



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

ANOKA, BLAINE, COON RAPIDS ARE

THE VOTER
SEPTEMBER 2016

**Voter Services Needed at
Citizenship Ceremony**

More than 1,000 people are expected to participate in the citizenship ceremony on October 3 at 10 a.m. at River Centre, 175 175 W Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul.

LWV members are needed to circulate through the crowd distributing and collecting voter registration forms and answering questions.

Volunteer for the October 3rd ceremony and future citizenship events by contacting Judy Stuthman, of LWV Roseville at

jastuthman@aol.com.



September Kick-Off Meeting: Immigration and Citizenship



Corleen Smith, director of immigration services at the International Institute of Minnesota explained the services that the [International Institute of Minnesota](#) provides to refugees settling in Minnesota.

She began by distinguishing between refugees, as defined by the United Nations, and immigrants. Refugees applying for entrance to the United States may reside in a refugee camp up to 15 years during the process. The President determines number of refugees who enter the country. In 2015 it was 70,000; in 2016, 85,000.

The International Institute of Minnesota begins assistance with welcoming the refugees when they arrive at the airport. The agency continues a cultural orientation begun in the refugee camps, assists in housing and furnishings, enrolls children in school, provides information about English as a second language classes, and offers job counseling, and guides people in the citizenship process. The Institute assisted 465 refugees in 2015.

Refugees automatically may work and are eligible for government assistance, unlike immigrants.

More information about the services of IIM and how you can become a volunteer for the organization can be found on their website. [International](#)

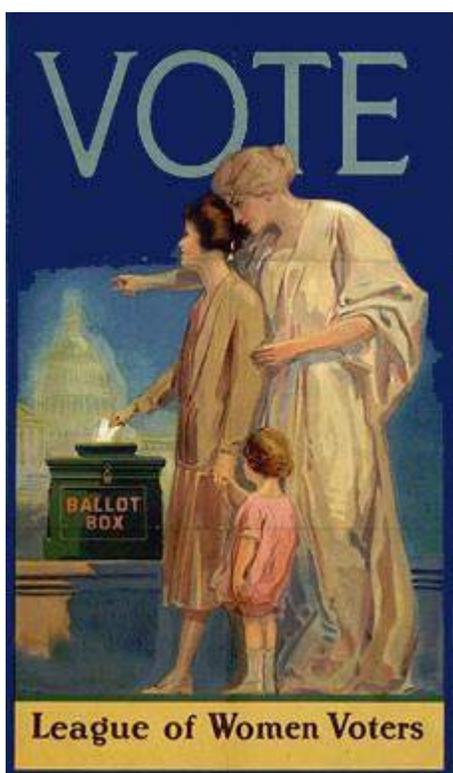
[Institute of Minnesota.](#)

Member JoEllen Ambrose prepared a 'jeopardy' game of citizenship test answers and in small groups, LWV ABC members like 'jeopardy' contestants undertook coming up with some of the citizenship questions. JoEllen, a retired teacher has done much work in the area of citizenship and civics curriculum and her 'jeopardy' game will be showing up as a teaching tool in classrooms across the area.

A silent auction added \$190 to LWVABC's treasury.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

LWV ABC has 46 total members as of September.



FRIEND OF LEAGUE AWARD

Andover Mayor Julie Trude, accepted the LWV ABC Friend of League Award from Jeorgette Knoll at the September member meeting.

The city provides the monthly

Thank you to LWV Butte for the
picture

meeting room and use of its council
chambers for free. It was also active
in promoting gardening practices
friendly to pollinators.

CANDIDATES FORUMS REPORT

Geri Nelson, LWV ABC Voter Services chair, reported at the September board meeting about the general election forums held to date.

The Anoka County Commissioners forum on September 19; House Districts 36B and 37A and Senate 37 forum on September 21; and the Champlin City and State House and Senate forum on September 22 each attracted about 50 people.

All forums that are broadcast by local community cable television stations are available on line at a [LWV ABC webpage](#).

The forums are listed on the LWV ABC website by [elected position](#) and by [date](#).

* Remember to record your volunteer hours if you worked at a form.

Engaging Students

I have been so impressed with the way the Anoka Ramsey Student Senators engaged high school students at both CRHS and Regional HS. Where us League members would get students one by one, the Senators had clumps of students talking

Admittedly they got more pledge cards than registrations but they also were asked more questions about the political process. Notably the comment "legislators don't listen to us and don't care about us." Becca and Jon from ARCC were very active in responding to that with examples of how they worked with local legislators It

would be interesting to ask candidates how they reach out to millennials and listen to their concerns.

Kathie Welchel

You and your LWV members are invited
To learn the Watershed Game
In Galena, Illinois
October 24



Hello, I'm Lonni McCauley, and I serve as the co-chair of the Action Committee of the LWV-Upper Mississippi River Region Interleague Organization (UMRR ILO), and one of the representatives from Minnesota. I'm writing you because you are listed as your LWV's contact for the ILO. I would like you to pass this invitation along to your membership and hope that some of you are interested in learning how to teach this very innovative game on prioritizing water resources.

This active, hands-on game developed by the University of Minnesota Extension helps groups learn how land use impacts water quality and natural resources. While making management choices about land use during the game, participants learn about practices, plans, and policies that improve and protect the quality of a stream, lake or river.

This game was introduced at our ILO's first meeting on October 24, 2015, when we approved our

organization and elected our new board.

There are a couple of versions of the game. The version of the game for local leaders is effective with elected and appointed officials, community leaders, and members of watershed organizations and lake associations who develop plans, apply practices or adopt policies to protect and improve water resources. There is also a classroom version of the game for teachers and students, an adaption of the stream version of The Watershed Game for Local Leaders. Both versions of the game require a trained facilitator.

This is where your local LWV comes in. We hope that one or more of your members will be trained as a Watershed Game facilitator willing to promote the use of the Watershed Game in your communities and schools. We have arranged for a daylong facilitator training on Monday, October 24 in Galena, IL, a community just across the Mississippi from Dubuque.

The cost of the training for will be just \$20.00 per person, the cost of the breakfast and lunch. The other expenses are being covered by the membership dues paid by our local member LWVs and contributions from LWV-Jo Daviess County. This is a great opportunity to develop a skill in your League that can help with community outreach and education.

Do you have any questions so far? Do you think your LWV will be able to send a member to the training?

We also want you to know about our collaboration with Rotary chapters in our four-state region. We are matching up local LWVs with Rotary chapters and encouraging those partnerships to engage their communities in identifying the particular challenges and problems in their watersheds. We have developed a two meeting program for these partnerships. The first meeting will be for the purpose of sharing information on the problem of nutrient pollution, the current action focus for the LWV-UMRR ILO:

- A. The history and extent of the problem
- B. How we in the Upper Mississippi River Watershed contribute to the problem
- C. How we all could contribute to the solutions

The second of two meetings/programs for our joint membership will be to engage our members in playing the Watershed Game to learn how “best management practices” can mitigate nutrient pollution as well as address other issues in the watershed or sub watershed. This is why we want to have trained as many LWV members as possible to be Watershed Game facilitators.

We will encourage each Rotary/LWV Partnership to bring the “two meeting program” (the documentary/power point presentation and the Watershed Game) to other community groups (classrooms, other civic groups, city councils, county boards, resort core boards, township boards,

etc.)

Our hope is that we will be able to identify stakeholders and concerned citizens willing and able to engage in local water resource management planning and/or watershed planning in communities across the Upper Mississippi River Region.

The Rotary/LWV Partnerships can act as a referral source or clearinghouse for information on possible models, structures, or formats for the local water resource management planning or watershed plans. The Rotary/LWV Partnerships can also provide referrals to specialists or experts who may be able to aid the water resource planning processes or watershed plans.

We also hope the Rotary Chapters and LWVs in the Upper Mississippi River Watershed will sponsor a joint conference every year to further educate one another, encourage continued and expanded collaboration on a regional and interstate basis, and to assess the results of our actions to reduce nutrient pollution and address other water issues in our communities.

The first of these conferences will be in Galena on January 11th, 2017. Information and registration materials for this conference will be available to our local LWVs in October.