



January Unit Meetings

For unit meetings in January we have chosen to read and discuss ideas that are brought out in the book **Night of Camp David** by Fletcher Knebel. Many of you have books we ordered from Amazon. The book should also be available from the library or at another bookstore.

The book was written in 1965 and is a work of fiction. It explores what our nation's leaders would do if they came to discover that the U.S. president was unstable and unfit to continue in office.

The book illustrates a few themes that we will discuss at our unit meetings. How have things changed since then and what has not changed over time? To start the discussion, here are a few questions to keep in mind as you read:

Question 1: What is the impact of partisanship? How did it affect political outcomes then and how is it affecting outcomes now?

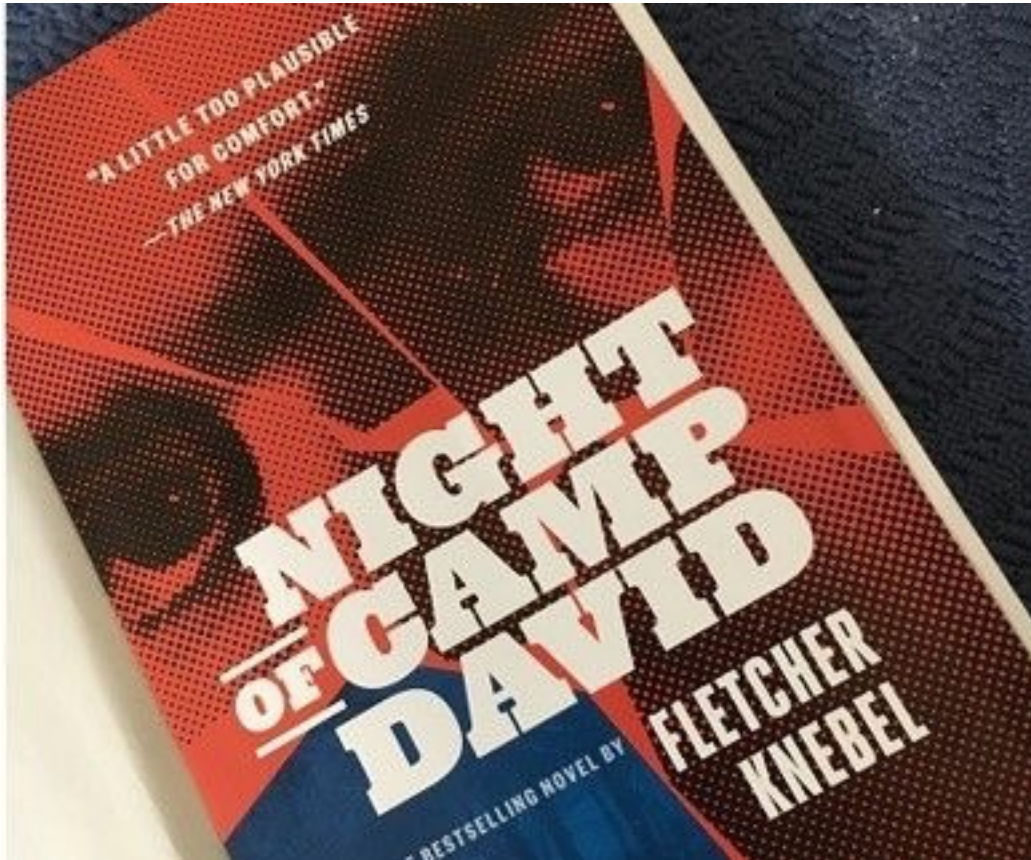
Question 2: What constraints were there on presidential action at the time of the book compared to now? What has changed?

Question 3: What differences do you see between authority or power conferred (as a representative who is elected) versus power taken (as in gerrymandering) then and now.

Question 4: Thinking of the me-too movement, what differences do you see in the role of women in politics then and now?

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The January Unit Meetings Will Be Held:

**Wed. Jan. 8, North Oaks Unit at 12:30 pm,
Incarnation Lutheran Church
4880 Hodgson Rd, North Oaks, MN 55126**

**Thurs. Jan. 9, St Croix Valley Unit at 3 pm,
Tin Bins, 413 E. Nelson, Stillwater, MN 55082**

**Thurs. Jan. 9, White Bear Lake Unit at 7 pm,
White Bear Lake City Hall, 2nd floor,
4701 Hwy 61 N, White Bear Lake, MN, 55110**

**Mon. Jan. 13, Mahtomedi Unit at 7 pm,
WBL Unitarian Universalist Church
328 Maple St., Mahtomedi, MN 55115**



**EDUCATE,
ADVOCATE,
EMPOWER,
REPEAT.
100 YEARS AND COUNTING.**



President's Column

by Liz Lauder

Day of Action February 14

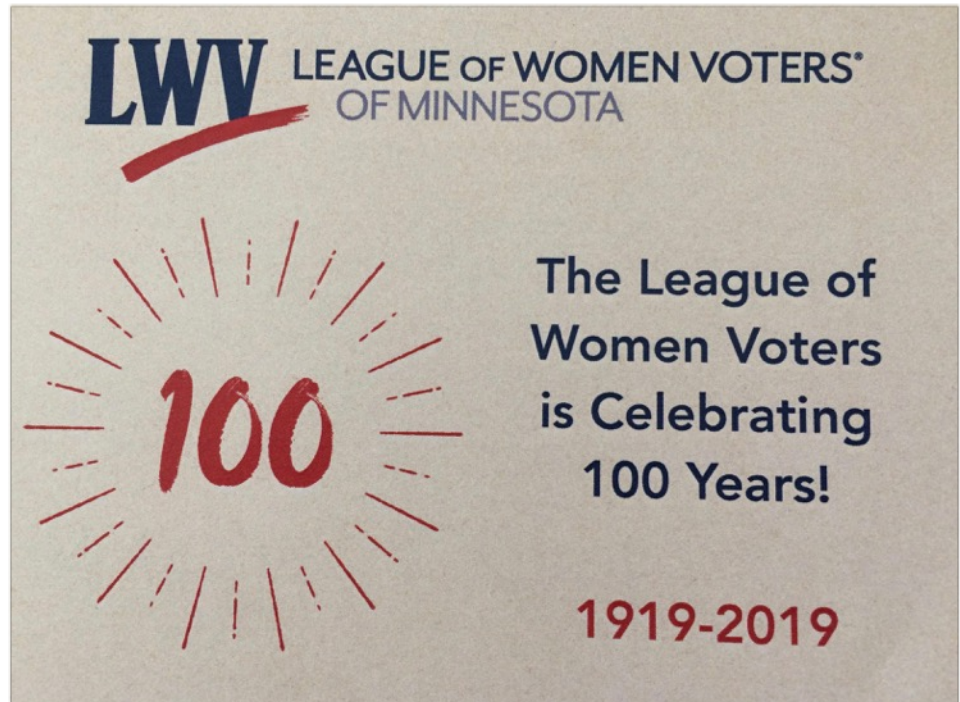
On February 14, 1920, Carrie Chapman Catt announced the beginning of the League of Women Voters at the National American Woman Suffrage Association convention, even before the Susan B. Anthony Amendment was ratified by the required 36 states. Catt wasn't going to wait around. She knew that if half of the American electorate was going to start voting in elections, they'd need to learn about the issues and the candidates and the political process.

On February 14, 2020, We have an opportunity to raise public awareness and to petition our lawmakers to put redistricting in the hands of the people by forming an independent redistricting commission. This is the focus of the national Day of Action for the LWV on the anniversary of our founding, called "Women Power the Vote!" Like Carrie Catt, we can't afford to wait. This opportunity is only open to us for a little while before the census is completed and the district maps will need to be redrawn. The People Powered Fair Maps Campaign is a coordinated LWV effort this year across multiple states where legislative wins on redistricting are possible, including here in Minnesota. Read more about the Fair Maps campaign on the LWVMN website: <https://www.lwvmn.org/fair-district-maps> and learn about "Women Power the Vote" Day of Action at <https://www.lwv.org/dayofaction>.

League of Women Voters GALA

By Liz Lauder

The LWV of Minnesota celebrated the first day of their 2nd century on October 26th at the Union Depot in St. Paul. In attendance at the celebration were WBLA members, Kathy Tomsich, Carol Bergeson, Carolyn Folke, Ann Haase, Joanne Youngstrom, Becky Siekmeier, and Liz Lauder.



The printed program for the evening included a reproduction of the program that was used on the night of the first gala in 1919, when the guest speakers spoke about the food supply and social hygiene! The 21st century gala included speeches by many "firsts"-- women who were the first to serve in elected or appointed office in Minnesota, including Supreme Court Justice Margaret Chutich, Richfield City Council member Edwina Garcia, Ramsey County Commissioner Toni Carter, and many others.

Attendees were able to view the travelling history exhibit, which will be at the Stillwater

Public Library in January, bid on items at a live auction to raise money for the LWVMN, and listen to the Apollo Male Chorus, whose members also performed at the 1919 event. It was great to be a part of history. If you weren't able to be there, you can watch it from the comfort of your own home (or wherever you happen to be) by going to this YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JICKeZUqicM>

LWVWBLA CELEBRATES WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

THROUGH THE YEARS

A brief journey through LWVWBLA news archives reveals a long and proud history of civic mindedness and patriotic celebration. To kick off our 100th year, here is a look back at some of the ways that we have celebrated our founding in the past, and a sneak peak at our up-coming 100-year celebrations!

1976: 50TH ANNIVERSARY

WHITE BEAR LAKE AND NORTH OAKS MEMBERS RECREATE SUFFRAGE MARCH

America's bicentennial brought out many patriotic celebrations of our country's hard-won institutions. Because the year 1976 was also an important Presidential election year, the League of Women Voters took the opportunity to celebrate and showcase our long-demonstrated support of voting rights for all while also promoting full participation in local, state and national elections.



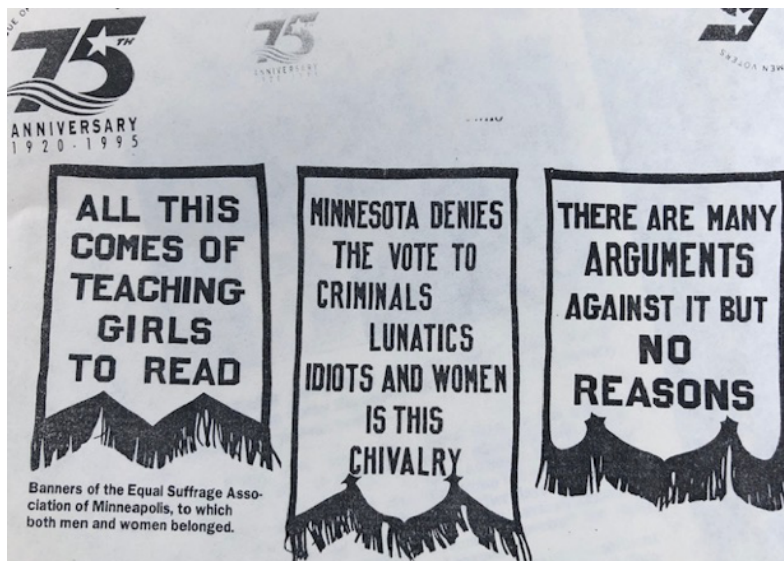
The photos on the previous page show White Bear Lake and North Oaks members including Karen Wierenga, Jeannette Kahlenberg, Carol Bergeson marching in suffrage costume and carrying recreated suffrage banners to get out the vote in the 1976 primary and fall elections. (White Bear Press August 1976)

1994-95: 75TH ANNIVERSARY

NORTH OAKS DECLARES LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS MONTH; MEMBERS MARCH TO COMMEMORATE THE LEAGUE'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

In October 1994, the North Oaks City Council passed a resolution declaring October "League of Women Voters Month," to recognize the LWV for its service to the community and to help celebrate the upcoming 75th anniversary of the League's founding. The North Oaks League was honored for many years of providing services above and beyond registering the public to vote and sponsoring candidate forums, including carrying out a pioneering water quality testing effort, and spearheading one of the earliest local recycling programs.

The White Bear Lake/North Oaks League also sent out postal flyers celebrating the League's 75th Anniversary, like the one below:



In summer and fall of 1995, the League of Women Voters White Bear/North Oaks members again marched in suffrage costume to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the League's founding.

The photos below show members parading with banners along White Bear Lake, and riding in an early automobile invoking the suffragist era. Note the old LWV logo on one of the banners!



(White Bear Press, September 1995)

2005: 85TH ANNIVERSARY

MEMBERS CELEBRATE 85 YEARS WITH A BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR THE LEAGUE

For the League's 85th anniversary, 50 LWV White Bear Lake/North Oaks/Mahtomedi members held a "birthday party" for the League in August of 2005. The party featured a peach-themed menu, and a skit in which members acted out important moments in women's history. Among the attendees were members Kate Winsor, Judy Ottman, Carol Fuller, Kathy Tomsich, and Carol Bergeson.



(White Bear Press August 31, 2005)

2019-20: 100TH ANNIVERSARY

LWVWBLA MEMBERS MAKE SUFFRAGE POSTERS, AND CO-SPONSOR MINNESOTA WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE TRAVELING EXHIBIT AND SPEAKER

In August 2019, members of the WBLA, Roseville and Woodbury Leagues gathered at the White Bear Center for the Arts for a poster-making workshop. Posters honored the theme of Votes for Women, and kicked off the LWV's Centennial Year. Some of the participants posed with their posters in the photos below:





Finally, the LWVWBLA will present a traveling exhibit at the **Stillwater Public Library**, highlighting a century of League of Women Voters' history. The exhibit will run from **January 2-20, 2020**. We are proud to be co-sponsors of this exhibit with the Stillwater Public Library and the St. Croix Valley unit of the AAUW.

In addition to the exhibit, we are excited to present Kristin Bloomberg, Professor of Women's Studies at Hamline University, who has agreed to speak to the public about the history of women's suffrage in Minnesota. **Professor Bloomberg's talk will take place on Wednesday, January 15th, 2020, from 6:30-7:30 pm at the Stillwater Public Library.** We hope all members will be able to attend the exhibit and the talk, and help us celebrate the continuing proud history of our League!

A Century of Civic Engagement: The League of Women Voters Minnesota

On October 7, 1919, the Minnesota Woman Suffrage Association dissolved and became the Minnesota League of Women Voters. This new organization would be "a branch of the national League of Women Voters for the purpose of completing full enfranchisement of women and increasing effectiveness of women's votes in furthering better government."

The nonpartisan League of Women Voters Minnesota (LWV Minnesota) remains strong today, rooted in the suffrage movement of the

19th century. We use a statewide network of local chapters and volunteer members to encourage active and informed participation in government by:

- Studying and educating voters on civics and community issues
- Registering and empowering voters
- Cultivating women leaders
- Influencing public policy through education and advocacy
- *Making democracy work for all*

Our Early Leaders



Carrie Chapman Catt

Founder of LWV and suffrage leader responsible for the winning strategy leading to passage of the 19th Amendment



Clara Ueland

President of the Minnesota Woman Suffrage Association and first president of LWV Minnesota in 1919



Marguerite Wells

President of LWV Minnesota and president of the National League, 1934-1944

Clara Ueland's call for the purpose of the League was "raising our standards of living and the safeguarding of our cherished institutions. Together the women of the state must make wise and far seeing plans to the end that our dreams of a democracy, in which men and women shall have an equal voice, must come true."

The League Today

Our story continues today through our leaders and members, past and present:



LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF MINNESOTA

Learn More & Join!

lwmn.org

This is an example of one of the panels that commemorates the history of the MN State League of Women Voters which will be featured at the exhibit being held at The Stillwater Library from January 2-20. Of interest to many members will be additional memorabilia from our own White Bear Lake Area chapter.

Community Counts in 2020 – Recap of the November general meeting on the upcoming census

Andrew Virden, MN's Director of Census Operations, was the featured speaker at the November 7, 2019, general meeting on the 2020 Census, held at White Bear Lake City Hall. Mr. Virden used a PowerPoint presentation to help explain the importance, process, and impact of the 2020 Census and how census data are used to: ensure equal representation at federal and state levels of government; equitably distribute funds for publicly financed programs; and make policy decisions affecting programs and people. Afterwards he answered audience questions.



Mr. Virden discussed how census data impact the:

- reapportionment of congressional districts among the states, causing some states to gain and other states to lose congressional “seats” based on U.S. population changes between 2010 and 2020
- annual distribution of about \$15 billion in federal funds to Minnesota, which averages out to about \$28,000 per Minnesota resident per decade

He talked about factors that can affect the accuracy of the 2020 Census population count, including a mobile population, fiscal constraints, rapidly changing uses of technology, the information explosion, distrust of government, declining census response rates, an increasingly diverse population, and informal, complex living arrangements. He showed the audience the questions on the census form and assured us applicable law, census workers’ job requirements and training, and technology-based security all worked to protect individuals’ census data. He gave us the timeline for

households to respond to the census questionnaire online, by phone, or by mail, beginning mid-March, and described census takers' follow-up procedures for individuals and households who do not initially respond. Finally, he explained how LWVWBLA members can help increase awareness about the 2020 Census through volunteer Complete Count Committees and can apply to the Census Bureau for work as a census taker.

Public and community organizations are working together to achieve an accurate population count for the 2020 Census, including: the MN State Demographic Center, Department of Administration; MN counties and localities; MN Council on Foundations; MACS 2020; MN Council of Nonprofits; and Common Cause MN. SCCTV broadcast the "Community Counts in 2020" program and made a recording of it available on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/AsjCXjraKj4>

This link to the 2020 Census program recording is also available on the LWVWBLA website.

The MN State League of Women Voters also has information about how you can be active in helping to bring about a complete count in the Census:

DON'T FORGET TO USE YOUR SUPERPOWER ON

Census Day - April 1, 2020

Every ten years, the U.S. Census Bureau works to count every person in the United States. Please complete your 2020 Census form so Minnesota gets a complete and accurate count of people living in our state. The Census count is important because it determines:

- The distribution of billions of dollars to Minnesota's communities (health and human services, education, highway planning and construction, etc.)
- Political representation and voting districts for the next decade
- Where and how policy makers will invest public resources

To see how you can help, or for more information on a complete and accurate 2020 Census count, go to: www.lwvmn.org/2020-census

LWV is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization. We do not endorse or oppose political parties or candidates.

And a good time was had by all!

Thank You to our hosts, the St. Croix Valley Unit, for great food and holiday cheer at Kathleen Ferguson-Quinn's home in December.



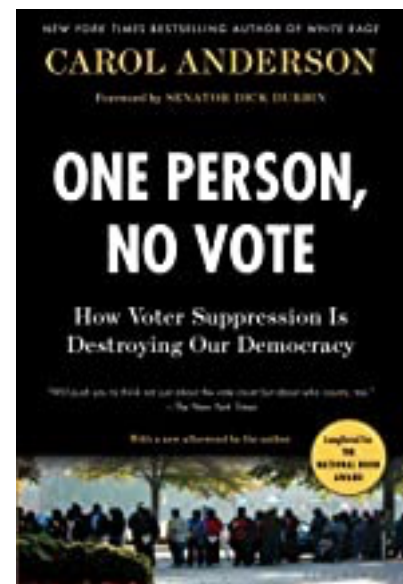
May I Recommend?

This section of The Bear Facts is devoted to sharing suggestions of articles, books, movies, podcasts, theatrical performances (you name it) that are related to topics near and dear to the hearts of League members. If you come across one of the aforementioned and think, "Gee, I bet a lot of other League members would be interested in that," PLEASE SHARE YOUR FIND! Simply send it to me, Lori Delahunt, at ldelahunt@comcast.net . Somewhere in the title of your email, mention "Bear Facts" so that your email does not get lost in the shuffle. I look forward to hearing about and sharing your recommendations.

Lisa Larson recommended this article describing philosopher and author Carl Sagan's nine rules for critical thinking when confronting propaganda, pseudoscience, and general falsehoods. It is from a chapter entitled The Fine Art of Baloney Detection, part of a book, The Demon Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark, attempting to balance science and skepticism that was published just before Sagan's death in 1996. Sagan describes many types of deception we're all susceptible to and offers cognitive tools and techniques to shield ourselves against clueless guile and deliberate manipulation. He also advises readers to unlearn and avoid 20 common pitfalls of common sense.

<https://getpocket.com/explore/item/the-baloney-detection-kit-carl-sagan-s-rules-for-bullshit-busting-and-critical-thinking>

Although I have not read this book (yet!) I think the topic is certainly of interest to our members. CarolAnderson, Chair of African American Studies at EmoryUniversity, wrote One Person, No Vote about the effects of voter suppression. I heard her interviewed on National Public Radio <https://www.npr.org/2018/09/19/649578744/vulnerable-voters> and watched a segment of an interview with her on The Daily Show with Trevor Noah. Here is the link if you are interested in checking it out: <http://www.cc.com/video-clips/as2u3q/the-daily-show-with-trevor-noah-carol-anderson---one-person-no-vote---the-impact-of-voter-suppression---extended-interview>
-Lori Delahunt



December 11, 2019

Margaret Westin, Treasurer

		Current	YTD
Income:	Dues	\$480.00	\$2760.00
	Donations	\$186.00	\$ 296.00
	Memorials	\$	\$
	Meetings (socials)	\$	\$190.00
	Service	\$	\$
	In-kind donation	\$	\$
	Voters Service	\$	\$
	Calendars	\$365.00	\$365.00
	NOHOA	\$	\$
	Bank interest	\$	\$0.28
	Total:	\$931.00	\$3621.28
Expenses:	Meetings (socials)	\$	\$130.49
	LWVMN PMP	\$	\$
	LWVUS PMP	\$	\$2,248.00
	Meeting site	\$	\$350.00
	Voters Service	\$	\$127.55
	Program (includes publicity)	\$71.50	\$103.88
	Bear Facts copying/printing	\$	\$
	Calendars	\$	\$267.31
	Membership (communication, recruiting & recognition)	\$	\$270.24
	Total:	\$71.50	\$3,497.47

Opening balance from October 9, 2019: \$2761.71

Income + \$ 931 .00

Expenses: - \$ 71.50

Current balance: \$3,621.21

Ed fund CD: \$5040.68

2019-20 Paid Members: 53 @ \$60 10@ \$75

Total: 74 (including our 3 lifetime members)