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According to Wikipedia:

Zoom Video Communications, Inc. is an American communications technology company headquartered in San Jose, California. It provides videotelephony and online chat services through a cloud-based peer-to-peer software platform and is used for teleconferencing, telecommuting, distance education, and social relations.

For the League of Women Voters, it is our platform to conduct general and public meetings, as well as unit meetings and board meetings, host public forums - and, even, attend virtual picnics.

As we make our way through this year's activities, we are learning as we go. So far, our picnic and our presentation by Joe Mansky on September 8th have worked out well. There were some snafus associated with unit meetings in September with North Oaks and White Bear Lake units able to meet via Zoom but Mahtomedi and St. Croix Valley encountering difficulties. But, October is a new month, a new opportunity to try to connect via Zoom. To download Zoom, go to www.zoom.us and press the orange button in the upper right corner which says, "Sign up! It's Free". You will be asked for your birthdate in order to sign up. Your unit leader will send you the Zoom link to the meeting.



October Topic

For October Unit Meetings members are asked to choose an issue and use www.Vote411.org, candidate websites, party platforms, newspaper interviews and candidate forums to learn candidate positions and then compare with our LWV positions. In other words, you've got HOMEWORK!

Below are links to all of our local, state and national policy positions which range from voting and election administration and redistricting reform to juvenile justice, health care, housing and more. These topics have been studied over the years and policies were adopted using a consensus process.

Local LWV policy positions can be found on our local LWV website www.lwv-wbla.org under Home>Member Resources.

<https://lwv-wbla.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/18Local-Program-PDF.pdf>

State LWV policy positions are in a booklet called Program for Action. You can read or download. There is also a short version. Both versions include related National positions.

<https://www.lwvmn.org/our-positions>

National LWV policy positions are in a 94 page booklet, called Impact on Issues, that you can download from the LWV US website www.lwv.org. A summary of the positions appears on pages 7-9.

<https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2019-04/LWV%202018-20%20Impact%20on%20Issues.pdf>

Candidate forums can be viewed on our website www.lwv-wbla.org the day after they are held. The schedule of forums is on page 7.



Election Security and the 2020 Presidential Election

Joe Mansky, one of Minnesota's most widely known and respected election officials, spoke virtually about elections with LWVWBLA members at our September 8 general meeting. Anticipating the upcoming November 3 general election, Mr. Mansky talked about election systems generally, Minnesota's election system, election security, and mail-in ballots and then answered questions from the audience. What follows is a brief summary of some major points he covered.

- There is an inherent tension between election security and voter access to the ballot box. Minnesota's election systems have become more accessible and more secure over the last 50 years but new security threats are emerging.
- Minnesota has very accurate procedures for counting votes, processing absentee ballots, and maintaining up-to-date voter records.
- To deter and detect election fraud, Minnesota uses a multi-step voter verification process. Election officials test and secure voting systems before every election.
- Many interests use various means to suppress voter turnout. Voter suppression is perhaps the most serious challenge to a fair election process.
- Threats to the upcoming 2020 general election include hacking, fake information, and voters' doubts about the election process and election results. Election officials work hard to address and overcome these threats.
- Minnesota law sets parameters for conduct in and near polling places.
- Processes exist to secure and preserve election and voter data.
- Minnesotans vote on paper ballots, making election audits possible.
- Election officials constantly look for ways to improve election security.
- Minnesota law sets parameters for an election recount or contest.
- There are ways to improve election security in Minnesota for the 2022 and 2024 elections.
- Voters can help minimize the threats to election security.
- Voters must vote!!

-Submitted by Lisa Larson

(See the following pages for summaries of unit discussions related to Mr. Mansky's presentation and how you can see the presentation if you missed it!)

Did you miss the September 8 presentation by Joe Mansky, former Ramsey County Elections Director? You can view a recording of our discussion with him about elections, election security, and mail-in ballots. The video is available on our website Events page, and on the League of Women Voters White Bear Lake Area YouTube Channel at the link below:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=zSkuQx87x4w>

Enjoy the video! And these unit summaries from North Oaks and WBL units!

Six members attended the September 9th **North Oaks unit meeting** on Zoom. While we recapped the many highlights from Joe Mansky's election security presentation, we also were moved by his comment that "citizenship is not a spectator sport" and that we should be actively involved in the election process.

With that in mind, unit members discussed ways we could be part of the solution:

- Encourage those who may have concerns about Minnesota's election security to watch Mr. Mansky's September 8th presentation on YouTube at <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=zSkuQx87x4w>
- Volunteer and encourage other members of the public to do the same: as election judges rcelections.org, attending a public accuracy test of voting systems or a post-election audit.
- If voting absentee by mail, vote early (no later than October 16) as mail-in ballots will start being counted two weeks before Election Day. Then, track if the ballot has been received and counted through the Minnesota Secretary of State website mnvotes.org.
- For those who prefer not to mail in an absentee ballot, deliver it in person to one of many spots noted on your county website before election day.
- Encourage anyone voting absentee to carefully read the directions, signing in the right spots and using the correct envelopes. Clear instructions can be found on the League's "Vote from Home" website <https://www.lwvmn.org/vote-from-home> and easily shared with others.
- For those voting in person, be sure to check your polling place (it may have changed), wear a mask and come prepared to social distance.
- Post "Vote from Home" signs in yards and posters in public places (e.g., apartments, schools, salons).
- Keep advocating for issues that would increase voters' access to the polls in Minnesota, such as adopting automatic voter registration and dropping the "witness requirement" for mail-in ballots (waived for the 2020 elections).

-Submitted by Michelle Wood

The White Bear Lake Unit gets extra credit for being so organized in their assignments for the upcoming October meeting! Take a look at this report, submitted by Dick Ottman:

Notes from the White Bear Unit – League of Women Voters – Sept 10, 2020

Present: Kathy Gaylord, Mary Anne Linser, Liz Lauder, Shannon Moore, Barb Memory, Mary Santi, Rebecca Kanten-McCoy, Dick Ottman

A. Preparation and Assignments for October 2020 Unit Meeting

1. Unit members will choose one LWV issue and research the candidates' position on that issue. Look at County Commissioner, State Senate and State Representative candidates. Mary Santi will send 3 links to LWV positions (national, state and local) to Dick Ottman, who will distribute to the White Bear Unit members. Find out the position of the candidates and compare position to LWV position.
2. Specific assignments are the following:
 - a. Barb Memory – County Commissioner 7 candidates
 - b. Mary Santi – County Commissioner 1 candidates
 - c. Liz Lauder – her State Senate and State Representative candidates – redistricting
 - d. Mary Anne Linser – her State Senate and State Representative candidates
 - e. Dick Ottman – his State Senate and State Representative candidates – Climate Change

Note: Others in the unit can pick their State Senate and State Representative candidates and other issues.

- B. Liz Lauder will write up the October 2020 Unit meeting notes and Rebecca Kanten-McCoy will do the notes for the December Unit meeting.

C. Thoughts on Joe Mansky's Presentation

1. Ramsey County has done an excellent job of election security and making sure that the results published are accurate. Ramsey County did this with older voting equipment.
2. We liked his philosophy of making voting easy, automatic voter registration when getting a driver's license, and facts deter misinformation.
3. All MN counties and other voting districts need the next generation voting equipment. Senator Klobuchar has a bill in Congress to provide money for all districts to upgrade their equipment. This is needed badly. *(continued on next page)*

4. The post-audit counting votes by hand from random precincts is a good check of the results. We thought the public should be encouraged to attend one of these counting by hand audits.
 5. The pandemic will lead to more mail in voting.
 6. Using the driver's license picture in the poll book to verify a voter's identity at the polls brought up some questions and concerns.
-



Make sure you don't miss out!
Mark your calendar
(and then remember to look at it).

Unit meetings for October

October 8th at 3:00PM, St. Croix Valley Unit
October 8th at 7:00PM, WBL Unit
October 12 at 7:00PM, Mahtomedi Unit
October 14 at 12:30PM, North Oaks Unit
(Unit Leaders will send the Zoom link)

Our next General Meeting will be on **Tuesday, November 10th**, one week after the election. The topic is **Assessing Election Implications** and our speaker will be Andy Aoki, Political Science Professor at Augsburg University. Professor Aoki teaches courses on American politics and has published work on many topics including popular culture and politics. He will help us understand local, state and national implications of the election results. **All members will be sent the Zoom link. Start time is 6:30. You don't want to miss it!**



President's Column

It's a Saturday morning as I write this, and I just finished watching the candidate forums for Minnesota Senate District 42 and House of Representatives District 42A on our new LWV WBLA [You Tube](#) channel.

As challenging as these times have been during the Corona virus pandemic, I'm proud that our member volunteers have risen to the occasion and are meeting challenges head on. Thank you to our wonderful Voter Service, Publicity, and Social Media committees and Chairs who have been so busy organizing, communicating, preparing, writing, and learning new skills so that we can continue to provide this crucial service to our communities.

There are benefits to this new normal in which we are living. I could choose when to watch the candidate forums; I could rewind and listen to some parts again; I could press pause while I went to move my laundry from the washer to the dryer! The candidates benefited, too, by staying safe at home and by using our recordings on their websites.

I am using these candidate forum recordings to not only help me decide whom to vote for, but also to do my research for our October unit meetings, where we will be discussing public policy issues and the candidates' positions on those issues. Share your results with your fellow members, get comprehensive information about the candidates on your ballot, and make informed decisions. Then vote!

Liz Lauder

President, pro tem

2020 Candidate Forums

9/14	House Districts 39A & B Senate District 39	9/24	Lake Elmo City Council Lake Elmo Mayor
9/15	House Districts 42A & B Senate District 42	9/28	Forest Lake City Council Oak Park Heights Mayor
9/17	I.S.D. #834 At large candidates I.S.D. #834 Special Election (Stillwater Area Schools)	10/01	Mahtomedi School Board Senate District 38
9/21	North Oaks Mayor House District 38B	10/05	Lake St. Croix Beach City Council and Mayor
9/22	North Oaks Council at large North Oaks Special Election	10/07	Grant City Council Grant Mayor
9/23	Shoreview City Council Vadnais Heights City Council	10/12	Birchwood Mayor Birchwood City Council

The dates listed are the dates the forums were/are to be held. You may access recordings of the forums at our LWV WBLA [You Tube](#) channel shortly after they have occurred. Anyone, member or not, can subscribe to our channel by pressing the Subscribe button under any of our videos. Subscribers will then find any new videos we post in their Subscription feed.

Send questions for forum participants up until the day before the forum to lwwbla@lwwmn.org.



Voting from Home is Safe and Easy!

This year, we are supporting LWVMN's Vote from Home campaign, by urging Minnesotans to consider voting from home:

The 2020 general election may be the most important many of us will ever see. Voters must decide between competing visions of America's future as we choose our leaders at every level of government. Meanwhile, the COVID-19 pandemic has yet to be brought under control, creating special challenges to the safety and security of our election process. The conflict between needing to avoid large-scale social contact and ensuring every eligible American can vote safely, securely, and conveniently, can be resolved by voting from home.

In Minnesota, voting from home is safe and easy. For people wishing to avoid exposure to the COVID-19 virus and unwilling to wait at crowded polling places, voting by mail is as easy as one, two, three, four:

Step One – If you are not already registered, do so online at www.mnvotes.org. The LWVWBLA recommends pre-registering early to avoid needing a witness to confirm residency.

Step Two – Request an absentee ballot soon. We recommend doing this by early October.

Step Three – Vote. Again, you do not need a witness if you are pre-registered. If you need other assistance, you may choose someone to help you. Then sign, place your ballot in the proper envelope, sign the signature envelope, and place in the mailing envelope provided.

Step Four – Return your ballot. If sent by mail, ballots must be postmarked on or before Election Day and received no later than one week after the election. However, **we recommend mailing it by October 16**, as advised by Joe Mansky, former elections director. Minnesota election judges are authorized by the legislature to begin processing mail-in ballots two weeks before Election Day this year in order to deal with the increase in absentee ballots expected. You can also drop your ballot at your local election office by 3:00 PM on the day of the election or sooner. Search your county election office at www.mnvotes.org under the subheading "Other Ways to Vote."

Recent concerns about the safety and efficiency of voting by mail should not prevent anyone from voting: Recent cuts in funding and service by the newly-appointed Postmaster General have led to worries about the USPS delivering mail quickly enough to support an election. To combat these concerns, the LWVWBLA urges everyone to contact your legislators to take steps to ensure the integrity of the USPS. But Voting from Home is still the best thing to do.

Others believe voting by mail will encourage fraud. But it is actually very hard to corrupt mail-in voting. Voting by mail is nothing new. All Minnesotans have been able to vote by mail since 2014, and absentee voting has been available for longer than that. It's very difficult to request or cast a vote by mail in someone else's name, because ballots are signed and signatures are checked on receipt. Nationwide security procedures also protect the delivery of ballots. Finally, studies show that Vote by Mail programs
(continued on next page)

do not favor one political party over another, and that actual voter impersonation and ballot falsification is very rare.

Voting by mail has never been more important, or easier to do, in spite of recent concerns about the USPS. Our democracy depends on the voices of ALL citizens. Therefore, we encourage Minnesotans to Vote Early and Vote From Home in 2020!

-Joan Neumiller

An Update From the Voter Registration Team

Voter registration has been a challenge this summer and fall due to necessary COVID-19 safety precautions. We have met roadblocks when trying to schedule in-person events and have relied on our Vote From Home campaign to continue our work. Here are some of the things we have been working on:

We hosted a small voter registration event at the Forest Lake Public Library in early September. Stillwater Area High School will graciously allow us to host two outdoor voter registration events to accommodate hybrid learning the week of September 28th. We have also shared voter registration information with Forest Lake High School and White Bear Lake Area High School.



We have been working hard to contact area senior housing to offer assistance with voter registration and absentee ballot information and materials. We have contacted over 25 residences and continue to call additional locations.

We placed a Vote From Home ad in the September issue of the *White Bear Press Voter Guide* that was issued the week of September 14th.

Please let me know if you would like a Vote From Home yard sign!

-Sarah Wombacher Amundson
swombacher@hotmail.com

at

REVOLVING BEAR AWARD

In the early '70s our local League realized there were so many members doing extraordinary tasks for the League and thought they should be recognized. An annual award was established for a member, not on the board, who had made a significant difference to our local League that year. A white bear statuette makes its way from winner to winner, thus being called the "Revolving Bear Award." The 2020 winner was Shannon Moore. Scroll to the bottom of the list for a description of Shannon that was read at this year's virtual picnic, along with her photo with "the bear".

YEAR	RECIPIENT	SERVICE to LWV
2020	Shannon Moore	New member, Program committee contributions, enthusiastic volunteer.
2019	Heidi Boyd	New member, active in Voter Service, trained for and moderated candidate forums.
2018	Lisa Larson & Mary Santi	Worked on civics education issues at local and state levels.
2017	Gladys Ritter	Program committee, Voter Service, Unit Leader for St. Croix Valley unit
2016	Becky Siekmeier	Past President, program committee
2015	Lori Soukup	Exceptional work as Voter Service director
2014	Carol Bergeson	Presented for recruiting membership, fund raising, unit leader
2013	Beverley Driscoll	Past President
2012	Gretchen Davidson	Member Mahtomedi LWV, president, cochaired local study of WBL Conservation District
2011	Ady Wickstrom	AH/SV member
2010	Peg Olson	President of SV/AH, Voter Service
2009	Stephanie McNamara	League service over many years; key participant in local Stormwater Study
2008	Margaret Westin	President of Maht LWV; Unit leader; Voter Service
2007	Judy Ottman	Past President, Distributes <i>Bear Facts</i> ; Program Committee; Finance Committee
2006	Richard (Dick) Ottman	Keeper of email list, duplicates and distributes Bear Facts and email notices

2005	(record lost)	
2004	Jane Nelson Kathy Tomsich	(Jane died during this League year) Kathy: Past President. Action issues; Program Cmte; member State Action Cmte
2003	Mary Santi	Past President. Many, many projects over more than two decades
2002	Pat Young	Program planning Chair; created sketch of League Bear
2001	Carol Fuller	Past President. Past Chair CMAL; various studies
2000	Carol Bergeson	Past President. Focal point for local League; led or participated in many projects over many years
1999	Isabel Rife	Past President. Diversity in the Schools
1998	Richard "Dick" Ottman	Assistance in distributing Bear Facts; help with many projects
1997	Muriel Hoff	Active in the 1960s; rejoined after many years' absence; Treasurer for many years; participated in many projects over the years
1996	Carolyn Bong	Past President. Voter Project
1995	Ginger Sykes	Finance drive when off board
1994	Ray Bergeson	1993 arrangements for Fair sponsored by League

Shannon Moore Wins Revolving Bear Award!



The Revolving Bear Award is a rotating award given to a member of our League to honor their unique and significant contributions. As last year's award winner, I have the honor of presenting the award to this year's winner. Without further ado, I would like to announce that this year's Revolving Bear Award goes to Shannon Moore.

Shannon is a new member of the White Bear unit. The 2019-2020 board nominated her for this award due in part to her tremendous efforts as a member of the program committee last year, in particular, her exploration of woman's suffrage for our September program.

Shannon has jumped right in and gotten involved helping with several social events and guest speakers. She contributes to discussions with wisdom, insight, and perspective. She's enthusiastic and reliable.

(continued on next page)

Shannon joined the League because "It's not about us vs. them. It's about coming together over issues that need to be resolved." She thinks being a member of LWV will help her in that quest. The LWV WBLA has absolutely benefited from Shannon's willingness to participate and learn. She's respectful and fair-minded and a great asset to the League. She will now be the proud holder of this adorable bear which I will drop on her doorstep in the very near future. Congrats Shannon!

(Delivered by Heidi Boyd)

The call for volunteers to help with this year's program went out to all who participated in the kick off virtual picnic and those who were able to connect in their September unit meetings via zoom. Here is the list we have thus far. Apologies to anyone who already volunteered and finds their name missing from the list. Please contact me (Lori Delahunt) at ldelahunt@comcast.net so that I can add you in the correct spot. As you can see, we have spots to fill! Please consider adding your name. Your contribution will strengthen our League and benefit us all!

Budget Committee

Chair - Margaret Westin

Volunteers - Shannon Moore, Carol Bergeson

Voter Services Committee

Chairs - Heidi Boyd and Sarah Wombacher Amundson

Volunteers - Sarah Sevcik, Lori Soukup, Karen Suzukamo, Becky McCoy, Sharon Simpson, Theresa Casey-Wolf, Kathy Tomsich, Liz Nordling, Mary Santi, Gladys Ritter, Margaret Westin, Barb Memory, Karyn Thompson, Terri Houle, Molly Anthony, Gene and Mary Coffman, Carol Bergeson, Joan Neumiller, Jeanne Hartle, Beth Pokela

Nominating Committee

Chair - Barb Memory

Volunteers Needed!!!!

Publicity Committee

Chair - Joan Neumiller

Volunteers- Megan Diediker, Shannon Moore, Kathy Gaylord, Sharon Simpson, Gladys Ritter, Lori Soukup, Karen Suzukamo, Barb Memory

The topics for our January, March and May unit meetings will be researched and presented for discussion by **at least** one member of each unit, **though more are encouraged!** Please consider volunteering to represent your unit!

January - Talking About Race

Chair Gladys Ritter (SCV)

Volunteers: Gene Coffman (North Oaks)

Need volunteers from WBL & Mahtomedi

March - Restoring The Voting Rights Act

Chairs - Kathy Tomsich (North Oaks) and Gladys Ritter (SCV)

Volunteers: Margaret Westin (Mahtomedi), Liz Lauder (WBL), Lisa Larson (Mahtomedi)

May - Examining Police Reform Proposals

Chair - Mary Santi (WBL)

Volunteers: Lori Delahunt (North Oaks)

Need volunteers from SCV and Mahtomedi



We are so lucky to have a great number of new members to get to know and work with. Please take a few moments to read about their interesting backgrounds and welcome them to your units!

The League Welcomes Beth Pokela

The League welcomes Beth Pokela, a Hugo resident who was inspired to join the League after viewing "Slay the Dragon," a film documentary on gerrymandering. Beth's friend, a member of the Avon LWV, recommended the film and the League. Beth wants to work before the elections on getting out the vote, and after elections on the issue of gerrymandering as a member of the White Bear Lake unit.

Beth was born in Tomahawk, WI, and has lived in many locales, including Two Harbors, Duluth, St. Cloud, California, and 3 foreign countries. Over the years she worked with non-profit agencies that served, variously, Viet Nam veterans, Mexican immigrants, battered women, and even the Girl Scouts! She worked for eight years as Alumnae Director at The College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, where she also earned her master's degree in management at age 53.

At age 55 Beth joined the Foreign Service, serving in Mexico, Germany, and Argentina. Her last posting was with the State Department in Washington, D.C., where she worked on the international children's issue of parental/child abduction.

Following mandated retirement at age 65, in Nov. of 2016, she and her husband retired to the Twin Cities, where their daughter, her husband and 3 grandchildren live.

Beth and her husband recently celebrated their 45th anniversary, and are enjoying life in MN near many relatives. Beth is an avid reader, and loves walking her dog, biking, and swimming. They love international traveling, but during the Covid lockdown have substituted short trips to the North Shore and around MN. She jokes that they are "seeing America second."

Welcome, Beth!

The League Welcomes Janet Grochowski

The WBALWV welcomes new member Janet Grochowski, who “wishes to be of value” in work toward voter involvement, voter education, and civility in public discourse. Janet grew up in Manitowoc and Madison, WI, and, with her husband Richard, has lived in White Bear Lake since 1971. She has joined the White Bear Lake Unit.

Janet recently retired from a career as professor of nutrition and health at The University of St. Thomas (30 years) and most recently as an administrator at the College of St. Benedict-St. John’s University (8 years). One of her sabbatical years was in Australia, where she, Richard, their son, Eric, and daughter, Emily, thrived in an Australian community. The focus of Janet’s longitudinal study was on cultural comparisons of resilience (mindfulness) in families.

Janet’s husband, Richard, is retired from a career in the White Bear Lake schools as a teacher first of social studies and later with the Alternative Learning Center. He also served as an assistant football and track and field coach plus was president of the White Bear Lake teachers’ union. Their son, Eric, is a mathematics major with a graduate degree in education. He is currently completing his eighth year at Shanghai American School. Prior to China, he taught in Venezuela (3 years) and South Korea (5 years). Their daughter, Emily, is a molecular biology major with a masters in nutrition. She is a registered dietician and lives with her partner in Seattle.

Janet is a graduate of the U. of WI-Madison with majors in biology and international studies. She completed two PhD degrees at the U. of MN-Minneapolis in Family Studies and Education. She worked for 3M upon arriving in the Twin Cities before beginning her graduate studies. Janet then pursued her career in university/college teaching, research, and administration.

Among Janet’s retirement activities is volunteering with the Ramsey Wildlife Rehab Center and with the MSP airport. Serving as a MSP Travelers Assistant includes helping needy travelers find gates, connecting flights, lost compatriots - any other airport urgent needs.

Janet loves exercise and runs, cycles, swims, and sails; she recently completed her first triathlon!

Janet and Richard love to travel, and thrive on adventure. They recently enjoyed a “Bike and Barge” trip down the Poe River in Italy, and engaged in a 3-week camping safari in Botswana. The COVID-19 lockdown has cramped their style for a while!

Janet says that she is grateful for a fulfilling professional career and loving family – and we can see why!

Submitted by: Barb Memory, Membership Chair



The League Welcomes Mary, Rick, and Noelle Rivard

The League welcomes Mary, Rick, and Noelle Rivard, 25-year residents of White Bear Lake. Mary has long been aware of the League, supports its neutral and non-polarizing role, and believes that opportunities for dialogue and learning from others are necessary for reducing polarization in society. "While I believe in the positive nature of people, at the same time, I recognize the pressing need to educate myself further on issues and am motivated to minimize the useless polarization in our communities and move forward toward reasonable solutions."

Mary grew up in St. Paul and earned her Master's degree in counseling and guidance at Eastern Illinois University. She has worked in student development and career services at Eastern Illinois University and the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse. One of her favorite jobs in higher education was as a career counselor/coach. She was a charter member of the WBL YMCA, and currently works at the Forest Lake YMCA in programming for active older adults.

Mary shared information about her husband Rick and two daughters, Gabrielle and Noelle. Rick is originally from northwest MN, and is an educator, providing work experiences at Harding High School in East St. Paul. Gabrielle, 30, is a medical provider and planning a wedding – despite the challenges of the times. Noelle, 24, has returned to live at home while completing a degree in Occupational Therapy. She has passed her certification exam and is now in a job search.

For Mary, a silver lining of the current pandemic has been having more time with family members (social distancing, outdoors) and more time for gardening, biking and the outdoors. She intends to invest time in learning new technology, continuing with family photo projects and maybe even taking up sewing!

We welcome the Rivard family to the White Bear Lake Unit!

-Submitted by Barb Memory, Membership Committee Chair



The League Welcomes Megan and Matt Diediker

The League welcomes Megan and Matt Diediker, who moved to Mahtomedi two years ago with their two daughters, Adeline, age 6, and Greta, age 4, and dog Teddy. Megan and Matt have joined the League in order to get involved and help with the next election; as teachers they are alarmed that less than 50% of citizens vote.

Megan was born in New Richmond, WI, attended Hamline University, and earned a degree in math with minors in education and psychology. She teaches math and coaches basketball at Park High School in Cottage Grove. Matt teaches social studies and is head football coach at Tartan High School in Oakdale. Both are staying flexible, calm, and cooperative as schools and pre-school openings are announced.

Megan comes to the League because of two family members. Her sister is a member in St. Louis Park and her grandmother, who will soon be 96 years old, was a League member and president in Mankato.

Megan's grandmother was the first woman mayor of St. Croix Falls, WI. She told Megan many stories of early life, the suffrage movement, and the League. Megan's grandmother lost her mother early, raised 4 siblings, and then had 5 children of her own. She could not attend college, but taught herself computer programming and spent her career in that profession. A fun side note: Megan's grandma interviewed Hubert Humphrey in the spring or summer of 1968. It was on KEYC TV channel 12 (Mankato). He gave her a pass to tour The White House but she never got out there.

Matt is from Iowa and has shared many "hobbies" with his family. They have a large garden, backyard chickens (no rooster in Mahtomedi!), and have recently begun to keep bees. They will collect honey for the first time in the fall.

Matt and Megan have gone to Europe three times, the last time taking 10 Tartan High School students with them just before the COVID lockdown. The family loves cooking, bike rides, camping and boating.

Welcome, Megan and Matt to the Mahtomedi unit!
-Submitted by Barb Memory, Membership Chair



May I Recommend?

The May I Recommend section of The Bear Facts is intended as a spot to share recommendations of books, movies, articles, podcasts, exhibits, resources of any kind that are related (most of the time) to League issues- and which a member feels would enrich, educate or entertain other members. Please send your ideas for this column to Lori Delahunt at ldelahunt@comcast.net

As we met during the August picnic to learn about the program for the year, there was a lot of enthusiasm for our January topic: TALKING ABOUT RACE. It became apparent that as time has marched on, we have not always been apprised of the terms that have evolved to refer to members of minority groups. For instance “BIPOC” was a new term for me. Wanting to refer to people in the way they would most like to be addressed, I am going to read the style guide from the American Psychological Association for bias-free writing (and speaking) as recommended by member, Karen Suzukamo. You can find it here: <https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines/bias-free-language/racial-ethnic-minorities>.

In January, the book we will discuss is A Good Time For The Truth: Race in Minnesota. As you know, if you are interested in the topic of Racial Justice, there are many books available right now which you may want to check out if you haven’t already. A small smattering which I have read and could recommend as worthwhile are Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson, The New Jim Crow by Michelle Alexander and So You Want To Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo.

I also noticed in the most recent mailing from the White Bear Lake Area School District Community Services and Recreation Department that multiple race related classes and workshops will be offered this fall. Some are one session only while others may be 3-6 sessions. They range from FREE to \$85 with topics such as Power, Privilege and Identity and So You Believe in Black Lives Matter, Now What? You can check out the class descriptions or register by visiting www.whitebear.ce.eleyo.com. I do not know any of the instructors and have not taken these classes, but, it seemed a timely possibility to pass on to anyone who is looking for additional ways to become informed and enlightened.

-Lori Delahunt

(Additional Recommendations on the following two pages)

From Jeanne Hartle:

I recently attended a virtual book discussion hosted by the Braver Angels, a national organization dedicated to ending the polarization we feel as Americans. The book is Contract to Unite America by Neal Simon. The book provides a succinct analysis of what's wrong with our political system and a list of 10 specific changes that could be made to reform it. I suggest it would make for interesting reading and discussion by unit members.

From Lori Delahunt:

A friend of mine, a cohost of this event, sent me this invitation related to the advantages of ranked choice voting which I am intrigued by.

Perhaps you are, too!

Tale of Two Crises: COVID-19 & Political Polarization,
on September 30th at 6:00 pm CST.

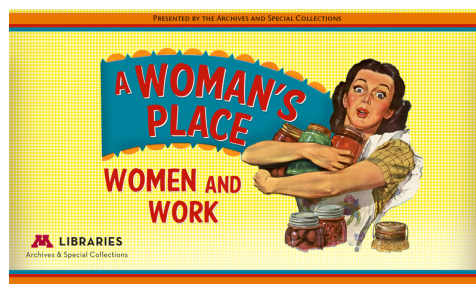
Please join us as we bring together two of our country's leading health experts, Dr. Michael Osterholm and Andy Slavitt, for a conversation moderated by Minnesota Representative Dr. Kelly Morrison.

A panel of experts will discuss how political polarization has hindered America's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and how **Ranked Choice Voting is a key solution to breaking through the political dysfunction and ensuring more responsive and effective governance.** There is a \$25 fee which goes towards efforts to expand Ranked Choice Voting in MN

You can register here: fairvotemn.org/RSVP.

From Lisa Larson:

Check out this online exhibit curated by The University of Minnesota!



<http://gallerytemp.reclaim.hosting/exhibits/show/a-womans-place-women-and-work/intro>

-From Lisa Larson

This New Yorker-published interview with James Baldwin describing heroic efforts to register Black voters in Selma makes compelling reading, especially given the upcoming election.

Freedom Day, 1963: A Lost Interview with James Baldwin

<https://www.newyorker.com/books/page-turner/freedom-day-1963-a-lost-interview-with-james-baldwin>

And, as usual, we recommend you check out the following in order to stay in the know!



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 announce when replays to candidate forums are available. 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 it 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.

Treasurer's Report

August 1,2020

Margaret Westin, Treasurer

		Current	YTD
Income:	Dues	\$ 735.00	\$2,325.00
	Donations	\$ 505.00	\$ 755.00
	Memorials	\$	\$
	Meetings (socials)	\$	\$
	Service	\$	\$
	In-kind donation	\$	\$
	Voters Service	\$	\$ 300.00
	Calendars	\$	\$
	NOHOA	\$	\$
	Bank interest	\$ 0.01	\$ 0.01
	Total:	\$ 1,240.01	\$ 3,380.01
Expenses:	Meetings (socials)	\$	\$
	LWVMN PMP	\$	\$
	LWVUS PMP	\$	\$
	Meeting site	\$	\$
	Voters Service	\$ 900.00	\$ 900.00
	Program (includes publicity)	\$	\$ 48.32
	Bear Facts copying/printing	\$	\$
	Calendars	\$	\$
	Membership	\$	\$
	(communication, recruiting & recognition)		
	Total:	\$900.00	\$948.32

Opening balance from July 1, 2020:	\$	4,275.45
Income	+	\$ 1,240.01
Expenses:	-	\$ 900.00

Current balance: **\$4,615.46**

Ed fund CD: **\$5,128.88**

2020-21 Paid Members: 34 @ \$60 3@ \$75

Total: 43 (including our 3 lifetime members)