



the Bear Facts

the League of Women Voters
of the White Bear Lake Area

January Program



League members and the public are invited to a LWVWBLA general meeting on Thursday, January 17, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM at WBL City Hall to hear a panel of experts discuss effective citizen advocacy, including how to change MN law to have an independent commission, rather than legislators, redraw electoral district boundaries, consistent with the League of Women Voters redistricting position.

The panelists are:

Mindy Greiling, DFL, who represented MN House District 54B from 2003-2012 and District 54A from 2003-2012. She chaired the K-12 finance committee, appropriating about 40 percent of the state budget.

Carol McFarlane, Republican, who represented MN House District 53B from 2007-2012. She was the first female House member elected from District 53B.

Ken Pentel, who was a minor party candidate for MN governor in 1998, 2002, 2006, and 2010.

Barb Yarusso, DFL, who represented MN House District 42A from 2013-2016. She has a PhD in chemical engineering.

A moderator will use A Citizen's Guide to Advocating at the State Legislature to help organize and focus the discussion.

Link to a Citizen's Guide to Advocating at the Legislature is now on our website at: <http://www.lwv-wbla.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/LisaLarson-short-citizenadvocacyguide15598.pdf>

President's Column



[Jean and Dixon Tews enjoying the Holiday Brunch](#)

We had a great turnout for our holiday party on December 3rd. Thanks again to our wonderful hosts, the Mahtomedi unit! And thanks to all of you who came and contributed and made it a fun gathering. We'll have more opportunities to come together in the next couple of months for two amazing program offerings. More details on those upcoming programs are elsewhere in the Bear Facts, as well as on our Facebook page. Right now, I'm getting ready for our

March topic, which involves reading David Pepper's book, *The People's*

House. It offers a political "what if" story about how an election could be manipulated, and it's not very far-fetched. The Ramsey County libraries own five copies, or pick one up at your favorite book store or online retailer, and be ready to discuss it at your March unit meeting.

In case you haven't heard, the LWV Minnesota office is moving across the street from its current location. In October, the Minnesota Women's Building was sold to Focus Minnesota, a nonprofit group that helps the homeless. LWV Minnesota has leased some office space in the Minnesota Environmental Partnership building at 546 Rice St., St. Paul, and will be moving at the end of December.

LWV Minnesota will be celebrating its 100th year in 2019, and it is starting to plan the 2019 state convention at the St. Paul Hotel in late April. Conventions are held every other year, and this one promises to be extra special. I hope many of you will attend. More details on the Centennial Convention will follow in future Bear Facts. Awards are given at the convention for members who have provided outstanding service to the LWV Minnesota and to a local League. If you can think of a local League member who should be recognized for their contribution to LWV, be sure to visit LWVMN.org and fill out the nomination form for either the Hope Washburn or Peggy Thompson award (located under Member Resources). The deadline for nominations is March 16th. Our own Mary Santi was the winner of the Peggy Thompson award at the 2017 convention! That was such an honor for LWV WBLA as well. Come to the Centennial Convention and be part of it all!

Thanks to the program committee for arranging a successful general meeting on November 8th with:

Retired Judge Supreme Court Justice, Paul Anderson at November 8th Program at White Bear Lake City Hall



Program for Action Update

Even though the League of Women Voters does not support or oppose political parties or candidates, we do take a stand on certain public policy issues. We come to these positions after carefully studying the issues and voting in consensus to adopt them. The WBLA LWV has positions on issues at the local level. We are also part of the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues of Women Voters (CMAL) that has positions on regional governance (Metropolitan Council). The LWV Minnesota and LWVUS also have positions that they use to lobby for legislation that will bring about changes in public policy in support of our positions. These positions at LWVMN are called its Program for Action. [Program for Action 2017-2019](#). The positions at the LWVUS are called "Impact on Issues" and are available online, "2016-2018 [Impact on Issues: A Guide to Public Policy Positions](#)". Every year, members are asked to review the positions and recommend changes or additions. This is also the time to suggest new studies of issues that are not included in our current positions (see the [LWVUS guidelines for studies](#)). Our deadline to make these recommendations is January 30, 2019.

Think about recent debates or political activity in your local City councils, the Metropolitan Council, the Minnesota legislature, and US Congress, and review these positions with an eye toward answering the question, “Could I speak to my representative about this issue and use this position to protect certain rights or to advocate for change?” If not, what is missing or needs to be changed?

Please review the local, state, and national positions on the following pages/link and contact [Lisa Larson](#) before January 30th if you have any suggestions for additions or changes.

Link to LWVWBLA Current Program for Review

Our website has the current version of our Program in a PDF. It can be found at our site under the heading Board/Member Info. Then select Member Info. The link is toward the bottom of the text and is highlighted “policy Positions.”

Here is the direct link:

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

Opportunities to Serve - Nominations for State Board

Think you might be interested in being part of something bigger? Want to have more of an impact on the work of the League of Women Voters, and to help other local Leagues? Then consider a position on the State Board of Directors.

Nominations are being accepted now, and through January 30th, for various positions on the 2019-2021 LWV Minnesota board. If you are even a little bit interested, go to the state League website and fill out the form under Member Resources (<https://lwvmn.org/local-leagues/member-resources>). Someone from the Nominating Committee will contact you and give you more information.

I can speak from my own experience, being the Secretary for LWV Minnesota for the past 3 years, that it is a wonderful opportunity to serve alongside so many smart and passionate women, and to help to steer the state organization in a new direction. We need people like you to join us! Please feel free to reach out to me if you have questions. There are also several WBLA LWV members who have served at the state level, and they are great resources as well. They will also tell you that serving at the state level is rewarding because you can accomplish so much. So, go ahead and nominate yourself, or encourage someone else to fill out the form, and be someone who is making an impact for LWV!

Liz Lauder

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

JULIE DAHL

Julie Dahl has lived her entire life in Minnesota. She grew up in Duluth, and then moved to the Twin Cities where she went to college at the U of MN to obtain her nursing degree. She went on to St. Catherine's University where she completed a master's degree to become a nurse practitioner. Julie has specialized in Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine for the majority of her NP career, and currently works at Respiratory Consultants in Robbinsdale. She is also the president of the MN Sleep Society which is an organization involved in an effort to improve sleep for teenagers.

Julie's husband Mike works as a structural engineer at KOMA in Inver Grove Heights. Her son, Luke is in his freshman year at the U of MN in Duluth and plans to major in Business. Julie's daughter, Sarah, is a junior at Mahtomedi High School. This fall she decided she wanted to participate in the voting process so she volunteered to work at the polls in her precinct on Election Day.

Julie loves to read and belongs to two different book clubs. Recently, she began training with Tri Fitness Club because she hopes to participate in a triathlon in the next year or two.

Julie and her whole family enjoy traveling, so last summer they took a vacation to London and Italy. In the future, she is hoping that someday they can visit other foreign countries.

Recently, Julie joined the LWV in order to become more engaged and add her voice to the ever changing political environment.

GENE COFFMAN

Gene Coffman is a North Oaks Unit member who grew up in Richfield Minnesota. He has a BS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Minnesota and an MBA from the University of St. Thomas. He retired from Medtronic as a Plant Manager.

He and his wife Mary have lived in North Oaks for 31 years. They have a daughter who is an elementary school teacher and they enjoy volunteering in her classroom on a weekly basis.

Gene has a special interest in cycling and hiking. He likes movies and reading, and with his wife Mary, is a traveler. Their favorite US cities are San Francisco and New York City. They are looking forward to an upcoming trip that will take them to see the tulips blooming in the Netherlands.

Empowering Voters and defending democracy are issues that brought Gene to the League of Women Voters. He and Mary liked working with young people in voter registration and he likes being engaged with other members as they explore these important topics and issues.

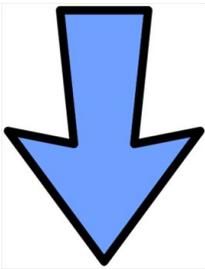
MARY COFFMAN

Mary Coffman is a North Oaks Unit member and a native Minnesotan who grew up in North East Minneapolis. She is a talented artist who has a BS in Studio Arts and Art History from UW River Falls. That degree and her organizational skills led her to create displays at the Bibelot Shops, work at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Medtronic and the Mounds View Schools.

Mary and her husband Gene, also a League member, have lived in North Oaks for 31 years. They have a daughter who has been a 1st grade teacher for 15 years in South Washington County. Gene and Mary try to volunteer in her classroom one day per week and this time has given them a good experience with an educational system.

Her special interests include art projects with paper and printing. She also enjoys movies, reading and travel with her husband Gene. Last Spring they spent 3 weeks in Northern Europe, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway and the Netherlands.

The Coffmans like to volunteer and were looking for a progressive, activist, political oriented organization. They especially liked working with young people in voter registration. And they appreciate the commitment and passion of League members.



See below ways that we can welcome these and other new members to White Bear Lake Area League of Women Voters

Suggestions for Engaging New Members

- Offer a new member a ride to a large group forum or a unit meeting
- Meet for coffee to discuss League history, coming activities and League procedures.
- Talk individually with new members about how active they want to be and what interests of theirs might best fit with League activities.
- Keep in contact in order to suggest upcoming events and be available to answer questions.
- When you volunteer to register voters or attend a candidate forum ask a new member to join you.
- if you find a program topic that interests you and you want to join the research team/presentation team, ask a new member if they want to come along and observe the process.
- Notify the membership team that you are willing to conduct a new member interview to be published in the Bear Facts. These interviews help our League to get to know our new members.
- Encourage new members to serve on the membership committee.
- Share League resources with new members.

LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEWS

Members are strongly encouraged to attend one of the LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEWS listed below. Legislative interviews are an opportunity to learn the perspectives of the legislators and to get to know them. This is a way for us to prepare for the upcoming Session and to develop a relationship with each legislator. It is not a situation where LWV will be advocating/lobbying for our positions.

The interview questions will be sent to the legislators prior to the interview and will cover the following issues: redistricting, census funding, voting, legislative process and public participation. We are also interested in what their priorities are and what bills they plan to introduce or support.

Since our League involves several areas, each unit probably has members who live in different legislative districts. You may attend any interview, but we hope you are able to attend the one that involves your representative. Later in the Session, we may ask you to contact that legislator to advocate/lobby for a specific bill. The public is invited to these interviews and will be able to ask questions at the end of the interview. So please invite you family and friends!

Schedule of Legislative Interviews is Below

Jan. 12th, 10:15 - 12 noon, Shoreview Library. Sen. Janson Isaacson, Rep. Becker-Finn, Rep. Kelly Moller. Senate District 42 includes Shoreview, Valdnais Heights, and Arden Hills.

Jan.18th - 4 pm, Boutwell Landing, Sen Housley, Rep Dettmer, Rep Christensen, Senate District 39 includes Stillwater, Forest Lake, Oak Park Heights, and Grant

Jan. 19th, 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon, White Bear Lake Library. Sen. Roger Chamberlain and Rep. Ami Wazlawik. Senate District 38 includes part of White Bear Lake City, White Bear Township, North Oaks, Hugo, Dellwood.

Jan. 19th, 10:15 - 12 noon. Rep. Peter Fischer, Rep. Leon Lillie, and Sen. Chuck Wiger. Senate District 43 includes part of White Bear Lake City, Birchwood, Mahtomedi, Willernie, Maplewood.

February Topic
All Member Meeting

Minnesota Immigrants, the 2020 Census, Fair Representation
and Federal Funding

Our speaker will be: Mirella Ceja-Orozco

Mirella is an attorney practicing exclusively in immigration law at the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota and an adjunct professor at the University of Minnesota School of Law Center for New Americans. She graduated from University of California-Davis in 2007 with degrees in Political Science and Native American Studies. While attending UC Davis, she studied abroad in Oaxaca, Mexico and Accra, Ghana. She also interned in Washington, D.C. at the U.S. House of Representative' Committee on Foreign Affairs. In 2009, she graduated from University of California-Berkeley with an advanced certificate in Paralegal Studies. She graduated from Hamline University School of Law in 2012. While in law school, she participated in a study abroad law program with United States Chief Justice John Roberts in Florence, Italy. She received the 2011 Outstanding Student Service Award from the Minnesota Justice Foundation, the 2011 Volunteer of the Year Award from the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota, and the 2012 Hamline Latino Law Student Association Endowment award.

Most recently, Mirella is the recipient of the 2018 Pro Bono Champion Attorney of the Year award by the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

Please plan to attend the general meeting in the WBL City Hall on Thursday, February 21. More details to follow in the January Bear Facts.

March Topic



Regular unit discussion of David Pepper's book, **The People's House** - a good choice for an interesting read as you huddle by the fire during the upcoming cold, winter weather.

Treasurer's Report December 11, 2018

Elizabeth Nordling, Treasurer

		Current	YTD
Income:	Dues	\$75.00	\$4012.50
	Donations	\$100.00	\$ 369.00
	Memorials	\$	\$
	Meetings (socials)	\$430.00	\$805.00
	Service	\$	\$
	In-kind donation	\$	\$
	Voters Service	\$237.00	\$689.50
	Calendars	\$	\$376.00
	Bank interest	\$	\$0.41
	Total:	\$842.00	\$6252.41
Expenses:	Meetings (socials)	\$77.32	\$352.22
	2016 National convention	\$	\$
	LWVMN PMP	\$	\$1543.75
	LWVUS PMP	\$	\$2144.00
	Meeting site	\$	\$
	Voters Service	\$338.81	\$1324.00
	Program (includes publicity)	\$	\$146.23
	Bear Facts copying/printing	\$	\$
	Calendars	\$	\$277.31
	Membership (communication, recruiting & recognition)	\$	\$668.00
	Total:	\$416.13	\$6455.51

Opening balance from Nov 14, 2018:		\$4934.37
Income	+	\$842.00
Expenses:	-	\$416.13

Current balance: **\$5360.24**

Ed fund CD: **\$5040.68**

2018-19 Paid Members: 64 @ \$60 14@ \$75

Total: 95 (including our 3 lifetime members)