



The Voter – January 2017

Upcoming Meetings:

January 25 – Legislative Interviews! In the Legacy Room at Anoka-Ramsey Community College. Light refreshments at 6, program starts at 6:30.

The Minnesota Legislature is now in session, and what they do will affect our lives in many ways. Our legislator's views and priorities shape their decisions. This is a chance to meet our sitting legislators and find out where they stand on the important issues facing us - education, health care, environment, taxes and more.

This community event, co-hosted by League of Women Voters ABC and the Student Senate of Anoka Ramsey Community College, will happen on Wednesday evening, January 25, beginning with refreshments at 6pm. A team of students, League members and other constituents will meet individually with each legislator to discuss prepared questions. We are inviting the following area legislators, not all have responded:

District 31 - Senator Michelle Benson, Representatives Kurt Daudt and Calvin Bahr;
District 35 - Senator Jim Abeler, Representatives Abigail Whelan and Peggy Scott;
District 36 - Senator John Hoffman, Representatives Mark Uglen and Melissa Hortman;
District 37 - Senator Jerry Newton, Representatives Erin Koegel and Nolan West;
District 38 - Senator Roger Chamberlain, Representatives Linda Runbeck and Matt Dean;
District 41 - Senator Carolyn Laine and Representative Connie Bernardy.

The legislative interviews will be held 6:30 to 8:00 pm on Wednesday, January 25 in the Legacy Room of Anoka-Ramsey Community College, 11200 Mississippi Boulevard, Coon Rapids. The Legacy Room is located near the main entrance to the college on the upper level. Park in the small parking lot east of the building (not the large parking lot when you first turn in) and enter through the main entrance.



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February 13 – Drinking Water Safety – Andover Senior Center. Light refreshments at 6, program starts at 6:30.

Drinking water supply safety - what do you know, and what should you know? Feb 13, 6pm, at Andover Senior Center, the LWV ABC program will focus on drinking water supply for communities in Anoka County. Whether you get your water from a private well or a public water supply, this meeting will have information for you. Speakers will be Jamie Shurbon from the Anoka Conservation District and Tannie Eschnauer from the Minnesota Department of Health. Come at 6pm for a light supper; the meeting starts at 6:30. Andover Senior Center is located in the north end of Anoka City Hall, at 1685 Crosstown Blvd. (No, this isn't a photo of drinking water in Anoka County, but it made you look!)



Recap of Recent Meetings

Summary of January 10 program – Geri Nelson led a discussion on citizen participation in legislation, including how to reach and talk to legislators. Questions for the legislative interview were discussed, and some additional questions developed. There was great interest in this meeting. Thanks to the many non-LWV members who were able to attend and will be part of the interview team on the 25th!

Summary of December 12 program-- Our president, Jeorgette Knoll, and voter services co-chair, Geri Nelson, led a presentation and discussion on LWV Minnesota's Strategic Plan -- which will serve as an organizational roadmap to guide the organization into its 100th anniversary year. Goals in the plan will help guide future initiatives -- and our discussion centered on strategies to turn the goals into an action plan that works for our local communities. These goals include strong voter turnout, an educated electorate, integrity of government, a culture of inclusivity, engaging local Leagues in common goals and ensuring a purposeful relevant organization.

Membership News

2016 was a banner year for the ABC League in terms of new members, and 2017 is continuing strong!

The ABC League welcomes the following people:

Sue Butler	Coon Rapids
Cheri Chapman	Coon Rapids
Veronica Johnson	Columbia Heights
Julie Stevens	Coon Rapids
Karen Varian	Blaine
Leslie Waterhouse	Big Lake
Becky Ahlstrom	Andover
Teresa Cyrus	Coon Rapids
Sara Berg-McConville	Champlin
Jessica Dreischmeier	Columbia Heights
Laura Dreischmeier	Columbian Heights
Marjorie Sexton	Blaine
Wes Volkenant	Andover



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News item about LWV ABC participants in Womens March in DC and St. Paul – LWV ABC member Betsy O’Berry will be traveling to Washington DC for the Women’s March on January 21 ([website](#)). Do you want to take place in a march as well, but don’t want to go to Washington? Join the Minnesota Women’s March, also on January 21, beginning at St Paul Technical College by the Cathedral in St. Paul at 10 am and continuing to the Minnesota State Capitol for a rally at 11am ([website](#)). LWV ABC member Gretchen Sabel is planning to drive to Midway Shopping Center then take the light rail into St. Paul for this event – if you’d like to come along contact Gretchen at lwvabc@lwvmn.org by Thursday, Jan 19.

Calendar

January 25, Legislative Interviews – 6-8pm, Legacy Room, Anoka Ramsey Community College (see above)

January 21, Women’s March, Washington D.C. and St. Paul (see above)

January 23, LWV ABC Board meeting -- 11:00 lunch orders, 11:30 meeting starts, Davanni’s in Coon Rapids – all are welcome. Come and get more involved!

January 27, Newsletter items due to Gretchen Sabel at lwvabc@gmail.com

February 13. Monthly program and meeting -- 6:00 light supper, 6:30 Program, Andover City Hall's Senior Center. Topic will be Drinking Water Safety. (see above)