



Presidential Primary and Precinct Caucus - What's New in 2020?

Are You Ready for Super Tuesday? Do you know what changes are coming to Minnesota this election cycle?

The League of Women Voters of White Bear Lake Area invites you to a Special Event on Saturday, Feb. 22, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., at the White Bear Lake City Hall to get ready for the Minnesota Presidential Primary and precinct caucuses. **League Members Note: This is in place of our February unit meetings!**

As Minnesota switches from a caucus system to a primary system for the Presidential election, the League is working to ensure that all voters have an opportunity to learn the ins and outs of the new presidential nomination primary system and precinct caucuses. Michael Wall, of the Minnesota Secretary of State's Office, will discuss the new voting procedures and ballot for the presidential nomination primary which will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2020. This will be the first presidential nominating primary in Minnesota in nearly three decades. Following Mr. Wall's presentation, Nick Harper, Civic Engagement Director of the LWV MN, will explain precinct caucuses and how they work. The precinct caucuses will be held on Feb. 25, 2020.

SPEAKERS: Michael Wall, Voter Outreach Specialist of the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State; Nick Harper, Civic Engagement Director for LWV MN.

WHEN | Saturday, February 22, 2020, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

WHERE | White Bear Lake City Hall, 4701 Highway 61, White Bear Lake.

NEEDED: Volunteers to show up at 9:30 to greet the public, solicit and sort questions.

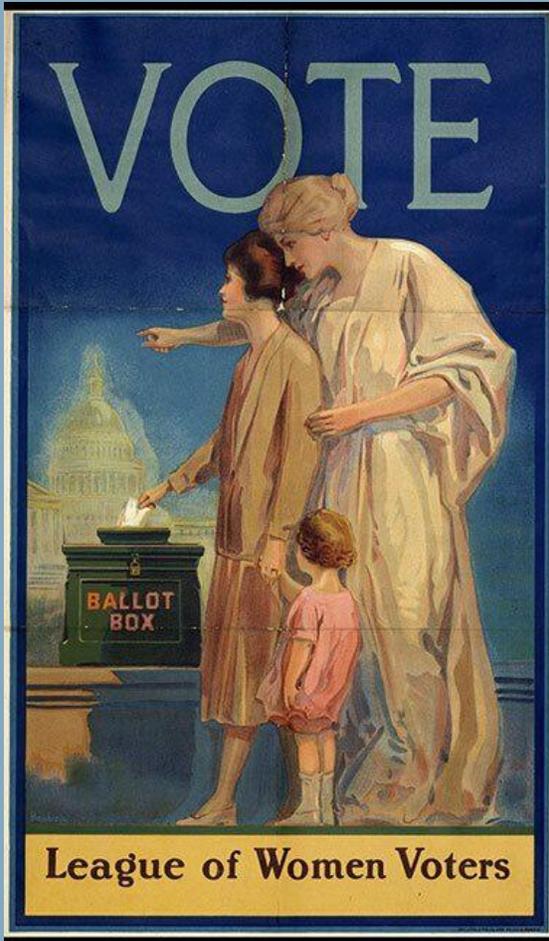
Contact Kathy Tomsich at (651) 490-1809 or ktomsich@comcast.net to help!

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Celebrating 100 Years of the Women's Vote:

..... A Midwest Perspective



Wednesday,
January 15
6:30-7:30

Come hear the history of women's suffrage in Minnesota with Kristin Mapel Bloomberg, Professor of Women's Studies at Hamline University. Professor Bloomberg will speak from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. Arrive early to view the traveling exhibit panels and stay to hear the talk.

Dr. Bloomberg's research interests focus on nineteenth-century women's culture and social movement in the nineteenth century Midwest and trans-Mississippi west. She has published on a variety of topics relating to American women writers, Minneapolis women's study and self-improvement clubs, early Methodist Episcopal women and coeducation, the St. Paul Society for the Hard of Hearing, and the Political Equality Club of Minneapolis. Her greatest research focus, though, is on the subject of Nebraska woman's rights advocate Clara Bewick Colby, editor and proprietor of *The Woman's Tribune*, which was the second-longest-running woman's rights journal in the United States.



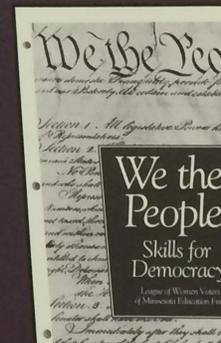
It was a full house at the Stillwater Library for Hamline Professor Kristin Mapel Bloomberg's talk on celebrating 100 years of the women's vote. Dr. Bloomberg delved into the contributions of suffragettes from the Midwest who are often overlooked in history. This event was held in conjunction with the LWV traveling exhibit and co-sponsored with the Stillwater Library and the St Croix Chapter of the AAUW. We hope you were able to attend!

As I visited the exhibit, I was struck by how many of the issues tackled by League members in previous years resonate today. There will ALWAYS be a need to educate citizens about issues that affect their community. Our newly published “*They Represent You*” pamphlets are updates of the “Our Town” booklets mentioned in the panel below. (Lori Delahunt)

League members play a leading role in citizenship education. Upon passage of the 19th Amendment, the first action of the new Minnesota League of Women Voters was to open citizenship schools for women. League chapters continue to offer hundreds of public programs across the state each year to educate citizens about important issues affecting their communities.

Publications

Community and issue publications are hallmarks of the League’s education program. For many years, local leagues published “Our Town” booklets filled with community data and contact information for reaching local leaders. The League also publishes local and statewide studies on significant issues of the day, which then form the basis for advocacy. Here’s a sampling of some of the studies done over the past 50 years.



Here are some of the issues that LWV members have produced studies of - all of which have relevance today:

- 1960** – Money in Elections: A Study of Corrupt Practices
- 1974** – Corrections: People, Prisons and Programs
- 1979** – What’s the Score in Minnesota? Equal Opportunity for Girls in Athletics
- 1980** – The Nuclear Plant Next Door
- 1981** – A Study of Solid Waste Landfills in Hennepin County
- 1982** – Public/Regional Library Systems Methods of Local Financing in St. Cloud
- 1987** – Health Care for Minnesota’s Children: Investing in the Future
- 1989** – Mental Illness in Minnesota
- 1990** – Breaking the Cycle of Violence

A glimpse of a panel (right) at the exhibit “100 Years of Civic Engagement” and (below) the crowd gathered to hear Professor Kristen Mapel Bloomberg’s talk on the history of Women Achieving the Right to Vote.

Did you know that the day after the 19th Amendment became law in 1920, 87 South St. Paul women voted on a water bill? They were the first fully enfranchised women in the United States to cast votes!



CMAL Meeting Report (President's Column)

By Liz Lauder

On Saturday, January 11, 2020, I attended a meeting in Roseville of the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues of Women Voters (CMAL). The purpose of the meeting was to hear a talk from Todd Graham, Principal Forecaster for the Metropolitan Council, and to vote to prioritize which one of three positions the CMAL should focus on updating in the coming year.

The meeting was well-attended by representatives from most of the metro-area Leagues. Todd Graham talked about how long-range forecasting happens at the Met Council, and how the data are used. Graham highlighted two of the forecasting models that he and his department use: regional economic and land use. The regional economic model shows Minnesota population growing slightly over the next 30 years; the largest areas of growth will be in non-white households. The workforce population will grow in diversity from an increased birth rate and from international migration. However, the fastest growing group are single-person households over 65 years old. The land use model shows that the single-family housing market is drying up. By 2040, 70% of new homes will be multi-person, attached (think high-rise apartment or condominium structures).

During the question and answer period, Graham was asked which trends he is most concerned about. He said that the cost and regulatory requirements for building new affordable housing will keep many builders from constructing that type of housing. And it is that type of housing that is most needed today.

After Graham's presentation, a committee of CMAL members spoke about the various positions that CMAL holds. Many of these positions have not been updated for decades. The plan was for members to identify their top three priorities and then to vote on which of the three was their top priority. The positions on county governance, land use & environmental quality, and housing, were identified as the top three. Members voted on their top priority, and the CMAL board will decide which one should be the first to be re-examined. Then, a group of members will research the position to see if it needs updating, or if a new study or briefing paper is needed. In the case of county governance, a new position might include recommendations on how local citizens can be involved. Recently, Anoka County stopped allowing public comment at their meetings. With an updated position that includes support for public comment, League members will be able to advocate on behalf of reinstating dedicated time for community members to speak.

The CMAL holds meetings every 3-4 months, somewhere in the metro area. The White Bear Lake Area League has one delegate and one alternate that may serve as voting members on the Council. If you are interested in being a CMAL delegate, please contact Liz Lauder (lizlauder@gmail.com or 651-357-8519).

January Unit Summaries:



January 13th meeting - **Mahtomedi Unit**

Announcements: Dave Orrick, a political reporter from the St. Paul Pioneer Press, will join us at our March 9th meeting to talk about the role of the media in elections. (See More on Page 8 .) The WBLA annual meeting on April 16th will be hosted by our unit.

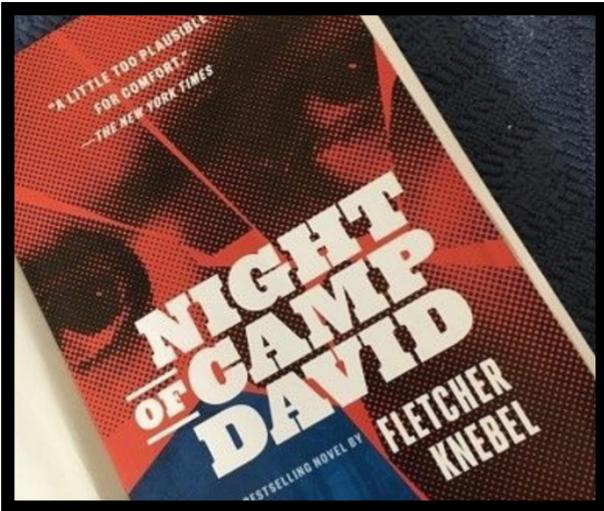
We had an interesting and engaging discussion about Night at Camp David and the impact of partisanship. It was noted that the deepening division and animosity between the two parties makes it difficult to find common ground and achieve compromise. We discussed the erosion of political

norms since 1965 such as regular communication from our presidents via press conferences and ethical behavior from our elected officials. We also were disturbed by the portrayal of women in the book. On the positive side, the role of women in politics has improved. For example, in 1965 there were only 2 women in the Senate and 12 in the House, whereas currently there are 26 women in the Senate and 101 in the House. Many thanks to Molly Anthony, Shannon Moore, Kathy Gaylord and Mary Johnston for leading our discussion!

-Terri Houle

The North Oaks Unit met on January 8th to discuss Fletcher Knebel's Night At Camp David. We had a good group of invested leaders for our discussion (Mary Santi, Molly Anthony, Lisa Larson, Kathy Gaylord, Mary Johnston and Susan Fuller) who tried to keep our enlivened members on topic. Comments encompassed the effects of gerrymandering and redistricting, power grabs by elected officials, the pros and cons of the upcoming Presidential primary process vs. caucuses, the amount of private data that political parties currently have about citizens and disappointment over how the book ended with the President voluntarily stepping down from office, which members felt was unrealistic. There was spirited interest in each of these topics.

-Lori Delahunt



The White Bear Lake Unit met on Thursday, January 9, 2020, to discuss the book by Fletcher Knebel, Night at Camp David. Present for the discussion were the committee members, Lisa Larson, Molly Anthony, Mary Johnston, Shannon Moore, Kathy Gaylord, and Mary Santi. Also present were Fran Knothe, Liz Lauder, and Mary Ann Linser (via Skype from Arizona).

Certain plot lines and themes of the book were discussed, and were compared and contrasted with contemporary attitudes and current events.

At the time this book takes place, there was still a high respect for the office of the President. The political parties each supported the institution of the presidency and desired to preserve and observe the positions of power, including that of Congress and Cabinet members. With that backdrop, the reticence of some of the characters to remove the President from office seems understandable. This was before Watergate, before the publicized abuse of power by a president.

Today, there is a power play going on between the President and Congress. There is divided government, and even divisions within the political parties. The President issues more and more Executive Orders to bypass the legislative process. Differences between the political parties are deeply entrenched. Former constraints on power are being constantly challenged. Respect for the office of the President has eroded.

Another area of power that was compared and contrasted was that of women then and now. Women in the book played mostly traditional roles and had very little influence over the exercise of political power. During the discussion, this was contrasted with the growing number of female legislators, presidential candidates, and Supreme Court justices. Their influence has changed the discussion about how power is exercised.

A final observation about the book was the lack of a satisfactory conclusion to the question of how to remove a sitting president from office who is physically or mentally "incompetent." The question is even more relevant today. For instance, we've learned that President Reagan probably had Alzheimer's disease while in office. An opportunity to suggest a solution was wasted when the author chose to have President Hollenbach willingly step aside. It would have made the book more satisfying if the struggle was allowed to play itself out. At least that would have been another topic for discussion.

-Liz Lauder

It's Time to Update Your Calendars!

MARCH MEETING DATE CHANGE

Attention North Oaks, Saint Croix Valley and White Bear Lake Unit Members!

The March unit meetings will be combined into one big all-unit meeting in Mahtomedi.

LWV WBLA All-Unit Meeting:

The Role of Media in Elections

With David Orrick, Political and Government reporter for the Saint Paul Pioneer Press and author of "Who's Ready for the Primary?" featured on the front page of the Sunday Pioneer Press, January 12th.



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Monday, March 9

7:00 PM

**White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church
328 Maple Street, Mahtomedi**

For the March unit meeting, volunteers from all four units will work together to develop and present one program, allowing all members the opportunity to hear David Orrick speak.

Have you been to the MN State Capitol lately?



March 16th is “Day at the Capitol” for the MN LWV. More details about how to participate will be available in the future at www.lwvmn.org.

Here are the legislative priorities listed on the website which you can expect League Members (AKA YOU!) to address with our representatives:

- Redistricting Reform
- Restore the Vote (to those with past felony convictions who are back living in their communities).
- Legislative transparency
- Voter empowerment (funding for election cybersecurity, preventing practices that intimidate or inhibit voters from lawfully casting ballots).

Meet A New Member -

Welcome Mary Mulier!

- Born and raised in Billings, Montana, Mary Mulier ‘headed East’ to attend the University of Minnesota, receiving her Bachelors degree in Education in 1962 and embarking on a 12-year teaching career that began in Maplewood, Minnesota.
- In 1964, Mary returned to Montana where she and her first husband raised their two sons. Mary continued teaching, first in Red Lodge, then In Billings.
- In 1976 an exciting opportunity in public relations led to leadership positions in fundraising and philanthropy that shaped the rest of Mary’s professional career. Following positions at three colleges and universities (located in Billings, St. Paul and Des Moines, Iowa), Mary returned to Minneapolis in 1991 to join Bentz Whaley Flessner, consultants providing campaign fundraising advice to colleges, universities, hospitals, and other community non-profit organizations throughout the United States. Frequent business travel became part of her life-experience!
- Mary married Peter Mulier in 1997. He retired from his 30-year career with Medtronic and Mary followed suit, retiring from Bentz Whaley Flessner in 1998. Since then they have enjoyed extensive travel and time shared with children and grandchildren who live in the Twin Cities area, Washington State, Idaho and France. While at home they also take advantage of the Twin Cities’ world-class cultural organizations and community-based events.
- Before joining the League of Women Voters, Mary served on the House Corporation Board of her college sorority and remains an active alumna in supporting literacy initiatives that impact public grade schools here and across the country.
- Mary’s interest in the League of Women Voters was rekindled by an admired friend and League member. Mary looks forward to her involvement in supporting the invaluable mission of the League of Women Voters.

Keep in touch with your local league!

We've made it easy!



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.

May I Recommend?

This section of The Bear Facts is devoted to sharing suggestions of articles, books, movies, podcasts, theatrical performances (you name it) that are related to topics near and dear to the hearts of League members. If you come across one of the aforementioned and think, “Gee, I bet a lot of other League members would be interested in that,” PLEASE SHARE YOUR FIND! Simply send it to me, Lori Delahunt, at ldelahunt@comcast.net . Somewhere in the title of your email, mention “Bear Facts” so that your email does not get lost in the shuffle. I look forward to hearing about and sharing your recommendations.

Because I didn’t receive any recommendations for this issue, I am going to recommend AN ACTIVITY! One of my favorite ways to spend a morning or afternoon is with other LWV members from across the Metro, helping new citizens register to vote. If you haven’t attended a Citizenship Ceremony - or if it has been a while - consider volunteering to answer questions as new citizens fill out the necessary forms to register. Witnessing one of these ceremonies will lighten your heart. It is a blessing to be among so many grateful people.

Here are some photos from ceremonies I have attended. Details about dates, times and whom to contact are on the following page.



Citizenship Ceremony at St. Paul’s RiverCentre.



Ceremony dates are:

February 3, River Centre, Saint Paul (10:30 AM and 1:45 PM)

February 12, St. Thomas School of Law, Minneapolis (10 AM)

February 26, State Capitol Rotunda, Saint Paul (10 AM)

March 2, Providence Academy, Plymouth (10 AM)

March 9, River Centre, Saint Paul (10:30 AM and 1:45 PM)

April 9, River Centre, Saint Paul (10:30 AM and 1:45 PM)

May 4, River Centre, Saint Paul (10:30 AM and 1:45 PM)

May 6, Gold Medal Park, Minneapolis (10 AM)

Volunteers should plan to arrive one hour before the start of the ceremony. Email Judy Stuthman at jastuthman@aol.com to sign up. One does not need to be a League member to participate, so invite a friend to join you, especially one who might decide they want to take the plunge and join us as a member!

But Wait! There's More!

Here is Another Recommendation for You to Check Out!

A Local Screening of an Upcoming PBS Documentary!

Come see **Summoned: Frances Perkins and the General Welfare**

What: A New Documentary Film by Mick Caouette

Where: White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church
328 Maple Street, Mahtomedi

When: February 9 at 6:30pm

Mick Caouette's latest documentary film, **Summoned: Frances Perkins and the General Welfare** will air on PBS stations nationwide beginning in March, 2020, the 100th anniversary month of Women's Suffrage. You have a chance to see it before it hits the small screen. Frances Perkins was the first woman to serve on a Presidential Cabinet, as Labor Secretary under Franklin Roosevelt in the depth of the Depression. She was the driving force and author behind Social Security, child labor laws, a 40-hour work week and eight-hour days, workplace safety, minimum wage, and unemployment. This hour-long documentary features interviews with dignitaries, historians, and journalists who knew Frances Perkins or knew of her. Over 250 stations have opted to program this important documentary. Caouette will speak before the screening and take questions afterward.

"The door might not be opened to a woman again for a long, long time, and I had a kind of duty to other women to walk in and sit down on the chair that was offered, and so establish the right of others long hence and far distant in geography to sit in the high seats."

Frances Perkins
Secretary of Labor 1933-1945

www.francesperkinscenter.org



December 27, 2019

Margaret Westin, Treasurer

		Current	YTD
Income:	Dues	\$ 60.00	\$2760.00
	Donations	\$186.00	\$ 271.00
	Memorials	\$	\$ 25.00
	Meetings (socials)	\$	\$ 190.00
	Service	\$300.00	\$ 300.00
	In-kind donation	\$	\$
	Voters Service	\$	\$
	Calendars	\$	\$365.00
	NOHOA	\$	\$
	Bank interest	\$0.15	\$0.43
	Total:	\$546.15	\$4167.43
Expenses:	Meetings (socials)	\$	\$130.49
	LWVMN PMP	\$	\$
	LWVUS PMP	\$	\$2,248.00
	Meeting site	\$	\$350.00
	Voters Service	\$ 208.46	\$336.01
	Program (includes publicity)	\$ 86.30	\$190.18
	Bear Facts copying/printing	\$	\$
	Calendars	\$	\$267.31
	Membership (communication, recruiting & recognition)	\$	\$270.24
	Total:	\$294.76	\$3,792.23

Opening balance from December 9, 2019: \$3621.21

Income + \$ 546.15

Expenses: - \$ 294.76

Current balance: **\$3,872.67**

Ed fund CD: **\$5040.68**

2019-20 Paid Members: 54 @ \$60 10@ \$75

Total: 75 (including our 3 lifetime members)