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Transition of the Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts
LWV ABC Meeting on August 9 in Fridley

Join LWV ABC at the historic Banfill-Locke House in Fridley at 6pm. We'll have an outdoor social time in the gazebo (packaged snacks provided, no dinner). At 6:30, North Suburban Center for the Arts Executive Director Abby Kosberg will tell us about her organization and its transition.



North Suburban Center for the Arts is the new (and old!) name of the Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts. Anoka County has helped to support this arts organization since 1988 but that funding ends on December 31 and the organization is losing its home at the Banfill-Locke House. Abby's challenge is to lead this organization into a new space and new funding, which will be challenging! She will tell us about the options they are considering and their goals for the future, with plenty of time for questions and discussion.

Here's the details:

Meeting location - Banfill-Locke House - [6666 East River Road, Fridley MN 55432](#)

Social time at 6, program starts at 6:30

(no supper provided due to still developing COVID situation; however, we will have some packaged snacks and bottled water available

We'll be outside in the gazebo, dress for the weather.

QCTV will record the event for later viewing

Update on Anoka County Parks

Monday, July 12

Featuring

- Jeff Perry, Anoka County Parks Director
- Mike Gamache, Anoka County Commissioner



**VIEW THE [VIDEO OF THIS MEETING AT THIS LINK:](#)
MANY THANKS TO QCTV FOR FILMING THE EVENT!**



It was a beautiful July evening when we gathered on the expansive patio at Bunker Hills Activity Center for our first in-person gathering since COVID necessitated social distancing.

We then moved indoors for a most informative and enlightening presentation by Jeff Perry, Director of Anoka County Parks, who was introduced by Anoka County Commissioner Mike Gamache, Chair of the Parks Committee.

We appreciated the slides and presentation that updated us on what is available in our Anoka County parks, future plans, protection of our natural environment, the many opportunities for recreation and leisure activities -- and the generous amount of time given for our questions.

We are grateful to Director Perry and Anoka County Parks staff for the many opportunities to utilize the outdoor environment for our health, our economy, and environmental protection.

Missed this event -- or want to revisit sections of the presentation? Leslie Sauer-Smith of QCTV was in attendance to record the event; and the video is now available for viewing:

- Watch it on our LWV ABC YouTube channel:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=nBbdLNZUJvM
- Or you can also find it in the Videos section of our website: <https://my.lwv.org/minnesota/anoka-blaine-coon-rapids-area/lwv-abc-spotlight-issues>



Welcome, New Member!

We welcome Rachel Mero of Champlin to membership in League of Women Voters ABC. Looking forward to making introductions!



Candidate Forums & Voter Registration For School Board Election



LWVABC board members are discussing activities to undertake before the November 2 school board elections. In our LWV ABC service area, **Fridley, Spring Lake Park and Anoka-Hennepin school districts will elect school board members.** Anoka-Hennepin plans to pose three ballot questions to its voters, as well.

Here are preliminary plans from our Voter Service

Committee:

- Host three ***Meet the Candidates*** forums, one in each school district, during the first two weeks of October.
- Combine our traditional live audience format with the new technology strategies we learned last year. In addition to compiling questions submitted from the live audience moderators will consider questions that have been submitted in advance, online.
- Work with community cable television providers to record the forums. They can air the recordings locally via their stations and also be posted on our website and our YouTube channel for online view.

Cindy Wetzell and the **Voter Registration team** are planning their activities leading up to the election. They will meet via Zoom on Thursday, Aug 5 from 6:30-7:30. Discussion will include what we want to do for National Voter Registration Day on September 28. If you want to participate and aren't already on Cindy's mailing list email her at registervoteslwwabc@gmail.com.

Frequently in this newsletter, we are recruiting for folks to do LWW work. Here are a couple of other opportunities for paid gigs:

School Board Filing Period Now Open

Anyone interested in running for a school board seat must file their affidavit of candidacy and pay the filing fee **in person no later than 5 p.m. Aug. 10** at the Anoka County Elections Office, 2100 Third Avenue, Suite 160, Anoka.

**School
Board
Election**



Visit the Anoka County Elections website for information about the school board seats open in each district, a candidate filing packet which includes the required affidavit form, qualifications for running for office, and other helpful information: www.anokacounty.us/3501/Run-For-Office.

Further questions can be directed by email to elections@co.anoka.mn.us or by phone at 763-324-1300.

Anoka County Recruiting for Election Judges

Can you answer the call for help? Anoka County Elections is recruiting election judges to work the polls for school district elections this fall. Anoka-Hennepin, Fridley, and Spring Lake Park will all hold elections on November 2, 2021.

Check the Anoka County Elections website at www.anokacounty.us/231/Election-Judges for information about pay rates, work hours, training, and an application. Phone questions can be directed to: 763-324-1300.



JOIN US ON ZOOM FOR BOOK AND FILM CLUB DISCUSSIONS

Gather with LWV ABC members and friends to enjoy relaxed conversations to expand your knowledge o diversity, equity, and inclusion topics – all from the comfort of your check, yard, or comfy chair.

Upcoming Films

- August 4 - *Hidden Figures* – untold true story of three women in NASA (2016)
- September 1 – *Mankiller* – Activist, Feminist, Cherokee Chief (2017); rescheduled from July
- October 6 - *Neither Wolf Nor Dog* (2016) book or film (Gretchen will loan her DVD)

Upcoming Books

- August 18 - *Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America* by Richard Rothstein
- September 15 - *Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning* (2020) by Cathy Park Hong
- October 6 - *Neither Wolf Nor Dog* (2016) book or film
- November 17 - *Rez Life: An Indian's Journey Through Reservation Life* (2012) by David Treuer

6:15 pm socializing; 6:30 discussion / Check the Calendar on our website for

Zoom link / description of book/film / where to obtain:

<https://my.lwv.org/minnesota/anoka-blaine-coon-rapids-area/calendar>

**Check out the latest posts on the LWV
ABC Antiracism Blog at this link:**

[https://www.lwvumrr.org/lwv-abc-
blog/category/antiracism-resources](https://www.lwvumrr.org/lwv-abc-blog/category/antiracism-resources)

THE VOTER

August 2021

Hidden Figures

Hidden Figures is a 2016 American biographical drama film directed by Theodore Melfi and written by Melfi and Allison Schroeder. It is loosely based on the 2016 non-fiction book of the same name by Margot Lee Shetterly about African American female mathematicians who worked at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) during the Space Race. The film stars Taraji P. Henson as Katherine Johnson, a mathematician who calculated flight trajectories for Project Mercury and other missions, Octavia Spencer as NASA supervisor and mathematician Dorothy Vaughan and Janelle Monáe as NASA engineer Mary Jackson.

Streaming:

aavailable for **rental** on Amazon Prime, Vudu, YouTube, AppleTV and Google Play

DVD:

[Hennepin Library](#) - 36 DVDs

[Anoka Library](#) - 9 DVDs



Our planned September Kick-off Event:

September 13 – We will be returning to Andover City Hall for our September meeting! Our topic will be Redistricting, and our speakers will be former Minnesota Representative Kathy Tinglestad and LWV MN's redistricting expert Paul Huffman. Once again, we will be working with QCTV to record and cablecast the meeting, and we will also offer Zoom connections for those who want to participate virtually.

Our Program Committee, led by DeeAnn Christensen, is planning meaty and informative meetings on current topics that support LWV work and initiatives. If you'd like to help plan future meetings, email us at lwvabc@gmail.com!

Highlights of the July Board Meeting

Dee Ann Christensen, Chair of the Program Committee, reported that because we have so many suggestions for program topics, she was considering asking for two programs a month. Our discussion mostly centered on the amount of work involved with setting that up, and that we should stay with one strong program a month.

We then discussed going back to Andover City Hall for our membership meetings in September, and should there be any changes from the way the meetings were handled previously. We felt that doors should open at 6:00PM, and the evening program should start at 6:30PM. We will have bottled water available, and that we should follow CDC guidelines as far as wearing masks. No pre-meeting suppers for monthly programs will be arranged until further information is known about COVID variants. Board meetings should stay on zoom.

Censorship in Anoka County Library displays was brought up again. Linda Rogers suggested that League should have policies in place to treat people equally and fairly. Wes Volkenant said that the County Board is having a work session to discuss a code of ethics, and keeping politics out of the Board Room.

Kathy Aanerud told us about Nonprofit VOTE's communications webinar and that National Voter Registration Day is Sept. 28 this year. We should put it on our website calendar. She will share the materials she receives with Voter Service, including info about "I Will Vote" pledge cards, for their participation consideration.

Arlene Gillett
Secretary

Anoka County Employee Engagement and Inclusion Committee

In a [recent article in the Anoka County Union Herald](#), we learned that the Anoka County Board is merging the County's existing Diversity and Inclusion Committee with the Focus Communications Program. The new committee, to be renamed the Employee Engagement and Inclusion Committee, is meant to promote diversity, focus on respect and inclusion for employees, and encourage employee engagement and morale. The new committee won't have a Commissioner attending meetings, as was previously the case. The vote to approve this change was not unanimous. As LWV ABC works on improving our anti-racism understanding, we will include taking a look at the institutions around us as well. We will continue to observe the work of the Anoka County Board and will provide follow-up information to our members in this newsletter. If you would like to be part of that work, please email LWV ABC at lwvabc@gmail.com. Thanks!

Do you have Information to share with LWV ABC? **Get 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.



Check out the **LWV ABC**

blog: <https://www.lwvumrr.org/lwv-abc-blog>

We're on Facebook: Just search for "LWV ABC Facebook". **Instagram, too!**

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.