



The Voter – December 2016

Make a difference!

--from LWV ABC President Jeorgette Knoll

After an election marked by contentious and divisive rhetoric, fake news, inaccurate news and scandal, it is time to move forward. Much needs to be done to protect our democracy and the work ahead depends not just on our elected officials but on all of us.

LWV ABC is committed to our principles, priorities and our mission. We will continue to work to address those critical issues that affect our community regardless of what happens at the state capitol or in Washington.

LWVMN, LWV ABC and other local Leagues in Minnesota are taking action to:

- Let our elected officials know they need to protect the voting rights of all Minnesota residents including:
 - Same day registration, early voting and no excuse absentee voting.
 - The right to vote without the unnecessary burden of a voter I.D. law.
 - Expanding voting rights to felons.
- Advocate for Campaign Finance Reform and nonpartisan redistricting.
- Pressure elected officials to address climate change.
- Block efforts to threaten women's reproductive rights.
- Support efforts to reduce gun violence.
- Support efforts to protect our water and other natural resources.

What can you do?

- Introduce a friend to League – the more voices we have, the louder our message!
- Continue to work on issues of public importance in your communities.
- Meet with your elected officials to express your concerns and interests for the new legislative session especially around voting rights.
- Join our Observer Corps and report on the issue of transparency.
- Join the LWVMN Action Committee to help advocate for our state-wide priorities.
- Pre-register 16- and 17-year-olds to vote.
- Register new citizens to vote at naturalization ceremonies.
- Actively speak out – write letters to the editor, post on social media – to protest incidents of intolerance, discrimination, or incivility in your community.

Thank you for your commitment to League! Onward!



Looking for something you can do right now?

Go to the LWWUS web site and sign the Petition to stop voter suppression.



"I stand with the League to ensure that elections are always free, fair and accessible. I will work with the League to stop voter suppression tactics that threaten our democracy and the right to vote."

Upcoming Meetings:

December 5 – Informational meeting, 6:00 pm at Crooked Lake library, 11440 Crooked Lake Blvd NW, Coon Rapids. Learn more about League of Women Voters in a session for new and prospective members. Our organization is open to all - gender, race, religion, orientation - and has been fighting for voting rights and providing voter education for nearly a century. We have experience and reputation behind us. Bring a friend to introduce them to LWV!

December 12 - Monthly program and holiday potluck at Andover City Hall's Senior Center, 1685 Crosstown Blvd NW, Andover; 6:00 potluck / 6:30 program LWV Minnesota launched an inclusive, multi-step strategic planning process in March of 2016. Our December 12 meeting will feature a discussion of the goals and strategies of the new Strategic Plan and how LWV ABC can align with LWV Minnesota to implement strategies in our local League. As is our tradition, we will also have our holiday potluck. Please bring a dish to share.



Summary of our November 14 meeting

A week after the election, Geri Nelson and LWV Minnesota President, Terry Kalil, lead a discussion of our voter service activity during this election year and how LWV can help citizens make a difference in our community. The details and suggestions for the future can be found in this report [here](#). We were VERY busy this fall, and achieved a lot! Be sure to check out the Voter Service 2016 report!

Calendar Announcements:

- **December 5** – Informational Meeting at 6:00 pm for new and prospective members – see above description under Upcoming Meetings
- **December 12** -- Monthly program and holiday potluck at Andover City Hall's Senior Center – see above under Upcoming Meetings
- **December 26** -- No board meeting in December; next board meeting will be January 23
- **December 26** -- Newsletter items for January due to Gretchen Sabel at gpsabel@yahoo.com
- **January 10** -- Monthly program and meeting -- Stand by for a possible change in location. Discussion is underway with Anoka-Ramsey Community College Student Senate for a shared program/activity

Staying in Touch / Communications

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. Include your phone number for a call-back with instructions.)

We're on Facebook: Just do a search for "LWV ABC Facebook", or click this link: <https://www.facebook.com/League-of-Women-Voters-ABC-Minnesota-423643367725301>

Our monthly newsletter, *The Voter*: Members and other interested persons receive our newsletter by email in the early part of each month.

Have information to share with LWV ABC?

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



>>>>> **Opportunity to help at District 11 Science Fair!**

Judges /Volunteers Needed! The Annual Anoka-Hennepin District Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Fair will be Saturday, January 21, 2017, 8 A.M. – Noon at Blaine High School. The Fair consists of students in grades K-12 presenting the findings of their research and experimentation to the public. The Fair is broken down into two divisions; grades 6-12 (8am – noon) and grades K-5 (8am - noon). With well over 1,500 students involved, this Fair is the largest of its kind in the entire State.

Community members are needed to be volunteers and/or judges at the Fair. Teachers can earn up to 5 CEU's! Prospective judges do not need science or math backgrounds. We provide training for all of the judges. We are looking for responsible adults who are willing to give something back to the community. Please consider being a judge/volunteer and feel free to share this opportunity with anyone whom you feel would be interested.

Why you should get involved: The STEM Fair is a showcase of students doing authentic science at its highest level. We have no other opportunity like it in our District. Students doing STEM Fair projects improve their critical thinking, public speaking and research skills. They learn the nature of science and what it means to be a member of the scientific community. Further information: You can find further information about the Fair (schedule, location map, judge/volunteer registration, Fair Coordinator contact information) at the following web site [District 11 STEM Fair](http://www.district11stemfair.org) Thank you for your time and consideration! This Fair doesn't happen without your support!

Go to LWVUS website to see how you can take action now!

<http://lwv.org/blog/10-ways-you-can-help-defend-our-democracy>

