



## December 2021 and January 2022

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## An Update on Voting Rights Legislation Moving Through US Congress

Then settle in for an informative program on critical voting rights legislation “moving” through the US Congress. We will look at the changes states are making to voting laws and talk about why that matters, and then move on to the specific bills now in Congress and their status. LWV leaders have been organizing protests – and getting arrested - in Washington DC. What’s all that about, anyhow?

**Date:** Monday evening, December 13  
**Time:** 6:30 pm Gathering Time with League Lingo Bingo  
 7:15 pm Program on Voting Rights Legislation

**[Here's the Zoom link](#)** to join the meeting. Watch your email for a reminder with a copy of this Zoom link the day before the meeting.



A couple weeks ago we sent a letter to LWV ABC members. This letter included a League Lingo Bingo card and the following tidbit about our meetings this winter::

The big news is that we are planning to **hold only virtual meetings from December to March**, possibly April if winter weather or Covid continue to play havoc with the option of in-person meetings. You will be informed of these virtual meetings in our LWV ABC newsletters.

Our December meeting will be the first in this series of virtual meetings – see you on the Zoom! And check out our Book and Film Club meetings at this link: <https://my.lwv.org/minnesota/anoka-blaine-coon-rapids-area/calendar> and on Page 3 of this newsletter.

## Our November Program Meeting with Sheriff James Stuart of the Anoka County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Stuart presented a most informative program on issues facing Anoka County at our November 8 monthly program meeting and fielded questions from attendees. Sheriff Stuart was candid in his remarks, discussing the role that deputies from the Anoka County Sheriff's Department played in the Minneapolis unrest this summer and in working with pipeline protestors in Northern Minnesota. He also talked about the problems the department faces in recruiting deputies – check out his remarks on the [video at this link on the LWV ABC YouTube channel](#).



Many members chose the in-person option at the Community Room of the Anoka County Sheriff's Office and several more joined us on Zoom. We are very grateful for the opportunity to hold hybrid meetings, and look forward to getting back to them in the spring, hopefully.

Also at this meeting, LWV ABC Vice-President Julie Trude discussed the progress that has been made on the **LWV Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL) study of county governance**. In this study, a team has examined administration of the seven-county governments in the Metropolitan area, and has come to several conclusions. This report will be made public in the next month – see more on this on page XX of the newsletter. This [video of Julie's remarks is available at this link](#).



Many thanks to Leslie Sauer-Smith for her work getting technology set up and both talks recorded, and thanks to QCTV for posting the videos!

## Two Environmental Programs, one past, one upcoming:

### Should You Drink That? The Unfolding Story of PFAS in Our Lives

Sponsored by LWV Upper Mississippi River Region

Learn how the forever chemicals PFAS affect our health, what the federal government and states are doing to establish safe standards for drinking water and to ban the use of PFAS in manufacturing, and what you can do to help protect yourself, your family and your community.

**Presenters:** Jeff Lamont, Save Our H2O; Erika Schreder, Toxic-Free Future; Deanna White, Clean Water Action

Watch the video at: <https://youtu.be/SodForAydqQ>

Handout: [Download File](#)

### The Walz Climate Report Card:

An analysis of Governor Walz's climate policies and what it means for Minnesota's future

**Presented by:** Northfield High School Environmental Club, Northfield- Cannon Falls League of Women Voters and the LWVMN Climate Taskforce

**Date/time:** Tuesday, December 7, 4:00 pm

**Zoom link:** [Gretchen, would you verify that the link works in this cut-paste]

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89176618814?pwd=Y3pVVDhSS0FPSHBsaForQm92MmZxdz09>

## Book and Film Discussions – Join us on Zoom

Gather with LWV ABC members and friends to delve into conversations from the comfort of your home – expand your knowledge on topics of diversity, equity and inclusion. Stimulating conversations about good books and films on important topics – a great resource for the long, isolated winter we are facing!

### Upcoming Films:

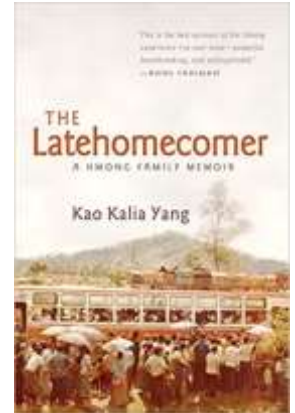
- Weds, January 5 -- *Just Mercy* (2019)
- Weds, February 2 – *Standing on my Sisters' Shoulders* (2002)

### Upcoming Books:

- Weds, January 19 – *The Late Homecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir* (2008) by Kao Kalia Yang
- *White Rage - The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide* (2016) By Carol Anderson, Ph.D.
  - Part 1: Weds, March 16
  - Part 2: Weds, April 20
  -

**All Events are at 6:15 Social Time; 6:30 Discussion**

Link to the calendar on our website for book/film descriptions and where to obtain,  
<https://my.lwv.org/minnesota/anoka-blaine-coon-rapids-area/calendar>



## Participate in Voter Registration at Citizenship Ceremonies!

Join with League of Women Voters Minnesota to register new voters at citizenship ceremonies

All ceremonies will be at the RiverCentre in St. Paul, and will still follow Covid-19 protocol, which means about 15 ceremonies each lasting 15 minutes. Ceremonies will continue with 1-2 days each month through September 2022. Watch for future notices for these dates.

If you are able to help on either date below, please email Judy Stuthman at [jastuthman@aol.com](mailto:jastuthman@aol.com)

### Ceremony Dates:

#### Wednesday, December 15

Morning shift, 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM – 16 volunteers needed  
Afternoon shift, 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM – 16 volunteers needed

#### • Tuesday, January 18, 2022

Morning shift, 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM – 16 volunteers needed  
Afternoon shift, 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM – 16 volunteers needed

**Location:** RiverCentre is at 175 W. Kellogg Blvd in St. Paul.

## A Joyful Update from Darby and Geri

Geri writes: “*Darby came home Friday. We are all so happy. He is content and remembering so much more*” Best wishes to Geri and Darby from your friends at LWV ABC.

## News from Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL)

The CMAL is composed of the members of local LWVs in the seven metro counties who work together on issues of common impact.

- **County Government Study:** *We appreciate the work of LWV ABC members Julie Trude, Dee Ann Christensen and Wes Volkenant serving on the CMAL County Government Study Committee* This group, led by Mindy Greiling of LWV Roseville Area, is currently finalizing a written report and consensus questions that will potentially update CMAL's County Government Positions.

- **CMAL's newsletter:** Read about all the activities of CMAL here:  
<https://lwvsp.org/resources/Documents/CMAL%20Newsletter%20November%202021.pdf>

- **Upcoming CMAL events** – currently all events are scheduled via Zoom (but seeking input on return to in-person)

- **January 15, 2022: 10:00 a.m.** Delegates will discuss the CMAL County Government Study Report to decide whether consensus is needed

- **March 19, 2022: 10:00 a.m.** Met Council Livable Communities Act Grant Program --Where the money comes from and who gets it? (Speakers TBD)

- **May 14, 2022: 10:00 a.m.** CMAL 2022 Annual Meeting

- **Protecting the Metro Area Water Supply**, a production of CMAL and LWV Woodbury/Cottage Grove – with presenters Paul Gardner, Clean Water Council and Lanya Ross, Metropolitan Council. If you weren't able to attend this program in October live on Zoom, you can now watch the video of the program here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PxW2RG82N9s>

Hear about Twin Cities metro area water sources, uses, demand and pricing. Also learn about strategies for agencies and individuals, water governance, clean water funding and water re-use.

## Highlights of LWV ABC Board Meeting, Nov. 22, 2021

The Program Committee told us about their work on putting together programs for our up-coming League meetings. Our December meeting is set to have the Lingo Bingo for half of the evening, and perhaps with 3rd District Congressman Dean Phillips doing a presentation on the Voting Rights Act of 2021 for the other half. The Committee is exploring a variety of other topics for future meetings including: the environment, indigenous women issues, and who has input into deciding school curriculums.

The Membership Committee is working on the data base of our members. Everything needs to be updated by January, so they are trying to be in touch with all members on our list in order to find out any new addresses, and to see if they want to be removed from the roster. They will then submit it to the LWV MN.

The Communications Committee discussed the recommendation of what activities must occur before our Annual Meeting in April. The Board should be looking at our Bylaws, and suggestions any changes in them. They also discussed the idea of setting up a planning calendar for board meetings. The idea would be to put the agenda into an easy to use format for the steps we need to take at future board meetings.

- Arlene Gillett, Secretary

## Advocacy and Program Action Team – Join the state Lobby or Observer Corps

We thank Sandy Connor for attending LWV MN's Advocacy and Program Action Team call in November and sharing notes. Now is the time for anyone interested in joining LWV MN's Lobby and Observer Corps. LWV Rochester's Amy Caucutt is former lead lobbyist for Olmsted County and worked at the Capitol in this capacity for years. Sandy reports that at the most recent APAT meeting, Amy gave a presentation on reimagining the Lobby and Observer Corp. She said anyone can lobby. It is easy and required no special skills. Amy will help people learn how. At this time everything is virtual, so people can participate from anywhere. No technical skills or knowledge is required. Members meet Mondays to share information and experiences. They are looking for people who are either passionate about a specific issue or wanting to learn more about how government works. They will be given a specific job not expected to cover all issues and bills. The group tries to focus on areas where the League is heard. Members will need to attend the Monday meeting at 11:00 for about an hour. The Climate Change group has been doing well, and can be used as a model. Nick Harper will provide information about new bills and which bills to follow. Members will look at standing Committee agendas to find out which meetings to attend and which are not about matters LWV is following. It is helpful if you or your local League knows your local representatives. Another suggestion is to have a buddy for each legislator. Those interested should contact APAT leader Vivian Latimer Tanniehill at [vtanniehill@lwwmn.org](mailto:vtanniehill@lwwmn.org) before the first Monday in January.



## October's Program – Joint Program with City of Fridley

LWV ABC partnered with the City of Fridley for our October 19 program, held at Fridley City Hall's council chambers. Our host was Scott Hickock, Community Development Director. You can watch the [video of this presentation at this link](#).

## Get in touch with LWV ABC

Visit our public website:

[www.lwvabcmn.org](http://www.lwvabcmn.org). If you need a refresher on accessing the Members Only section of the website, send an email to [lwvabc@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.lwvabcmn.org).