



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

ANOKA, BLAINE, COON RAPIDS AREA

THE VOTER

MAY - JUNE 2017

June Program Features Heather Holm



Heather Holm, horticulturist, biologist, and writer will speak about her newest book at the June 12 LWV ABC monthly program at Andover City Hall's Senior Center, 1685 Crosstown Boulevard NW, Andover.

Ms. Holm is an expert on native bees and the native plants that support them. In her most recent research project, she assisted University of Minnesota Extension faculty in a two-year study to determine the types of native bees present in cultivated blueberry farms in Minnesota and Wisconsin. She has written two books, Her latest, *Bees: An Identification and Native Plant Forage Guide*, has won four book awards

This program continues LWV ABC's advocacy and partnership efforts for pollinator protection. Ms. Holm's first book, *Pollinators of Native Plants*, provided an extensive base of knowledge for organizing and launching those efforts.

All are invited for light supper at 6:00 pm; announcements and the program start at 6:30 pm.

May 8 Program Notes



There was a large turnout of members and visitors on May 8 to hear an informative and insightful program presented by Transformative Circle of Coon Rapids. This organization was formed by a diverse group of people in Coon Rapids coming together to foster greater understanding and appreciation for community, cultural differences, and customs. Their facilitator, Lori Anderson, assembled a panel of immigrants to share their

experiences with program attendees. Ethnic groups and countries represented were Hmong, Liberia, Yemen, and Mexico. The panelists were very generous in sharing their personal stories and responding openly to questions from attendees. The facilitator concluded the evening's program with suggestions for expanding cultural sensitivity and book titles to check out.

Arlene Gillett Honored With Zilla Way Award

The *Zilla Way Award* was created by the LWV ABC board in 1996 to honor a local League member who has outstanding leadership in guiding our organization. It was named after Ms. Zilla Way to honor her more than 50-year participation in League and her role as LWV ABC mentor and advisor. It is presented each year at our annual meeting.

Kathie Whelchel, left, presents to **Arlene Gillett**, a watercolor painting listing her accomplishments.

The words incorporated in the painting:

- Brings order to our Board Meeting reports
- Organizes Voter Service Outreach to high schools
- Prepares well as moderator and puts participants at ease
- Brings thoughtfulness to problem solving
- Maintains a neutral approach to issues
- Knowledgeable on a wide range of topics – well read – well informed
- Gracious and kind to all – Arlene furthers the work of League of Women Voters ABC.



The painting was created by artist Mary Jo Truchon, an LWV ABC member.

Welcome New Members

LWV ABC now has 72 members! Membership is open to everyone over the age of 16. Our newest members are:

Sandra Connor, Blaine
Naomi Peterson, Coon Rapids

LWV ABC BOARD MAY 22 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- The Board discussed the need for an orientation for new members who will be asked to volunteer for the Observer Corps. Corps members attend local government meetings and report back to all members regarding the meetings. They are particularly interested in actions related to LWV positions.
- The effort for provisional balloting failed this legislative session. However LWV Minnesota anticipates the Republican legislators will attempt to pass legislation at the next legislative session. League is preparing information to educate members and the public regarding the issue. Watch for more information in the fall of 2017.
- LWV ABC will sponsor a candidate's forum in October for the Anoka Hennepin school board. We will also check to see which other school districts in the LWV ABC area will be having school board elections in the fall.

All minutes that have been approved are available at the LWV ABC members-only website.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the dates for these upcoming activities

- Thursday, June 22: A daytime group tour of the renovated state Capitol. Contact Gretchen Sabel at gpsabel@yahoo.com.
- Monday, July 10 - LWV ABC member and State Senator Jim Abeler and State Senator John Marty will discuss health care at our monthly evening program meeting.

Before the meeting you may want to check out what the LWV US is doing regarding health care:

League Sends Memo to U.S. Senate Regarding Healthcare ★

The League [sent a memo](#) to members of the U.S. Senate regarding essential elements that need to be provided for any forthcoming legislation on healthcare. The League maintains that any legislation to replace the Affordable Care Act must include elements to cover preventive care, pre-existing conditions, support funding for Medicaid and must not discriminate against women.

League Health Care Discussion List Open ★

Challenges to the Affordable Care Act continue with an uncertain future and League efforts for health care reform are needed more than ever. What are the next steps for health care advocates? How can League members make an impact in their communities with education and action items? A Google Group for Health Care Reform is a national discussion and sharing group for League members on health care reform, including behavioral health. We welcome ideas, resources, successes and questions. To receive an invitation to join the group, please contact [Linda Hawkins](#) or [Linda Mahan](#).

- Monday, August 14 - Will Rogers (portrayed by Mel Aanerud) will entertain members and the public at our evening fundraiser.

LWV MN Convention Update

LWV Minnesota has a new executive director, Michelle Witte. Michelle is a member of Woodbury- Cottage Grove LWV with extensive leadership, program development and fundraising experience. Her experiences include designing and bringing strategic visions to life. A long-time volunteer herself, Michelle is enthusiastic about LWVs' mission of empowering volunteers to become active in community and government affairs. She is looking forward to meeting members of Local Leagues and plans to attend as many local events as she can fit into her calendar. Michelle attended the state convention to introduce herself to members and officially started her position as executive director on May 16. Her first priority will be to hire new staff.



In addition to a newly-hired executive director, the LWV Minnesota board of directors has several new members who were elected at the 2017 Convention. The LWV Minnesota Board of Directors for 2017 - 2019:

Terry Kalil, President	Terry was elected to her second term as President. She is from LWV Detroit Lakes.
Marti Micks, 1 st Vice President	Marti is from the LWV Golden Valley and is new to the LWV Minnesota board. She will be responsible for policy, bylaws updates, human resources and other governance issues.
Susan Clark, 2 nd Vice President and Finance	Susan is from the LWV Edina and was elected to her second term.
Liz Lauder, Secretary	Liz is from the LWV White Bear Lake. This is her second term as secretary.
Cheryl Felix, Treasurer	Cheryl is a newly elected board member and is from LWV Crystal, New Hope, East Plymouth.
Laura Heimer, Voters Service/Citizen Education	New to the board and from LWV Eastern Carver County, Laura is filling a position that has been without a leader for a couple of years.
Jeorgette Knoll, Communications	This will be Jeorgette's second term on the board and she is from the LWV ABC.
Britt Heglund, Advocacy/Program for Action	Britt is joining the board for the first time and is taking the place of Kathy Tomsich who served several terms as Advocacy Chair.
Shelley Colvin, Equity and Inclusion	Shelley is a member of the LWV St. Louis Park and this is her first term as member of the state board.
Lynn Theuer, Membership Services Co-Chair	Lynn is from the LWV Winona and will be serving on the board for the first time.

LWV ABC was well represented at the convention! Left to right: Geri Nelson, Kathie Whelchel, Gretchen Sabel, Jeorgette Knoll, Bruce Pomerantz and Susan Butler.



Staying in Touch with LWV ABC

[Visit our public website](#). If you need a refresher on accessing the Members Only website, send an email to lwvabc@gmail.com. We will reply with the link for you to bookmark.

[Use this link for our Facebook site](#) or 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. Current and past issues are on our [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.