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**LWV ABC Annual Meeting 2019**



**It's our Annual Meeting!**

**Monday, April 8, 2019; 6 PM**

**Andover Senior Center, at north end of City Hall, 1685 Crosstown Blvd**

**This won't be our usual Annual Meeting!**

Well, this has been an interesting year for LWV ABC. We have grown and have many opportunities to make changes for the good in our communities. But our ability to capitalize on these opportunities has been not been fully realized. We kept on doing the things we do well – forums, voter registration, monthly meetings – but were not able to readily meet the challenges that faced us outside these endeavors. Now is the time to stretch and achieve more!

For our League to be a strong and vocal champion of open and transparent government by and for all the people, we need strong internal organization so we are ready to raise our voices when community issues arise. To succeed in this, we need to get ourselves organized to be stronger advocates at all levels – local, regional, state and national.

At the Annual Meeting, we will join to create a new, more engaged LWV ABC. Local action, state and national lobbying, more opportunities for programs, and a more active membership await. Now is the time to dig in and make a difference in our communities! **The League of Women Voters, as a trusted and respected organization, is an excellent platform for your advocacy - come to this meeting to join with other members in this work. Mark your calendar for this important and exciting meeting. See you at the Andover Senior Center at 6pm on Monday, April 8!**

*The annual meeting agenda and materials are posted on the LWV ABC webpage at this link: [http://lwvabcmn.org/about\\_action.html](http://lwvabcmn.org/about_action.html) And an additional reminder: LWV ABC annual dues are due at this meeting. Please bring a check to cover this cost. Individual dues (one person) are \$60/year – other levels, and scholarships, are available - see story page 8)*

## **LWV ABC responds to Anoka County Board’s options for replacing the outgoing County Administrator**

Long-time Anoka County Administrator Jerry Soma is retiring, effective May 1, 2019. The County Board considered two competing resolutions at their March 26 meeting. The first initiated a low-key internal search for candidates, the second appointed current County Board Chair Rhonda Sivarajah to the post. This letter provides LWV ABC's position on this process. (No surprise - we are in favor of an open, competitive process!)

[County Commissioner Letter March 22, 2019](#)

At the March 26 Board meeting, the Board deadlocked and was not able to move forward on either resolution. On April 2, the County Board will meet in a work session to discuss options. Wes Volkenant will attend this open meeting and will report to us at LWV ABC at our April 8 meeting.

## **LWV Wisconsin wins in court – lame duck laws overturned!**

In Wisconsin this month, [a judge ruled in favor of the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin in their suit against the state legislature.](#)

During a lame-duck session last year, the Wisconsin state legislature passed a series of laws limiting the incoming governor’s power, undermining the desire of the voters. Elected officials have a duty to respect the state constitution and honor the will of the voters above their own political interests. Because of this victory, the desires of Wisconsin voters will once again be heard, and the unconstitutional bills will be dissolved. **This is an example of what LWV can accomplish!**

**Reminder for Connexus Energy Customers – now is the time to vote for Connexus Board members.** Ballots are due back to Connexus by April 10 – you can send in your paper ballot or vote online. For more information, check out the Connexus member newsletter article here:

<https://www.connexusenergy.com/blog/2019/march-member-newsletter/>

Here’s a link to a recent Letter to the Editor in the Anoka County Union Herald by LWV ABC member Kathy Tingelstad.

[https://www.hometownsource.com/abc\\_newspapers/free/letter-connexus-energy-board-needs-transparency/article\\_1d2eeca2-5247-11e9-8581-3fb896510deb.html](https://www.hometownsource.com/abc_newspapers/free/letter-connexus-energy-board-needs-transparency/article_1d2eeca2-5247-11e9-8581-3fb896510deb.html)



## Recap of Our Program on Monday, March 11: Recycling in Anoka County

This excellent program with **Maggie Yauk, Planning and Policy Specialist with Anoka County’s Recycling & Resource Solutions** and **Colleen Sinclair, Recycling Coordinator for City of Coon Rapids** is now available for viewing on the QCTV LWV ABC channel.



*Our presenters, Maggie Yauk of Anoka County (left) and Colleen Sinclair, City of Coon Rapids (center) were presented with LWV ABC coffee mugs from our program moderator, Sue Butler (right).*

We had a good turnout and a lot of interest in the information presented by Maggie Yauk, Planning and Policy Specialist with Anoka County’s Recycling & Resource Solutions and Colleen Sinclair, Recycling Coordinator for City of Coon Rapids. They covered current issues with recycling, how cities and the county work together, funding, composting and more.

Missed the program? Watch the video at this link <http://reflect-qctv.cablecast.tv/vod/9151-League-of-Women-Voters-Recycling-in-Anoka-Count-High-v1.mp4> .

**Wait, what? There’s an LWV ABC Channel on QCTV?** Yep, that’s right – check it out. All the programs we’ve done with QCTV are there – it’s a great archive. Go to [QCTV.org](http://QCTV.org) and use the drop-down for QCTV Programs to access League of Women Voters videos.



**LWV MN Day at the Capitol and Open House – March 6**

Well, you missed it. This was a great event. LWV staff prepared packets for each attendee with information to be used in meeting with their legislators. About 45 people attended a well-run (and well-fed) briefing session before fanning out over the Capitol to track down their legislators and share their views.

Here’s an article from the LWV St Cloud “League Lines” about the five members they sent and their adventures. We could ride the Northstar and Green Line to the Capitol next year!

**LWVMN Day at the Capitol a Success**

Five St. Cloud League members traveled via the Northstar and Metro Green Line to the State Capitol on March 6 for this event. The day began with an Advocacy Tips and Legislative Priorities presentation. The remainder of the morning was spent visiting with legislators from District 14--Rep. Tama Theis, Rep. Dan Wolgamott and Sen. Jerry Relph. Bills covered included Restore the Vote (HF40/SF1191), Redistricting (HF1605) and the Census (HF1644/SF2002). Wolgamott and Theis were thanked for authoring the Northstar Expansion Bill (HF1179). The afternoon was spent attending a rally sponsored by All Aboard MN which included the Northstar, going to a House hearing on Restore the Vote, touring the Capitol and attending the Open House at the new LWVMN Office. It was a great day of advocacy, action and education!



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**And did you know that LWV MN puts out a regular “Capitol Letter” updating members on what’s happening at the Capitol on our issues? Check it out here:**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XIW0W9YuvENr-tSiuvFb5k8XOtqv8ZiX/view>

**Water Action Day**

*April 10, 2019 – State Capitol, Senate Office Building, State Office Building and environs*

Minnesota's 2019 Water Action Day has been set for April 10. Last year, more than 700 people came to the State Capitol for Water Action Day. These citizen lobbyists took the message of water protection to their legislators through 145 legislative meetings, touching about 70% of the legislature.



This year’s all-day event includes free breakfast and briefings in the morning, both on how to actively engage legislators and on the water issues that we face in Minnesota. Throughout the day, attendees will meet with legislators to urge them to protect our water, and the Clean Water Rally will be held in the Capitol Rotunda at 2:00 pm. **Register now [at this link](#) - make your voice heard!**

## State Convention of League of Women Voters Minnesota

**April 26-28**

**St. Paul Hotel, St. Paul, Minnesota**

Join in the Centennial celebration for League of Women Voters at this every-other-year State Convention event. Training, plenary sessions, keynote speaker, and meet-ups with fellow LWV members from across the state. The \$225 registration fee includes breakfast and lunch on Saturday and Sunday. And – our local LWV ABC has budgeted to pay registration fees for several members. Let President Gretchen Sabel know if you're interested in attending – email us at [lwwabc@gmail.com](mailto:lwwabc@gmail.com). **Yes, we'll repeat that - We have budgeted funds for six paid attendees! Let Gretchen Sabel know if you can attend by emailing [lwwabcmn@gmail.com](mailto:lwwabcmn@gmail.com) !**

LWV St. Paul is hosting an evening reception from 5-7:00pm at the Landmark Center, kicking off both the centennial traveling exhibit's stay at Landmark Center and LWV Minnesota's 2019 Convention. The convention will be held on Saturday and Sunday, April 27-28 at the Saint Paul Hotel. Below is an overview of the event. Registration is now open, and closes on April 15. Read all about this very special event at: <https://lwwmn.org/news-events/convention-2019>.

**We will set up carpools to St. Paul for all events so don't worry about driving, parking, etc.** Our League will have six voting delegates. Additional members may attend as observers, or may be credentialed into open spots from Leagues that don't fill out their delegate numbers. LWV MN is a dynamic and exciting organization – this is a great way to learn more and get involved!

### Friday, April 26 -- optional FREE events!

- Afternoon Suffrage Tours by MNHS at the State Capitol
- Evening Opening Reception hosted by LWV St. Paul at Landmark Center to kick-off our Traveling Exhibit

### Saturday, April 27 -- 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

- Registration/check-in will open at 8:00 am
- Opening session starts at 9:00 am with our **keynote speaker, Virginia Case, CEO, LWVUS**
- The day will include training and plenary sessions
- The plenary sessions will cover rules, by-law amendments, Nominating Committee report, proposed Program for Action, financial report, presentation of the budget, and presentation of the strategic plan priorities
- Breakfast and lunch will be served

### Sunday, April 28 -- 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

- Sunday will kick-off with an orientation to our Centennial toolkit and a presentation from the Minnesota History Center about their 2020 exhibit
- Final plenary, with debate and decisions on Program for Action and the budget

## **Drafts and Discourse**

### **Tentatively Scheduled for April 29, 7pm**

*Torg Brewing, 8421 University Avenue, Spring Lake Park*

Drafts and Discourse is usually on the third Monday of the month. We took March off, and are trying to restructure this event in a way that attracts more people. To that end, we have invited Commissioner Mandy Meisner to be our guest speaker, and moved it back to April 29 to give more time to get all the parts of the meeting together. As of March 31, we have not heard back from Commissioner Meisner. We will provide updates on this as information becomes available.

Why do we keep trying to do this? Other Leagues have found that an informal meeting in a relaxed setting is a good way to reach out to people who wouldn't usually attend an LWV meeting. This is a good way to broaden our understanding of community issues and opinions – to get out of the echo chamber by meeting new people outside our usual circles and talking about things that matter.

LWV Minneapolis has a very successful series called Civic Buzz, where they meet in most months at the Black Forest Inn and talk about issues of interest to community members. Here's a link to their info page on that, FYI: <https://lwvmpls.org/reversing-the-legacy-of-racial-inequity/>

## **Highlights of LWV ABC Board Meeting, March 25, 2019**

We studied the proposed budget for the year starting April 1, 2019 and discussed some changes we might want to make. We decided to go ahead with printing up a booklet to accompany our 100th anniversary display at the Anoka History Center. We also discussed doing a local study of our position on state education policies, to see if our position is out of date, and how it needs to be changed. The budget was approved.

The League State Convention will be held in St. Paul at the end of April. We feel that, since it is right here in St. Paul this year, many of our members might want to attend. The Board agreed to make reimbursement available for the cost of attending for six members.

For our Annual Meeting on Monday, April 8th, we decided to have a pot luck supper provided by the Board members. The annual meeting is when we confirm officers, appoint committee chairs, get reports of our activities of the past year, and make plans for the upcoming year. We will have a flip chart of all our committees, with the opportunity for members to indicate their interests in post-it notes.

We also discussed setting up a Local Action Committee, which would monitor the activities of all three levels of League - National, State, and Local - and pass along to our local league what issues the National and State leagues are working on so that we could decide to participate or not.

**LWV Celebration of the 100ths Anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment**  
**Be part of the LWVMN Centennial - watch this two minute video!**

Mark your calendars, the LWV Minnesota Centennial is right around the corner! A five-part Centennial series has been planned that will celebrate and commemorate the ratification of the 19th Amendment and recognize the important people who helped form LWV Minnesota. It will also spotlight the 100-year legacy of our local Leagues and all they have done over the past century to empower voters and defend democracy.



Click on [https://youtu.be/a1bQtrd\\_yX0](https://youtu.be/a1bQtrd_yX0) to watch a two-minute video that will walk you through the five-part series celebrating 100 years of women's right to vote.

**LWV ABC at the Anoka County History Center**

Our year-long exhibit at the Anoka County History Center received some special attention at the Annual Meeting of the Anoka County Historical Society on March 24. League member, Sandra Connor, presented information about LWV ABC and exhibit development.

Check out the people, events, and actions in the LWV exhibit! Admission to the Anoka County History Center is **free**. Hours are Tuesday: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Wed–Fri: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m, Saturday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday & Monday: Closed



*Other LWV ABC members were on hand for the Annual Meeting and Sandra's presentation. In the group photo with Sandra (left) are Wes Volkenant, Kathy Aanerud, and Luanne Koskinen (right). Middle photo: Sandra makes an informative and inviting presentation about LWV and its history. Right-hand photo: Wes Volkenant agrees to pose beside one of the several panels in the exhibit that describe the activities of LWV.*

**Want to read an interesting history of LWV and LWV ABC?** Check out this article that appeared in the January/February issue of Anoka County Historical Society's newsletter (pages 8-9):  
<http://content.delivra.com/etapcontent//AnokaCountyHistoricalSociety/1-Jan-Feb-Newsletter/JanFeb2019.pdf>



**LWV ABC Membership Dues**  
**Dues for 2019 are due at the Annual Meeting on April 8.**

**Did you know?** Dues payments to LWV ABC cover the cost of local, state and national LWV membership, and provide only part of what LWV spends on programs and advocacy. Additional donations help with scholarships, program needs and operating costs.

You can bring a check to the meeting, or pay online through our website. If we don't get your payment in April, we will send a friendly reminder in May.

*If you are in need, scholarships are available to help defray dues expense. No one will be excluded from LWV ABC because they cannot make the annual dues payment. Please talk to an LWV ABC Board Member if you wish to explore this option*

**We offer several dues levels:**

<b>Dues</b>	Life member (more than 50 years with LWV) – dues paid (free!)
	Individual dues (one person) - \$60
	Household (up to three persons, same address) - \$90
	Student (current full-time student) - \$30

**Additional donations to support LWV dues scholarships and other local program needs are very welcome; please consider “rounding up” your dues payment. THANK YOU!**

From LWV US:

**LWV Applauds House of Representatives for Passing the *For the People Act*, Urges Senate Leaders to Vote on this Essential Bill**

WASHINGTON DC 2/8/19 - Today, the U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed the For the People Act (H.R. 1), the sweeping democracy reform bill that will make our elections fairer and put power back in the hands of the American voters. “This landmark legislation is the biggest improvement to our democracy since the Voting Rights Act,” said Chris Carson, president of the national board of the League of Women Voters. “From election modernization to redistricting reform, the For the People Act levels the playing field to allow more Americans to participate in our democracy.”

The League was proud to help shape the bill’s language, making sure same day voter registration and small donor, public matching funds were prioritized in the legislation. The bill now moves to the Senate for consideration. “The League works tirelessly to make sure that every eligible voter has their voice heard in every election, and that is why we were proud to take an active role in crafting and advocating for this bill,” said Virginia Kase, CEO of the League of Women Voters. “A healthy democracy is one in which everyone has their voice heard. All elected officials should support legislation that works for the American people, and we will do what we can to move this bill forward in the Senate.”

The League worked closely with our partner organizations in the Declaration for American Democracy coalition to build support for the For the People Act. We will continue to promote this momentous legislation and look forward to the day it becomes law. The extraordinary and comprehensive reforms in the For the People Act are good for all Americans and deserve bipartisan support. [Help us build momentum to move this bold legislation forward. Contact your Senators today!](#)



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®  
ANOKA, BLAINE, COON RAPIDS AREA

# THE VOTER

April 2019

## Save the Dates:

Monday, April 8 - **LWV ABC Annual Meeting**. Meet at 6pm for light supper, meeting to follow. Andover Senior Center, 1685 Crosstown Blvd, Andover. All are welcome!

Wednesday, April 10 - **Minnesota Water Action Day**, State Capitol

Monday, April 22, 11am - **LWV ABC Board meeting** at Davanni's in Coon Rapids (Hwy 10 frontage road just south of Round Lake Blvd exit). Order food at 11, meeting commences at 11:30.

Friday-Sunday, April 26-28 – **LWV MN State Convention**, St. Paul.

Monday, April 29 (Tentative) – **Drafts and Discourse** at Torg Brewery in Spring Lake Park, 7-8pm; 8421 University Ave NE, Spring Lake Park (just south of Northtown on the same frontage road as Key's Café).

Monday, May 12. **LWV ABC Meeting – LWV 101 and Launch** - Meet at 6pm for light supper, meeting to follow. Andover Senior Center, 1685 Crosstown Blvd, Andover. All are welcome!

Monday, May 28, 11am – **LWV ABC Board meeting** at Davanni's in Coon Rapids (Hwy 10 frontage road just south of Round Lake Blvd exit). Order food at 11, meeting commences at 11:30. This is a good opportunity to learn more about what LWV ABC is up to!

## **Do you have Information to share with LWV ABC?**

### **Four ways to stay in touch with LWV ABC**

**Visit our public website:** [www.lwvabcmn.org](http://www.lwvabcmn.org). If you need a refresher on accessing the Members Only section of the website, send an email to [lwvabc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvabc@gmail.com). We will reply with the link for you to bookmark.

**We're on Facebook:** Just search for "LWV ABC Facebook".

**Our monthly newsletter, *The Voter*:** Members and other interested persons receive our newsletter by email in the early part of each month. Issues are also available on our LWV ABC website, [www.lwvabcmn.org](http://www.lwvabcmn.org).