



the Bear Facts

the League of Women Voters of the White Bear Lake Area

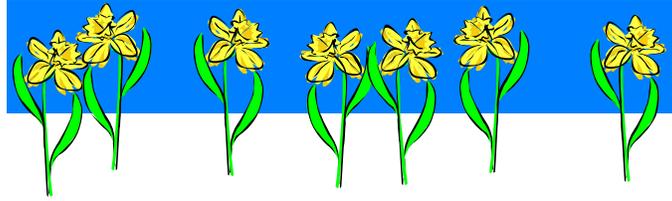
Annual Dinner
Thursday, April 19 at 5:00 PM
White Bear Lake Police Training Center
behind White Bear Lake City Hall
4701 US- HWY 61
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

The first part of the evening will include a speaker on law enforcement. the speaker will talk and answer questions on our local study of police training in the areas of domestic violence, avoiding racial profiling and treatment of the mentally ill. The rest of the evening is the business meeting where you are invited to help make decisions about our local program, revising bylaws, electing new officers, approving our 2018-2019 budget, and giving directions to the board. Other highlights include recognizing members who have served on the board and honoring the member who is the recipient of the “Revolving Bear Award”.

Food and drink will be served by the North Oaks Unit. Sandwich wraps, fruit salad, veggies, cookies/bars, coffee, tea, bottled water. Vegetarian and gluten-free options will be available.

The cost is only \$5.00 Reservations taken at the door. Please see agenda on P. 7

Plan to Attend



President's Letter:

If you attended our Drawing 2020 Election Maps forum on redistricting, you'll know how important the 2018 elections will be to deciding where our district boundaries will be drawn after the 2020 Census. You'll also know how much ground there is to make up in funding the 2020 Census. You may be wondering what you can do about it. Well, you will learn lots of strategies and tools at your April unit meeting when the topic will be action on redistricting. If you enjoy being part of making change happen, you won't want to miss it!

Another thing you won't want to miss is our annual meeting! Start to wrap up the year by coming together for food, socializing, doing business, and hearing from an informative speaker. It will also be your chance to sign up to be on the Voter Service committee and become a part of planning our all-important candidate forums and voter registration drives that make the League the best place to be during an election year! You really start to feel part of an organization when you are involved in its work.

Drawing 2020 Election Maps Forum a Huge Success!

Over 100 people attended the forum on redistricting at White Bear High School South Campus on Monday, March 19th. Moderator Tom Horner guided the panelists that included Prof. David Schultz of Hamline University, Susan Brower of the State Demographic Center, Steve Kelley of the Humphrey School for Public Affairs, and Nick Harper of LWV Minnesota. It was highly educational, and the audience was also provided with ways of getting involved to advocate for changes in our current system and to lobby for more funding for the 2020 Census.

Thank you to our members who worked so hard and diligently to bring this event to our community: Kathy Tomsich, Mary Santi, Lisa Larson, Gladys Ritter, Joan Sullivan, and Susan Fuller. Thank you, too, to the many volunteers who helped out the night of the forum.

April Unit Meetings

April 9, Mahtomedi Unit, 7 p.m. at at WBL Unitarian Universalist Church, 328 Maple St., Mahtomedi

April 11, North Oaks Unit, 12:30 p.m. at Incarnation Lutheran Church, 4880 Hodgson Rd., North Oaks

April 12, White Bear Unit, 7 p.m. at WBL City Hall, 4701 Hwy 61 N, 2nd floor, White Bear Lake

April 13, St. Croix Valley Unit, 10:15 a.m., Stillwater Public Library, 224 3rd St N, Stillwater

COMING EVENTS

CMAL Annual Meeting:

Where: St. Louis Park City Hall, 500 Minnetonka Blvd., St. Louis Park MN 55416

When: Saturday, April 21st from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm (program from 10:00 - 11:30, lunch provided 11:30 - 12:30, business meeting 12:30 – 2:00); sign in starts at 9:30.

What: program on CMAL history (1962-2018); recognition of current and past CMAL delegates, and recollections.

Minnesota Council

Where: Courtyard by Marriott St. Cloud, 404 West St. Germain St., St. Cloud, MN, 56301

When: Friday, April 27th – social event (dinner); Saturday, April 28th – workshops and business meeting (breakfast, lunch provided); Saturday, April 28th – post-Council dinner at local restaurant (register separately)

What: a total of nine workshops (3 sets of 3). Choose between 3 for the morning session: 1) Strategies for growing membership using an equity and inclusion lens, 2) Local advocacy infrastructure, or 3) Fundraising and sustainability. Choose between 3 for the first afternoon session: 4) Inclusive event planning: forums and citizen education, 5) Democracy policy briefing, 6) Governance [of local Leagues]. Choose between 3 for the late afternoon session: 7) Local Observer Corps, 8) Local program topics, or 9) Management [of local Leagues].

How much: cost is \$100 until March 31st. Cost includes meals. Register here: <https://lwvmn.org/local-leagues/lwv-minnesota-council-2018>

Who: anyone who is interested! There's so much you can learn, plus it's a chance to see old friends that you used to work on committees with, or make new friends and learn a lot from them!

REDISTRICTING DISCUSSION GUIDE April Units

(source: LWV Minneapolis May 2017)

Why discuss redistricting now?

It may seem premature to be talking about redistricting since it happens every ten years following the census, so it won't begin until 2021. However, movements are underway in many states, including Minnesota, to get ahead of the issue and establish principles and procedures that can result in fairer outcomes. Professor David Schultz of Hamline University said "districting is about power." Districts can be drawn to favor specific outcomes or interests, and thus influence the outcome of elections for ten years, until the next round of redistricting. This makes it especially important to assure that the process is open and transparent, and done in a non-partisan way.

In Minnesota, as in 27 other states, the state legislature has primary responsibility for creating a redistricting plan, subject to approval by the governor. However, the legislative plans have seldom been accepted, and final districts have been determined by the courts in most years. Other states attempt to remove redistricting from the political arena by giving the responsibility to independent or bipartisan redistricting commissions...

Minnesota's nonpartisan **Legislative Coordinating Commission** is responsible for assisting the legislature in carrying out its redistricting responsibilities.

Current Bills

There are two bills in the 2017-18 Minnesota legislature, one Republican and one Democrat, with only slight differences between the two. The defining difference is that the Republican bill states the legislature may not delegate its duty to draw districts to any commission not comprised totally of legislators, while the Democrat bill creates a nonpartisan redistricting commission comprised of five retired judges.

(the 2008 Mondale/Carlson plan).

Redistricting PRINCIPLES

There are common principles in any redistricting discussion. For example, districts should be compact and contiguous, should not divide up government units unless necessary, and should take into account "communities of interest." The LWVUS principles include "effective representation of racial and linguistic minorities, reject protection of incumbents, reject preferential treatment for a political party" while LWVMN principles include "compact and contiguous districts giving advantage to no particular person."

Redistricting PROPOSALS

Redistricting proposals generally contain statements about the process. The League supports processes that include such things as openness and transparency, opportunities for citizen input, and prompt judicial review. The new LWVUS position supports redistricting by "an independent special commission, with membership that reflects the diversity of the unit of government, including citizens at large, representatives of public interest groups, and members of minority groups."

Census 2020

There is no citizenship question in the census and census data is not shared with other agencies. State and local groups are already mobilizing outreach to minority communities.

ACTION

- Educate yourself - watch our League's two hour redistricting forum by using your computer to google [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com/) or enter the address <https://www.youtube.com/>. Either way will direct you to the YouTube website, Enter **Drawing 2020 Election Maps** in the "Search" box at top of page. Click on the first pop up choice. Or use SCCC cable TV Channel 10 to watch the forum Mon. at 10:30 a.m., Wed. at 8 a.m. or Fri. at 2:30 p.m..
- Based on feedback from our forum, attendees plan to help with the 2020 census, advocate with federal legislators for increased census funding, spread the word in conversations about the importance of the census, and keep current with information and developments regarding redistricting and the census.
- Ask elected officials tough questions about redistricting such as: how will you ensure that entire cities, counties, neighborhoods and communities of interest are maintained in a single district? how much information about redistricting should be shared with voters? what role should elected officials have in drawing their own districts? what opportunities will voters have to participate in the drawing of new district maps?
- Write an article or letter to a local publication to educate your community about redistricting and its importance. This could be a League unit project done together with members.
- Google LWV Redistricting Action Kit to access suggestions on the LWV Management site.
- What are your ideas?

Redistricting Program Feedback – Watch on YouTube

Quotes from participants in our March 19 forum on Redistricting: "Great panel, broad viewpoints at multiple levels (state, national)." I intend to talk to legislative candidates and incumbent legislators, as well as gubernatorial candidates." "Interesting topic and stellar panel." "...it helped me learn about gerrymandering and the Census and why it's all important."

Missed the forum? You can view it on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/user/scctv/videos>. Then scroll down the Videos list for our program "Drawing 2020 Election Maps."



to Our New Members :

Justin Stofferahn and Marissa Kirby-Stofferahn

Justin and Marissa recently joined the WBL Area LWV. unit. They are each from Illinois, but grew up in different areas of the state and attended different colleges. Justin majored in Political Science at Southern Illinois U. in Carbondale, and Marissa studied History and Political Science at Western Illinois U. in Macomb. Marissa then went on to complete a Master’s Degree in Social Work at Illinois State U. in Bloomington. Justin and Marissa met when they both worked for the State in the capital, Springfield. At the time, Justin worked for the Lt. Governor and later worked in the Governor’s office. Marissa was a fellow in the Governor’s office and then became a Policy Analyst at the Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities. They moved to MN a little over 3 years ago. Justin went on to study at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs where he received a Master’s Degree. He now works as a Policy Specialist for the Dept. of Revenue while Marissa is a Social Services Program Consultant for the Dept. of Human Services in Child Protection. Justin and Marissa are both happy with their jobs in MN, but are also kept very busy because they have a lively and adorable 2 year old son, named Freddy.

Justin and Marissa are big baseball fans, however, they are fans of opposing teams. Justin supports the Chicago White Sox while Marissa is a strong fan of the Chicago Cubs. They both love to attend baseball games and since moving to MN they have learned to appreciate Target Field. Justin and Marissa have also enjoyed traveling in the western states and loved visiting Yellowstone Park and the Colorado Rockies. They joined LWV because they are both very interested in Politics and Government.

.....and also.....

Sharon Simpson

Sharon lived in Cleveland for the first 18 years of her life. She left her home state of Ohio to attend Williams College in Williamstown, MA where she received a B.S. Degree in Chemistry. She then went on to graduate school at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL where she completed a Ph.D. degree in Physical/Analytical Chemistry. She met her husband, Tom, at Northwestern where he earned a Ph.D. degree in PhotoChemistry. They moved to MN in 1982 and were both very happy to obtain jobs at 3M. Sharon and Tom have two sons, Sam and Pete. Sam studied

Medicine at N.Y. Medical College and is now in the process of finishing up his Residency as an Emergency Medicine Doctor in Michigan. Pete graduated from Brown University with a B.S. degree in Chemical Biology. He moved to Seattle 3 years ago and now works as an independent software developer.

The Simpsons love to spend time outdoors where they enjoy biking, hiking snowshoeing, and camping. Now that they are retired, they have the unique goal of visiting all the National Parks in the U.S., and have already visited 15 Parks. After retiring from 3M, Sharon decided she wanted a new experience so she enrolled in training to become an Election Judge. That experience inspired her to become interested in LWV where she hopes to participate in Voter Registration, Candidate Forums, and learn more about Redistricting, and other interesting topics.

To new members to North Oaks Unit! Gene and Mary Coffman - Introductions to come in May.



Don't Forget.....We have a Facebook page!
If you are on Facebook, check out our page, " like it" and post something on it at least once a month.



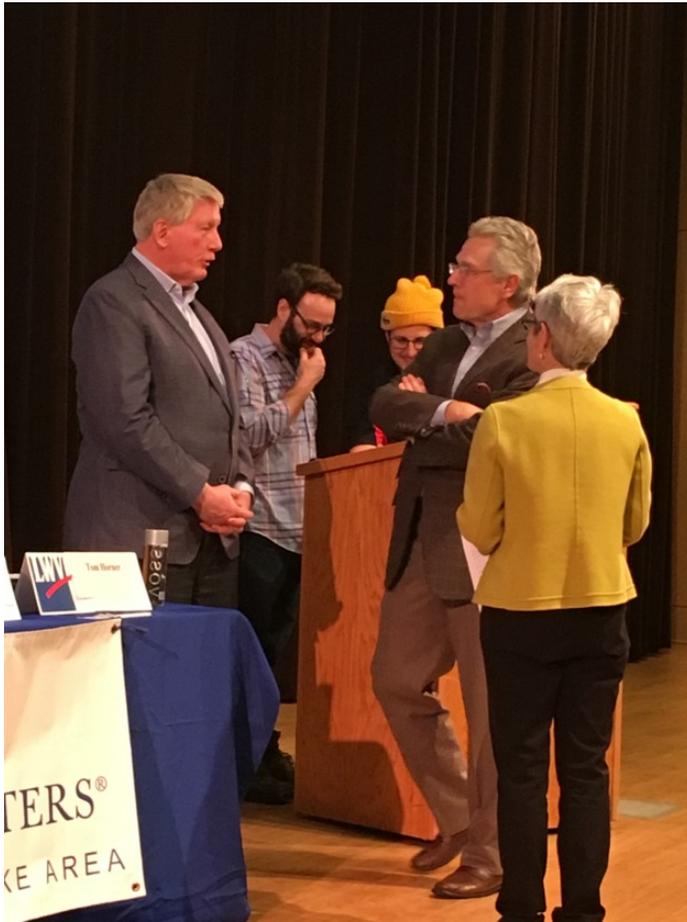
You will find it if you search on Google for LWV White Bear Lake Area. It is set up as an organization page. That means we don't know who has liked it unless they post something.

Also.....The link to our website: www.lwv-wbla.org

In case you missed the redistricting forum, the link to the video is on our Facebook page, or you can find it here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/scctv/videos>. It will also be rebroadcast on Suburban Community Channel 16 on Mondays at 10:30 am, Wednesdays at 8 am and Fridays at 2:30 pm.

Pictures of Event on Page 8





Speaker: Steve Kelley and moderator Tom Horner confer with forum committee chair Kathy Tomsich while technicians see to the microphones.



Above: Forum speakers from left are Hamlin Professor David Schultz, LWVMN Civic Engagement Manager Nick Harper, Humphrey School Fellow Steve Kelley and Minnesota State Demographer Susan Brower.

Bottom Photo: Moderator Tom Horner listens as Steve Kelley makes a point at the March 19 forum “Drawing 2020 Election Maps: Fair Representation.”

LWV White Bear Lake Area
Annual Meeting Agenda
April 19, 2018 White Bear Public Safety Training Facility,
4701 Highway 61, White Bear Lake, MN 55110

5:00 - 6:00 pm	Social and Dinner	
6:00 - 6:45	Program: Local Law Enforcement Official	
7:00	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.	Liz Lauder
7:10	Treasurer's Report 2018-2019 Proposed Budget, discussion and adoption	Liz Nordling
7:30	Voter Service for 2018	Molly Anthony or Lori Soukup
7:40	Program - adoption of existing positions Resolution for wording changes Recommended Program from the Board	Mary Santi or Gladys Ritter
7:50	Nominations / Elections	Nominating Committee
8:00	Recognitions Revolving Bear award	Liz Lauder Gladys Ritter
8:10	Announcements MN Council delegates All-unit meetings 2018-2019 President's report	Liz Lauder
8:20	Direction to the Board	
8:30	Adjourn	

The rules for the Annual Meeting are as follows:

1. *Each member wishing to speak will give her/his name and unit prior to speaking*
2. *All lengthy motions or amendments must be in writing*
3. *Presentation of recommended Program will precede proposals for non-recommended items*
4. *Proposals for non-recommended items must be in writing, giving the exact wording of the proposed item*
5. *The entire Program will be discussed before a vote to adopt individual items*
6. *Proposed Program items will be voted on prior to non-recommended items; non-recommended items will be voted on in the order proposed*

Treasurer's Report

March 14, 2018

Elizabeth Nordling, Treasurer

		Current	YTD
Income:	Dues	\$135.00	\$4145.00
	Donations	\$750.00	\$1666.00 (includes \$350 from NOHOA)
	Memorials	\$	\$150.00
	Meetings (socials)	\$	\$954.00
	Service	\$	
	In-kind donation	\$	
	Voters Service	\$	\$512.00 (includes return of \$200 deposit for forum)
	Calendars	\$	\$426.00
	Bank interest	\$	\$0.35
	Total:	\$885.00	\$7853.25

Expenses:	Meetings (socials)	\$	\$902.59
	2016 National convention	\$	\$100.00
	LWVMN PMP	\$	\$1587.50
	LWVUS PMP	\$	\$2032.00
	Meeting site	\$	
	Voters Service	\$	\$656.57
	Program (includes publicity)	\$	\$490.32
	Bear Facts copying/printing	\$71.27	\$71.27
	Calendars	\$	\$304.67
	Membership (communication, recruiting & recognition)	\$	\$48.06
	Total:	\$71.27	\$6192.98

Opening balance from Feb 14, 2018:		\$5415.45	
Income	+	\$ 885.00	
Expenses:	-	\$ 71.27	

Current balance: **\$6229.18**

Ed fund CD: **\$5035.20**

2017-18 Paid Members: 54 @ \$60 11@ \$75

Total: 79 (including our 3 lifetime members)