



President's Column

Liz Lauder, President pro tem

I think we can expect this general election to be unlike any we've ever seen. And we can also expect the results to be contested and challenged.

What are the rules about how to challenge election results? Each state has its own rules (because this is America, after all). In many states, some sort of court hears the challenges. The timeframes differ, however. In Georgia, an election contest must be filed within 5 days after determination of the official results; in Pennsylvania, the contest must be filed within 20 days of Election Day.

States also differ in how they determine the proper grounds for the challenge. Some courts will not even hear a case unless it affects a number of ballots equal to or greater than the margin of victory.

A challenger may also bypass the state courts and head directly to federal court and file a claim under the due process or equal protection clauses of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. A federal court can order state officials to recognize a "legitimate" winner.

I feel a bit more calm after reading an overview of state and federal laws governing election contests produced by the National Task Force on Election Crises. (One of the members of the task force is LWVUS CEO, Virginia Kase). You can find the overview here: <https://electiontaskforce.org/s/Election-Contests.pdf>.

I haven't forgotten the 2000 presidential election, and the State of Florida, and the U.S. Supreme Court ruling. The law and the courts do not always get it right. It will be interesting to see if we've learned anything from that experience in 2000, and if we have strengthened our election laws enough to withstand the "unprecedented" year of 2020.

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**Hear Professor
Andrew Aoki at
Our next general
meeting: Tuesday,
November 10th!**

Political science Professor Andrew Aoki is speaking about the 2020 election results at our November general meeting.

The upcoming general election in November promises to be pivotal for the country and perhaps for the tenets of democracy. The election outcome can potentially affect all our lives and national, state, and local government operations. It's likely we will not know all the election results on November 3rd or the November 3rd election results will be in dispute. The political and societal implications of the election are vast.

The LWVWBLA invited Andrew Aoki, political science professor at Augsburg University, to speak about the election and its implications at our November 10 general meeting at 6:30 PM. It's an online meeting on Zoom, open to the public via EventBrite, and audience questions are welcome. All LWVWBLA members will receive a Zoom program invitation/link beforehand and do not need to register. Others who wish to participate (guests, family members, members of the public) need to pre-register at eventbrite.com in order to receive the Zoom link. Search the program title "Assessing Election Implications" in order to register for the event.

-Lisa Larson and Mary Santi

THE ELECTION IS NEARING; THERE IS STILL WORK TO DO!

GOTV Volunteers Needed!

Early voter registration ends October 13. Time to turn our attention to Getting Out The Vote! Please consider a virtual phone bank as part of our partnership with We Vote Minnesota, Minnesota's largest nonpartisan voter engagement campaign. This year, we are reaching out to 150,000 voters from underrepresented communities to ensure they have everything they need to take advantage of all of Minnesota's options to vote — by mail, early in-person, or on Election Day.



Note: This initiative is run by Minnesota Voice. If you have questions, direct them to baochu@minnesotavoice.org.

[Sign-Up for a Virtual Phone Bank Time](#)



Join the People Powered Fair Maps (PPFM) Team!

Due to COVID, we were not able to make meaningful progress in the 2020 legislative session. Our revised 2-year PPFM plan supports the 2020 legislative session and redistricting cycle, and advocates for additional legislation and a constitutional amendment in the 2021 legislative session.

To better support the PPFM campaign, we would like to establish a statewide PPFM team, including both LWVMN members and non-members. Members of this team will become knowledgeable in redistricting and gerrymandering, and will play a meaningful role consistent with their interests, including shaping our approach to achieving the campaign goals. Members would also support education, outreach and advocacy efforts over the next 1-2 years. This will include the opportunity to be involved at both the state and local levels, as counties and some cities also have to do redistricting after Census results are received.

If you or someone you know is interested in being part of this team, please contact Paul Huffman, Census and Redistricting Coordinator, at phuffman@lwvmn.org.

CMAL Quarterly Meeting Summary by Liz Lauder - Get involved in Park Planning!

The Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL) held its first quarterly meeting of the year via Zoom on Saturday, October 17, 2020. The topic of the meeting was the metropolitan regional parks. Emmett Mullin, Regional Parks Manager for the Metropolitan Council, spoke about what the regional parks are, where they're located, how they're funded, and their governing bodies. Holly Jenkins, the founder and director of the nonprofit Wilderness in the City, talked about how Twin Cities residents can monitor the work of the governing bodies and be involved in the planning process for regional parks.

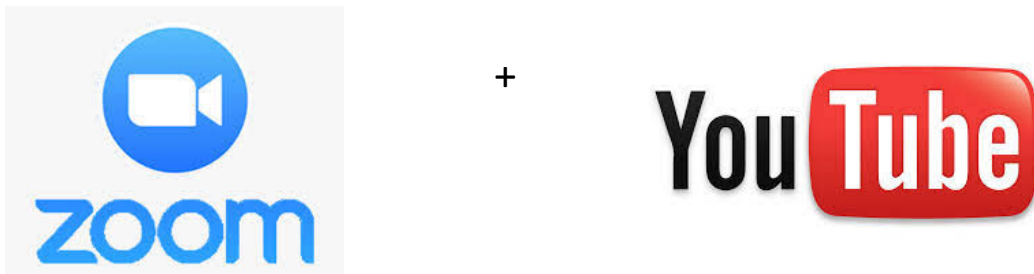
Ms. Jenkins said it was important for residents to get involved early on in the process, when the implementing agencies (counties, cities, parks boards) are gathering public input (not seeking public comment on plans that have already been developed). Get on the email list for your local implementing agency. Find out who are your local decision-makers and let them know what your priorities are for the regional parks and trails.

Funding for the regional parks is obtained from multiple sources. However, there is no stable source of funding for operations and maintenance of the parks. The amount is determined bi-annually by the state legislature.

Ms. Jenkins encouraged everyone to get out and experience the regional parks. They are a welcome relief during this time of confusion and stress. There are six regional parks in the WBLA LWV area: Bald Eagle/Otter Lakes (White Bear Twp.), Big Marine Park Reserve (Marine-on-St. Croix), Pine Point (Stillwater), Square Lake (Stillwater), Tony Schmidt (Arden Hills), and Vadnais-Snail Lakes (Shoreview). Minnesotans can become park ambassadors through the Met Council to help raise awareness of the regional parks and trails.

Candidate Forums: A HUGE Success!

Our Voter Service Committee produced and recorded 24 candidate forums this election cycle. More than 20 members and volunteers helped support the productions. While there were only a few faces visible on screen, there was a lot going on behind the scenes which made the forums run smoothly. A heartfelt thanks to all the people who were a part of this endeavor. Voter Services Co-chair, Heidi Boyd, is planning a debrief on forums on November 2nd to discuss “what went well” and “what could have been better”. Any members who want to participate, please contact Heidi at (heidischmidtboyd2@gmail.com) to be sent the Zoom link. Zoom forums may be the wave of the future - an easily accessible format resulting in broad exposure to candidate perspectives. Forums were rebroadcast on cable stations AND on our new YouTube channel.



Our Debut on YouTube

This year, due to Covid-19, our local LWV made a big switch from on-site, in-person programs to using Zoom for virtual events. and the Program Committee held its first public meeting featuring elections expert Joe Mansky. We uploaded everything to our very own Channel on YouTube, the popular video-sharing app. As of Oct. 19 our videos have had over 6,000 views!

View numbers for each video are shown in the table on the following page. We are encouraged by these numbers! They tell us voters are seeking the information we provide. Check on YouTube for forums you may have missed at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDAYMf5Slgb0EcYiWd-X3YQ/videos> . While there, why not join the 32 people who have subscribed to our YouTube Channel. You will be informed whenever we upload another video.

Program Views as of 10/19/20	
Total	6,018
Stillwater School Board At-Large	702
North Oaks Mayor	555
Shoreview Council	539
Stillwater School Board Special Election	522
Lake Elmo Mayor	489
North Oaks Council	396
Lake Elmo Council	335
North Oaks Council Special Election	252
Minnesota House District 38B	206
Minnesota House Districts 42A and 42B	195
Minnesota Senate District 42	163
Grant Mayor	161
Minnesota House Districts 39A and 39B	153
Forest Lake Council	150
Lake St. Croix Beach Council	147
Minnesota Senate District 39	146
Birchwood Mayor	145
Mahtomedi District School Board	144
Vadnais Heights Council	133
Grant Council	109
Lake St. Croix Beach Mayor	97
Birchwood Council	91
Answering Election Concerns/Joe Mansky	84
MN Senate District 38	69
Oak Park Heights Mayor	35

The topic at October unit meetings was Considering Candidates' Policy Positions. Because many people have already participated in early voting, members were encouraged to also discuss other topics relevant to elections. Did you miss your unit meeting this month? Are you curious about conversations happening in other meetings in our league? If so, read on!

Researching Candidates and Issues White Bear Lake Unit Meeting – Oct. 2020

The White Bear Lake unit met via Zoom on Thursday, October 8th to discuss the field of candidates in local and state races. Six of the ten members who attended the meeting reported to the group about certain candidates or policy issues that interested them. Mary Ann Linser and Dick Ottman talked about the candidates running for Minnesota House and Senate in their districts. Karin Housley, Republican Senator in district 39, did not take part in the LWV candidate forum, nor did she supply any information to Vote411.org or the White Bear Press. Dick Ottman reached out to Jason Isaacson (DFL), Senate district 42, to find out about the candidate's ideas to stop climate change but received no reply.

Liz Lauder also received no reply from Isaacson when she submitted a question on his website about his ideas on redistricting. However, House 42A Representative, Kelly Moller (DFL), did reply to her question, and told her about a bill that Isaacson had sponsored in 2018 that proposed creating an independent commission. The LWVUS supports independent commissions for redistricting.

Dick Ottman received a reply for his question about climate change from Senate district 42 candidate, Ben Schwanke (R). Schwanke is in favor of removing the ban on creating new nuclear power facilities.

Other White Bear unit members, Barb Memory and Joan Neumiller, reported on the local school board races. The Stillwater school board race has received a lot of attention due to controversies over the buy-out of the Superintendent, the closing of schools, and the Lake Elmo transportation garage that has not been hooked up to sewer and water. Candidates talked a lot about equity and diversity. This was also true of the Mahtomedi school board race.

The LWVWBLA candidate forums were great sources of information for the unit members. Karen Suzukamo was impressed by how well-prepared the candidates were for Vadnais Heights city council. In the end, it was the response to one question that was the deciding factor for her.

-Submitted by Liz Lauder

LWVWBLA St. Croix Valley Unit Meeting

October 8, 2020, 3pm

Lori Soukup, Gladys Ritter and Sandra Larson met via Zoom for the LWV October meeting of the St. Croix Valley unit.

We discussed modern day voter suppression which is related to our March 2021 Voting Rights Act program topic. We discussed voter suppression because of where we find ourselves today: only one ballot box in each Texas county, dismantled US Postal equipment and slowed mail service, "poll watchers", intricate gerrymandering, undue interference by wealthy individuals and special interests, and perhaps most importantly: continuing efforts to undermine our entire election system's reliability.

We focused on the 2018 Georgia Governor race between Brian Kemp and Stacy Abrahms. This race illustrated how far we have come and how far we have to go. An Amazon Prime selection, All In: The Fight for Democracy provides history of the vote and focuses on how voters in this race were discouraged by such things as malfunctioning machines, closed polling places and changed hours, incorrect registration information including, unbelievably, being told they had already voted, etc.

No one wants voter fraud but the Presidential Commission on Election Integrity set up to investigate election integrity and fraud issues (including non-citizen voting) disbanded after not being able to confirm one example of fraud.

We finished with this thought: A democracy is not a democracy if it doesn't include everyone. "Everyone" in our country is increasingly coming to mean nonwhite residents. Do unconstitutional obstacles disadvantage, and in some cases completely disenfranchise, them?

-Submitted by Gladys Ritter

Minutes LWV North Oaks Unit Meeting 10/14/20

- Nine (9) people attended the meeting
- Five (5) Vote from Home signs have been placed at the entrances in "old" North Oaks (Not Robb Farm, The Preserve, etc.) and Deer Hills
- **Discussion on candidate information resources:**
 - Minnesota Bar Association for judicial races
 - Ballotpedia for all elections
 - Look for endorsements and who nominated incumbent
 - LWV Forums had 100 - 300 viewers
- **Discussion on Ballot Boards**
 - Traditionally, office employees have been used.
 - Republicans want half Republicans and half Democrats
- **Discussion on candidate positions vs LWV policies**
 - Gun Violence
 - LWV position is to protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety
 - Amy Wazlawik and Justin Stofferahn are in agreement
 - Elliott Engen is not in agreement. Roger Chamberlain did not provide information.

(continued on next page)

- Climate Change
 - LWV position is to call for prompt action to cut GHG emissions, invest in a clean energy economy and help the world's poorest countries tackle the challenges of climate change.
 - Betty McCollum is in agreement
 - Gene Rechtzigel believes climate change is due to "solar weather" and not human related
 - **How are people coping with the stress of the election, pandemic and the economy?**
 - Listen to classical music
 - Humor: Telling/Listening to jokes
 - Zoom yoga
 - Taking walks
 - Taking classes at the Y.
 - There will be a general meeting November 10, 2020 (no unit meeting in November)
 - *Submitted by Gene Coffman*
-

Mahtomedi Unit's report: Considering Candidates' Policy Positions

1. Tina Smith U.S. Senate Candidate - Position on Climate Change

Of the four U.S. Senate candidates, the only one to fill out the questions on Vote411, was the GLC candidate, Oliver Steinberg. A report from August 25, 2020, stated Tina Smith's plan (along with other senate democrats) for Climate Change. This plan agrees with the LWVUS position and goes even further as it recommends growing jobs and reducing healthcare disparities and other environmental injustices.

2. Victoria Reinhardt Dist. 7 candidate for Ramsey Co. Commissioner - Position on the Environment

Her positions on the Environment match with LWVMN positions. She was a founding member and chairperson of the Recycling Association of Minnesota. Currently she is chairperson of the Ramsey/Washington Resource Recovery Board and chair of the Energy, Environment and Land Use Steering Committee of the National Association of Counties. She advocates burning less carbon.

3. Tawnja Zahradka U.S. Representative MN 6th District - Position on Immigration

Her positions support LWVUS positions in the following areas: she has a litmus test that any law needs to be humane (keeping families together). Immigrants are needed as they often take jobs others do not want and this should be a path toward citizenship. The LWVMN position supports the U.S. helping improve the situation of citizens in countries that have high immigration rates.

4. Roger Chamberlain and Justin Stofferahn candidates for Minnesota Senate District 38 - Positions on Education

Stofferahn's positions agree with the LWVMN position that all should have equal access to a good education, there should be full funding of schools and an increase in hiring teachers of color. Among Chamberlain's major concerns were dyslexia, widespread reading proficiency and charter schools.

-Submitted by Anne Johnson

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:



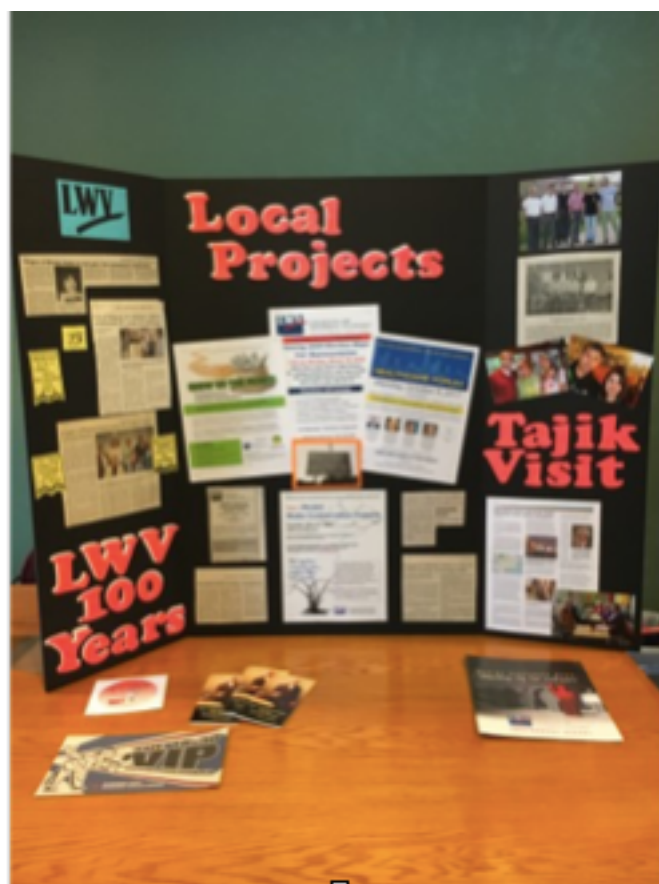
LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF MINNESOTA

Learn More & Join!
lwmn.org

For those who missed the exhibit about the history of our state league at the Stillwater Library last winter, the **LWVMN** has put the entire exhibit online. You can see all twelve panels from the comfort of your home by visiting <https://www.lwmn.org/traveling-exhibit-virtual>.

And, on a more local note:

The League of Women Voters of White Bear Lake Area is proud to present a poster exhibit highlighting one hundred years of history of the League of Women Voters in our area, featuring Minnesota's suffrage story and highlighting the local women who made it happen and continue to work to make democracy work for all. This exhibit is on display through the fall at
The White Bear Senior Center
2484 East County Road F in White Bear Lake.



FUTURE FOCUS



Just like the retail stores, we are advertising for the winter holidays before Halloween even rolls around! Our usual holiday gathering of the entire league will have to be re-imagined like so many other events due to Covid-19. We will be meeting for our social as units, via Zoom. Please mark your calendars accordingly: Mahtomedi-12/7, North Oaks-12/9, St. Croix Valley - 12/10, White Bear Lake-12/10. In addition to social time, the topic will be **Exploring Education and Advocacy - Next Steps**.

Snow is falling
and books are
calling...

While quality of life in our state is ranked amongst the highest, Minnesota has some of the worst racial disparities in the country. People of color are the fastest growing segment of our population.

Our January 2021 unit discussions will center around the book **A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota**, a compilation of writings edited by Sun Yung Shin. Sixteen Minnesota writers provide a range of perspectives on what it is like as a person of color in our state.

The paperback is available at local libraries and can be purchased from the Minnesota Historical Society Press or your local book store. It sells on Amazon for about \$16.00 and a kindle version is available for \$12.00. Please watch your email in November for discussion questions to guide your reading.

To view a conversation between the books editor, Sun Yung Shin, and six contributing essayists, visit <https://youtu.be/A4GwaiOPeu8>

-Submitted by Gladys Ritter

Are you a “Lifetime” League Member?

Our LWV WBLA Roster Manager, Margaret Westin, is looking to update our list of Lifetime Members. Lifetime Members are those members who have belonged to the LWV for 50 years or more. In addition to receiving our admiration for dedication to important civic engagement, Lifetime Members are exempt from paying dues and the LWV WBLA is not assessed for them in the payments per member we owe to the Minnesota state or the national league. Current known Lifetime Members are Carol Bergeson, Joann Youngstrom and Peg Olson. **If you are a 50-year member**, please let Margaret Westin know so she can change your status with the LWVUS roster and so LWV WBLA can recognize your dedication to making informed voting available for all citizens.

Margaret's email is marg.westin@gmail.com and her telephone number is 651.485.1998. Thank you

A New League Member?



The League welcomes Carol Stauffer, a new member who lives in Lake Elmo, joining the St. Croix Valley unit. Carol joins because of her desire to support the work of the League.

A Potential League Member?

Won't You Join the League of Women Voters?

Joan Neumiller, Publicity Chair, has submitted articles to the three local newspapers which cover North Oaks, St. Croix Valley, and Mahtomedi/White Bear Lake. Entitled: "Invitation to join the (unit) League of Women Voters," the brief articles summarize our mission and recent Voter Services for each city. Joan was assisted by Carol Bergeson (the original IDEA person!) and Barb Memory.

May I Recommend?

This section of our newsletter is for recommendations from members to other members. If you see or hear about a book, article, podcast, movie or exhibit that you think others will find interesting, please pass it along by contacting me at ldelahunt@comcast.net . Thanks! Lori Delahunt

READ- Kathy Tomsich suggests this article from the Washington Post (https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/social-issues/what-the-supreme-courts-rulings-mean-for-the-2020-census-and-trumps-attempt-to-exclude-the-undocumented-from-the-count/2020/10/17/5d299b98-0f71-11eb-8a35-237ef1eb2ef7_story.html) about the Census and the Supreme Court's decision to look at Trump's order to exclude undocumented from the Census count. She says it is complicated but interesting. Yeah - you're up to it!

WATCH- One program on Amazon Prime came up in two unit meeting discussions - St. Croix Valley and North Oaks. It is called "All In: The Fight For Democracy" and it examines the problem of voter suppression in the U.S. Check it out at - <https://www.amazon.com/All-Fight-Democracy-Stacey-Abrams/dp/B08FRQKQD5>.



Also on Amazon Prime, I watched "What The Constitution Means to Me". I thought it got off to a slow start but was well worth the time in the end. <https://www.amazon.com/What-Constitution-Means-Me/dp/B08KRB3FQ4>

LISTEN- On MPR on 10/20/20, Angela Davis hosted a podcast talking about The Black Vote - whether Democrats should count on it, how it has been suppressed, why the populace in general has been threatened by it. Check it out at : <https://podcasts.apple.com/cy/podcast/what-is-the-black-vote-and-why-does-it-matter-in-2020/id1445601454?i=1000495455203>

(another recommendation on the next page)

VISIT- There is a quilt exhibit “We Are the Story” A multi-site initiative curated by Carolyn Mazloomi, and presented by Textile Center & Women of Color Quilters Network currently being held, in part at The Textile Center in Minneapolis, and, in part at the American Swedish Institute. I spent a day with a friend who is a quilter visiting these exhibits which were propelled by reactions to the killing of George Floyd and many other black citizens across the country. It was a somber day, but a worthwhile one, and I thoroughly recommend getting out to see these incredible works in person.
(Lori Delahunt)

There is no fee to view the exhibit in either location, but reservations are required for specific times in order to limit the number of visitors during the pandemic. Find more information on making an appointment here for the American Swedish Institute:

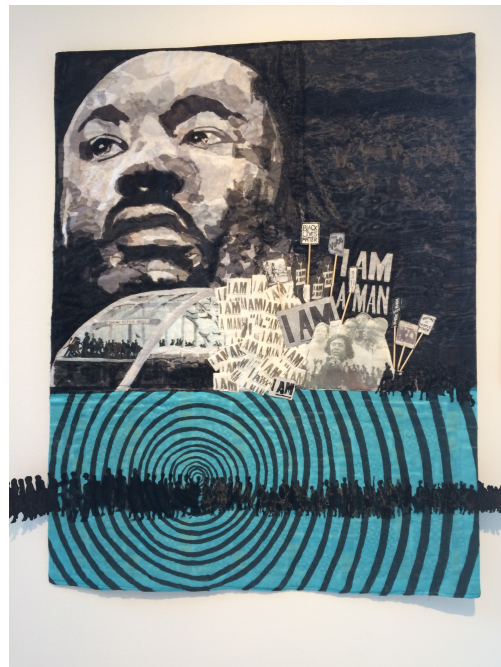
<https://38380.blackbaudhosting.com/38380/We-Are-the-Story-Quilt-Exhibit-23Oct2020-12>

and here for The Textile Center:

<https://textilecentermn.org/product/textile-center-by-appointment/>



(See the following page for more examples of quilts from each exhibit.)





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. 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.



Greetings from our LWV-WBLA October Board Meeting via Zoom!

Top row: Lori Delahunt, Liz Lauder, Barb Memory

Second row: Shannon Moore, Margaret Westin, Lisa Larson

Bottom row: Sarah Amundson

Not pictured: Heidi Boyd, Joan Neumiller, Mary Santi

Treasurer's Report

October 1, 2020

Margaret Westin, Treasurer

		Current	YTD
Income:	Dues	\$ 315.00	\$ 3,600.00
	Donations	\$ 60.00	\$ 990.00
	Memorials	\$	\$
	Meetings (socials)	\$	\$
	Service	\$	\$
	In-kind donation	\$	\$
	Voters Service	\$	\$ 300.00
	Calendars	\$ 95.00	\$ 95.00
	NOHOA	\$	\$
	Bank interest	\$	\$ 0.01
	Total:	\$ 470.00	\$ 4,985.01
Expenses:	Meetings (socials)	\$ 89.82	\$ 89.82
	LWVMN PMP	\$	\$
	LWVUS PMP	\$	\$
	Meeting site	\$	\$
	Voters Service	\$	\$ 900.00
	Program (includes publicity)	\$	\$ 183.71
	Bear Facts copying/printing	\$	\$
	Calendars	\$	\$
	Membership	\$	\$
	(communication, recruiting & recognition)		
	Total:	\$89.82	\$1,173.53

Opening balance from September 1, 2020:	\$ 5,615.07
Income	+ 470.00
Expenses:	- 89.82

Current balance: **\$5,995.25**

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

2020-21 Paid Members: 49 @ \$60 8@ \$75

Total: 68 (including our 3 lifetime members)