative Districts 42A and 42B Residents here can see the LWV candidate forum from Sept. 6 at this link. Candidates in District 42A are Randy Jessup and Kelly Moller. Candidates for District 42B are Jamie Becker-Finn and Yele-Mis Yang. http://trms.ctv15.org/CablecastPublicSite/show/13388...

MN House 39B LWV candidate forum held on Sept. 24 in Oak Park Heights. (There were some technical issues with Comcast so we have 2 parts to this forum.)

Candidate Shelly Christensen appears. Candidate Kathy Lohmer was invited but did not participate in this forum.

part 1 https://youtu.be/JaeHX4YQRd4 part 2 https://youtu.be/WN3MYpMMnt0

Washington County Sheriff. Candidate Paul Hoppe participated. Candidate Jack Starry was invited but did not participate.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ToNHxYSctg8

Stillwater ISD 834 School Board candidate forum from Sept. 24. Participating are candidates Mark Burns, Matthew Cooper, Jon Fila, Donald Hovland, Shelley Pearson, Tina Riehle and Liz Weisberg. https://youtu.be/darKTcGgnTU

Shoreview Mayor and Council forum from Sept. 6 at Shoreview City Hall. All candidates were invited. Participating were mayoral candidate Sandy Martin and council candidates Douglas Blomberg, Jesse Ehrenreich, Terry Quigley and Cory Springhorn. http://shoreviewmn.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php...



LWVWBLA MEMBERS, SPOUSES AND GUESTS YOU ARE INVITED TO A HOLIDAY BRUNCH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2018 Noon to 3:00 PM AT 5200 PATHWAYS AVE. WHITE BEAR LAKE,MN (KATHY GAYLORD'S BUILDING PARTY ROOM)

Hosts: Members of the Mahtomedi Unit

Menu: Egg bakes, pastries, fresh fruit, juices, mimosas, coffee and tea Gluten free and vegetarian options will be available.

> Cost: \$10.00 RSVP to Lisa Larson by November 25th <u>lisa.larson.f@gmail.com</u> or 612-508-9196

Directions: From White Bear City Hall:

- 1. Go North on Highway #61.
- 2. Turn right onto Lake Avenue (MN 96). Go .8 mi.
- 3. Turn left onto Northwest Ave.
- 4. Immediately (in 350 ft.) turn left onto Stillwater St. Go .3 mi.
- 5. Continue straight on Pathways 6. Look for LWV sign at entrance to building.
- 6. Park in lot or on side street. DO NOT PARK ON HYDRANT SIDE OR CIRCLE DRIVE.
- 7. Someone will be there to let you in or push Gaylord to get buzzed in.



Book Suggestions from Lisa Larson: <u>The Women Who Won the Right to Vote</u> <u>https://www.newyorker.com/culture/culture-desk/the-women-who-won-the-right-to-vote</u>

More Links.....

"Great Society" at the History Theater is towering and tragic

- What: "The Great Society"
- When: Through Oct. 28
- Where: History Theatre; 30 East 10th St., St. Paul
- Tickets: \$56 \$25
- Information: <u>651-292-4323</u> or <u>historytheatre.com</u>
- Capsule: The History Theater steps up its game from last a season's memorable "All the Way".
- Lisa Larson says it is "really, really good."

Deep Fakes: A Looming Challenge for Privacy, Democracy, and National Security https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3213954

Why discerning what's fake news is so difficult. I fell for Facebook fake news. Here's why millions of you did, too.

Everyone now knows the Web is filled with lies. So then how do fake Facebook posts, YouTube videos and tweets keep making suckers of us?

https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2018/10/18/i-fellfacebook-fake-news-heres-why-millions-you-did-too/

Get out the vote in November: A story on NPR https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2018/10/24/660059052/getting-out-the-youth-vote-with-a-dash-of-snark

If anyone has a book or video to recommend about voting or other League-y topics, please submit to Gretchen before the 3rd Wednesday of the month. davidsongretchen3@gmail.com





Welcome to new members:

Barb Memory, new member of the White Bear Lake unit is no stranger to LWV. She was a member in North Carolina until her chapter folded.

Originally from E. Lansing, Michigan, she was living in North Carolina in her career as professor and director of the Music Therapy program at East Carolina University. Music therapy is practiced in a variety of settings, like special education, mental health, gerontology and nursing. While music is important in general, professional music therapy requires board certification and is practiced as part of a team.

After retiring, Barb moved to Mahtomedi with her mother 5 years ago to be near her sister. Mom died just short of her 100th birthday.

Barb has a son in Maryland and he has a partner but no grandkids are in sight. Two sisters each have a son which is nice for her.

Besides LWV, Barb is active in Silver Harmony Singers, where her violin talent may soon be seen in a show. And she is now a "church lady," becoming a deacon at her church.

New White Bear Lake Unit Member Jeanne Hamlin is a lifelong Minnesotan from her birth in South Minneapolis. She moved around for college in Winona and spent 10 years in rural Hugo before landing in White Bear Lake a year ago. "It's a small community," she says, "where people know you, where you can be involved."

She joined LWV after attending a gun violence rally and being moved by speakers from affected schools urging people to get out and vote.

Jeanne retired in 2017 after a career in professional organizational development and strategic planning, having her own company.

She has a daughter in Austin and son in Northeast Minneapolis who have not provided her with any grandchildren.

She is interested in performing arts, visual arts and photography. She loves hearing a lot of music and live theater. You may see her ushering at Lakeshore Players. Jeanne plays piano, guitar and flute. She also spends her time bicycling, walking, gardening and doing yard work.

ALSO WELCOME TO:

Chris Koentopp, new member in the White Bear Lake unit, was scared to death of what is happening in government and felt she needed to do something to help. After hearing someone from LWV talk, she joined, thinking of it as a group that could change things. And we were nice people, she says.

Chris is a native of St. Paul. After getting her degree in education and teaching high school science and math for 2-1/2 years, amid Omaha's racial riots, her first daughter arrived and Chris wanted to teach part time. Substituting just didn't work out, so, she gave up teaching, got a BA in pharmacy and spent her career working for hospitals, health plans and, her favorite, as pharmacy director at Children's Hospital. During this time she also served as a director for YMCA's Camp DuNord, as president of the pharmacist association and for the local AAUW. Somewhere in there she got an MBA.

Since a medical leave and retiring 8 years ago, Chris has been busy volunteering: at the White Bear Lake Food Shelf, Help at Your Door, the Vadnais Heights Lions, and knitting for a prayer shawl ministry.

Husband Bill is retired too, and spends his time volunteering, acting as fix-it-guy for several women with no husbands and with his son-in-law's lawn and snow plow business. They have 4 children (one is deceased) who live close and pop in often.

As for her favorite entertainment, Chris says volunteering and caring for her grandchildren are her chief entertainment.

ALSO WELCOME TO:

Lover of History and Travel Joins White Bear Lake Unit : A former Peace Corp. volunteer in Chile, **Susan Travis** has lived in Minnesota for 52 years. She spent 28 of those years teaching—mainly history—at Woodbury High School and is now retired.

In her own school days, Susan's favorite subjects were social studies, history and math. She played basketball on a six-person team and played clarinet in band, resulting in a lifelong interest in music.

Currently, Susan belongs to an investment club called "Up Your Assets." She also volunteers at the book store of St. Mark Episcopal Chapel on Loring Park. Recently she visited Bulgaria--"a beautiful and underdeveloped country"—to buy icons for resale locally. She enjoys vacationing in Chile and in Mexico, which she visits at least two weeks every year.

Susan's interest in history and government made LWV attractive to her; she says she "needed a push" to join, however, and we are fortunate that members Avis Watkins and Peg Olson provided it. We welcome Susan to the North Oaks Area unit.

NOTES OF INTEREST FROM LIZ LAUDER:

First, the state office has yard signs you can purchase in person for \$15 each. They are corrugated plastic with a metal stake. The sign is double-sided, with the words, "Vote! It Counts!" and the League logo. The signs are 18" x 24".

Second, members are encouraged to give feedback on plans for a traveling exhibit about the 100 year anniversary of LWV Minnesota. There is a survey for members to fill out at: <u>https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdMC-JDgvPRrRLqncwOg7urKCSLEVGpz6G62ELGtHDtkUTNLw/viewform</u>

Hurry, the survey closes October 26th

SOCIAL MEDIA

Don't forget to check out our Facebook page. You will find it if you search

for League of Women Voters White Bear Lake Area. Our page has an up-to-date calendar for candidates forums and upcoming meetings. We are currently posting replays from our candidate forums that have already taken place. Check out our page, "like" it "share" it and post it.



LWV White Bear Lake Area also has a Website. You will find that at <u>www.lwv-wbla.org</u>. There you will find an events calendar, back issues

www.lwv-wbla.org

of the Bear Facts, board information and an invitation and instructions on how to join. Our website is still under construction, so check back periodically for new information.



- November: No units: General meeting-open to the public, Nov. 8th Retired Minnesota Judge Paul Anderson to speak on Redistricting in Minnesota. White Bear Lake City Hall
- December: No Units: Holiday Brunch December 2, Pathways Condo.
- January: In Units: Effective Citizen Advocacy based on Lisa Larson's, A Citizen's Guide to Advocating at the Minnesota Legislature
- *February:* No Units: General Meeting on February 21: Speaker: Mirella Ceja Orozco to present on *Immigrant Experiences and Effects on the 2020 Census*
- *March:* Unit discussions on *The People's House* by David Pepper an international thriller for political junkies.
- April: No Units:Annual Meeting
- May: Units: Role of local Police in Domestic Violence, plus review of 2018-2019 program topics and discussion of possible 2019-20-20 topics.



Treasurer's Report

October 10, 2018

Elizabeth Nordling, Treasurer

| | | Current | YTD |
|---|--|---|---|
| Income: | Dues Donations Memorials Meetings (socials) Service In-kind donation Voters Service Calendars Bank interest Total: | \$1020.00 \$149.00 \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$376.00 \$ \$1545.00 | \$3502.50 \$249.00 \$ \$375.00 \$ \$ \$452.50 \$376.00 \$0.30 \$4955.30 |
| Expenses: | Meetings (socials) 2016 National convention LWVMN PMP LWVUS PMP Meeting site Voters Service Program (includes publicity) Bear Facts copying/printing Calendars Membership (communication, recruiting & recognition) | \$73.50 \$ \$ \$ \$ \$88.50 \$ \$277.31 \$ | \$194.90 \$ \$1543.75 \$2144.00 \$ \$470.59 \$146.23 \$ \$277.31 \$668.00 |
| | Total: | \$439.31 \$54 | 44.78 |
| Opening balance from Sept. 12, 2018: Income + Expenses: - | | \$3968.17 \$1545.00 \$439.31 | |
| Current balance: | | \$5073.86 | |
| Ed fund CD. | | \$5040 68 | |

Ed fund CD: \$5040.68

2018-19 Paid Members: 54 @ \$60 9@ \$75

Total: 75 (including our 3 lifetime members)