



Bear Facts

League of Women Voters
of the White Bear Lake Area

Annual Meeting Edition of the Bear Facts Annual Meeting April 18, 2019

*Please see your official invitation to the 2019 Annual Meeting on Page 2.

You will also find all the necessary information you will need to be an active participant in the conversation and decision-making process of the governance of our White Bear Lake Area LWV. You will find in this edition or attached to your email, the following:

- Annual business meeting agenda
- Current local positions
- Proposed bylaw changes
- Proposed slate of candidates for the board of directors
- Year end report from the Program Committee
- Year-end reports from Voter's Service, Membership, Publicity, Social Media Committees
- Proposed budget for 2019-2020
- Treasurer's Report for 2018-2019
- Presentation of the annual Revolving Bear Award

Please save the annual meeting information on pages 8 to 18, plus the attachments containing the proposed budget and changes to the bylaws and bring them with you to the annual meeting.

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PROPOSED BUDGET AND BYLAWS ARE ATTACHMENTS TO THIS BEAR FACTS. PLEASE DOWNLOAD AND BRING TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

YOU ARE INVITED TO:

LWV White Bear Lake Annual Meeting

Thursday, April 18, 2019
WBL Public Safety Training Room
4701 Highway 61 (3rd Street Entrance)

5 PM - Soups, salads, desserts, coffee, tea

5:45 PM - Program

Jennifer Bloom - Executive Director, Learning
and Democracy Foundation

Jessica Ellison - LWVWBLA member, WBLA
School Board Member, Teacher Educator
Topic: Civics Education and Legislation

7:00 PM - Business Meeting

\$5 paid at the door
RSVP by Friday, April 12 to Kathy Gaylord
kbgaylord@gmail.com

Note: Dues are due April 1. All attending
members who have paid by/at the meeting will
be entered in a drawing to receive a prize!!

March Unit Discussions, Summaries, and Reviews of the book
The People's House by David Pepper

From the North Oaks Unit:

The North Oaks unit met on March 13 and Molly Anthony led our discussion. We had a positive and lively discussion with several points and issues brought out:

- The amount of time representatives spend calling for funds
- Scary how fragile our democracy is.
- Recognition of the problem of having so few districts in play and the related issue of census and redistricting. A strong preference for non partisan procedure for redistricting.
- A question about how much federal money is allocated for cyber security and the fact that Minnesota is the only state that has not claimed the money available for it.
- Recognition of the danger of our data being used to manipulate the information we receive and the sale of that data.
- One example of the targeting of messages was to those inclined to white nationalism and the segregation of our sources of information - each group has its own set of "facts."
- A concern over the movement to convene a constitutional convention was also raised - 28 states have already agreed to a convention.
- The issue of which congress people will hear our concerns was raised - it was pointed out that we can write to our own but also the chairs of committees and the speaker and they are supposed to be interested in the broader opinion, not only their constituents.
- Recommended that we let the state League know our alert preferences to we can respond accordingly.
- Also, the issue of people on probation came up and we do support allowing them to vote when they are released.

All in all, a good discussion and we liked the book.

Carolyn Folke

From the Saint Croix Valley Unit:

The SCV unit was split on their overall view of *The People's House*. Some thought it was interesting, engaging and eerily spot-on while another member just couldn't get into the book at all. We noted that the author did a good job of providing the reader with a behind-the-scenes look at politics, elections, and the importance of the media in a democracy. Our discussion then veered into contacting our legislators to find out the status the federally allocated funds to upgrade our election system.

Lori Soukup

From the Mahtomedi Unit:

The Mahtomedi Unit of the LWWBLA met March 11 to discuss The People's House by David Pepper. As the author stated, presenting facts through a work of fiction can be an effective way to provide information and perspective on complicated issues. Within the overall theme of the vulnerabilities of our current voting system, members identified timely themes of issues with our current election system including the practice of personal attacks on messengers of information with which we disagree, abuse of women by powerful men, underfunding of local government for running fair elections, and the division of citizens by political party. In general, members observed that the topic of election interference can be depressing because of the increasing opportunities for the vote getting hacked, and the resultant undermining of the public's faith in government. Anne Johnson provided a summary of the author's background in politics and some critical reviews of the book. Anne and Lisa Larson provided information about current legislation in Minnesota affecting access to the ballot and requiring civics education as examples of increasing voter participation and restoring faith in the outcomes of the elections. Members also discussed the different voting machines available and how Minnesota voting practices differ from the voting method described in the book. Most of the members attending had read the book, but all of the members were able to participate in the discussion of issues affecting our elections.

Margaret Westin

From the White Bear Lake Unit:

Liz Lauder led our unit discussion of *The People's House*. The plot of the book certainly reflects the importance of fair representation and the issues highlighted in our last couple of years: gerrymandering, redistricting, vote manipulation, campaign finance, etc. Through the Russian character, Kasarov, the book provides an interesting take on American democracy. His is certainly a jaded and negative view, but illuminates areas of potential vulnerability in our system. His belief that campaign finance contributions are simply a less efficient form of bribery, for example, points out the problem with our current system of campaign financing and the need for reform there. The book inspired stories from past local elections, and a lot of questions.

Members who volunteer as election judges or are otherwise involved in local elections shared stories of past problems in local vote counting. Felt tip pens can bleed through the ballots, resulting in double counting; sometimes ballots don't feed into the machines properly and result in under counting; and power outages or faulty software can prevent proper vote counts, such as happened recently in Ramsey County. These anecdotes illustrate problems that can happen with both paper and electronic voting.

How can we protect ourselves from vote counting problems and potential sabotage or manipulation? Auditing is important, as are increased efforts to secure the process.

White Bear Lake Unit discussion summary, con't

Both cost money, which is in short supply in many smaller localities, a weakness that was exploited by the Abacus voting machine company in the book. The group agreed that having a paper trail to follow is essential for auditing, and of course some machines are more secure than others. But online voting seems particularly easy to manipulate, where there is no paper trail or proof of the original vote choice to fall back on.

Is it a problem or a blessing that there is no national standard or regulation of voting systems? The federal government does use grant money to pressure the states into maintaining standards, but adherence remains uneven. The lack of national standards was a problem in the book, as it was easier to target swing districts with cheaper, "Trojan Horse" voting machines. On the other hand, some members felt that if there were nation-wide standards and a single voting system in use everywhere, there could be more danger of large-scale hacking or manipulation on a national scale.

Is it necessary to have a nationwide hack in order to interfere with our elections? It may be enough simply to create distrust in the integrity of the nation's electoral system. Or, as the book demonstrates, only changing some results in certain swing races can change the balance of power. Swing districts are vulnerable to small vote changes, and are easily identified using the Partisan Performance Index (PPI) as found in Cook Political Report, an independent, nonpartisan newsletter that analyzes elections and campaigns for the US House and Senate.

What are some other ways to manipulate the system and create distrust in our elections? The group discussed some of the recurring themes from this year: gerrymandering, vote suppression of felons in prison and/or on parole, and campaign finance irregularities. Secret money makes it easier to improperly influence politics. For example, it is concerning that 50% of the money spent in the recent US elections was dark money.

Finally, the group discussed the status of some recent state legislation aimed at addressing some of these problems. A House panel recently advanced an automatic voter registration bill, which would make voting easier by removing the intervening step of registering. Some members felt that there should be some effort on the voter's part to become registered, while others were of the opinion that the fewer obstacles to voting the better. Another bill to unlock federal matching funds for election security was recently held up again in the Senate. We were in agreement in our dismay at this development.

The People's House ends with some resolution of the danger to US democracy, but there are still some problems left. Perhaps the author plans a sequel? At any rate, if you haven't read it yet, this book would make great summer "beach reading."

Joan Neumiller

Welcome

New Member Introductions

Welcome to.....**LORI DELAHUNT**

Lori is a member of the North Oaks Unit. She grew up in Chicago. Twenty one years ago she moved to Minnesota when her husband, Paul, got a job at Ecolab. He now works at Andersen Windows.

Her favorite subject in school was English. She loved to read and write. Her interests lead her to the school newspaper as an extra curricular activity and she was also involved in gymnastics and dance. After high school she attended the University of Illinois and got a degree preparing her to teach English. She continued her education to obtain a Master's degrees in Language and in Counseling. Those degrees were used in her career of teaching English and School Counseling; she worked in the Stillwater district.

Lori is married and has two grown sons, one in the Twin Cities and one in California. She is expecting to be a grandmother in August. The new baby will also be a Minnesotan.

Swimming one half mile three times a week is a special interest of hers, as are adaptive and chair yoga. Her love of reading makes her a regular book club member. Lori particularly enjoys the availability of live theater in the Twin Cities. She is also active in gun violence prevention and hopes to become knowledgeable about the issue and advocate for common sense gun laws.

Lori is now retired and can travel with her husband. She often goes back to her home city of Chicago. She and her husband have good friends in France that they visit often. Other friends live in Florida and California, which make for good travel destinations.

She had been contributing to LWV at the National level along with other groups of similar values. She also is interested in supporting groups that serve voices not always heard. She knew when she retired she would like to register voters, and help people become more informed. Being a League member also helps her spend time with people who have similar goals.

Also

Welcome to.....TERRI HOULE

Terri Houle has spent the majority of her life in MN residing in the Twin Cities Area. She grew up in Colombia Heights and later moved to Anoka where she went to high school. She then attended Concordia College in Moorhead, MN where she completed a double major in Social Work and French with a minor in Math. After graduation Terri moved to Washington where she found a job in Social Work. While there she met her husband, Jim, who was from Chicago. After 3 years in WA she and Jim decided to move to the Twin Cities. Once back in MN Terri wanted to teach Math and French so she took extra courses at the U of MN in order to change her Math minor to a major in addition to meeting the teaching requirements. At the same time she also earned a M.Ed in Second Languages and Cultures. Her husband, Jim, also attended the U. of MN where he received a teaching degree in Social Studies. Terri taught Math and French in Minneapolis for about 20 years and then found a job teaching Math and French in the Forest Lake School District. It was much better because by then they were already living in Forest Lake, and Jim was teaching Social Studies nearby at Centennial Middle School.

Terri and Jim adopted two children when they were babies, and they are now adults. Their son, Micah, is 27 and their daughter, Hannah, is 25.

Terri and her husband like to spend time outdoors—they love to hike, go cross country skiing, and canoeing. Terri also likes to exercise and has done taekwondo and yoga for about 15 years.

Recently, Terri and Jim have also enjoyed traveling to other countries and have been on trips to France, Sweden, and Mexico. In the near future they are going on a trip to Ireland.

Terri became interested in joining LWV after becoming frustrated with the politics of today. One of her LWV friends talked to her about League and inspired her to join the organization. Terri has found it very helpful to attend the special LWV meetings in order to better understand the current issues.

Help needed to research elected officials

The St. Croix Valley unit has researched and prepared a 2 page guide to elected officials in their area. It includes senate districts 39, 53 and 54, Washington County and Stillwater school district. Wouldn't it be nice if others areas of our LWV had a similar guide? Would you be willing to research this information? SCV has a template that could be used. You can see their guide on our website under Links/ Get to Know Your Elected Officials. <http://www.lwv-wbla.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/They-Represent-You-St-Croix-Valley-02-2019.pdf>
Contact Mary Santi santi004@umn.edu if you want to help.

YEAR-END COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership Committee Annual Report

*The Membership Committee had been very active and productive when I joined them last Spring. Mary Santi, Mary Johnston, Carolyn Folke and Liz Lauder had planned to welcome new and prospective members for a Saturday morning brunch in May. Twenty four people attended: a mix of unit leaders, the Membership team and guests. The group enjoyed a social time of getting to know other attendees and a time of getting to know more about the League. Mary Santi has developed a power point presentation that was very helpful in sharing League information with our guests. And thanks to an anonymous gift, a very pleasant brunch was enjoyed by all.

*New Member folders had been developed to help new members learn about the activities and priorities of our League. These were assembled and distributed to our newest members over the summer and throughout the year.

*When the committee members met during the fall we concentrated on new member interviews for the Bear Facts. These help us get to know our newest members. We used an outline developed by Mary Johnston.

*At the suggestion of a Board Member we also developed a list of suggestions for our League to use to mentor new members. We hope this will lead to Unit dialogues to encourage continuing members to welcome and inform new members of the activities and the process of our WBLALWV.

*Now we are in the process of planning another New Member Brunch in April to welcome and meet with our 2018-2019 new members.

Sharon Guiser Membership Chair

Publicity Committee Annual Report

Did you know that LWVWBLA held almost 30 events in 2018-2019? We held 17 candidate forums, three public forums, and three legislative interviews as well as our monthly unit meetings. Publicizing these events involved 250 press releases, 150 event brochures handed out at the public forums, 500 flyers, and even a few tweets!

Through press releases sent to a dozen area news outlets, LWVWBLA was able to reach people all over the northeast metro. The public forums were also advertised in the two major daily newspapers and on public television. Flyers were posted as well, from Woodbury to Roseville to Forest Lake, Scandia and Marine, and all communities in between. As you can imagine, this involved a lot of driving – about 750 miles worth.

I am grateful for generous help from several members in spreading the word about our events, either through email or helping distribute flyers this year. I hope to expand this involvement next year. Posting event flyers in your own town is an easy way for members to help out the League, and it is more efficient and environmentally sustainable than having the same person cover the entire area. Please contact Joan Neumiller if you are willing to help do this next year.

Finally, I'd like to draw your attention to our guest column in "Movers and Shakers" in the March 26 edition of the White Bear News, in which we highlight the major themes of our program year. If you missed this issue, it can also be found on the paper's website.

Joan Neumiller, Publicity Director

Social Media Annual Report

Website: www.lwv-wbla.org

Our local LWV has had a social media presence since 2001 when, with the help of LWV Minnesota, we developed our first website using ASCHI programming language. We updated it once a year. That earliest version had five pages and listed board and unit leader contacts, the year's program calendar and a short statement of "What We Do."

Our current website has more pages but essentially the same content. It includes a welcome page with our mission and history of our WBL Area chapter. There are current and archived Bear Facts newsletters, a calendar of events and a page outlining how to join. The Voter Service page announces candidate forums and has our non-partisan policy and a guide to elected officials produced by the St. Croix Valley unit. The website is a work-in-progress and we try to keep it current. We would like to hear what YOU think would be important to include in the site.

Facebook League of Women Voters White Bear Lake Area

We began our Facebook page in 2011. This is where we post announcements and videos of our programs and activities and share what other LWVs and like-minded groups are doing. Our reach has grown slowly to where we have hundreds of likes and followers and our posts, with shares, reaches into the thousands. We invite YOU to visit our site and to **Post** your reactions, **Share** with your friends, **Comment!** and **Discuss!** critical issues facing us today.

Mary Santi



Don't forget to check out our Facebook page. Check out our page, "like" it "share" it, "follow" it and post your comments on it.

LWV White Bear Lake Area also has a Website. You will find that at www.lwv-wbla.org. There you will find an events calendar, back issues of the Bear Facts, board information and an invitation and instructions on how to join. Our website is still under construction, so check back periodically for new information.

Voter's Service Annual Report

2018 Candidate Forums

We held 17 candidate forums with an attendance of over 1,100 in Sep and Oct of 2018! This would not be accomplished without our many members who stepped up to volunteer. Thank you! Things will be quieter this fall but 2020 is just around the corner. We'll be ready!

2018 Registration Events

Voter Services hosted registration events in the spring at area high schools, including White Bear Lake, Mahtomedi, Forest Lake and Stillwater. We participated in National Voter Registration Day on September 25th with registration drives at Solid Ground in Mahtomedi, along with simultaneous events at our local high schools, registering nearly 85 first time voters. We will again be hosting registration events this spring at our area high schools. Look for an email, as we will be in need of volunteers.

Lori Soukup and Sarah Amundson

Program Committee Annual Report

The LWVWBLA has been actively involved in advocacy and education programs in 2018-2019. To date, members studied high school civics education in the White Bear Lake Area in 2017 and 2018, worked with MN Representative Dean Urdahl on civics legislation in 2018 and 2019, and in 2019 are helping to advocate for HF 249/SF 294, requiring all districts to provide a credit-bearing civics course to students in 11th or 12th grade and making experiential learning an integral part of students' formal civics coursework.

We sponsored public forums on three topics in November, January, and February:

- voter manipulation and suppression with retired MN Supreme Court Justice Paul Anderson
- effective citizen advocacy with an expert panel of retired MN legislators, Mindy Greiling, Carol McFarlane, and Barb Yarusso, and third party gubernatorial candidate, Ken Pentel, with an accompanying guide on effective citizen advocacy at the MN legislature
- MN immigrants, the 2020 census, and fair representation with an engaging and well informed MN Immigrant Law Center attorney, Mirella Ceja-Orozco

Links to the recordings of these forums are on our LWVWBLA website.

September and October unit meetings covered the pressing and timely topic of decennial redistricting, including gerrymandering, voter suppression, uncompetitive electoral districts, and independent redistricting commissions in MN and elsewhere. March unit meetings covered voting vulnerabilities described in *The People's House* by David Pepper, a prescient thriller for political junkies.

A member survey is planned for the April annual meeting and a police study is anticipated for May unit meetings.

Lisa Larson

LWVWBLA UNITS HOSTING SCHEDULE 2018 - 2022

LWVWBLA HOST UNITS	2018 2019	2019 2020	2020 2021	2021 2022
AUGUST PICNIC	SCV	NO	WBL	MAH
HOLIDAY PARTY	MAH	SCV	NO	WBL
ANNUAL MEETING	WBL	MAH	SCV	NO
FREE YEAR	NO	WBL	MAH	SCV



May Units

Local Police Role in Cases of Domestic Abuse

The committee looks forward to presenting their findings at the May Unit Meetings. Plan to attend and bring a friend.

ANNUAL MEETING MATERIAL

LWVWBLA 2019 Annual Meeting

Business Meeting Agenda

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
7:25	Bylaws changes	Liz Nordling
7:40	Program - adoption of existing positions Non-recommended Program changes from members	Lisa Larson
7:50	Nominations / Elections	Margaret Westin
8:00	Recognitions Revolving Bear award	Liz Lauder Mary Santi
8:10	Announcements MN Convention delegates 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*

LWVWBLA Dues are Now Due!

LWVWBLA dues are due by April 1, according to our Bylaws. Dues are \$60 individual, \$75 household and should be sent to Liz Nordling , Treasurer, 7477 115th St N White Bear Lake 55110.

Please include any changes to your contact information. Liz will also be collecting dues at the Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting Business - Bylaws and Budget*

2019-2020 Budget*

We will be discussing and voting on this budget at the Annual Meeting. Please review it before then and direct any questions you might have to Liz Nordling, Treasurer (liz.nordling@gmail.com 651 343-4124).

*** The proposed budget should be viewed as an attachment to this Bear Facts. Please download it as a separate item when viewing the April Bear Facts.**

LWVWBLA Bylaws*

We will be voting on the following proposed bylaws changes at our Annual Meeting. All deletions are ~~crossed-out~~ and all additions are in red. The main change is to delete the office of President-Elect. Since we don't want to spend too much time discussing these bylaws before voting on them at the Annual Meeting, if you have any questions or concerns about the proposed changes, please contact Liz Nordling (liz.nordling@gmail.com, 651 343-4124) and she will be happy to explain the reasons behind the changes.

***The proposed bylaw changes can be found as an attachment to this Bear Facts. Please download with the BF and bring a copy to the annual meeting.**

Treasurer's Annual Report 2018-19

Elizabeth Nordling, Treasurer

Income:	Dues	\$5182.50
	Donations	\$482.83
	Meetings (socials)	\$805.00
	Service(North Oaks Home)	\$300.00
	Voters Service	\$1142.00
	Calendars	\$376.00
	Bank interest	\$0.59
	Total:	\$8288.92

Expenses:	Meetings (socials)	\$352.22
	LWVMN PMP	\$3505.97
	LWVUS PMP	\$2144.00
	Meeting site	\$100.00
	Voters Service	\$1324.00
	Program (includes publicity)	\$612.27
	Bear Facts copying/printing	\$78.79
	Calendars	\$277.31
	Membership	\$980.05
	(communication, recruiting & recognition)	
	Total:	\$9374.61

Opening balance from April 1, 2018: \$5563.14
Income + \$8288.92
Expenses: - \$9374.61

Current balance: **\$4477.45**

Ed fund CD: **\$5040.68**

2018-19 Paid Members: 65 @ \$60
14 @ \$75
Total: 96 (including our 3 lifetime members)

LWV White Bear Lake Area Local Program Positions
Revised April 2018

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.

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.

PROPOSED SLATE OF NOMINEES FOR WBL AREA LWV
APRIL 2019

Position	Candidate	End Term
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Secretary	Kathy Gaylord	TBD
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She is filling out a term ending in 2019, has served one year. Willing to continue. New or old by laws will determine if that will be for one or two years. 2020 ?

Treasurer		2021
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Directors:

Bear Facts	Lori Delahunt	2021
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Voter Service - #2	Sarah Amundson	2021
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Nominating Committee:

Chair		2020
Member	Susan Fuller	2020
Member		2020

Off-Board (not elected)

Action		Kathy Tomsich
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Appointed Position

Program		Lisa Larson
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Continuing Board Members:

President	Liz Lauder	2020
Vice President & Publicity	Joan Neumiller	2020
Voter Service - #1	Lori Soukup	2020
Membership	Sharon Guiser	2020