



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

ANOKA, BLAINE, COON RAPIDS AREA

THE VOTER

July 2017

Minnesota Health Care and Affordability Program



The monthly program meeting on July 10 features State Senators Jim Abeler, District 35-R, and Carolyn Laine, District 41-D. They will discuss the potential for legislative action on Minnesota health care and medical affordability to Minnesota residents. The event begins at 6 p.m. with a light dinner at the Andover City Hall's Senior Center, 1685 Crosstown Boulevard NW, Andover. The program begins at 6:30 p.m.

Among Senator Abeler's senate committee appointments are [Aging and Long-Term Care Policy](#) and [Health and Human Services Finance and Policy](#), which he chairs. Senator Laine is the Assistant Minority Leader. When she was a member of the State House of Representatives, she introduced a companion bill that proposed state-sponsored universal health care.

The Aging and Long-Term Care Policy Committee has jurisdiction over over all bills relating to long-term care, consequently potentially affects the lives of the Minnesota's elderly population. The Health and Human Services Policy committee has jurisdiction over all bills relating to health care and human services.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LWV ABC BOARD JUNE 26 MEETING

The Board made final revisions to and approved a strategic plan to be presented to LWV ABC members for approval at the September 11, 2017 kickoff monthly meeting. LWV ABC members will receive the strategic plan in advance of the meeting. At the meeting, they will have an opportunity to ask questions and propose changes. After the strategic plan is approved, the Board will create benchmarks to achieve to accomplish the objectives in the plan.

The Board approved online membership and donation payments on the LWV ABC public [website](#) via PayPal. The PayPal function will be operational within three weeks.

Board meetings are open to all members. If you wish to place a topic on the agenda, contact Jeorgette Knoll, president, at least two weeks in advance.

HELP PUBLICIZE LWV EVENTS VIA ONLINE “NEXTDOOR”

[Nextdoor](#) is a free online social network website where people post notices that are available to neighbors who also subscribe to the service. LWV ABC would like volunteers to post about League of Women Voters activities in their neighborhood. Contact Kathy Aanerudd, communications chair, at aanerud4@comcast.net or phone 763-434-3809.

CAPITOL TOUR OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

On June 22, eleven LWV ABC members received a guided tour of offices and agencies useful to the public involved in the legislative process. Ken Pentel, a former Green Party of Minnesota chair and gubernatorial candidate who has established the [DemocracyEcologyNetwork](#), served as tour guide. Mr. Pentel titles his tours, “An Activist’s Tour of the Minnesota State Capitol and other Legislative Offices.” This non-partisan tour focused on those offices and services that people need to effectively advocate at the Minnesota Legislature

The group learned about the services the public could use for research and writing proposed laws and various methods of meeting with legislators. They also learned the process of reserving rooms for meetings and press conferences. Additionally, they visited Legislative Reference Library and the area in the Capitol where the different news organization offices are located.

LWV ABC members who participated in the tour (shown below, left-right) were: Darby Nelson, Becky Ahlstrom, Kathleen Sekhon, Sara Berg-McConville, Karen Varian, Bruce Pomerantz, Geri Nelson, Jeorgette Knoll, Ken Pentel, Jane Arndt, Roger Arndt, and Gretchen Sabel (behind the camera). This photo was taken in the Senate Office Building, with the State Capitol across University Avenue in the background.



Here we were introduced to the services offered in the House Information Office and signed up to receive weekly update emails.



Ken Pentel (in red shirt) giving the group tips about working with the Capitol Press Corps while standing in the press offices in the Capitol basement.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, July 13 - Minnesota's Clean Energy Solutions to Climate Change

Climate and energy expert J. Drake Hamilton, Science Policy Director at the Minnesota-based nonprofit Fresh Energy, will speak at 7 p.m. at the Faith Lutheran Church, 11115 Hanson Boulevard NW, Coon Rapids, on Minnesota's success in growing family-supporting jobs in the solar, wind, and energy efficiency fields, bringing economic development across the state. She will also discuss the next steps for action. Co-sponsored by Faith Lutheran Church and [Anoka Area Climate Action](#).

Saturday, July 22 - Andover Pollinator Garden Tour

Many good things are continuing to happen for pollinators in the Andover area following partnerships that were launched subsequent establishment of the Andover Pollinator Awareness Project (APAP).

One of APAP's most popular activities is an annual self-guided tour around Andover to view pollinator-friendly gardens and landscape that will occur this year on July 22. Features include a beautiful shade garden, acreages that include fruit trees, a garden with bug management by none other than chickens, prairie landscaping with native plants, and a low maintenance pond buffer with wild flowers and prairie grasses.

Our own Gretchen Sabel's home will be on the tour this year where you will see how managing a two-acre lot can be simplified, beautiful, and kept as a habitat for pollinators.

Tour hours are 9:00 to 3:00 pm. A tour map will be available after July 1 at City of Andover's website and at Andover City Hall during weekday business hours.

Monday, August 14 - LWV ABC FUND-RAISER

Will Rogers (portrayed by Mel Aanerud) will entertain members and the public at our evening fundraiser at the First Congregational Church, 1923 3rd Avenue (corner of Main and Third), Anoka.

Tuesday, August 29 - 25 by 25 Community Water Conversation

7-9 pm in the Legacy Room at Anoka Ramsey Community College

As part of Governor Dayton's Water initiative, community groups have been asked to hold Community Water Conversations around the State. LWV Upper Mississippi River Region, in conjunction with LWV ABC, Anoka Ramsey Community College, the Anoka Conservation District and others. Help is needed in this event, especially in helping with sign-ins and small group facilitation. If you are interested in helping, please email Lonni McCauley at lonni.mccauley@comcast.net. Of course, all are welcome to come and participate!

Saturday, October 21 - League of Women Voters Roseville Area and Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues of Women Voters (CMAL) co-sponsor a public forum on affordable housing in the metropolitan area on 10:30 a.m.- noon, Saturday, October 21, at Centennial Methodist Church, 1524 W. County Road C-2 (corner C-2 and Snelling Avenue), Refreshments provided at 10:00 a.m.

Panelists are: Chip Halbach, Minnesota Housing Partnership executive Director; Cathy Bennett, Urban Land Institute Housing Initiative chair; Gail Dorfman, St. Stephens Human Services Executive Director and Metropolitan Council member

This event is free and open to the public. Ample parking available.

Staying in Touch with LWV ABC

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

We're on Facebook: Search for "LWV ABC Facebook" or [access it with this link](#).

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 the [LWV ABC website](#).

Have information to share with LWV ABC?

Email your information to lwvabc@gmail.com for inclusion in one or more of the above communications.