



Bear Facts

League of Women Voters of the White Bear Lake Area

Report from LWV Minnesota Centennial Convention

--Liz Lauder

On April 27th and 28th, I attended the League of Women Voters of Minnesota's Centennial Convention at the St. Paul Hotel. With me were the six delegates representing the WBLA local League: Carol Bergeson, Mary Santi, Kathy Tomsich, Lisa Larson, Miriam Simmons, and Laurie Boche. The Executive Director of the League of Women Voters U.S., Virginia Kase, gave the keynote address.

Theme of past and future

The theme of the convention was celebrating our past and preparing for our future. The Executive Director of the LWV Minnesota, Michelle Witte, gave a presentation about the traveling exhibit of the League's history, which will be on display at over 40 venues around the state. There was also a presentation from a staff member at the Minnesota Historical Society, who talked about the exhibit on women's suffrage that will be opening there in the Fall of 2020. Also on the historical front, a professor and student from Carleton College talked about the research they've been doing on the League of Northfield and Cannon Falls. Their website (<http://blogs.carleton.edu/lwv-ncf/>) includes articles, photos, reports, letters, and oral history of past and current members.

To prepare us for the next one hundred years, the State office and volunteers are working on updating the materials and tool kits to help local Leagues orient new members and to train members to be lobbyists at the State Capitol and moderators at candidate forums.

Changes to Program for Action

During the plenary sessions, two of our delegates, Mary Santi and Lisa Larson, made a motion that LWV Minnesota adopt a position on Civics Education, in concurrence with the League of Women Voters of Kentucky. The convention body passed the motion and the position has been adopted. The Lobby Corps

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members can now speak to lawmakers about civics education bills using the LWV Minnesota's position, which is:

"The League of Women Voters Minnesota believes that schools have a crucial role in preparing students to be informed and engaged citizens. Civics education should focus on knowledge and understanding of governments (e.g., local, state, national and other forms), including their structures, functions, and effects. Effective civics education includes preparing students with the skills to participate critically and solve problems in civic life, and it provides practice for students working cooperatively in a community of citizens with rights and responsibilities. Civics education should be integrated with history, geography, and economics instruction throughout elementary, middle, and high school instruction, and an additional course (or courses) in civics or government in high school to further prepare students for their roles as citizens.

When students graduate from high school, they should have acquired the following:

- the knowledge to influence the legislative process on issues of importance to themselves as well as others;
- the motivation to be responsible citizens involved in providing for the general welfare of people;
- the skills, inclinations, and self-confidence to participate as informed citizens in the electoral, legislative, judicial, and administrative processes of government;
- the process skills to work on projects cooperatively in various size group activities;
- sufficient background knowledge of history and politics to understand the effects of voting on their own and others' lives.

Thanks to Mary and Lisa for taking our local League monthly unit meeting topic and seeing it through to become a State League position!

Convention delegates also approved doing an update study of our Firearms position. A statewide committee will be formed to undertake research on more recent policy debates and court cases having to do with firearms. The update may result in modernizing the language of the position and potentially lead to a more in-depth study to change our position on the issue.

A briefing paper on how special education funding is distributed between charter schools and residential school districts was also approved. The purpose of a briefing paper is to examine a particular issue in greater depth to provide guidance to League members so that they can more successfully lobby on a position we already hold.

One position held by the State League was dropped. The position on Money In Politics was dropped in favor of using the LWVUS position. The national position is more up-to-date and easier to understand.



Other Convention work

Other work of the State Convention included making changes to bylaws to better define the functioning of the State Board of Directors, passing the budget for the 2020-2022 fiscal years, and electing new officers to the Board (including our own Laurie Boche and Miriam Simmons).

Wrapping up the Centennial Convention, the delegates directed the new Board of Directors to help local Leagues bring in younger and more diverse members, and expand the Day at the Capitol.

About 125 people attended the two-day convention. Nearly every local League and State Unit (a “starter” League) was represented. Now the work starts on the next one hundred years! To see Power Point slides presented at the convention, visit <https://www.lwvmn.org/convention-2019>.

Lisa Larson, Mary Santi and Kathy Tomsich at the convention

Will Traveling Exhibit of LWV Minnesota History Come to the WBLA?

In honor of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota’s one hundred year anniversary, a traveling exhibit of League history will be visiting different sites around the state. Local Leagues are hosting the exhibit, often in partnership with historical societies or libraries. If you’d like to be part of bringing the exhibit to the White Bear Lake Area, contact Margaret Westin (Mahtomedi unit) at 651-429-9229 or marg.westin@gmail.com.

Celebrate One Hundred Years in Style!

The White Bear Lake Area LWV has signed up to host a table at the LWV Minnesota Centennial Gala event at Union Depot in St. Paul on Saturday, October 26th. Tickets are \$175 dollars, with \$100 going to support the State League. If you’d like to be a part of celebrating one hundred years of LWVMN, including a silent auction, contact Liz Lauder at 651-357-8519 or lizlauder@gmail.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



Important Information for All Members:

Save the date for the Annual LWV Picnic

Thursday, August 22nd

Hosted by the North Oaks Unit

Come to enjoy good food and conversation

and to hear the plans for the upcoming year.

Watch your email for details regarding time and location



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Unit Meeting Reports

The **Mahtomedi** Unit Monday May 13. Kathy Gaylord presented the study results on police response to domestic violence. Kathy and the other members of the committee had completed an impressive amount of research. The presentation included model policies and practices in Duluth and St. Cloud. There was an outline of the process from a 911 call through prosecution, with statistics from Washington and Ramsey Counties and the City of White Bear Lake illustrating how some cases leave the system prior to a prosecution. Members present thanked Kathy and the committee for a thorough job of research on the issues surrounding family and domestic violence.

The discussion quickly focused on next steps for the LWV WBLA. The LWV MN position on Family Violence is from 1980. The position calls for improved procedures for agencies dealing with family violence and improved services for victims of domestic violence. Many of the more recent practices have improved outcomes for victims since that time, but the goals of improved practices and services are still relevant.

Members attending expressed an interest in a more focused discussion on purposes of studies by LWV WBLA and actions that could result from such studies.

-Theresa Casey-Wolf

At the **North Oaks** unit meeting, Carol Bergeson and Mary Santi presented information about incidents of domestic violence including statistics from neighboring areas and trends in police response and concerns. A few topics were suggested for next year:

- Explication of the issue of Met Council appointments - elected or appointed.
 - Charter Schools - purpose and draining of funds from regular public schools - there is much confusion about their purpose, structure, etc.
 - Updating our gun control position
- Carolyn Folke

In the **White Bear Lake** unit meeting, there was discussion about police response, the statistics, and the difficulty victims have in leaving their abuser.

A member told about a woman who was being abused by her husband. When she heard a radio program about services available for domestic abuse victims she thought that it was good that those people could get help. She did not recognize herself as a victim. Personal awareness and action are processes that take time, information and assistance.

We talked about the fact that effective help for victims depends on a system-wide response from the dispatchers, officers, attorneys, courts, probation departments and domestic violence advocates and services working together. Ramsey County and the police departments of White Bear Lake and Maplewood recently cooperated in a program that trained officers on the system and their part in it. White Bear Lake participates in training from the Tubman Alliance. White Bear Lake's former police chief was instrumental in making the lethality assessment, which is a checklist of offender behavior used by officers at the scene to determine the safety of the victim, used throughout Ramsey County.

We discussed some of the abundant statistics from studies, such as 50% of homeless women are domestic abuse victims.

Statewide domestic abuse response statistics are very difficult to compile because each department uses a different reporting format. This makes the 1980 LWVMN position still valid, supporting "a complete and continuing system of data collection on incidents of family violence to aid in planning and evaluation of services."

-Kathy Gaylord

welcome

To . . . Shannon Moore!

Shannon has lived her whole life in Minnesota. She grew up in White Bear Lake, lived for a short while in some neighboring communities, but returned to White Bear Lake because she loves the community. After high school she started working for Northwestern Bell and stayed with the phone company for 43 years, retiring last July. She attended St. Kate's University, focusing on writing, women's studies and theology.

Although she has never married, Shannon is close to her two sisters and brothers-in-law, and is delighted to have two nephews, as well as a great nephew. She enjoys visiting friends who live in other states, including Texas, California, and most recently, Georgia.

Shannon has many interests, and now that she is retired, she is exploring new areas, most recently taking drawing classes at the White Bear Center for the Arts. She loves animals and used to volunteer at the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. Some years ago she adopted a parrot and later helped start MAARS, Midwest Avian Adoption and Rescue Services. Currently she has 17 birds, including 8 parrots, the oldest of whom is Pee Wee, aged 34. The birds share the space with three cats at the present time.

In addition to taking care of her animal companions, Shannon enjoys gardening and focuses on bee and bird friendly plants and has been increasing the number of native plants in her yard. She also enjoys ancestry searches, scrapbooking, loves good food and likes exploring new restaurants.

Shannon says she attended a couple of talks sponsored by LWV, and decided to join because one of our members starting chatting with her and suggested that she join! She wants to be part of the League because, "It's not about us vs. them. It's about issues that need to be resolved." She thinks being a member of LWV will help her in that quest.

-Sharon Guiser

Take Our Member Survey!

If you didn't get a chance to take our 2019 member survey at the April or May meetings, we've put it online for you. We urge all members to go online at the link below and fill it out as soon as possible so that we may use your responses to help us plan the 2020 program:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeGSq0dVo4GewLVnO83J9vmC-NRoaxyww7jy_usuC3VIDLHDw/viewform.

We also hope to use the survey to help get to know our members better and offer more exciting volunteer opportunities. It only takes a few minutes and will be tremendously helpful to us in the coming program year. Let's shoot for 100% participation!

Once we have heard from everyone, we will share the results at the Kick-off Picnic in August.

Thank you,

The LWV-WBLA Board of Directors



Don't forget to check out our Facebook page. You will find it if you search for League of Women Voters White Bear Lake Area. This is where we post and discuss our day-to-day happenings. Our page has a calendar for upcoming events. We post replays from our forums that have already taken place. Check out our page, "like" it "share" it and post your own comments on it.

www.lwv-wbla.org

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.

Mary Santi has volunteered to be part of the new **LWVMN Firearms Study**. The group would welcome a second member from the LWVWBL area. If you are interested in joining in this effort, please contact Mary Santi!

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS - WHITE BEAR LAKE AREA

Annual Meeting, April 18, 2019, White Bear Lake Police Training Facility

Beginning at 5:00 pm members arrived, enjoyed soups, salads and desserts provided by the White Bear Lake Unit, and had the opportunity to complete this year's member survey.

2019 Revolving Bear Award

Mary Santi and Lisa Larson, the 2018 Revolving Bear recipients, presented this year's award to Heidi Boyd, who joined the League recently when her kids left the nest. She immediately became very involved in League activities, trained for candidate forum moderator and moderated forums. She actively recruited new members, bringing a friend or neighbor when she attended League events.

Program: Civics Education and Legislation

Jennifer Bloom: Executive Director of the Learning and Democracy Foundation and an adjunct professor at the U of M Law School, and Jessica Ellison: Teacher Educator at the MN Historical Society, President of the MN Council for Social Studies, WBLA School Board member and LWVWBLA member, involved us in an interactive presentation on being an active citizen, current social studies standards and legislation. See the May Bear Facts for details.

The business meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm by the president, Liz Lauder. Unit leaders introduced new members who were there: Shannon Moore, Barb Memory, Jeanne Hamlin, Dick Ottman, Mary Mulier, Laurie Boche, Susan Schway, Natalie Moen Mieloch, and Terri Houle. The count of members was Mahtomedi 15, North Oaks 6, St Croix Valley 2, and White Bear Lake 11. The total of 34 made a quorum.

Current officers and directors of the Board were introduced. President: Liz Lauder

Vice President: Joan Neumiller

Treasurer: Liz Nordling

Secretary: Kathy Gaylord

Elected Directors: Lori Soukup, Sharon Guiser, and Gretchen Davidson Appointed

Directors: Mary Santi, Sarah Amundson, and Lisa Larson Nominating Committee Chair: Margaret Westin

The agenda was amended to change the time of the Revolving Bear Award presentation. Dick Ottman moved, Liz Nordling seconded the agenda be adopted as amended. After no discussion, the motion passed, the agenda was adopted.

Adoption of the Annual Meeting Rules Liz called the question of the adoption of the Convention Rules. There were no questions about the rules. Dick Ottman moved that the rules be adopted, Carol Bergeson seconded. The motion passed, the rules were adopted.

Annual Meeting Minutes

Dick Ottman moved and Mary Anne Linser seconded the motion that the Annual Meeting minutes be approved at the next Board meeting. There was no discussion. The motion passed. The minutes will be approved at the next Board meeting on May 8, 2019.

Annual Treasurer's Report

Liz Nordling reported the following - General Fund: Income \$8289.00; Expenses \$9374.61; Current balance \$4477.53. Education Fund CD: \$5040.68. 2018-2019 paid Members: 65 @ \$60, 14 @ \$75. Total: 96 including 3 lifetime members. No questions were asked; the report will be filed for audit. (See attached.)

Budget Committee Report

Liz Nordling presented the proposed 2019-2020 budget for budget chair Liz Lauder, and moved to adopt the budget. No second was required as the motion came from the committee. There were no suggested changes or questions. The motion passed, the budget was adopted. (See attached.)

Bylaws Committee Report

On behalf of the Bylaws committee, Liz Nordling moved to amend the bylaws as shown in the April Bear Facts. She and the meeting attendees went through the bylaws page by page, proposed amendment by proposed amendment. Other parts of the bylaws were not open to amendment. Some changes were required by LWVUS, some were for clarity and one was to balance the number of new Board members from year to year, one was to eliminate the position of president elect and allow the president to serve a two-year term. The motion passed. The Bylaws were amended. (See attached.)

Program Committee Report

Program committee chair Lisa Larson moved for adoption of existing positions on: Education, Natural Resources, Environmental Protection, Land Use, Representative Local Government, Representative Ramsey County Government, Social Policy. There were no questions for clarification, no recommended items from the Board and no non-recommended items for consideration. Liz called for a vote on the adoption of the League's existing Program for Action. The motion passed, the WBLA Program for Action is approved for the next year.

Nominations/elections, Nominating Committee Report

Nominating committee chair, Margaret Westin submitted the following slates: Officers

Secretary: Kathy Gaylord (until 2020) Treasurer: Margaret Westin

Directors

Membership: Sharon Guiser

Voter Service: Sarah Amundson Program: Lisa Larson

Bear Facts: Lori Delahunt

Nominating Committee Shari Mitchell, chair

Susan Fuller, member Carolyn Wensman, member

There were no further nominations. Gretchen Davidson moved that the secretary cast the ballot for every nominee. The motion was adopted by acclamation. The slate of officers, directors and nominating committee for 2019-2020 are now duly elected.

Recognitions

Two long-term Board members are leaving their positions this year. Our treasurer Liz Nordling has managed the budget, provided accurate reports, updated and published the roster, and kept our membership names and dues up to date with state and national and kept her sense of humor. Bear Facts editor Gretchen Davidson has taken the many items sent to her every month and consistently transformed them into a very readable and attractive publication that keeps us all informed and in touch with each other. We thank them for all that their work has meant to our League.

Mary Anne and Jerry Linser are the winners of two tickets to the Lakeshore Players in this evening's drawing of names of members who paid their dues.

Announcements

April 26-28 - The 2019 LWVMN convention is being held at the St Paul Hotel. Our representatives are Carol Bergeson, Miriam Simmons, Mary Santi, Lisa Larson, Laurie Boche and Joan Neumiller. Liz Lauder will represent LWVMN.

August 15 - A cooperative vote/suffrage/19th amendment poster-making event at the White Bear Center for the Arts will take place on August 15.

August 22 - The Annual Picnic, sponsored by the North Oaks Unit.

Directions to the Board

There are so many emails coming from League. Could they be sent as a separate mailing with the heading of "Bear Facts?"

Stay away from general meetings, which take a lot of preparation, in the winter because of the risk of being cancelled due to bad weather.

There being no further business, Liz Lauder adjourned the meeting at 7:40 pm.
Respectfully submitted by Kathy Gaylord, secretary

Treasurer's Report

May 8, 2019

Margaret Westin, Treasurer

| | | Current | YTD |
|----------------------|--|-------------------|------------------|
| Income: | Dues | \$1275.00 | \$1980.00 |
| | Donations | \$50.00 | \$ 95.00 |
| | Memorials | \$ | \$ |
| | Meetings (socials) | \$120.00 | \$120.00 |
| | Service | \$ | \$ |
| | In-kind donation | \$ | \$ |
| | Voters Service | \$ | \$ |
| | Calendars | \$ | \$ |
| | NOHOA | \$ | \$ |
| | Bank interest | \$0.08 | \$0.08 |
| | Total: | \$ 1455.08 | \$2195.08 |
| Expenses: | Meetings (socials) | \$120.49 | \$120.49 |
| | LWVMN PMP | \$ | \$ |
| | LWVUS PMP | \$ | \$ |
| | Meeting site | \$ | \$ |
| | Voters Service | \$ | \$ |
| | Program (includes publicity) | \$ | \$ |
| | Bear Facts copying/printing | \$ | \$ |
| | Calendars | \$ | \$ |
| | Membership (communication, recruiting & recognition) | \$128.85 | \$128.85 |
| | Total: | \$249.34 | \$249.34 |

Opening balance from May 1, 2018: \$4477.45
 Income + \$1455.08
 Expenses: - \$249.34

Current balance: \$5683.19

Ed fund CD: \$5040.68

2019-20 Paid Members: 40 @ \$60 10@ \$75
 Total: 62
 (including our 3 lifetime members)

