



Bear Facts

League of Women Voters of the White Bear Lake Area

President's Column

June 2020

by Liz Lauder

Thank you, all, for your patience as the WBLA LWV Board of Directors has been working hard to bring you a different kind of annual meeting. It's been a challenging time, because our usual infrastructure was not in place, and our usual way of conducting business has been disrupted. But I'm pleased to say that we have candidates to fill three out of the seven open positions; we also have a budget that will guide us for the 2020-2021 year, and we have maintained our current local program positions. I hope you will take a moment to read through the prepared documents, and then vote on the board's recommendations by June 3rd. Voting will take place via survey (you can find a link to the survey elsewhere in this issue of the Bear Facts). Would you also please consider serving in one of the four open positions? Our members drive this organization and keep it running smoothly. Won't you support us in the work that we do?

I want to take a moment to thank the members of the board who will not be returning in the fall and have offered their time and talents over the past few years.

Kathy Gaylord (White Bear unit) has served as our Secretary since being elected in 2018. This is not her first rodeo; she served as Secretary from 2011-2015, and Treasurer from 2006-2008. As Secretary, Kathy kept notes of our board meetings and the annual meetings. Her notes are wonderful; they perfectly capture the gist of what was said and done, with enough detail to be informative but not overwhelming. Thanks for your support, Kathy! In her free-time, Kathy plans to continue as WB Unit Leader and to keep gardening, reading, and kayaking until such time as traveling to see family is approved once again.

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Lori Soukup (St. Croix Valley unit) has been our Voter Service Chair or co-Chair since 2014. She has steadily led a team of volunteers through planning and hosting numerous candidate forums for city and county races, school board elections, and state house and senate contests. Lori's gift for organizing and for thinking of ways to make the events even better for candidates and guests have been a great asset to LWV WBLA and our community. She has also been a wonderful teammate on the board. Thanks, Lori, for giving it your all! Lori will be spending more time working on projects around the house she and her husband just bought in Stillwater.

I hope you all can enjoy the simpler things this summer and be ready to help with election-year events very soon!

All the best,
Liz.

As mentioned above, this year we will be voting electronically rather than in-person on the following slate of candidates, program positions and the 2020-2021 budget.

Here are the details:

Slate of Candidates

For Secretary:	<u>Shannon Moore</u>
For Voter Service Co-Chair:	<u>Heidi Boyd</u>
For Membership Chair:	<u>Barb Memory</u>
For President:	OPEN
For Nominating Committee Chair:	OPEN
For Nominating Committee Members (2):	OPEN

***** Please see the following pages for current Program Positions and Position Statements Concerning White Bear Lake Conservation District Governance. See the email attachment for the 2020-2021 Budget.**

LWV White Bear Lake Area Local Program Positions Revised April 2017

1. Education

- a. Support a safe, fair and respectful educational climate for all K-12 students and groups. We support programs to counteract cultural and gender bias, which prepare students to thrive in our multicultural diverse society and work force. (1999)
- b. 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.
- c. Support secondary student programs designed to meet their needs for more structure or more flexibility than the standard program provides.

2. Natural Resources

Private well water should be tested for safety. (1990)

3. Environmental Protection

Support of local ordinances requiring source separation and support of local contract and licensing requirements for source separation in waste collection.

4. Land Use

- a. Support comprehensive planning and orderly growth.
- b. Support programs to increase the availability of low and moderate income housing and housing for special groups by using tax increment financing (TIF where appropriate). (1972, 1973, 1978-79, rev. 1999)
- c. Support the need for safe non-motorized pathways. (1973, 1978-79)
- d. Development and support of a convenient transit service. (1973, 1978-79)

5. Representative Local Government

Support of open appointment process in public government bodies.

6. Representative Ramsey County Government

- a. The Leagues of Ramsey County support changes in the juvenile justice system with the major emphasis on primary prevention and early intervention with a strong family focus. We need to foster and support family relationships, restore community, and work to integrate family and community. When prevention fails, intervention should be individualized, swift, appropriate, and restorative, with punitive measures used only as a "last resort." A partnership among families, community, school health services, human services, and corrections is the most effective solution. (1975-76, Rev. 4/96)
- b. Continue to support the Ramsey County Charter.

7. Social Policy

Monitor Cable TV in the north suburban area. LWV believes public access channels are an important communication link in the area. These channels must be encouraged and protected. In order to facilitate maximum usage, the cable contract should require sufficient funding to support at least one well-equipped production studio, equipment, and facility for remote cablecasts and technical production assistance.

The League of Women Voters of the White Bear Lake Area Position Statements Concerning White Bear Lake Conservation District Governance

The League of Women Voters of the White Bear Lake Area (LWVWBLA) undertook a study of the White Bear Lake Conservation District (WBLCD) and its management practices through a concern for protection and preservation of White Bear Lake, an important water resource in the east metro region. The positions and recommendations below summarize the findings of the WBLCD Governance study and its appendices.

The League of Women Voters (LWV) supports good government practice in all areas and levels of government as seen in a quote from its national position statement: "The League of Women Voters believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing, and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government."

The League of Women Voters of the White Bear Lake Area acknowledges and commends the many members of the community who have given countless hours of volunteer time, as well as knowledge and expertise, to the benefit of White Bear Lake and the Conservation District. The successes and achievements of the WBLCD are result of the dedication and efforts of the members of the board, its staff, and its committees. The study and its recommendations strive to make the function of the WBLCD even more effective and better prepared to meet the challenges facing White Bear Lake in the future.

In the process of the LWV study of the WBLCD many resources were employed. Members of the study committee observed 22 regular monthly meetings of the Conservation District along with the corresponding Lake Use Committee meetings beginning with the regular June 22, 2010 meetings. Lake Quality committee meetings were also observed.

Other sources of information used for the report were the WBLCD website, the minutes of WBLCD, the WBLCD budget, the State of Minnesota Statutes governing the formation of the Conservation District, the website of the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District, reports given to the Conservation District by its contractors, the LWV of the United States. The LWVWBLA members also conducted interviews of past and present WBLCD Board and committee members and local officials who have worked with the Conservation District.

Three areas of the Conservation District were targeted for study by the LWV of the White Bear Lake Area: Operations and Structure, Transparency and Communications, and Finance. The members and Board of the League of Women Voters of the White Bear Lake Area support the following recommendations.

Operations and Structure: Job descriptions are recommended for Board members and committee members as being essential for a better understanding of their responsibilities. New Board members should receive consistent orientation in a clearly outlined process, which should include the history, structure, and ordinances of the Conservation District. Periodic training for Board members and staff should encompass matters of importance for protection of the lake, as well as, improvements in Board function. Job descriptions, orientation, and Board trainings will aid recruitment, improve retention and communication and generally build the capacity of the WBLCD to provide effective management of the lake.

In order to enhance understanding of the various Board committees and their responsibilities, there should be rotation by the WBLCD Board to various committee assignments. Consideration should be given to the interests of committee chairpersons in the topic/s of the committee when committee assignments are rotated.

LWV White Bear Lake Area 2 Program Positions Revised 4/20/2017

The LWVWBLA supports an update of the 1999 Strategic Plan for effective long term lake management. The WBLCD Board should create an Annual Work Plan to set priorities and schedules for the year. The Annual plan would guide the work of the Board and staff. It would also facilitate understanding of the work of the WBLCD for the public as well as new Board and committee members. Accomplishments for each year and direction for the future could be identified by reviewing the tasks completed at the end of the year.

The LWVWBLA believes that increasing staff time could improve overall function of the Board. Staff skills should include a familiarity with the work of the Conservation District and the ability to facilitate the Annual Work Plan with the members of the Board. The Board needs to provide clear details of staff's responsibilities and regular reviews of staff and staffing needs.

There should be a standard process for Request for Proposals or bidding with contractor oversight being an important aspect to the process. The bidding process should be available to all.

Transparency and Communication: The WBLCD Board could ensure there is a consistent communication effort being made by posting agendas and minutes of Board and committee meetings in a timely manner and making pertinent support materials available to the public either online or at the meetings (public packet). This information should include budgets, study materials, lake information, updates on Eurasian Water Milfoil and other Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). Posting of job descriptions and openings available for volunteers and others in the community could help to attract new volunteers to apply for positions on the Board or its committees.

Improved communications with other "lake partners" including lake municipalities and organizations, regional, state and federal agencies such as Rice Creek Watershed, DNR, etc., is recommended. Opportunities for grants or other collaboration could be identified and pursued.

A written annual report would summarize the accomplishments of the Board during the year for the public as well as identify work needing to be placed on a work plan for the following year. The Annual work plan and review should be driven by the long-term Strategic Plan, which needs to be updated on a regular basis.

Finance: It is strongly recommended that a finance Committee be established. The finance committee should develop a budget through a process that is transparent to the public. This

would include the draft budget being available prior to its adoption. The Strategic Plan and the Annual Work Plan should drive the budget for program and projects. Reserve fund policies should be set by the Board and based on standard government practices. The Conservation District should establish a policy for regular auditing.

LWV White Bear Lake Area 3 Program Positions Revised May 9, 2018

This page and the next show the contents of the on-line ballot. The link to vote can be found on the bottom of page 7. Please take the opportunity to vote today - or at the latest by Wednesday, June 3rd.

LWV WBLA Annual Meeting 2020

We are unable to meet in person for the annual meeting this year because we cannot maintain 6 feet of separation from each other in accordance with social distancing guidelines during the coronavirus pandemic. Therefore, we are conducting the business of the annual meeting through this survey.

Refer to the June issue of the Bear Facts newsletter, where you will find the proposed budget and slate of officers and elected directors, as well as the current program positions. Then, answer the questions below.

Please respond by June 3rd for your vote to be counted.

The results of the voting will be published on our website (www.lwv-wbla.org), sent via email, and published in the September issue of the Bear Facts.

A quorum of members (25%) is needed to conduct the business. That means that at least 17 of you need to respond to this survey.

Thank you for participating during these extraordinary times! Be well, and stay safe -- LWV WBLA Board of Directors.

*** Required**

Email address *

Your email

Do you approve the LWV WBLA proposed budget for 2020-2021, as presented in the June 2020 issue of the Bear Facts? *

Yes

No

Do you agree to adopt the existing program positions, as presented in the June 2020 issue of the Bear Facts? *

Yes

No

Do you approve the slate of officers and elected directors for the LWV WBLA Board of Directors, as presented in the June 2020 issue of the Bear Facts? *

Yes

No

In the box below, provide any direction (concerns or issues to address, or suggestions) to the new board of directors

Your answer

Submit

Please go to <https://forms.gle/VajE5to2VkbJXbaV6> to vote!

And, while voting is on your mind, are you planning to vote with an absentee ballot this year? If so, it is a good time to request it!



Simply go to the website of the Minnesota Secretary of State's Office (www.mnvotes.org) to request your ballot for the August primary and/or the November general election.

Manitou Days Parade, Yes or No???

The latest decision by the Manitou Days committee is to postpone the parade until August 21. They will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation, so watch for further updates but continue planning your costume for marching in the Manitou Days parade in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Women's Suffrage and the birth of the League of Women Voters. We have the promise of one Model T but would like more parade-worthy cars to carry some of our older members. Please keep me informed of your plans to participate if this really happens this year.

Stay safe and well, and practice walking/marching!!

-Carol Bergeson





+



= A Fantastic Opportunity!

The WBL League is getting the word out----voter rights, voter registration, LWV 100-year anniversary and much more! What better way than to participate in our area's very own community gathering - Marketfest!

Our league will be participating in Marketfest this year to:

- register voters
- educate voters on where they vote and what races are going on in their precincts
- advertise voter forums
- hand out I WILL VOTE buttons
- host conversations with elected officials
- inform the public of the LWV purpose and mission

Due to the pandemic, Marketfest will be held just four Thursday evenings : July 30, August 6, August 13, August 20 from 6-9 p.m.



Three volunteers each night will help us represent the League by promoting our key priorities----voter rights and voter education. **Please contact Heidi Boyd** to say you'll help out at **651-329-7059 (text or call)**. July and August seem a long way off but please volunteer now!

In March, The League of Women Voters lost a member of our community, Neil Franey. Neil and his wife, Billie, were members of the North Oaks unit, and he hosted the holiday party for all of us in the community rooms of The Waters of White Bear Lake in 2016. Billie, a longtime member, died in 2012. She was Co-author MN Indian Study 1962; President White Bear Lake League of Women Voters 1965-67; Council of Metro Area LWV or "CMAL" Chair 1981-83; and a lobbyist at the MN Capitol.



Here is a portion of Neil's obituary that ran in *The St. Paul Pioneer Press*:

"Neil was a proud veteran, 3M employee, and patron of the arts. Active in the 3M Toastmasters and camera clubs, founding member of the Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County. Voted 3M Volunteer of the Year for his contributions to Habitat for Humanity and the Reading Buddy program. Neil was a gentle, adventurous man who had a kind word for everyone he met. Community leader and a patriarch to his extended family, Neil ran for City Council in White Bear Lake and worked for equal housing in the Twin Cities... Memorial services will be scheduled in May or June for friends and relatives. Cards to Kay Franey, 3528 43rd Avenue South, Minneapolis MN 55406. In lieu of flowers, donations suggested to the Friends of the Parks and Trails in St. Paul and Ramsey County: friendsoftheparks.org/"

*Are you one of the 14 people whose dues are paid up for the coming year?
If not, please find your checkbook and send your dues to:*

MARGARET WESTIN, TREASURER

200 WILDWOOD AVENUE

BIRCHWOOD, MN 55110.

DUES ARE \$60 PER INDIVIDUAL OR \$75 PER HOUSEHOLD.



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to everyone who wrote a letter to their Senator asking them to support the provisions in HF3429 which will release the federal money (HAVA funds) for election cybersecurity and allow preparations for safe and secure elections during the pandemic. Thank you to Kathy Tomsich, our Action Chair, for her leadership in this effort!

Virtual Convention - YOU can be there!

This year's National League of Women Voters convention will be held virtually. For many people, the expense and travel required to attend previous conventions may have been prohibitive, but this year, it is very easy to participate.

Convention attendees can register now for \$50 at www.lwv.org/2020convention. The dates are June 25-27.

Leading up to the convention (June 22-24) there are on-line caucus meetings covering a wide range of topics including:

- Youth Voter Movement
- Climate Change Mobilization
- How to Coordinate a Successful Candidate Forum During a Pandemic
- America's Choices in the Health Care Debate
- AND MANY MORE!

Registration for these pre-convention caucuses has not yet begun, though information is expected to be "coming soon" so use the link above to stay apprised of your options.



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. This is where we post and discuss our day-to-day happenings. Our page has a calendar for upcoming events. We post replays from our forums that have already taken place. Check out our page, "like" it, "share" it, and post your own comments on it.

www.lwv-wbla.org

LWV White Bear Lake Area also has a Website. You will find that at www.lwv-wbla.org. There you will find an events calendar, back issues of the Bear Facts, board information and an invitation and instructions on how to join. We will also post the results of our electronic voting after June 3rd. Check out the "They Represent You" brochures, recently updated by Mary Santi.

The next issue of The Bear Facts, September 2020 edition, will come to you in late August. Please consult your email for voting results of the annual meeting items as well as announcements regarding summer activities.

Treasurer's Report

a/o May 1,2020

Margaret Westin, Treasurer

		Current	YTD
Income:	Dues	\$ 615.00	\$ 615.00
	Donations	\$ 110.00	\$ 110.00
	Memorials	\$	\$
	Meetings (socials)	\$	\$
	Service	\$	\$
	In-kind donation	\$	\$
	Voters Service	\$	\$
	Calendars	\$	\$
	NOHOA	\$	\$
	Bank interest	\$	\$
	Total:	\$ 725.00	\$ 725.00
Expenses:	Meetings (socials)	\$	\$
	LWVMN PMP	\$	\$
	LWVUS PMP	\$	\$
	Meeting site	\$	\$
	Voters Service	\$	\$
	Program (includes publicity)	\$ 48.32	\$ 48.32
	Bear Facts copying/printing	\$	\$
	Calendars	\$	\$
	Membership	\$	\$
	(communication, recruiting & recognition)		
	Total:	\$48.32	\$48.32

Opening balance from April 1, 2020:		\$2,183.77
Income	+	\$ 725.00
Expenses:	-	\$ 48.32

Current balance: **\$2,860.45**

Ed fund CD: **\$5128.88**

2020-21 Paid Members: 9 @ \$60 1@ \$75

Total: 14 (including our 3 lifetime members)