



**FEBRUARY'S TOPIC:**  
**Advancing Inclusive Economic Growth**

How can we explain the income and asset gaps between white and minority populations in Minnesota?

How do perceptions of bias and behavior affect people's attitudes and actions regarding race and equity?

What can the Biden administration and the Minnesota legislature do to foster economic inclusion?



LWVWBLA invites the public to get answers to these questions and more at our February online meeting. **Tawanna Black**, Founder and CEO of the Center for Economic Inclusion, the nation's first such organization, will talk about her work to dismantle structural racism and economic disparities in Minneapolis and St. Paul on Zoom, February 18, 2021, at 6:30 pm. Ms. Black's organization helps equip Twin Cities individuals and

institutions with knowledge, tools, and resources they need to overcome racism and bias, foster accountability, and promote an inclusive, equitable, and healthy regional economy.

Co-sponsored by Shoreview Human Rights Commission and Do Good Roseville, the talk is free and open to the public, with pre-registration required at [www.Eventbrite.com](http://www.Eventbrite.com). Choose "League of Women Voters White Bear Lake Area MN" or "Advancing Inclusive Economic Growth." Registrants will receive a Zoom invitation shortly before the program.

**Table of Contents**

February Topic	p.1-2
LWVMN Action	p.3
LWV WBLA Action	p.4
President's Column	p.5
New Member Party	p.6
Voter Services Info	p.6
Unit Summaries	p.7-13
Help Needed!	p.13
Legislative Interviews	p.14-16
L. Fischer Tribute	p.16-17
Stay Informed!	p.17
May I Recommend?	p.18-20
Humor	p.21
Treasurer's Report	p.22



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®  
WHITE BEAR LAKE AREA

***Free Online Forum with Tawanna A. Black  
Founder and CEO  
Center for Economic Inclusion***



For more than 20 years, Ms. Black has headed economic revitalization organizations that prioritize diversity and inclusion development strategies in Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, and Minnesota. The Center for Economic Inclusion, the nation's first such organization, helps equip Twin Cities individuals and institutions with knowledge, tools, and resources they need to overcome racism and bias, foster accountability, and promote an inclusive, equitable, and healthy regional economy. Ms. Black is a Non-Resident Senior Fellow of the Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program, and has a Bachelor of Public Administration Degree from Washburn University in Topeka, KS.

***“Advancing Inclusive Economic Growth”  
6:30 PM on Zoom - February 18, 2021***

**Register at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)  
for a free invitation**

**Find us at [www.lwv-wbla.org](http://www.lwv-wbla.org), Facebook and Twitter**

*Do Good Roseville*  
Making Connections to Do Good Things in Our Community



A **LOT** has happened in Washington D.C. since the last edition of *The Bear Facts*, namely this:



Followed by this:



**Consequently:**

Michelle Witte, Executive Director of LWVMN, sent a letter to the Minnesota House of Representatives and Senate leadership in both parties addressing the ongoing use of the baseless claims of voter fraud as a reason for the insurrection at the US Capitol as well as threats against many political office holders. She states that all Minnesota legislators should be required to tell the truth about the settled election results, to publicly own up to any part they may have played in spreading falsehoods and to receive consequences if they persist in such behaviors. Read the entire letter here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Gc4MTKhJckEQbspTdxYdJqIRUmIyuJ8/view> Our own local White Bear Lake Area League has added our support to the state league, sending a Letter to the Editor of local papers, drafted by Kathy Tomsich, and the letter on the following page, drafted by Joan Neumiller, which is being sent to our local legislators.



To: Minnesota's Legislative Leaders

For more than a century, the League of Women Voters has promoted fair elections and good governance. After the 2020 election season, the need for our diligence and urgent action is greater than ever.

On January 14, the League of Women Voters of Minnesota sent a letter to legislative leaders. We of the LWV of White Bear Lake Area are also members of LWV MN and stand by this letter and the demands therein. Please find the letter on the LWV MN website at [www.lwvmn.org](http://www.lwvmn.org) under the News and Events tab. Our comments here are in support of and supplemental to that letter.

In short, we call on all our legislative leaders to require that all MN State Representatives and Senators accept the outcome of the 2020 elections and fulfill their oath to the US and MN constitutions. We stand with one voice in calling for truth and accountability around our elections.

The LWV is a nonpartisan organization working for good government. Being nonpartisan means we don't support any specific party or candidate. Equally, it means we don't abandon our positions or our principles of good government for any party. We will continue to work with all legislators to advance free and fair elections. We will also continue to hold accountable all legislators, regardless of party, who undermine our democracy.

Board of Directors of LWVWBLA

Liz Lauder, President

cc: Legislators in LWVWBLA area

January 25, 2021



### President's Column

My focus is on members and membership this month. February 14th marks the 101st anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters. We've already marked our centennial anniversary with a look back at the history of our suffragette founders, and hosted the LWV Minnesota's traveling exhibit, which included a talk about midwestern suffragettes by guest speaker Kristin Bloomberg. We have a proud legacy.

Would you believe we have members among us who have been with the organization half as long as it has been in existence? This is both a remarkable testament to the dedication of these women and to the relevance and importance of the work of the League. In the coming months, these dedicated women will be profiled in the Bear Facts, and I hope we will all be inspired by their stories and learn from them about their service to their communities and about what makes them so committed to the League.

This February, we are also welcoming our newest members with a virtual get-together hosted by Membership Director, Barb Memory, and the members of the Membership Committee: Stephanie McNamara, Karen Suzukamo, Margaret Westin, and Mary Santi. We will be learning from our new members, too, about their interests and what drew them to join this heritage organization.

As we move forward into our 2nd century, we see that the League's work is more vital than ever, with threats to voting from those who would limit access and who call into question the legitimacy of votes and the voting process. We need both new and experienced members to work and to serve by bringing fresh ideas and continuing the work we've done so well during our first century. Please consider stepping up to fill a role on the board of directors, or on a committee. The first, very easy step, is to contact Barb Memory at [memoryb@ecu.edu](mailto:memoryb@ecu.edu) to express your interest. For those of you who feel that you don't know enough about our organization to serve in a leadership role, I say that that is where you learn the most about our organization! For those of you who have served many times before, but maybe it's been awhile since you've been in a leadership position, I say that we need you again! This local League belongs to all of us, and we all need to keep doing our part.

In solidarity,  
*Liz Lauder*

## LWV-WBLA New Members Zoom Party: Mon., Feb. 15, 6:30 - 7:45

The LWV-WBLA chapter invites its members who were new in 2020 (an otherwise difficult year!) to join together for a Zoom Party - Mon., Feb. 15, 6:30 - 7:45.

The date seemed inevitable! It is Presidents' Day, Susan B. Anthony's 201st birthday, and is in the 101st year of the Nineteenth Amendment and Women's Suffrage.

We will get better acquainted with one another, hear highlights of our local league from our experts, and have an interactive game or two full of fascinating League facts! You won't want to miss the fun!

**The Zoom link will be sent a couple of days before the event.**

Your New Members Zoom Party Hosts Include:

Liz Lauder, President Pro Tem	Mary Santi, Social Media Chair
Heidi Boyd, Voter Services Director	Margaret Westin, Treasurer
Stephanie McNamara, Member	
Karen Suzukamo, Twitter and New Member	
Barb Memory, Membership and Nominating Committees Chair	

Although there is no imminent election, make no mistake,  
VOTER SERVICES COMMITTEE IS MEETING!

Join the Voter Services crew via Zoom the fourth Monday of each month from 7:00-8:00PM.

Topics to be discussed will include but not be limited to: Youth Civic Engagement, Automatic Voter Registration Advocacy, Keeping Voters Engaged Throughout the Year.

Any member or community member is welcome to join.

Contact Heidi Boyd at [heidischmidtboyd2@gmail.com](mailto:heidischmidtboyd2@gmail.com)

In January, we met as units and discussed the book ***A Good Time For the Truth: Race in Minnesota***. Members used a guide developed by Gladys Ritter of the St. Croix Valley unit as the starting point of our conversations. Some of the summaries are lengthy as this book provoked a lot of reflection and soul-searching.



LWV Mahtomedi Unit Meeting notes: 1/11/21

Unit leader Theresa Casey-Wolf shared the following volunteer opportunities for members:

- Conducting interviews with legislative leaders who represent members of the local unit
- Joining a committee to plan the May unit meeting topic of Police Reform Proposals

Member Becky Siekmeier shared information regarding an event on February 2<sup>nd</sup> with the Isaac Walton League related to water issues in Washington County.

Members discussed the book, ***A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota*** edited by Sun Yung Shin:

Members shared early life experiences with nonwhite individuals. Many shared that they had very limited exposure in their hometowns with nonwhite community members. In fact, in the 50's and 60's some housing developments in White Bear Lake had covenants that stated only Caucasians could purchase the homes.

Some shared that it is difficult to meet and form relationships with nonwhite community members when we live in predominately white communities. Members said they have found those connections through work relationships.

Many found the essays in the book to open their mind to the first-person experiences of black, Asian, biracial and transgender individuals. We acknowledged and discussed the implications of white privilege, especially related to interactions with police. Members discussed how LWV might try to raise awareness of white privilege in our communities.

Thoughts on reparations were also discussed and ways these could be offered economically or through other means such as home and land ownership.

Submitted by Theresa Casey-Wolf



### Some Highlights of the Jan. 14 White Bear Lake Unit Meeting

WBL Unit Leader Kathy Gaylord guided 11 of us in a lively discussion of ***A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota*** using Gladys Ritter's excellent Reading Guide.

"Nothing about us without us," refers to the necessary voices of people of color, Native Americans, and other minorities – that only one story is inadequate, and therefore the need for 16 individual's stories by MN authors. It seemed that each League member added a tiny bit of her or his own story, from our formative years in MN, Chicago, Milwaukee, Detroit, San Francisco, North Carolina, and Long Island, NY., to our varied amounts of contact with African-Americans, Asian-Americans, Native Americans, and other minorities.

-S. lamented how sad it was that the words of a white instructor (in the chapter, "Say What?"), 'Take. The. Black. Out.', led to a choice by a Black woman training to be a voice actor to maintain her Black identity, but to forego, for the time being at least, her long-held dream.

-Many of us understood how ever-present and enraging must be the fear of a mother for her black son, entering the world without her protection. Profiling begins for kids as young as 3 in stores, day-care centers, and schools, and ramps up for teen drivers and pedestrians. Monstrous crimes, epitomized by the police murder of George Floyd, are the result of such profiling. We knew that, because of white privilege, we didn't experience profiling.

-S. observed how *exhausting* it must be as a person of color to have to constantly monitor one's behavior, language, appearance, and gestures out of fear of what people might think.

-J. was a school nurse in Roseville from the early 1990s to 2013 where she noticed, in several elementary schools, that black male students were over referred for special education because of behavioral concerns, not intellect. The secondary school where she worked in the Roseville School District was making good efforts to improve behavior, awareness, and sensitivity to racial issues.

-B. quoted: "When did they 'become' White?" "Race was invented by white people." In early days, MN people of Norwegian, Swedish, Finnish, Welsh, and Italian heritage would proudly assert their origins; now they are White.

-S. observed that, by working multiple jobs, she could earn a way to a home, safety, and security. White privilege gives us access to "everything on the plate." Systemic racism limits opportunities in every sphere.

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-K. shared how her father could access higher education despite financial limitations, changing the trajectory of the economics, health, and wealth of her entire family for future generations.

-Blacks and whites live in 2 different countries. We view through a “white lens” so that we are often clueless about how living in the non-white world must feel. Some of us remembered mothers who told us, “Black souls are just as white as ours.” Or, “They may be black but their souls are white.”

-Alternatively, every interaction can be subject to second thoughts from a ‘racialized’ perspective (e.g. giving a compliment may be misinterpreted). It was widely perceived that when President Obama was described as “articulate,” it was a patronizing and condescending observation.

- L. observed, “We are not good at difficult conversations.” If we don’t talk about race, our conflicts don’t exist. We discussed the quotes: “Minnesota Nice is often Not Nice” and “Niceness is not Fairness.”

-At a school forum, K. observed that audience members asked minority panelists questions from the viewpoint, “People Like YOU,” i.e., assuming a black person would know everything that all blacks think.

Author David Lawrence Grant told the story of his father in an all-black unit in WWII in Tuscany whose unit was surrounded and attacked and who sent urgent pleas for support. They called for back-up and were told, “We’re not going to waste valuable ammunition on a bunch of N...s” They survived the night under attack, and entered the small nearby village the next morning. Why didn’t the villagers welcome the Black soldiers and start the parade? - “We were waiting for the Americans to come.”

-D. shared that, in the mid-1950s, an African-American Milwaukee Braves player came to all-white Appleton, WI, and was NOT allowed to stay at the best hotel in Appleton.

-Required Equity training in business and education is often not effective or accepted. J. shared, “We have to SEE the need to change, not just be told to change.”

-S. said how *angry* she is that red-lining and real estate covenants kept her from growing up with minorities; she still doesn’t have black neighbors. The cruel and long-lasting effects of systemic racism in housing are still perpetuating our problems, including the accrual of wealth and the passing of resources from one generation to the next.

-M’s family, from the South Side of Chicago, kept moving farther south as black families moved in. J. learned only in adulthood that her early life in Levittown, Long Island, was all-white because Black people could not buy or sell there.

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- No transportation = no access. M. sees racism in the controversy in White Bear Lake over commuter buses coming to a transit station here: minorities could have more easy access.

- Growing up in San Francisco, K. married a Japanese-American man and is part of an extended family of Asian and Black relatives. K. gave examples of *things we can do*. When she moved to the Twin Cities and wanted to join organizations and meet people that are not like her, she joined the DAR, attended services at an AME church, and volunteered at a CSA site, boxing produce. The national DAR changed its language regarding logging volunteer hours from “church activities” to “activities at houses of worship” upon request by K. when she noticed exclusionary language.

- What can we do when we hear racism in our neighbors and friends? K: “*Say Something! Do Something!*” A neighbor complained that a Black Lives Matter lawn sign popped up: “What if the sign causes a protest? Or lowers our property values?” K: “What must Black people feel when they see discriminatory signs?” If Black people are required by a sales person to show multiple forms of ID to use a credit card, and Whites are not, then Whites in line can spontaneously show the same.

- M.A. shared that thirty years ago MN didn’t have very many Black people and the high school moniker was: “Mighty White Bear.”

-M. drew attention to the hopeful story that takes place near us, in Hugo, MN: A Native American woman works on a farm with teenagers to re-learn their culture by planting preserved seeds of authentic Indian corn. M. plans to visit!

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Barb Memory*

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#### North Oaks January Unit Meeting -January, 13, 2021

Present: Molly Anthony, Lori Delahunt, Gene Coffman, Mary Coffman, Avis Watkins, Carol Bergeson, Kathy Tomsich, Susan Travis, Sharon Guiser, Ann Haase.

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#### Announcements:

The speaker for the general meeting in February (2/18 at 6:30) is Tawanna Black from the Center for Economic Inclusion.

Lori is going to work with Mary Santi’s committee on Police Reform. More volunteers would be appreciated.

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Gene Coffman led our discussion of the book ***A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota***

We used the guide provided by Gladys Ritter.

Members shared their reactions to specific essays that they found particularly engaging or thought-provoking. We also shared remembrances of early encounters with people of color and experiences friends and acquaintances of color have shared with us. We discussed areas in which whites have had advantages over people of color including in housing, obtaining loans and mortgages, voting rights, educational opportunities, health care, employment, the GI Bill, the Justice System.

We talked about the LWV motto, "Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy." Gene pointed out that initially the voters they were empowering were white women and that it would make sense to focus on People of Color and young people specifically. As far as Defending Democracy, he asked how the League could push back on false information.

Molly pointed out that the Georgia League fought against the Voter ID law. They were unsuccessful but they were able to make the state responsible for getting free IDs to everyone in the state, at the State's expense and trouble.

Kathy Tomsich explained that the Secretary of State is not the person responsible for elections in all states. Here, our current Secretary of State, Steve Simon, upholds what the legislature has passed. Some states have a commission in charge rather than an elected Secretary of State.

Molly commented that the public seems more alert to voter suppression and the effects of gerrymandering. We are wondering if this new interest has to do with the Supreme Court's decision to knock down the Voting Rights Act.

Gene asked for members to reflect on a statement made by Ta-Nehisi Coates in his book

*We Were Eight Years in Power* in which he proposed that racial justice will never be achieved without making strides towards reparations.

Sharon noted that there was an article in today's *Minneapolis Star Tribune* about the St Paul City Council starting to consider reparations.

In addition to discrimination against black people, members noted instances of discrimination they have witnessed against those of Indian and Asian descent and the fact that the treaties with Native Americans were broken.

We wondered whether originalists (as in the majority of Supreme Court justices) would be de facto racists.

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Kathy pointed out that there were many immigrants from Africa who do not want to be aligned with African Americans.

Immigrants often have large families. The prediction is that whites will no longer be in the majority as of 2030. Currently, looking at children under 15, there are equal numbers of white people and people of color.

We had concerns about the alarming number of people who are aligning themselves with white nationalists and how many of them are armed.

Ann noted the increase in journalists who are Black and Asian. Will that influence how topics are covered?

Members made suggestions of further resources to broaden our understanding of these topics. They are listed here, but, please refer to the **May I Recommend section, pages 18-20)** for more details:

Braver Angels (accessed via Eventbrite) focuses on how to talk to people with other beliefs.

The Lincoln Project website

*Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson

*Jim Crow of the North* (a TPT program about Redlining in Minneapolis)

*Finding Your Roots* (Show on PBS hosted by Henry Louis Gates)

Submitted by *Lori Delahunt*

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Gladys Ritter - St. Croix Valley Unit

**The following are my thoughts alone** since, for whatever reason, Zoom neither cooperated with me, nor Lori Soukup, to start our unit's meeting. Here are my thoughts:

While handling public defender cases in Hennepin County in the late 80's, I needed to deal with the difference in treatment of my clients by white law enforcement. It felt as if I was dealing with the same racist police officer no matter his name - same racism, different name. My most vulnerable clients, by far, were women who were members of minority groups.

Today, I regret the degree of my obliviousness to what surely was my clients' deep distrust, disappointment, and resignation regarding their dependence on a white person to 'work them through' a system in which law enforcement, attorneys, judges and juries were predominantly white. There is likely less whiteness in the Hennepin County court system today - but there will never be enough to compensate.

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Random Thoughts:

- The phrase “I don’t see color” is not benign. It really means we unintentionally do not see a person.
  - 
  - Taiyon Coleman: “There are Confederate flags everywhere. Even when we can’t see them.” “We don’t burn crosses here (in MN). We’re subtle. Highly nuanced. There’s a subtlety so deep, it becomes denial’s best friend.”
  - David Mura: “The only time we encounter racial tension is when the issue of race comes up. So we don’t talk about race (in MN) (so) racism doesn’t exist.”
  - Who is making decisions about basic needs like housing and transportation - the guy driving the Mercedes or the person cleaning his house? Until minority people have power, there is virtually no chance things will improve for them.
- Submitted by Gladys Ritter*
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### Who Represents You?

## Can you help to update Your Elected Officials brochures?

With the election behind us and new officials taking office, it is time to update our “Your Elected Officials” brochures. You can find printable PDF versions on our website.

[They Represent You 2019 St. Croix Valley](#) lists Local, State and Federal elected officials in the St. Croix Valley area prepared by the St. Croix Valley Unit. To help update this brochure, contact Miriam Simmons, [mgsimmons52@hotmail.com](mailto:mgsimmons52@hotmail.com)

[They Represent You 2020 North Washington County](#) lists Local, State and Federal elected officials in the north Washington County area prepared by League of Women Voters White Bear Lake Area.

[They Represent You 2020 North Ramsey County](#) lists Local, State and Federal elected officials in the north Ramsey County area.

Contact Mary Santi, [santi004@umn.edu](mailto:santi004@umn.edu) to help with either of these.



## **Legislative Interviews**

In Minnesota, our legislative Session has started and LWV Minnesota always asks local leagues to interview their legislators using a Legislative Interview Guide that they provide. After each interview, a report is made summarizing the responses to the interview questions. That report is then sent to the state office in St. Paul. The following interviews were conducted by Dick Ottman and Mary Santi.

### **League of Women Voters Legislative Interview – MN State Senator Chuck Wiger**

Jan 25, 2021 – Dick Ottman and Mary Santi

#### **A. What Inspired You to Run for Office?**

It started in 1973 when he was in college (age 21), and he wanted his school board to do some new things. They ignored his report, so he ran for the school board and got elected. In 1996 he was elected to the State Senate for the first time.

#### **B. Top 3 Priorities for 2021 Legislative Session**

Deal with the pandemic (number 1, 2 and 3 priority). Provide a safety net for people who are hurting economically, socially, etc. Encourage people to get vaccinated. Make sure vaccination roll out is efficient. Make sure the K-12 school system works well during the pandemic.

#### **C. Different Priorities from Previous Sessions**

1. Invest in K-12 public education.
2. Climate justice and protect the environment.

#### **D. Redistricting – He is in favor of an independent commission to draw the new lines.**

#### **E. Voting Rights for MN Felons No Longer in Prison – He is in favor of providing voting rights for people no longer in prison.**

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- F. Legislative Process and Public Participation – He agrees with the LWV position that small bills should be passed for specific items, and not one large bill at the end of session. The large omnibus bill process is a mess, and the public and most legislators are unaware of what is going on. When he was a Committee Chair he tried to get his bills passed early and resolve differences with the MN House in a timely manner to avoid one large bill at the end of the session.

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League of Women Voters Legislative Interview – **MN State Rep. Peter Fischer**

Jan 23, 2021 – Dick Ottman, Mary Santi, and Kathy Tomsich

A. What Inspired You to Run for Office?

His mother (Lorraine Fischer), Rep. Mindy Greiling, and Rep. Betty McCollum.

B. Top 3 Priorities for 2021 Legislative Session

1. Legislation for mental health patients to use a phone or computer for required appointments.
2. Legislation to reform the system of the need for Certificates of Need legislation each time for mental health beds and regular hospital beds. For example, St. Joe may close its 100 bed mental health facility, and now someone would need legislation to fill that need.
3. Protection of water quantity and quality in rivers, lakes, and aquifers.

C. Different Priorities from Previous Sessions

1. Youth homelessness.
2. Redesign of MN state flag and state seal involving youth.

- D. Redistricting – He is in favor of an independent commission drawing the new district lines. The courts have done an excellent job in the past, and the legislature should NOT be drawing the new lines.

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- E. Voting for MN Felons No longer in Prison – He is in favor of providing voting rights for people no longer in prison.
  - F. Legislative Process and Public Participation – He agrees with the LWV position that small bills should be passed for specific items, and not one large bill at the end of the session. The MN House has tried to do this, but the MN Senate passes large bills and misses House-Senate Conference Committee meetings to resolve differences.
  - G. Rep. Fischer is on the following Committees:
    - 1. Behavioral Health Commission
    - 2. Property Tax Division
    - 3. Human Services and Finance
    - 4. House-Senate Sub-Committee on Water
    - 5. House-Senate Committee on Housing Affordability
- 

### **Lorraine Fischer 1930 – 2020 – League of Women Voters Standard Bearer**



Lorraine Fischer, a longtime member of the Roseville, Little Canada, and Maplewood League of Women Voters, passed away on Dec 30, 2020. Lorraine was a strong advocate of transparency in government, women's rights, educating voters with voter forums, civic involvement, and encouraging people to vote. Lorraine also served on the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL – monitors Metropolitan Council), the Maplewood City Planning Commission, and as an election judge. Lorraine started and organized the LWV voter forums

for Maplewood local offices.

One of Lorraine's sons is MN State Representative Peter Fischer (see interview above) who owes his involvement in civic affairs and his inspiration for running for office to his mother. Peter was elected for the first time as MN State

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Representative in 2012. Peter attended his first precinct caucus at age 15 due to his mother bringing him to the meeting. Peter became a member of the LWV and did work for the LWV solely due to his mother. People would meet Peter, and say: "Are you Lorraine's son?" and "Can you reign her in?" as she wanted meeting transparency and openness in government.

When Lorraine was registering women to vote, she insisted women register as "Mary Jones" (using the woman's first name) instead of "Mrs. John Jones".

When Lorraine was on the Maplewood Planning Commission, someone who had future business with the Planning Commission dropped off a box of chocolate candy at her house. Lorraine would not let her family open the box of candy, called the Mayor of Maplewood, and firmly explained "this is NOT the way we do business".

Lorraine was a force to be reckoned with and will be missed by many.

*-Submitted by Dick Ottman*

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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](http://www.lwv-wbla.org)

LWV White Bear Lake Area also has a Website. You will find that at [www.lwv-wbla.org](http://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.

## *May I Recommend?*

In each edition of *The Bear Facts*, we include recommendations of books, articles, websites, podcasts, movies, etc. that members think others will find worthwhile and relevant to our cause. Please consider contributing your ideas. The deadline for submissions to the next edition is Thursday, February 18th. Send your recommendations to Lori Delahunt at [ldelahunt@comcast.net](mailto:ldelahunt@comcast.net) and mention “Bear Facts” in the title line so that I am sure to spot it. Thanks!



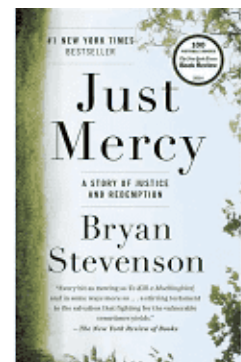
I read this article in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* a few weeks ago and was surprised I had not previously heard of Nellie Griswold Francis. Perhaps you have, but did you know there was a book coming out about her? Click here to read about an “early gender, racial justice warrior”. <https://www.startribune.com/new-book-chronicles-nellie-francis-fight-for-racial-justice/600006079/>

In looking for this article, I came upon a great online exhibit at the Minnesota History Center: <https://www.mnhs.org/historycenter/activities/museum/votes-for-women/profiles/nellie-francis> It is called : Votes for Women- Extraordinary Women and Extraordinary Causes. Well worth a look! (*Lori Delahunt*)

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North Oaks unit members had a few recommendations for each other in pursuit of expanding our racial consciousness. One enthusiastic suggestion from Mary and Gene Coffman was the book ***Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*** by Bryan Stevenson.

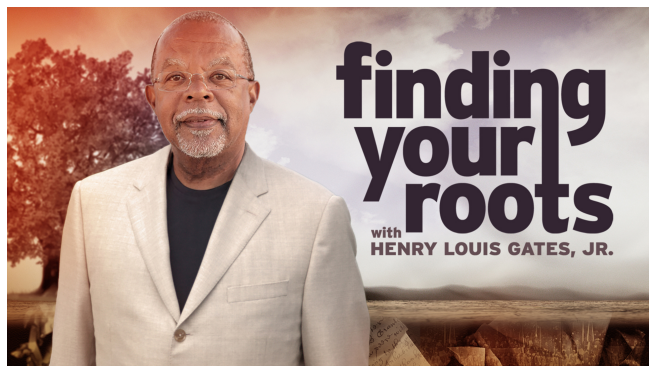
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Molly Anthony recommends a one hour PBS documentary about Redlining called ***Jim Crow of the North***. It is currently available on youtube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XWQfDbbQv9E&t=119s>

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Another suggestion was the program ***Finding Your Roots***, hosted by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. If you don't already know this show, check it out on PBS on Tuesdays at 7:00PM.

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For help in understanding people who have political and world views that differ from our own, Avis Watkins heartily recommends ***Braver Angels*** - a group that "brings together Red and Blue Americans in a working alliance to depolarize America. We welcome people with strong convictions and principles. We believe the best way to achieve a more perfect Union is by being forthright and transparent about our political leanings." In that spirit, we say to our fellow Americans, "Come with your convictions, your willingness to listen, and your readiness to talk with others who disagree with you." To find out more, check out this website: <https://braverangels.org>

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Along the same lines, I (Lori Delahunt) am currently reading and recommend ***Strangers In Their Own Land*** by Arlie Russell Hochschild which *Forbes* Magazine called "By far the best book by an outsider to the Tea Party I have ever encountered . . . a wonderful contribution to the national discourse." It is also lauded as "an entry pass to an alternative worldview, and with it a route map towards empathy," by *The Economist*.

A NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER  
ARLIE RUSSELL  
HOCHSCHILD  
STRANGERS  
IN THEIR  
OWN LAND



ANGER AND MOURNING ON THE AMERICAN RIGHT  
A Journey to the Heart of Our Political Divide

*During the North Oaks January unit meeting, we discussed our desire to donate resources whether in time, energy, or dollars to organizations that had good records of contributing to social and racial justice outcomes. We threw out a few names that we felt confident about, namely **The Equal Justice Initiative, The NAACP Legal Defense Fund and The Innocence Project**. I suggested that, via The Bear Facts, we ask for other recommendations from members. Please send me the names of related organizations or programs that you support. If you are able to say a little bit about why you support them, that would help as well! Thank You!*

*Lori Delahunt -[ldelahunt@comcast.net](mailto:ldelahunt@comcast.net)*

### **ANOTHER RECOMMENDATION - GET YOUR VACCINE!**

Dear LWV Members

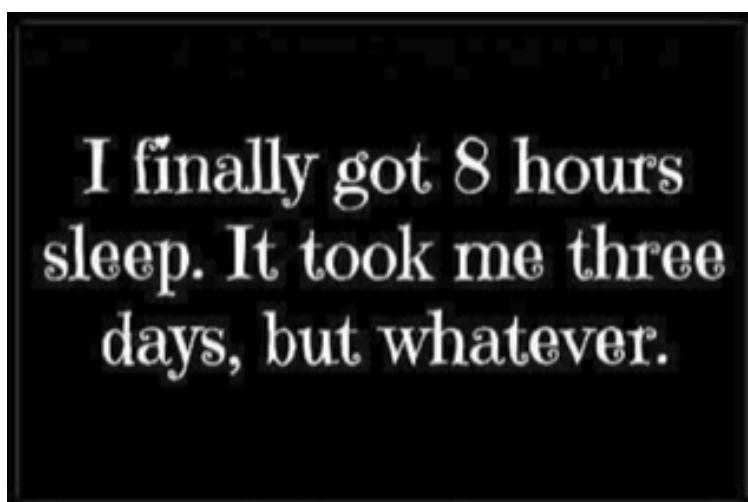
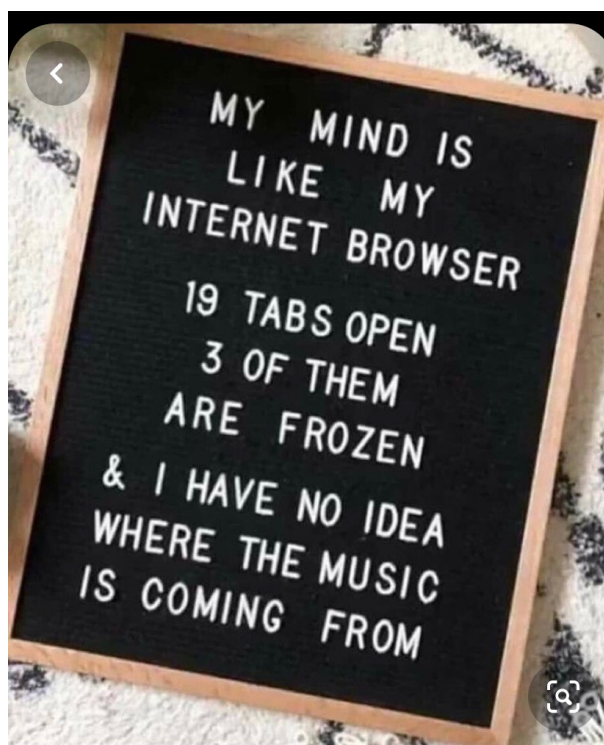
On Jan 14 at 9am, Judy and I received our Moderna vaccination for COVID at our Gable Pines Senior Residence. The vaccination of almost everyone in our building (residents and staff) was done by Walgreens. So far the only side effect I have heard about in the building is a sore arm for a day. It reminded me of getting a flu shot. I am in a Gable Pines You Tube talking about the shot. We will receive our second shot on Feb 11<sup>th</sup>.

Our daughter, Gerda (the Hospital Pharmacist), had her Pfizer vaccination for COVID last month, and she had only a sore arm for a day. She will receive her second shot on Jan 19.

Both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccination are based on Messenger-RNA technology, where they use some of the DNA on the spike of the virus to get your body to make antibodies to fight off the virus. They are totally safe.

Dick Ottman

**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:  
LAUGHTER**



*Submitted by Shannon Moore*

## Treasurer's Report

January 1, 2021

Margaret Westin, Treasurer

		Current	YTD
<b>Income:</b>	Dues	\$ 180.00	\$ 3,900.00
	Donations	\$ 325.00	\$ 2460.00
	Memorials	\$	\$
	Meetings (socials)	\$	\$
	Service	\$	\$
	In-kind donation	\$	\$
	Voters Service	\$	\$ 300.00
	Calendars	\$	\$ 95.00
	NOHOA	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
	Bank interest	\$	\$ 0.02
	Transfer from CD	\$ 1,000.00	\$1,000.00
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 2005.00</b>	<b>\$ 8,255.02</b>

<b>Expenses:</b>	Meetings (socials)	\$	\$ 89.82
	LWVMN PMP	\$	\$
	LWVUS PMP	\$	\$
	Meeting site	\$	\$
	Voters Service	\$	\$ 1482.33
	Program (includes publicity)	\$	\$ 301.39
	Bear Facts copying/printing	\$	\$
	Calendars	\$	\$
	Membership	\$	\$
	(communication, recruiting & recognition)		
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,873.54</b>

Opening balance from December 1, 2020:	\$ 6,560.25
Income	+ 2005.00
Expenses:	- 0.00

Current balance: **\$8,565.25**

Ed fund CD: **\$4,216.81**

2020-21 Paid Members: 54 @ \$60 8@ \$75

Total: 73 (including our 3 lifetime members)