

November 30, 2015

Welcome to the LWV ABC Newsletter VOTER!

What do you have to contribute for the next issue of this newsletter? Consider sharing events, follow-up on past meetings, info on member accomplishments, etc.! Please direct your ideas and comments to Gretchen Sabel, at gpsabel@yahoo.com. Deadline for submittal of material for the December issue is the 29th at noon. Thanks!

Also, please [check here for our Facebook page](#) for meeting information and follow-up items on past meetings, too!

DECEMBER 14 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The focus for the meeting will be *Lively Issues*, reviewing a variety of topics to shape programs and actions for 2016. The meeting will be at the Andover City Hall Seniors' Center, 1685 Crosstown Blvd NW, Andover. Socializing and dinner begins at 6:00 p.m.; the business meeting begins at 6:30 p.m.

NOTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 9 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



Ruth Hemingson, Branch Manager of the Anoka County Library Northtown Branch manager, in Blaine, discussed the status of public libraries. She began her talk by describing how the Anoka County Library is responding several societal [trends identified by the American Library Association's Center for the Future of Libraries](#). For example, under the Collective Impact category, the library works with senior centers and organizations concerned with homelessness, such as Stepping Stone Emergency Housing and transition homes. Libraries have always worked with Do It Yourselfers, such as home automotive mechanics. Along this line, Anoka County Library may in the future have a 3D printer for the public to use. With regard to Fast

Casual (as in dining trends), the Northtown branch has merged three different service desks into one. Libraries have always maintained confidentiality with regard to the public, referred to as an anonymity trend in social media where users can disguise or eliminate any identifier. The library has responded by deleting websites and searches on library computers people have used.

The library is about to undergo a large task of attaching RFID stickers (electronic tags) to every catalogued item. The stickers will provide efficiency to shelving and locating the library's resources. The work begins tentatively in December starting with the small Mississippi Branch, Fridley, to test the work procedures. The work will then proceed to other branches on a specific

schedule. [Library volunteer opportunities are available here.](#) Attached with this newsletter are the RFID job description and volunteer form.

UPDATE ON OUR POLLINATOR INITIATIVES

It's been a very productive and successful year for LWV ABC's community leadership on pollinator awareness.

The City of Anoka fall newsletter highlighted the summer activity of LWV members Zilla Way and Jean O'Donoghue to influence Anoka City council's decision to become a Bee Safe City:



Bee Safe City

At the request of the ABC League of Women Voters, the City's Parks & Recreation Board recently signed a resolution acknowledging Anoka as a "Bee Safe" City. While many factors play a role in becoming and maintaining a Bee Safe city, the overall purpose is to educate City staff and the public on the vital role that bees play in our everyday lives and what we can do to help sustain them. In the 2016 spring issue of City View more detailed information will be provided. Until then, please visit www.hummingforbees.org for information and resources.

With the guidance and enthusiasm of Gretchen Sabel, many LWV ABC members teamed up with their local communities and residents to organize and promote *Bee Friendly* activities that will protect and restore pollinator habitat for all insect pollinators including bees and butterflies. Some of these activities included:

- Bee Safe City proclamations adopted by Andover and Champlin, along with the City of Anoka as referenced in the above text box.



- City of Andover held a very successful first annual Pollinator Garden Tour at six local sites. LWV ABC arranged publicity, LWV member Jeorgette Knoll provided one of the gardens, and other members hosted garden sites.
- Members staffed pollinator information tables at farmers markets in Champlin and Andover.
- Members organized and staffed a popular and interactive pollinator awareness table at the Green Expo sponsored by cities of Coon Rapids and Blaine
- Gretchen Sabel, with the help of Sandra Shanley, also organized and produced a very useful publication, *Pollinator Protection Resources*.
- *Bee Friendly* Champlin encouraged the Champlin Garden Club to offer native plants at their annual sale; all sold out. *Bee Friendly* T-shirts are now seen around town.
- The Champlin Garden Club planted a pollinator friendly demonstration garden at Doris Kemp Park on the Millpond and a Girl Scout troop cooperated with the Champlin Historical Society to plant a native garden at the historic Dunning School.
- The Champlin and Andover *Bee Friendly* teams sponsored floats in their community parades.
- Member Gretchen Sabel organized a panel of experts to address the topic of *Pesticides and Protection: Finding Balance* that was well attended by the community. She also organized a panel convened a panel of local experts who helped to launch our pollinator project, including Patricia Hauser of Humming for Bees, Joan Spence of the Anoka Conservation District and Mary Monte of the US Department of Agriculture.

To learn more about organizing or joining a bee team in your community, locating useful resources for pollinator-friendly garden plants, obtaining an electronic copy of *Pollinator Protection Resources* or learning about bee friendly activities contact Gretchen Sabel at 763.427.5593 or gpsabel@yahoo.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 11, 2016: Discussion and response to LWV US *Money and Politics* consensus questions will be the topic of the LWV ABC general membership meeting at the Andover City Hall Seniors' Center, 1685 Crosstown Blvd NW, Andover. Socializing and dinner at 6:00 p.m. The business meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. To prepare for the meeting, view on You Tube [Money in Politics: What is the Impact in Our Community](#), a video of the LWV Winona and Rochester panel discussion held October 29, 2015.

January 25, 2016: The next LWV ABC board meeting will be at Coon Rapids Davanni's, 3430 129th Ave NW, Coon Rapids. All LWV ABC members are welcome to come to Board meetings. We gather at 11:30 a.m. to order our lunches. The business portion of the meeting is from noon until about 1:30. Please notify LWV ABC President Jeorgette Knoll a week in advance if you would like an item placed on the agenda.