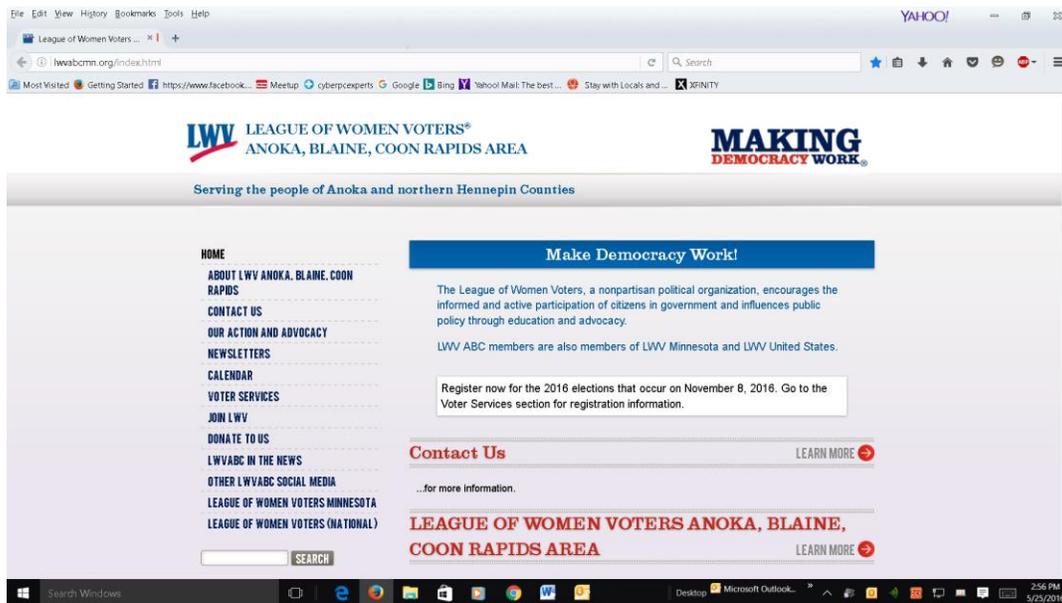




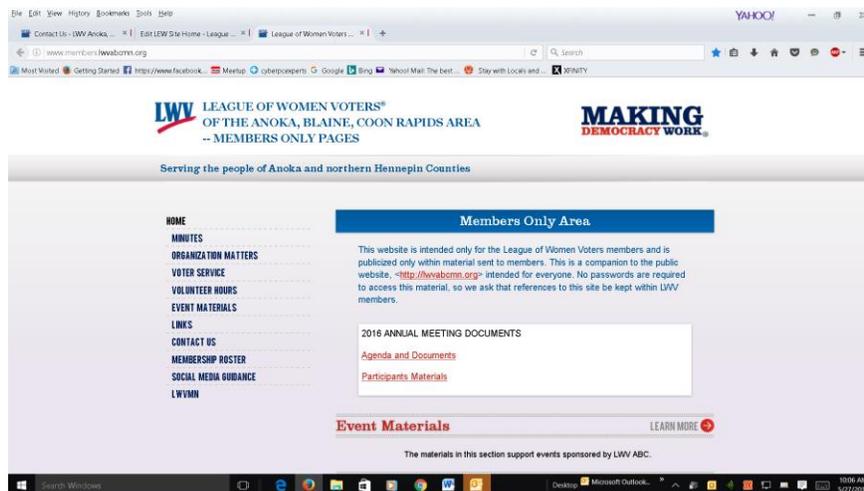
THE VOTER

May 30, 2016

We have a functioning public website! The URL is <<http://www.lwvabcmn.org>> LWV ABC uses a web product developed by the League of Women Voters of California, which it licenses to other leagues. Kathy Aanerud, Jeorgette Knoll and Bruce Pomerantz determined the initial layout and what to include as content. Send suggestions and submit material to LWVABC@lwvmn.org with "Attention: Newsletter" in the subject line.



Certain materials and information of interest only to members are available at a private website.



League members will receive an email that provides instructions to access this site. The members only website includes materials such as procedures for being a forum or candidate moderator, signage templates, and board minutes.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ON JUNE 13.



Kathy Tomsich, LWV MN Action Committee co-chair, will speak at the June 13 membership meeting on LWV MN's legislative priorities, progress made on these issues at the legislative session that just concluded, and how local LWV members can participate in the legislative process. The meeting begins at 6:00 p.m. with a light supper; the presentation begins at 6:30 p.m. We meet at the Andover Senior Center, 1645 Crosstown Blvd., Andover.

Action Committee members monitor and help shape issues as diverse as voting and elections, health care, transportation, environment, energy and education.

BRIEF NOTES FROM THE MAY 9 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Todd Haas Todd, Andover Public Works assistant director and Lower Rum River Water Management Organization (WMO) chair, explained the purpose of the 16 Minnesota watershed organizations in the seven-county Metro area and issues related particularly with the Rum River watershed. The Lower Rum River WMO's current strategic plan was created in 2011. The members have begun work on a new five-year plan. The WMO functions under a joint powers agreement and works in an advisory capacity. Gretchen Sabel, Anoka Water Resources Task Force chair and Upper Mississippi River Region Inter-League Organization president, updated the audience on other local water issues. QCTV Community Television videoed the presentation and makes it available at [here](#).



Todd Haas receives a Thank You LWV mug, from Gretchen Sabel, right, LWV member involved with water resources, and Jeorgette Knoll, LWV ABC president.

Record Numbers of Voters Registered this Spring
By Geri Nelson, Voter Service Co-chair



Gretchen Sabel, left, and Carol Bradley, right, register Andover High School students for the upcoming 2016 election.

The LWV ABC Voter Registration crews have visited ten schools and registered a 651 students—a record for our League. Thanks to all 19 members and friends who participated in the drive! The big difference came in the two schools who welcomed us into all-senior homerooms. At Blaine High School, Jane and Gary Dunn worked with three current social studies teachers to hit all 20+ homerooms. Jane, a former BHS social studies teacher, is not an LWV member but attended our registration training. JoEllen Ambrose, Pat Hagerty, Lisa Steinberg and Geri Nelson worked with five student volunteers at Champlin Park High School to reach all 22 Advisement rooms in 45 minutes, registering 130 students. A few Blaine and Champlin Park students registered during their respective lunch periods.

Other volunteers registered students during lunch periods, as we have typically done in the past. Totino Grace, Fridley and St. Francis were very busy, registering from 51 to 63 students. Spring Lake Park High School arranged for student registration at the conclusion of a senior student graduation rehearsal. Others efforts, perhaps not well advertised, had less interest, but the students members talked with were enthusiastic.

We learned how important it is to make the extra effort to get into senior classrooms or homerooms, especially with student and/or teacher volunteers to encourage participation. There was quite a reaction when I told the other local League Voter Service Chairs our numbers!

We have also distributed at least six Senior Housing Registration Kits. If you have kits, please let Geri know when you have delivered them and how it went. The staff has been very receptive to getting the kits and will use them when people move in. We have not yet gotten into buildings to register residents already living there. If people change their address at the post office, their registration is automatically transferred, so they may be covered.

Arlene Gillett is contacting all the high schools to encourage them to participate in the Mock Presidential Election in the fall. We may be called on to help run the election at the schools. What fun!

OUR MEMBERS ACTIVE IN OTHER CAPACITIES



Congratulations to LWV ABC member Geri Nelson and her husband Darby Nelson on receiving the 34th Distinguished Minnesotan Award from Bemidji State University. The award acknowledges the contributions of current or former state residents who have performed exemplary services to the People of Minnesota or the United States. As is tradition for the recipients of this award, the Nelsons delivered Bemidji State's commencement address on May 6.

In March 2015, the Nelsons created Bemidji State University's Helping Hands (*Naadamaageng*) Student Assistance Fund for American Indian students. The fund provides cash awards to help native students overcome an immediate financial obstacle that might otherwise thwart their academic progress. The Nelsons have made many other philanthropic contributions to the state in the interest of environmental education and protection, education, and advancing the future of League of Women Voters. They're also active community leaders and volunteers.

Darby Nelson, who taught Biology at Anoka Ramsey Community College for 35 years, has received multiple statewide teaching awards including Post-Secondary Science Teacher of the Year, awarded by the Minnesota Academy of Science and the Minnesota Science Teachers' Association, and authored *For Love of Lakes*. He served three terms in the Minnesota House of Representatives.

Geri Nelson taught physical and research science for 25 years, mostly at Champlin Park High School. She is a former Minnesota Academy of Science State Fair director and, endearing to us, she's a LWV ABC, past president and is our current Voter Services co-chair, and a past Voter Services chair at LWV Minnesota.



Kay McCulley, LWV ABC Treasurer, and her husband Roger attended Jimmy Carter's Sunday School on May 16 in Plains, Georgia. Kay reports, "We were lucky enough to be part of Jimmy Carter's Sunday School class...along with about 350 of his other 'closest' friends this last Sunday. Sunday School was at 10 a.m. If you wanted your picture taken, you had to stay for 11:00 a.m. church, so church was well attended that day! Surprisingly he is scheduled to teach for three Sunday's a month for several months. For someone who is 91 and recently treated with a malignant brain tumor, he had an amazing strong voice and his memory and conversation without notes put me to shame."