



## **2021 Annual Meeting Information**

The annual meeting for LWVWBLA will be held, via Zoom, on **Thursday, April 22nd**. We will kick off the evening at **5:30PM** with speaker, Peter Wattson, an expert on redistricting, serving for many years as the Minnesota Senate Governmental Operations Committee counsel and then as an advisor to Governor Dayton before retiring. Peter is also the named plaintiff in Peter Wattson, et al v. Secretary of State Steve Simon, a lawsuit he recently filed with others to place before Minnesota courts the decennial issue of fairly redrawing legislative and congressional district boundaries. The lawsuit argues Minnesota's current boundaries are unconstitutional because changes in population growth and in-state migration over the past decade have created districts of unequal population size.

Minnesota lawmakers are directed to redraw district boundaries by the end of the 2021 legislative session on May 17. The legal deadlines for the Census to announce states' population data (December 31, 2020) and deliver the block-level data states need to redraw district boundaries (April 1, 2021) have been delayed by the pandemic and Trump administration efforts to exclude undocumented immigrants from the population counts. Consequently, Minnesota lawmakers won't have enough time before adjournment to redraw legislative and congressional district maps, a critical and contentious process made even more difficult by a politically divided state government. Peter expects Minnesota courts yet again, by default, to redraw district maps and filed the lawsuit as a way to give court staff time to become familiar with redistricting principles and the map drawing technology.

The talk is free and open to the public and will be held on Zoom. Questions may be sent before the event to [lwwwbla@lwwvmn.org](mailto:lwwwbla@lwwvmn.org). League members will be sent a Zoom link and need not register ahead of time. Members of the public may register at (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/revisiting-redistricting-tickets-118344747325?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch>). Members of the public need not stay for the Annual Meeting items to be addressed following Mr. Wattson's talk. (See the following pages for details.)

### **Table of Contents**

|                               |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Annual Meeting Speaker</b> | <b>p.1</b>     |
| <b>Annual Meeting Agenda</b>  | <b>p.2</b>     |
| <b>Treasurer's Report</b>     | <b>p.3</b>     |
| <b>2021-22 Budget</b>         | <b>p.4</b>     |
| <b>Non-Partisan Policy</b>    | <b>p.5</b>     |
| <b>Changes to By-Laws</b>     | <b>p.6</b>     |
| <b>Program Positions</b>      | <b>p.7-10</b>  |
| <b>Slate of Directors</b>     | <b>p.10</b>    |
| <b>May Unit Meetings</b>      | <b>p.11</b>    |
| <b>Civics Ed Testimony</b>    | <b>p.12</b>    |
| <b>Legislative Interview</b>  | <b>p.13-14</b> |
| <b>New Members</b>            | <b>p.15-16</b> |
| <b>Lifetime Members</b>       | <b>p.17-20</b> |
| <b>March Unit Summaries</b>   | <b>p.21-24</b> |
| <b>Voter Services</b>         | <b>p.24</b>    |
| <b>Website/Facebook</b>       | <b>p.24</b>    |
| <b>The Lighter Side</b>       | <b>p.25</b>    |
| <b>Unit Hosting Schedule</b>  | <b>p.26</b>    |

**Schedule for April 22nd, Annual Meeting:****5:30-6:30 Speaker, Peter Wattson****6:30-6:40 Social Time****6:40 League Business (See agenda below)**LWV WBLA 2021 Annual MeetingBusiness Meeting Agenda

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 6:40 pm | Business meeting: Call to order, roll call of units, adoption of agenda. Appointment of Parliamentarian for meeting; adoption of rules. Motion to approve minutes at next board meeting. |
| 6:50    | Treasurer's Report. 2021-2022 Proposed Budget; discussion and adoption.  |
| 7:05    | Nonpartisan policy.  |
| 7:10    | Program – adoption of existing positions. Non-recommended Program changes from members.  |
| 7:20    | Nominations/Elections.   |
| 7:30    | Recognitions. Revolving Bear Award.  |
| 7:40    | Announcements. LWVMN Convention Delegates. General meetings for 2021-2022  |
| 7:45    | Direction to the new board   |
| 7:50    | Adjourn  |

Annual Meeting Rules

1. Each member wishing to speak will first use the raise hand icon and be recognized by the Chair.
2. Each member will give their name and unit prior to speaking.
3. All lengthy motions, or amendments to motions, must be submitting in writing using the Chat feature.
4. Proposals for new Program studies, or updated Program positions, must be submitted in writing, giving the exact wording of the proposed item.

Please see subsequent pages for items to be discussed and voted upon during the annual meeting.

## Treasurer's Report

March 1, 2021

Margaret Westin, Treasurer

|                |                    | Current         | YTD                |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| <b>Income:</b> | Dues               | \$ 60.00        | \$ 4,035.00        |
|                | Donations          | \$              | \$ 2535.00         |
|                | Memorials          | \$              | \$                 |
|                | Meetings (socials) | \$              | \$                 |
|                | Service            | \$              | \$                 |
|                | In-kind donation   | \$              | \$                 |
|                | Voters Service     | \$              | \$ 900.00          |
|                | Calendars          | \$              | \$ 95.00           |
|                | NOHOA              | \$              | \$ 500.00          |
|                | Bank interest      | \$              | \$ 0.02            |
|                | Transfer from CD   | \$              | \$1,000.00         |
|                | <b>Total:</b>      | <b>\$ 60.00</b> | <b>\$ 9,065.02</b> |

|                  |   |                   |                   |
|------------------|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Expenses:</b> | Meetings (socials)                        | \$                | \$ 89.82          |
|                  | LWVMN PMP                                 | \$ 1,846.80       | \$1,846.80        |
|                  | LWVUS PMP                                 | \$ 2,496.00       | \$2,496.00        |
|                  | Meeting site                              | \$                | \$                |
|                  | Voters Service                            | \$                | \$ 1482.33        |
|                  | Program (includes publicity)              | \$                | \$ 301.39         |
|                  | Bear Facts copying/printing               | \$ 150.81         | \$ 150.81         |
|                  | Calendars                                 | \$                | \$                |
|                  | Membership                                | \$                | \$                |
|                  | (communication, recruiting & recognition) |                   |                   |
|                  | <b>Total:</b>                             | <b>\$5,403.61</b> | <b>\$7,277.15</b> |

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Opening balance from February 1, 2021: | \$ 9,315.25 |
| Income                                 | + 60.00     |
| Expenses:                              | - 5,403.61  |

Current balance: **\$3,971.64**

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

2020-21 Paid Members: 55 @ \$60 10@ \$75

Total: 76 (including our lifetime members)

|  |  |  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |
|--|--|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
|  |  | <b>LWV WBLA PROPOSED BUDGET</b>                      |                  |                  | <b>2021-2022</b> |                  |                 |
|  |  | <b>April 1, 2021-March 31, 2022</b>                  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |
|  |  |  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |
|  |  |  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |
|  |  |  | <b>Budget</b>    | <b>Actual</b>    | <b>Budget</b>    | <b>Actual</b>    | <b>Actual</b>   |
|  |  |  | <b>2021-2022</b> | <b>2020-2021</b> | <b>2020-2021</b> | <b>2019-2020</b> | <b>2018-19</b>  |
|  |  | <b>GENERAL FUND INCOME</b>                           |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |
|  |  | Dues (\$60/individual, \$90 household)               | \$ 3,800         | \$ 4,125         | \$ 3,500         | \$ 2,880         | \$ 5,183        |
|  |  | Donations and Memorials                              | \$ 300           | \$ 2,715         | \$ 600           | \$ 296           | \$ 483          |
|  |  | Calendars  | \$ 280           | \$ 280           | \$ 400           | \$ 365           | \$ 376          |
|  |  | Member Meetings (Annual Mtg, Picnic, Holiday Party)  | \$ 800           |                  | \$ 800           | \$ 190           | \$ 805          |
|  |  | Service (vote counting in North Oaks)                | \$ 500           | \$ 500           | \$ 300           | \$ 300           | \$ 300          |
|  |  | In-kind Donations                                    |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |
|  |  | Voters Service (includes grants)                     | \$ 300           | \$ 1,500         | \$ 1,500         |                  | \$ 1,142        |
|  |  | Program (includes grants)                            |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |
|  |  | Misc. (bank interest, other)                         | \$ 0             |                  | \$ 1             | \$ 0             | \$ 1            |
|  |  | Transfer from savings and/or Fund Raiser             | \$ 1,761         | \$ 1,000         |                  |                  |                 |
|  |  | <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                                  | <b>\$ 7,741</b>  | <b>\$ 10,120</b> | <b>\$ 7,101</b>  | <b>\$ 4,031</b>  | <b>\$ 8,289</b> |
|  |  |  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |
|  |  |  | <b>Budget</b>    | <b>Actual</b>    | <b>Budget</b>    | <b>Actual</b>    | <b>Actual</b>   |
|  |  |  | <b>2021-2022</b> | <b>2020-2021</b> | <b>2020-2021</b> | <b>2019-2020</b> | <b>2018-19</b>  |
|  |  | <b>GENERAL FUND EXPENSES</b>                         |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |
|  |  | Bank - Audit books                                   |                  |                  | \$ -             |                  | \$ -            |
|  |  | Bear Facts - copying/mailling                        | \$ 175           | \$ 151           | \$ 1             | \$ 154           | \$ 79           |
|  |  | Calendars  | \$ 220           | \$ 223           | \$ 280           | \$ 267           | \$ 277          |
|  |  | Conventions:   |                  |                  |                  |                  | \$ -            |
|  |  | LWVUS - biennial meeting, even years                 |                  |                  | \$ 1,600         |                  |                 |
|  |  | LWVMN - biennial meeting, odd years                  | \$ 200           |                  |                  |                  |                 |
|  |  | Councils   |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |
|  |  | LWVMN - biennial meetingl, even years                |                  |                  | \$ 500           |                  |                 |
|  |  | LWVUS - biennial, odd years)                         | \$ 50            |                  |                  |                  |                 |
|  |  | Member Meetings (Annual Mtg, Picnic, Holiday Party)  | \$ 800           | \$ 89            | \$ 800           |                  | \$ 352          |
|  |  | Per Member Payment (PMP)                             |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |
|  |  | LWVUS  | \$ 2,496         | \$ 2,496         | \$ 2,300         | \$ 2,248         | \$ 2,144        |
|  |  | LWVMN  | \$ 2,300         | \$ 1,847         | \$ 2,000         | \$ 2,001         | \$ 3,506        |
|  |  | Program (inc. postage, printing & publicity)         | \$ 400           | \$ 301           | \$ 400           | \$ 360           | \$ 612          |
|  |  | Voter Service  | \$ 300           | \$ 1,483         | \$ 1,500         | \$ 336           | \$ 1,324        |
|  |  | Membership (communications, recruiting, recognition) | \$ 400           |                  | \$ 400           | \$ 270           | \$ 980          |
|  |  | Unit Meeting Space Support                           | \$ 100           |                  | \$ 100           |                  | \$ 100          |
|  |  | Social Media   | \$ 300           |                  |                  |                  |                 |
|  |  | <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                                | <b>\$ 7,741</b>  | <b>\$ 6,589</b>  | <b>\$ 9,881</b>  | <b>\$ 5,637</b>  | <b>\$ 9,375</b> |
|  |  |  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |
|  |  | Cash on Hand (WBLA checking account)                 | \$ 1,661         | \$ 2,674         |                  | \$ 2,225         | \$ 4,477        |
|  |  | Ed Fund CD   | \$ 4,227         | \$ 4,227         |                  | \$ 5,129         | \$ 5,035        |
|  |  | <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>\$ 5,888</b>  | <b>\$ 6,901</b>  | <b>\$ -</b>      | <b>\$ 7,354</b>  | <b>\$ 9,513</b> |
|  |  | *Estimate  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |
|  |  |  |                  |                  |                  |                  |                 |

## Nonpartisan policy - LWV White Bear Lake Area

At each annual meeting, LWV WBLA members will review and approve the following nonpartisan policy.

LWV WBLA is nonpartisan in both our education and advocacy. We support the informed and active participation of citizens in government. We encourage our members to be informed participants in political activity. As a nonpartisan organization, we neither oppose nor support a political party or candidate even when the office is unaffiliated with a party. We take action on selected governmental issues only after study and consensus by our members.

1. Board members who are candidates for political office should resign from the Board or take a leave of absence during their campaign.
2. When members are candidates for elective office, they may mention their involvement in LWV as long as they do not infer League endorsement.
3. The President, Voter Service Chair, Action Chair and moderators will refrain from involvement in political campaigns during their terms of office; such involvement would include having one's name on campaign literature or social media, displaying yard signs and hosting political gatherings. Attending a precinct caucus is permitted.
4. No League member who is highly visible in a political party, closely associated in some way with a candidate, or identified with an issue under discussion at a League sponsored candidate event should be involved in running that event.
5. The League position on an issue is never stated by the League during a public candidate forum.
6. Co-sponsorship of voter service activities is encouraged, but can present problems of perceived bias. If LWV WBLA's name is on a project, League guidelines for non-partisanship and fairness must be agreed upon ahead of time and followed. If the group has endorsed issues or candidates before the forum, the League should not be involved.
7. The League wants to encourage citizen involvement and provide experienced moderators for the community. It does not want to participate in poorly conceived or executed forums. If a League member is asked to moderate for a different group, she/he must explain our nonpartisan policies to them and consider the following questions: What is the motivation of the sponsoring group? Have all candidates been invited? Are they attending? If not, why not? What are the issues in this election? What is the format? What are the ground rules? Are the candidates aware of them? Will timers and ushers for collecting questions be provided?
8. All voter service projects, including candidate forums, should include a disclaimer that the League neither endorses nor opposes candidates for political office.

## Local League Bylaws Changes to Conform with LWVUS

The delegates at the LWVUS Convention in June, 2020, voted to amend Articles II and III of the national bylaws. All state and local Leagues are required to match LWVUS in their first three articles. Therefore, the WBLA bylaws were changed along with the LWVUS bylaws when the amendments were approved at the convention. It is not necessary for WBLA members to vote to approve these changes. They are being printed here for our members' awareness.

Articles I-III define the name, tax filing status, purposes, policies, and membership of the League of Women Voters. As of June 2020, the WBLA LWV policies were amended thus (new wording is underlined; obsolete wording is struck):

### Article II Purposes and Policyies

#### Section 2.2 Policies

- A. Political Policy. The Local League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.
- B. Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Policy. The Local League is fully committed to ensure compliance – in principle and in practice – with LWVUS' Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Policy.

### Article III Local Members

#### Section 3.3 Types of Membership

- A. Voting Members. Persons at least 16 years of age who join the Local League with the payment of dues shall be voting members of the Local League, state League and of the LWVUS;
  - 1) ~~Persons~~ Those who live within an area of a Local League may join that Local League or any other Local League.
  - 2) Those who reside outside the area of the Local League may join the Local League as a state member-at-large.
  - 3) Those who have been members of the Local League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.
  - 4) Those who are students are defined as individuals enrolled either as full time or part time with an accredited institution.
- B. Associate Members. All others who join the Local League with the payment of dues shall be associate members.

If you have any questions about these bylaws changes, please contact President *pro tem*, Liz Lauder ([lizlauder@gmail.com](mailto:lizlauder@gmail.com)).

## **LWV White Bear Lake Area Local Program Positions Revised April 2017**

### **1. Education**

- a. Support a safe, fair and respectful educational climate for all K-12 students and groups. We support programs to counteract cultural and gender bias, which prepare students to thrive in our multicultural diverse society and work force. (1999)
- b. Emphasize civics education knowledge and skill development along with reading, writing, mathematics, science and technology, speaking and listening as the primary goals of K-12 schools.
- c. Support secondary student programs designed to meet their needs for more structure or more flexibility than the standard program provides.

### **2. Natural Resources**

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

### **3. Environmental Protection**

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

### **4. Land Use**

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

### **5. Representative Local Government**

Support of open appointment process in public government bodies.

### **6. Representative Ramsey County Government**

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

## **7. Social Policy**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Finance: It is strongly recommended that a finance Committee be established. The finance committee should develop a budget through a process that is transparent to the public. This would include the draft budget being available prior to its adoption. The Strategic Plan and the Annual Work Plan should drive the budget for program and projects. Reserve fund policies should be set by the Board and based on standard government practices. The Conservation District should establish a policy for regular auditing.

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

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#### LWV WBL Board Slate April-May 2021

##### Elected April 22, 2021: *(italics indicate continuing term)*

|                               |                           |           |  |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------|--|
| Co-President                  | Elizabeth Lauder          | WB        | '21-'22                                  |
| Co-President                  | Becky Siekmeier           | MA        | '21-'22                                  |
| VP/Membership                 | Barbara Memory            | WB        | '21-'23                                  |
| <i>Secretary</i>              | <i>Shannon Moore</i>      | <i>WB</i> | <i>'20-'22</i>                           |
| Treasurer                     | Margaret Westin           | MA        | '21-'23                                  |
| <i>Director/Voter Service</i> | <i>Heidi Schmidt Boyd</i> | <i>WB</i> | <i>'20-'22</i>                           |
| Director/Program              | Susan Travis              | NO        | '21-'23                                  |
| Director/ Bear Facts          | Jackie Reis               | WB        | '21-'23                                  |
| Director/Action co-chair      | Lori Delahunt             | NO        | '21-'22 (to complete Barb Memory's term) |
| Nominating Committee:         |                           |           |  |
| Chair                         | Carol Bergeson            | NO        | '21-'22                                  |
| Member                        | Sarah Amundson            | MA        | '21-'22                                  |
| Member                        | Kathy Gaylord             | WB        | '21-'22                                  |

##### Board Directors To Be Appointed May 2021:

|                       |                    |    |         |
|-----------------------|--------------------|----|---------|
| Director/Publicity    | Stephanie McNamara | WB | '21-'22 |
| Director/Social Media | Karen Suzukamo     | WB | '21-'22 |

##### Others To Be Appointed May 2021:

|                 |               |    |         |
|-----------------|---------------|----|---------|
| Action co-chair | Kathy Tomsich | NO | '21-'22 |
| CMAL Delegate   | Dick Ottman   | WB | '21-'22 |

## May Unit Meeting Discussion Topic: Police Reform

Since the death of George Floyd on May 25, 2020, there have been many calls for police reform...from outright defunding, to changes in oversight, training, transparency and more. At our May Unit Meetings, committee members will facilitate a conversation about the urgency of reforming or reimagining policing, and how the League and League members can get involved.

Following the death of George Floyd, the LWVUS said, *"The League of Women Voters grieves the murders of George Floyd and the countless other Black lives that have been tragically taken at the hands of rogue law enforcement officers who are rarely held fully accountable for their actions."* Full statement available at:

<https://www.lwv.org/newsroom/press-releases/lwvus-responds-police-killing-george-floyd>

### **In preparation for our discussion, we ask that members consider these questions:**

1. Seth Stoughton, co-author of *Evaluating Police Uses of Force* (NYU Press, 2020), says, "We don't have a race issue in policing; we have a race issue in society that gets reflected and often magnified in police encounters." How would you respond to this statement?
2. Consider the calls for police reform from the standpoint of current Minneapolis police officers- how might they be feeling at this moment? How might they view their relationship with the community?
3. What is problematic in the current culture of policing? How could that culture be reimagined? What specific changes would need to take place?
4. What makes police reform so difficult?
5. What can we as individual members of League do to influence police reform? What can our League do?

### **For those who have the time and interest to pursue this topic further, these are resources that we recommend:**

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/06/how-actually-fix-americas-police/612520/>

<https://www.csmonitor.com/USA/Justice/2020/1002/Police-reforms-surge-after-months-of-racial-justice-protests>

<https://www.themarshallproject.org/2018/09/17/when-trying-to-help-gets-you-fired>

Police Unions Won Power Using His Playbook. Now He's Negotiating the Backlash.  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/10/us/police-unions.html?referringSource=articleShare>

### **May Unit Meeting Dates & Times:**

**Mahtomedi- Monday, May 10th at 7:00PM**

**North Oaks - Wednesday, May 12th at 12:30PM**

**St. Croix Valley - Thursday, May 13th at 3:00PM**

**White Bear Lake- Thursday, May 13th at 7:00PM**

## **LWV Testimony Given in Support of Civics Education Bill aimed at MN Students**

On Monday, February 22, 2021, the Minnesota House Education Policy Committee heard Representative Dean Urdahl's civics education bill, HF 562 (SF 1365), requiring students, at a minimum, to take a credit-bearing civics course in 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade when they are close to becoming first-time voters.

League of Women Voters White Bear Lake Area member, **Lisa Larson**, testified on behalf of the League of Women Voters Minnesota in support of the bill.

The testimony can be seen on the Minnesota House video at the one-hour mark: <https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hjvid/92/893432>

LWV MN written testimony is available here: <https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/comm/docs/5u1s0HhLH0OUbTykrhThIg.pdf>

Lisa briefly presented four arguments to the committee (testifiers have about two minutes to present their testimony):

1. Civics education is critical to strengthening American democracy.
2. A long-standing tension exists in schools between educating students to be skilled workers and responsible citizens; both goals are important and must work in tandem.
3. Civics instruction is not consistent statewide.
4. Civic literacy is key to transforming knowledge into practice.

Lisa concluded, saying: a civics education is important because it profoundly affects the role of citizens and citizens' ability to participate in a democracy; and improving civics education should have nonpartisan support across the political spectrum.

After the hearing, the committee chair, Representative Ruth Richardson, laid the bill over for "possible inclusion" in the committee's omnibus education policy bill. The committee will pass its omnibus policy bill to the House Education Finance Committee, where a larger K-12 omnibus finance and policy bill is compiled and then, ultimately, sent to the House Floor for all House members to consider. The Senate Education Finance and Policy Committee, chaired by Senator Roger Chamberlain, has not yet heard either SF 996 or SF 1365, the two companions to Representative Urdahl's civics education bills, HF 562 and HF 705.

HF 705/SF 996 also make the currently required statewide civics test optional.

**Legislative Interview with Senator Roger Chamberlain, MN House District 38**  
**Conducted by Gene and Mary Coffman on February 23, 2021**

1. What inspired you to run for office?

First ran in 2010

"The good Lord spurred me into action"

Hoped to make positive change and to do his part to preserve what we had

2. What are your top three priorities for the legislative session? Please be specific as to why those are your priorities and what legislation you plan to support.

He is the Chairman of the Senate Education Finance and Policy Committee  
and Vice Chair of the Taxes - Subcommittee on Property Taxes

The Education Committees priorities are:

Getting kids back to school

Reaching 90% proficiency

Mental health issues related to Covid and beyond

Getting more teachers of color

Equalizing funding for schools across the state

These are some of the topics being addressed in current bills:

2 Literacy bills

Getting more teachers of color

School safety

Social media

Testing

Equalization of funding throughout the state

3. Is there anything different about your priorities this session compared to last session?

4. Later this year the Redistricting process will begin in the legislature. Do you have any thoughts on potential reforms to the redistricting process?

He was elected in 2010 and participated in the 2011 redistricting process

He does not know much about redistricting

Thinks the district maps were okay last time

Thinks it will probably end up in the courts again

Cannot have one side or the other making all the rules

(continued on next page)

**5. Currently, Minnesota citizens previously convicted of a felony and no longer incarcerated may not vote until they complete their probation or supervised release. Some believe that the state of Minnesota should restore voting rights to these individuals. Do you agree with this? Why or why not?**

He has been a long time advocate of Criminal Justice Reform and has been on both sides of some of the issues

Human trafficking and probation issues are areas he has been involved in

He leans toward the North Dakota model regarding felons voting which is if you are behind bars you cannot vote and if you are NOT behind bars you can vote

**6. The legislature has been passing laws in fewer, larger omnibus bills every year since the 1970s. Some believe that these large bills violate the single subject clause of the Minnesota constitution. Additionally, negotiations between the legislative leadership often stalls, leading to last-minute deals behind closed doors. What is your opinion on this practice? How might this process be improved to ensure greater transparency and public participation?**

He does not like the process

He does not think it's the best way to do the work

A lot of hard work gets thrown away

People do benefit from larger Omnibus Bills

Items get in there that would not pass on their own

There are pros and cons to the different processes

To change the process there needs to be leadership from the top or in the courts and the process would need to be made a priority



### The League Welcomes Cheryl Ann Kocian

The League welcomes Cheryl Kocian, who lives with her husband in Stillwater and who plans to join the Saint Croix Valley Unit. Two out-of-state high school friends mentioned to her that they had joined leagues, and then a local friend mentioned the same (New Member Diane Dahl), so now is the time to join! Cheryl is appalled by the post-election legislation being proposed around the country to limit voter rights, and, although she “is not a big activist,” and “has no pre-conceived ideas” about her league participation, is interested in Voter Services.

Cheryl was born in Madison, WI, grew up in Dubuque, IA, and graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in Elementary Education. She and her husband moved to Minnesota in 1973, and settled in Stillwater in 1976. They are now enjoying retirement after careers as a third-grade teacher for Cheryl, in the Stillwater Area School District, primarily at Lily Lake Elementary, and in marketing with Johnson & Johnson for her husband. Cheryl especially loved teaching 3<sup>rd</sup> graders because “every day is different; they are delightful, independent, and intelligent!”

Cheryl now enjoys being near their daughter, who lives in St. Paul, and their son and family, who live in Wyoming, MN (especially being a grandma to their 8<sup>th</sup> grade granddaughter and their 3<sup>rd</sup> grade grandson).

Cheryl’s interests include being outside, taking walks, sewing, reading, and belonging to book groups. She previously belonged to the local Stillwater organization, “We Can Change the World” and views League membership as a natural extension of those interests.

Cheryl and her husband love traveling, both road trips around the country and river cruises in Europe. Her favorite trips were a trip down the Rhine River, and a trip to Washington, D.C., which included civil war battlefields and other historic sites in the East.

Welcome, Cheryl!

*-Submitted by Barb Memory*





## Lifetime Members!

Lifetime Members are those who have belonged to the League for 50 years or more. We are very fortunate that some of our members have gained this status- and we thank them for their years of involvement. Recently, some of those members were interviewed by our new members who summarized what they learned.

Gloria Phillips-93 years young

Interviewed on March 3, 2021

Gloria graciously shared her League of Women Voters (LWV) experiences as well as revealed her delightful, engaging personality. She officially joined the LWV in 1972, but noted that her interest in LWV and voting rights began in 1948 when her friend's mother talked about the importance of voting rights for women. This woman was one of original Minnesota suffragettes and serves as an example of the power of mentors in the lives of youth.

Gloria has been an active League member until 2019 when the pandemic interrupted so many activities. During her initial time as a League member Gloria served as president of the St. Croix chapter. She also served on the state board. When she and her family moved to Pennsylvania, Gloria continued her League engagement and was elected president of her Pennsylvania chapter. Her leadership and passion are noteworthy.

Upon returning to Minnesota, Gloria continued her League work and was active in speaking with legislators on various voting rights issues. Her frequent presence at the Minnesota capital resulted in her being appointed to State Welfare Board. Gloria was one of the FIRST women to serve on a county commission as a voting member. Such information gives one pause as to how important it is to stay active in local, state, national, and international efforts to promote and support women.

Gloria emphasized the vital importance of the League maintaining active contact with legislators and all elected officials. She and her League colleagues encouraged women to enter races for political offices at local and state levels. Her enthusiasm for equity and equal rights has not lessened over time. She worries about the extreme partisanship that plagues our current governing bodies at local, state, national, and international levels.

When asked about League events or activities she most remembered, her list centered on voter education, voting rights, and women's rights. For example, she noted that it wasn't until 1972 that League women could use their given names and thus drop the use of "Mrs." . This was important when introducing conversations with legislators and others since League women would now NOT have to use the "Mrs." T Phillips title and could simply be introduced as Gloria Phillips representing the LWV-White Bear Lake Area. She also shared the excitement over the use of the first electronic voting machine. The LWV-WBL urged that one of the machines be placed in the high school as part of voter education.

Gloria noted the importance of diversifying the ranks of the LWV and the need to making membership manageable for busy working women. She is indeed a role model and certainly a person I am grateful to have met. If the LWV-White Bear Lake still considers identifying senior League members who have and continue to contribute to the good work of the League, I strongly recommend Gloria Phillips.

Thank you for this opportunity to connect with this impressive leader.

*-Submitted by Janet Grochowski*

**50+ Year League Member Spotlight: Avis Watkins**

Avis Allen, whose mother was English and father American, was born in New York and spent her early years attending primary school in Pennsylvania. She was visiting her maternal grandparents, who lived about 50 miles northwest of London, when Great Britain and France declared war on Germany in 1939. Her mother was working and her father was ill at the time. As an 8-year-old, she would have had to travel back to the United States with her 3-year-old sister (and likely a nanny) on dangerous seas. Rather, she ended up spending the war years with her grandparents and then attending a boarding school for girls in Oxford, England, from 1944-47 to complete exams for School Certificate.



*Avis Watkins celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on Dec. 1, 2020, with a cup of tea in front of the U.S. flag.*

“We didn’t see much of the war, but we did have evacuees from London billeted with us. I have a very deep respect for how the British people got through the war, and of course, a deep thanks for the American servicemen who helped us get out of it.”

Following the war, Avis returned to the United States and became a day student at Ursinus College in Collegeville, Pennsylvania, studying journalism and chemistry. While in college, she was working one summer at Gulf Oil in Philadelphia, where she met her future husband, Nathaniel (Nat) Watkins. He had served in the Army Air Corps in Greenland during World War II and graduated with a B.S. in chemistry from Stanford University. Nat’s employment would bring the young couple to Minnesota in 1954 where he worked at 3M until his retirement.

Avis joined the League of Women Voters because she felt a need to be a “proper American citizen.” “I knew a lot about Winston Churchill, but I didn’t know too much about American presidents or my own country.”

Avis became an active member of the White Bear Lake/North Oaks League in 1966 and served as president from 1975-1977. She joined the Arden Hills/Shoreview League in 1986 when her family moved from White Bear Lake to Arden Hills. She would later rejoin the nearby White Bear Lake Area North Oaks Unit after the Arden Hills/Shoreview League disbanded.

*(continued on next page)*

“I feel the League has done more for me than I have done for the League,” said Avis. Her League involvement encouraged her to think about complex issues, be more aware of the requirements for government on many levels, and understand the rationale for American foreign policy. “I’m still trying to do all that!”

The 75th anniversary edition of *The White Bear Looks Back* from October 1995 featured Avis’s reflection on her time as president: “1976 was Bicentennial year and League celebrated by sponsoring the Carter/Ford Presidential debates and also the Vice Presidential debates. Efforts to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment were strong. Leaguers monitored the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Extension (White Bear Parkway) development. We informed the community about recycling and saving energy. ... We learned about wise land use policies and even the ‘Future of Health Care Delivery!’”

“First of all, the League is an organization that gives knowledge,” said Avis. “And it also helps to understand the structure of government.” Avis has had opportunities to listen to legislators at the Minnesota State Capitol and speakers at Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL) events alongside other League members who provided explanation and understanding about important issues. “It’s nice, not to have to figure it all out by yourself.”

Avis has been a dedicated community volunteer. She was on the White Bear Lake Planning Commission from 1971-1976 and stays active at St. John Episcopal Church in White Bear Lake. Her interest in international issues led her to become involved with American Field Service (AFS) and UN Rally. She served on the UN Rally Board from 1972 to 1980 and was president of UN Rally in 1980 and 1981. She was the local AFS president from 1978-81, interviewing students and families for the exchange program. Her family had the good experience of hosting an AFS student from Thailand for the 1977-78 school year.

Avis describes herself as a curious person, which tends to make her ask many questions. She continues to learn with the hope of passing on information to her six children, 12 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. “I find civics education to be extremely important. Some of my children tend to be interested in government and politics as I have been. Nat was also very supportive of my League involvement and he even attended meetings as a member in later years.”

She also finds herself and her family trying to understand both sides of the political spectrum. “I think we need to depolarize ourselves and understand what’s going on. There’s just so much to understand.” In recent months, Avis has become an advocate for Braver Angels, an organization dedicated to bringing Americans together to bridge the partisan divide and strengthen our democratic republic.

“My memory isn’t quite what it used to be, but I try to keep up with the changes over time.” And Avis sure is doing that! The evening before our interview she was taking part in the “Great Decisions” global affairs discussion program via Zoom. She used to keep active playing tennis and has plans to go bike riding with her granddaughter just as soon as the Minnesota weather allows.

Thank you, Avis, for your dedicated 50+ years of service to League, as well as our local and global community!

- Submitted by Michelle Wood

Judy Ottman – A Committed Member of the League of Women Voters

Judy joined the Roseville – Little Canada – Maplewood League of Women Voters in 1977, when a friend asked her to join. We lived in Little Canada at the time. When we moved to White Bear Lake in 1980, Judy became a member of the White Bear Lake LWV evening unit.



In the early 1980s, Judy got involved in the distribution of the monthly newsletter, which took about a month to produce and mail to all members of the White Bear Lake Area LWV. There were several people involved in writing, then typing, then mimeograph reproduction (200 copies were the minimum required for bulk mail), producing mailing labels, folding, stapling, putting on the mailing labels, sorting the 200 copies of the newsletter as per US Post Office regulations, and then mailing them via bulk mail in the basement of the St. Paul Post Office on Kellogg Blvd. overlooking the Mississippi River. Judy was at the end of the process and we always had a very short time to get the newsletters in the mail.

When our church was getting rid of its old copy machine around 1992, Judy insisted that we purchase the copy machine, so we could take over the production of the LWV newsletter. There would be no more having the copy going to a separate person's house to mimeograph the newsletter, which saved time in production and made the newsletter more timely. We still made 200 copies, folded, stapled, and used bulk mail.

Eventually we switched to mailing the copy of the newsletter to just our members via First Class mail (we still needed mailing labels), which saved the trip to the St. Paul Post Office and cut down on the number of copies. Then we switched to emailing the newsletter to most of the members, and mailing via the US Postal Service to a few people who request a paper copy (our present system today).

On Sept 2, 1993, Judy scheduled a LWV meeting at our house to plan the calendar for the upcoming LWV year. I informed her, when I saw the meeting on our calendar, that that date was our 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Judy informed me that the LWV meeting was going ahead as scheduled. Judy took her obligations to the LWV very seriously.

Judy was President of the White Bear Lake Area LWV, was Secretary for many years, was a Unit Leader of the White Bear Lake evening unit for many years and was Secretary of the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL). Carol Fuller, now deceased, was President of CMAL at the time and got Judy on the CMAL Board so she could move the meeting along. Judy was very good at keeping any meeting on task. In August 2019 Judy moved into Memory Care at Gable Pines Senior Home in Vadnais Heights. Judy has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's.

*-Submitted by Dick Ottman*

### March Unit Summaries

**Did you miss your unit meeting last month? Want to get caught up on what happened? Or see what was discussed in neighboring units? Read on to bring yourself up-to-date!**

#### Minutes LWV North Oaks Unit Meeting 03/10/21

- Eleven (11) people attended the meeting.
- There will be a general meeting April 22 at 5:30 pm. Peter Wattson will talk about redistricting.
- Kathy Tomsich and Margaret Westin lead a discussion on Federal Election Reform:
  - Information from the 2020 Census will be used to determine the number of representatives each state will have in the House and will provide basic data for redistricting in each state.
  - By 2030 people of color will comprise a majority of the population younger than 30. The political impact of this new demographic can be dulled by drawing district lines that favor older, white voters. The only way to eliminate aggressive gerrymandering and voter suppression laws is with federal election reform.
- Two bills were discussed: The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (HR4) and For the People Act (HR1):
  - Republican states are limiting voting rights; it's important this is addressed before the 2022 and 2024 elections.
  - In 2013 the 1965 Voting Rights Act was gutted by the Supreme Court because of the coverage formula used. As a result, there were a flood of restrictive voting laws in states that had previously been subject to the law and blocked by the Justice Department.
  - In 2011 gross gerrymandering resulted in Republicans controlling several state governments, many outside the coverage formula. In addition, they implemented new or stricter voter ID laws, purging voter rolls and other measures making it more difficult to vote.
  - HR4 creates a new coverage formula that applies to all states and hinges on a finding of repeated voting rights violations in the preceding 25 years.
  - HR1 will break down barriers that prevent Americans from registering to vote; restore the Voting Rights Act; establish independent citizen redistricting commissions; empower small donors by creating a public financing system.
  - For these bills to pass many argue it will be necessary to eliminate the filibuster, because it will not be possible to obtain at least 60 votes in the Senate.
  - The filibuster allows a minority to block the majority.
- Kathy talked about recent Supreme Court hearings. They suggest it will be more difficult to challenge a states voting practices as racially discriminatory. Also, the Chief Justice has been pushing for judicial disengagement from voting rights issues.
- Kathy also talked about election reform in Minnesota. There are a number of bills being discussed that would either restrict or improve access to voting, but this has taken a back seat to managing the pandemic.

*-Submitted by Gene Coffman*

**LWV Mahtomedi Unit Meeting notes: 3/08/21**

LWVWBLA members Kathy Tomsich, Margaret Westin and Gladys Ritter led unit members in a discussion of Federal Election Reform.

Kathy Tomsich related how significant the timing of this topic is with many state's legislatures proposing more restrictive voter rights. For example, Georgia proposes cutting early voting, including on Sunday which particularly impacts Black voters. Kathy commented that if the Voting Rights Act had not been gutted in *Shelby County V. Holder* in 2013, we wouldn't be dealing with this today. Interestingly, when Kathy compared some of the proposed legislation in states such as Georgia, Texas and Pennsylvania to Minnesota's voting laws, Minnesota has been more restrictive than these states, especially prior to the 2020 election when changes were made due to the pandemic. Many of the legislative proposals appear to be "a solution in search of a problem" given that voter fraud is virtually non-existent across the country. However, many of the voter restrictions are being framed as "voter protections," according to Kathy. In Minnesota there is a proposal in the legislature to once again require Voter ID despite the fact that this measure was put on the ballot in 2012 and voted down.

Gladys Ritter discussed a case that is currently before the US Supreme Court, Attorney General of Arizona vs. the DNC which may further threaten the Voting Rights Act depending on how the court rules in this case. In this case, Section 4 of the 1965 VRA was repealed because, as Margaret Westin explained, John Roberts and other conservative SCOTUS members believed we were in a "post racial society." Gladys said that the current case threatens Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act which prohibits voting practices that discriminate on the basis of race, color or language minority groups. She encouraged members to follow the proceedings if possible and described the liberal justices as very passionate in their challenges to the attorneys representing Arizona. Margaret added that Roberts prefers to apply "judicial restraint" related to voting rights and would prefer that the court not get involved in shaping state's voting laws.

Our presenters discussed several pieces of legislation at the state and federal level that improve voter rights and access to the polls. In Minnesota, House File 9 has everything "the LWV would want" according to Kathy Tomsich. Among other things, it includes statutes regarding drop boxes and prohibiting voter intimidation. At the federal level The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, a renewal of the VRA of 1965 was approved by the house in 2019 but blocked by the senate in 2021. President Biden supports this legislation and says he will sign it when it comes to his desk. The "For the People Act" (H.R.1) emphasizes many voting processes and procedures. This legislation also passed the house and was sent to the senate where it never left Senator McConnell's desk. This bill may get another chance with the current make-up of the senate.

Margaret Westin explained that the "filibuster" may be a threat to advancing voting rights legislation. She explained that the filibuster is a tactic used by the minority to delay or prevent legislation. Currently there are negotiations in the senate attempting to find ways to limit the use of the filibuster.

**The Mahtomedi Unit is grateful to Kathy Tomsich, Gladys Ritter and Margaret Westin for the preparation and presentation of this very important topic!**

*-Submitted by Theresa Casey-Wolf*

### **White Bear Lake March Unit Meeting Recap**

Led by Kathy Tomsich, thirteen of us shared a lively discussion on federal election reform. Thanks to Kathy and Gladys for the detailed discussion materials. Here are just some of the points we talked about.

**The Law:** The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (JLVRA) would restore parts of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, many of which were struck down by the 2013 Shelby County V. Holder Supreme Court ruling, particularly the requirement that certain states preclear certain voting changes with the federal government. For the People Act (HR1) would restore the Voting Rights Act, modernize voter registration, bring transparency to campaign contributions, and establish criteria to prevent gerrymandering. For decades, the League has advocated for reforms included in this legislation. It has passed the House, is now in the Senate (S1).

**Importance of passing Voting Rights Legislation ASAP:** In 38 states the same party controls both chambers and the governorship – 23 R, 15 D. Republican legislators in many states have introduced bills restricting voter access to the polls, many focused on eliminating preclearance. One of several we discussed, a Georgia bill restricting early voting to one Sunday in October determined by the local registrar, would negatively affect Black voters who commonly vote after church on Sunday. Proponents of voter access restrictions say they are necessary to shore up public confidence in elections, but the true intent is gaining electoral advantage. Congressional Democrats are trying to make the voting expansions, which lead to record voter turnout in 2020, permanent, and have proposed national standards to override Republican proposals. Because the current balance in Congress is tenuous, federal voter rights legislation which will affect our country for years to come must be passed before the 2022 election.

**Supreme Court:** The recent decision in the Arizona case saying that only relatives or care givers can deliver absentee ballots has implications for, among other groups, American Indians who live across large areas where one driver may pick up many ballots.

**Congress:** Given that the Senate filibuster requires 60 votes to cut off debate and come to a vote, changing the filibuster is important in passing Democrats' initiatives in the current Senate. Two key senators are Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ) and Bill Manchin (D-WV).

**Current bills in MN Legislature:** Kathy said "HF9 has everything a League voter would want" -- automatic voter registration, felon voting rights, drop boxes for absentee ballots, judges required to be multilingual, etc. Authored by newly elected Rep. Emma Greenman (voting rights lawyer) and 34 others. Companion SF422.

**LWVMN's primary legislative objective is redistricting reform.** This session there is no hope for passing non-partisan redistricting commission legislation. But lawmakers in a future session would have no personal investments in redistricting that would not happen for ten years.

*-Submitted by Kathy Gaylord*



**St. Croix Valley March Meeting Recap**

Seven members of the SCV unit participated in our March unit meeting. Gladys Ritter briefed us on several of the intentional, thoughtful and strategic efforts to restrict and roll back voting rights that are being introduced across the country - under the guise of election security. Kathy Tomsich brought us up to speed on efforts in MN on both sides of the aisle. She brought to our attention an ambitious bill, MNHF9, which addresses a variety of issues from voter registration to campaign financing. The bill was introduced by newly elected Representative Emma Greenman.

*-Submitted by Lori Soukup*



**Would you like to connect with future voters this summer?  
Eager to share your knowledge of the voting process? The  
Voter Services committee is looking for volunteers to help  
register voters at events this summer.  
Please contact Heidi Boyd 651-329-7059.**



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.

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.



## **FUN and Games!**

We are desperately hoping that we will be able to gather in person for our annual picnic to kick off the next year of the League's work! The tentative date is **Thursday, August 19th** and the hosts would be the Mahtomedi Unit. (See hosting schedule on the following page) Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!



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## **League Limerick Challenge!!!**

Inspired by the work of League members around the country? Or in your own Chapter? We are asking for your creative limericks to post in the next issue of *The Bear Facts*. Limericks consist of five lines, with an aabba rhyme scheme. Easy openings are "There once was a woman from Shoreview" (or White Bear, North Oaks, Vadnais) OR "There once was a gal from The Valley" but, kudos to those who are able to get "Mahtomedi" smoothly into this format! Send your submissions to Jackie Reis at [jreis.wbl@gmail.com](mailto:jreis.wbl@gmail.com)

### **Here is an example:**

GOOD LUCK!

We look forward to seeing your limericks!

**Remember, if you  
lose a sock in the  
dryer, it comes  
back as a  
Tupperware lid  
that doesn't fit any  
of your containers.**

### **Edward Lear Sample Limerick**

• "There was an Old Man with a beard,  
Who said, 'It is just as I feared!  
Two Owls and a Hen,  
Four Larks and a Wren,  
Have all built their nests in my beard!'"  
- Edward Lear

Don't bother walking a  
mile in my shoes, that  
would be boring.  
Spend 30 seconds in  
my head, that'll  
freak you right out.

## LWVWBLA UNITS HOSTING SCHEDULE 2020 - 2024

| LWV WBLA<br>EVENT | 2020<br>2021 | 2021<br>2022 | 2022<br>2023 | 2023<br>2024 |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| AUGUST<br>PICNIC  | WBL          | MAH          | SCV          | NO           |
| HOLIDAY<br>PARTY  | NO           | WBL          | MAH          | SCV          |
| ANNUAL<br>MEETING | SCV          | NO           | WBL          | MAH          |
| FREE<br>YEAR      | MAH          | SCV          | NO           | WBL          |