

January 8 Membership Meeting - Get ready to Caucus!

Andover Senior Center, 1685 Crosstown Blvd (north end of City Hall)
6pm light dinner and social time followed by 6:30 meeting. All are welcome!

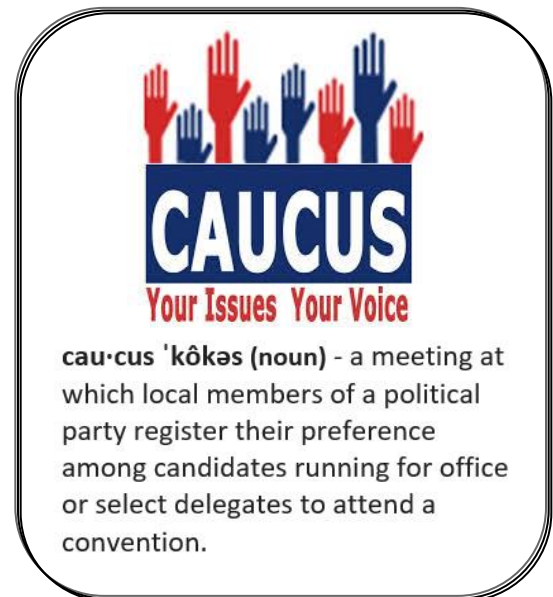
One part of precinct caucus meetings is the Resolutions process in which you can propose what you think should be included in the state party platform.

At our January 8 meeting two members of LWV ABC, Kathy Tingelstad and Wes Volkenant will explain caucus resolutions, including best practices, how to present, what to avoid, what forms to use, etc. Then we will prepare resolutions based on interests and priorities of LWV ABC for members to present at their local caucus on Tuesday, February 6, 2018. Members who are already prepared and have written resolutions are encouraged to bring them along to share with other members.

Some of the topics to consider are:

- Redistricting and Census
- Automatic Voter Registration
- Government Transparency
- Civil Discourse
- Money in Politics
- Water and Environment issues
- Provisional Ballot
- Restore the Vote (Felons)
- Etc.

We will try to have information about where to caucus for both major parties and the minor parties with caucus locations in the area.

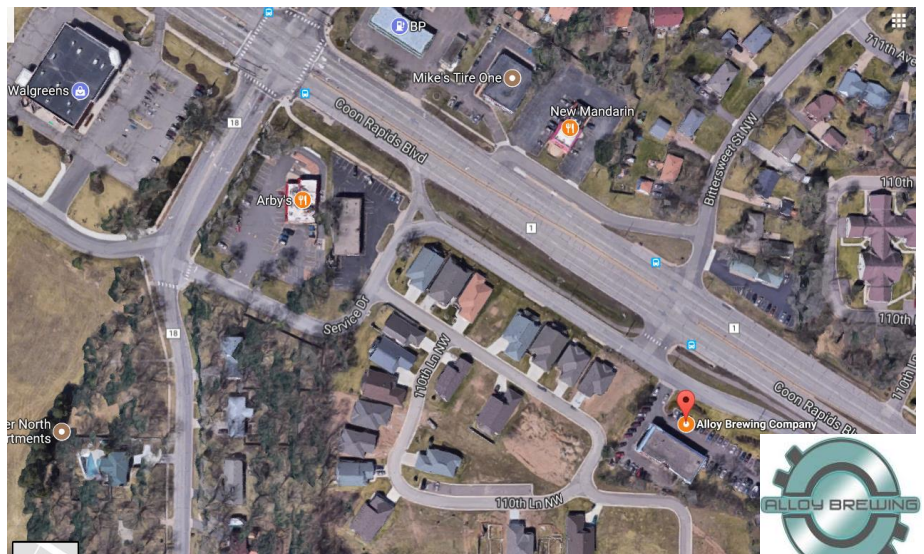


Drafts and Discourse –

January 17 at 6pm

This new brewery will welcome LWV ABC members and guests at 6pm. Buy a pint at the bar and join in the discussion. Alloy Brewing is at 2700 Coon Rapids Blvd in Coon Rapids, in the old Enterprise Rental Car shop. See you at the brewery!

We have moved these to the third Wednesday of the month. And we hope they will have a sign by this time!



Sad news – the passing of two LWV ABC members

In Memorium – Erika Sitz

We were saddened to learn of the passing of longtime LWV member, Erica Sitz, on November 27. She was instrumental in lobbying for passage of the bill to include Boundary Waters Canoe Area as a designated federal wilderness area in the late 1970s. Erika was a lifelong environmental activist who stayed politically active her entire life. As shared in her obituary, Erika and husband Paul were avid birders with fond memories of watching the sandhill cranes over the Platte River in Nebraska in the spring and the Sherburne National Wildlife area in the fall. A memorial service was held for Erika on December 15 at the Izaak Walton League Breckenridge Chapter House in Brooklyn Park. She was an active supporter of "Ike's" issues and often lobbied Congress and the Minnesota Legislature. Her vigorous commitment to conservation issues will be missed.

Obituary at

<http://www.startribune.com/obituaries/detail/231117/?fullname=erika-sitz>

In Memorium -- Sandra Shanley

LWV ABC lost another longtime member and activist, Sandra Shanley, on December 23. Memorial services will be held at a later date. We will miss the many contributions Sandra made to LWV along with her kind and gentle friendship. As shared in her obituary, "Sandra was a librarian her entire life despite Multiple Sclerosis; she never stopped reading and searching out new information. After her MS retirement she was a volunteer coordinator for the local Meals on Wheels for over 25 years, a volunteer caller for Family Table and the Blood Drive at Zion Lutheran in Anoka. She lobbied for the Permanent Absentee Ballot Application to ensure that voting was always a right for all. She was a proud member of the League of Women Voters for over 30 years." We'll cover more details of Sandra's LWV contributions in a future newsletter.

Obituary at

[http://www.startribune.com/obituaries/detail/0000234908/?fullname=sandra-lee-\(youngdahl\)-shanley](http://www.startribune.com/obituaries/detail/0000234908/?fullname=sandra-lee-(youngdahl)-shanley)


Now you can donate to LWV ABC online!

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS (NATIONAL)

Please write your tax-deductible check to the "League of Women Voters Anoka, Blaine, Coon Rapids Area". We are a 501(c)(3) organization.


Comments _____

DONATE USING PAYPAL



Please consider adding \$1.62 to your donation to cover the cost LWV ABC pays for the PayPal transaction.

Donate



Thank you for your support!

Many thanks to Webmaster Bruce Pomerantz for adding PayPal functionality to our website! You will find this link on the "[Donate to Us](#)" page.

Our December Program -- Public Policy Positions and Passions

Following our holiday potluck supper, President Jeorgette Knoll provided a brief intro to LWV US public policy positions* and how these are developed and updated.

Then small groups went to work identifying topics that should be prioritized by LWV ABC and brainstormed actions and partnerships that could advance the topics. The resulting topics were Redistricting/Census; Automatic Voter Registration; Government Transparency; and Civil Discourse. Stay tuned for future programs on some of these topics and ways to be involved in community action.



*The public policy positions are at the following link on the LWV US website: <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/book/summary-public-policy-positions>.. Read the details of these positions at <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/book/impact-issues-2016-2018-online-edition>.

Voter Service News, Part 1: (Thank you from LWV US)

National Voter Registration Day was a big success! A big thanks to everyone who supported National Voter Registration Day in 2017! Thanks as well to all who completed the partner survey to let us know how your events fared.

We tallied all the figures, and the final numbers just blew us away! Thanks to the involvement of 9,631 volunteers from 2,851 partners across the country, we collectively gathered 124,290 new or updated voter registrations. Both of these numbers far exceeded our original goals of 2,000 partners and 75,000 registrations.

We thank you and everyone who engaged in the work of National Voter Registration Day. [Click here](#) to download the final report for National Voter Registration Day 2017.

Voter Service News, Part 2:

Candidate Forum for City of Ramsey's Special Primary Election – HELP NEEDED!



Voters in Ramsey will have an opportunity to hear from candidates for the vacant councilmember at-large seat in an LWV ABC forum on Wednesday evening, January 10, at Ramsey City Hall, 7550 Sunwood Drive NW. The forum begins at 7:00 pm in council chambers.

The Special Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, February 13. Candidates are Skip Carlson, Sue Suchy, Chris Riley, and Ida Theis. The two candidates who receive the most votes at the Special Primary Election will be on the ballot for the Special General Election on Tuesday, April 10.

“We hope voters will participate in this public event that provides opportunities to meet candidates, propose questions, and learn more about local issues,” said LWV ABC Voter Services Co-Chair Geri Nelson. The forum will be taped by QCTV for multiple broadcasts on cable television as well as online viewing on QCTV’s website

Voters can locate their polling place, learn about absentee voting, and link to the Minnesota Secretary of State’s Office for information about registering to vote by visiting the City of Ramsey’s website at cityoframsey.com/elections. The phone number is 763.427.1410.

For persons with a disability needing reasonable accommodations in order to participate in a forum, a request should be made to lwwabc@gmail.com or 763-421-7334 a few days in advance of the forum.

Help is needed to put on this forum – timers, question sorters, ushers and greeters. If you can help, please contact Geri Nelson at 763-421-7334 / geri_nelson454@msn.com

Some news items of interest from Anoka County:

Bid selection for Anoka County Board proceedings: ECM Publishers was the new low bidder for the Official Proceedings of the Anoka County Board, and Press Publications remained the low bidder for Printing of the Tabloid/Annual Financial Statement. With the sole board selection criteria being low bid, ECM and Press Publications were awarded bids at the January 2 Organizational Meeting of the Anoka County Board. The bids are contained with the [Agenda for the December 19 Management Committee](#) and with the [Agenda for the January 2 Board Organizational Meeting](#).

LWV ABC's Observer Corps has been following this issue for the past three years.

From the *Star Trib*: County leaders win statewide recognition: Just in case you missed this news item in *Star Tribune's* North Extra section on Sunday, December 17. LWV ABC congratulates Commissioner Sivarajah and Jerry Soma on their awards!


Two Anoka County leaders claimed top honors at a recent conference held by the Association of Minnesota Counties. **The statewide group awarded the President's Award to County Board Chairwoman Rhonda Sivarajah.** The award is given each year for "exemplary leadership in public service." Gary Hendrickx, the association's board president, described Sivarajah as one of the state's "foremost experts in the field of human services" and touted the county's fiscal accomplishments under her leadership, including the lowering of the tax levy for the first time in four decades and paying down more than \$50 million in debt.



County Administrator Jerry Soma also was singled out for praise. **He was given the association's Outstanding Service Award,** with nods to his 51-year tenure working for Anoka County.
--Hannah Covington

Gubernatorial Forum on the Environment

January 24 - Join Minnesota's conservation community for a gubernatorial candidate forum on environment and conservation issues in Minnesota. Candidates will respond to audience questions about air/climate, water, land/habitat and environmental funding. LWV MN is helping to plan this event. [Click here](#) for more info, and to sign up to attend either in person or virtually.



Our New Environment

Air • Water • Land • Legacy

JAN 24

Minnesota Governor Candidate Forum

by MN organizations working together to protect our air, water, land & legacy

Free

REGISTER

<p>DESCRIPTION</p> <p>Join Minnesota's conservation community for a gubernatorial candidate forum on environment and conservation issues in</p>	<p>DATE AND TIME</p> <p>Wed, January 24, 2018 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM CST</p>
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Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues of Women Voters (CMAL)

Save the dates in February 2018!

CMAL is co-sponsoring two events (with Golden Valley LWV and LWV of Crystal/New Hope/East Plymouth) about current issues surrounding the Metropolitan Council.

“The Ideas Behind Development of the Metropolitan Council”

Thursday, February 8, 2018 7:00 p.m. Golden Valley Historical Society 6731 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley 55427. Speaker: Pahous Hoffman, Acting executive Director, Citizens League of Minnesota.

“The Metropolitan Council – what’s the current fuss?”

Saturday, February 24, 2018 9:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Brookview Community Center, 200 Brookview Parkway, Golden Valley 55426. Speakers: a panel of three experts with diverse views on current metro issues.

Both events will feature Question and Answer period with the audience. Both events are free and open to the public.

**History Lecture at the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul–
"Divided We Stand: Women’s Rights and Modern America"**

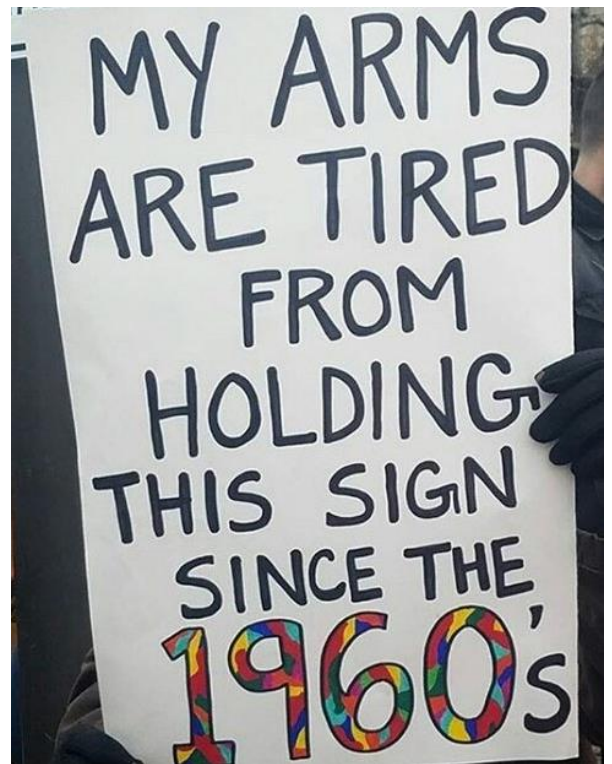
Saturday, January 20 / Choose 10:00 am or 2:00 pm

This is a ticketed event / \$16 --These history lectures often sell out.

For 10:00: reserve at www.mnhs.org/event/3605

For 2:00: reserve at www.mnhs.org/event/3608

Forty years ago, two women's movements drew a line in the sand between liberals and conservatives. At the 1977 National Women’s Conference in Houston—referred to by Gloria Steinem as "the most important event nobody knows about"—liberal feminists endorsed abortion rights, the ERA, and gay rights. Across town, Phyllis Schlafly and conservative women rallied to launch the Pro-Family movement. Join historian and author Marjorie Spruill as she discusses the legacy of the rift between these two women’s movements and how it is still evident today in American politics. Her book is *Divided We Stand: The Battle Over Women's Rights and Family Values That Polarized American Politics*.





LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®
ANOKA, BLAINE, COON RAPIDS AREA

THE VOTER

January 2018

Save the Dates:

Monday, January 8 – **Get Ready to Caucus! LWV ABC regular monthly meeting** – Andover City Hall (Senior Center) at 1685 Crosstown Blvd. Light supper at 6, program starts at 6:30. All are welcome!

Wednesday, January 17, 6pm – **Drafts and Discourse** at Alloy Brewing, 2700 Coon Rapids Blvd.

Monday, January 22 – **LWV ABC Board meeting** at Davanni's Coon Rapids, 11am

Saturday, January 20 – History Lecture "**Divided we Stand: Women's Rights and Modern America**" at Minnesota Historical Society

Wednesday, January 24 – **Gubernatorial Forum on the Environment**, Hamline University

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: Just 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. Issues are also available on our LWV ABC website, www.lwvabcmn.org.

Have Information to share with LWV ABC?

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