

In this issue:

The Electoral College – Dec 14 – 1
Reconnecting After the Election – 2
Book and film discussions – 2
LWV Advocacy – help wanted – 3
Follow City Council meetings – 4
Welcome New Members! - 4

Homelessness in Anoka County – 4
CMAL meeting: county governance – Jan 9 – 5
Info from LWV MN and LWV US – 6
Highlights of Board Meetings – 6
People Powered Fair Maps Next Steps – 7
Contact LWV ABC – 7

The Electoral College – a First Person Account!

December 14

6:00 Zoom meeting room opens
6:00 to 6:30 – Getting connected and visiting
6:30 - Announcements and Program

December 14 is the day that Electors gather to cast their votes for President. This year, Mel Aanerud from Ham Lake will be one of those Electors. and he's agreed to join us on December 14 at 6:30 to tell us about his experience that same day. The presentation will be non-partisan, and will include information on how the Electoral College came to be, the pros and cons, and what are the prospects of change.



Mel Aanerud is literally a Friend of League, having received this award from LWV ABC in 2018. Besides being a Friend of League and an Elector, Mel has been a Will Rogers re-enactor and further supports LWV ABC as husband of Kathy Aanerud, our Acting Vice President. Mel is a man of many talents who continues his studies of history, political science, and current events in his retirement. You can see a recording of Mel as Will Rogers [on QCTV Special Editions](#).

A second presentation on the Electoral College is being planned for later in December. In this presentation, we will talk about the LWV position on the Electoral College

and efforts that different groups in League are undertaking to bring about change. We'll share information on this as soon as the details are set.

Zoom log-in information for the December 14 meeting will be sent to members on December 7; non-members can request the link by emailing lwvabc@gmail.com . All are welcome, so join us. It will be a good session.

Last Month's Program: Reconnecting after the Election

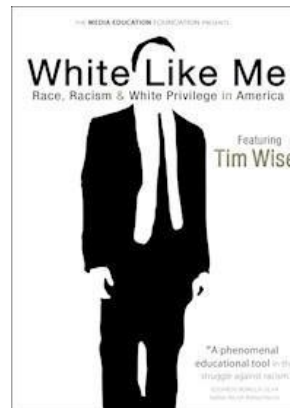
Sue Butler led a discussion geared at helping us all improve our skills at talking to folks who may not agree with our political views. This is important because we will all need to move ahead in rebuilding relationships and our community and our nation after the election. QCTV record this program, the video can be viewed on the [LWV ABC YouTube channel](#), as well as on QCTV. Thanks to Sue and QCTV!



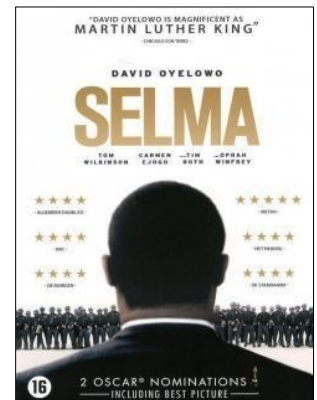
Book and Film Discussions via Zoom – with LWV ABC

*Expand your knowledge and participate
interesting discussions!*

Our Film Club continues to meet monthly via Zoom *on the first Wednesday of the month*. Our informal discussions focus on issues raised by the film, but even if you did not have time to see the film, everyone can participate in the conversation. It's a great opportunity for some social interaction!

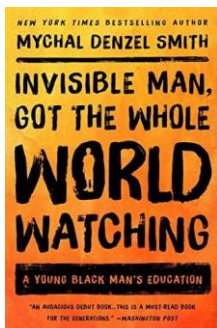


January 6, 2021



February 3, 2021

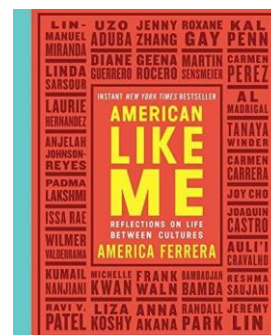
Our Book Club: Due to the holidays, our next Book Club Meeting is not until January 20 but it is time to get your library requests in for the upcoming books.



January
17, 2021



20, 2021
March 17,



February
2021

LWV ABC Call to Action:

LWV Minnesota is leading advocacy work at the state level here in Minnesota. They are also our link to LWV US and their work. LWV members like you (yes, you!) can be part of this work. LWV MN's Advocacy Chair is Vivian Latimer Tanniehill, and she is fearsomely organized and passionate about LWV's work. Join her and take an active role in LWV's work!

Vivian leads the LWV MN Action Committee, which meets virtually on the third Friday of each month. LWV members are needed to join in this work... fighting voter disenfranchisement and promoting reef and fair elections! Raise your hand by emailing lwvabc@gmail.com and we'll get you hooked up with the committee.

Here's an example of the work that the Action Committee is doing. Vivian is super-organized and runs a good meeting with lots of lively discussion.

LWVUS – Updates

- [Sign the Petition](#) – The Next President and Congress must enact democratic reform
- For the People Act - [Read the Bill](#) - To expand Americans' access to the ballot box, reduce the influence of big money in politics, and strengthen ethics rules for public servants, and for other purposes. Contact your Senator.

Interesting Reading:

[LWV Statement on The 2020 Election Results](#)
[We've Voted What Happens Next? Blog](#)

LWVMN – Updates

2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION: Opening Day of the Ninety-Second Session of the Minnesota Legislature Begins- Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021 12:00 PM. Members are needed to join the LWV MN Lobby and Observer Corps: [MN Lobby Corps and Observer Corps Training](#) Check Out the [November All Member News](#)

What are LWV MN's Legislative Priorities for 2021?

- **Redistricting reform**
- **Restore the vote to felons on parole**
- **Legislative transparency**
- **Voter empowerment**
- **People Powered Fair Maps (redistricting)**

Click [LWV MN Priorities](#) for more detail on these!



**VIVIAN LATIMER
TANNIEHILL**
Advocacy Chair

Vivian is a member of LWV Woodbury, Cottage Grove Area chapter where she served as Program for Action Chair, Advocacy Co-chair and coordinates the legislative interviews for the Annual Legislative Interview Brunch. The difference between her early childhood in the segregated south and her life in Roseville, Minnesota, inspired a desire to eliminate discrimination and the disenfranchisement of qualified voters.

Vivian is a retired Human Resources Director and widow. She enjoys classes in floral design, reading, gardening, cooking and genealogy.

Follow City Government Meetings:

Click this link - "[Your Elected Officials](#)" and you will find extensive resources on elected officials throughout Anoka County. Pat Kennedy has worked to include here links to city webpages and social media connections. Links include where to watch city meetings online, and their social media sites.

It's interesting to watch your city council in action. LWV ABC members are invited to watch their city council meeting and then complete an LWV Observer Report form – available at <https://my.lwv.org/minnesota/anoka-blaine-coon-rapids-area/action-and-advocacy/observer-corp>

Homelessness in Anoka County

Many people are slipping into homelessness now due to job loss from the pandemic and other factors. LWV ABC member Sue Dergantz volunteers with Family Promise in Ramsey, helping those experiencing homelessness find more stable housing. Here's what Sue says about how we can help:

"Right now Family Promise in Anoka County families are being housed in hotels for social distancing reasons. Donations of money would be welcomed or prepared meals for the families. That could be coordinated with the executive director, David Frei. (763-568-7349)

Once families are placed in permanent housing, there are many need to be met as far as furnishing their new home: bathroom, bedroom, kitchen items galore are needed.

One year I gathered some friends that were willing to do Christmas shopping for the families. I had each family write down on a wish items needed and this wanted. If clothing, sizes were noted... It was a real success! The county has gifting for families in need, but they don't have the freedom of actually getting what they want.



Family Promise is always in need of personal care products, cleaning supplies, sometimes sessions clothing. Again, that could be coordinated with David.

To reach out to Family Promise, follow this link to the [Family Promise website](#). or call Executive Director David Frei at 763.568.7349. If you'd like to learn more about homelessness, click this link for a list of [books from the Anoka County Library](#). The art shown here is from a recent art exhibition at Fridley City Hall, see more of the art at this [link to the exhibition on the Patch](#).

Welcome New Members!

LWV ABC welcomes two new members this month – Samantha Long of Ramsey and Sarah Eyberg from Coon Rapids. We hope to see you soon on our next Zoom adventure!

News from CMAL – Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues – Meeting Jan 9



What: Panel Discussion on Metro Area County Government

All LWW members are invited to hear panelists and ask questions.

When: Saturday, January 9, 2021 10-11:30 am on Zoom

Who: **Jan Callison** – Former Hennepin County Commissioner

Matt Smith – Dakota County Administrator

Lisa Weik – Washington County Commissioner

Topics:

- What's working well in county government – and what's not
- Effects of pandemic on county operations – both temporary and permanent
- Working relationship between counties and Met Council – Transparent? Accountable? Engaged?
- Working relationship between counties and their residents – Transparent? Accountable? Engaged?

RSVP: kate.redden@yahoo.com

Where: Zoom Call

Topic: CMAL COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Time: Jan 9, 2021 10:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting – Click link below

<https://zoom.us/j/93758148664?pwd=YVBtSWFpVi9JbGh4a2c0dHROeEhwdz09>

OR For Phone Dial in: 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 937 5814 8664 Passcode: 975443

Highlights of LWV ABC Board Meeting Minutes, Nov. 23, 2020

We discussed the issue of League's non-partisan position. Do we go too far to appear non-biased? Are our values being compromised? Are we giving too much of a platform to very minority parties? We decided to set up a group to work on this issue.

The board members who have been working on revisions to our bylaws gave us a report of their work so far. This has not been done in awhile, and many things have changed in the past couple of years. Bylaws are necessary to handle some situations that come up. They studied the idea of who has the authority to make some decisions, the board or the membership? We decided to look to the national and state leagues' bylaws and used them as a template.

Arlene Gillett, Secretary

LWV Minnesota Convention 2011

The LWVMN Board is pleased to announce that the 2021 Convention is being planned as a virtual convention and will be held the weekend of June 11-13. It is hoped that the virtual format will allow for broader participation and give the potential for a slate of great speakers. We will be recruiting a Convention Task Force so please contact Michelle or Laura if you are interested in serving. LWV ABC members can also email us at lwvabc@gmail.com and we'll help get you connected.

Powerful discussion with LWV US

(from President Debra Turner's email of Dec 4)

We are excited to continue our Women Power the Vote Discussion series reflecting on the work that it took to administer the historic 2020 elections. On Tuesday, December 8, at 1pm ET, on Facebook live, we will be hosting [Women Power the Vote Discussion Series: The Women Behind Our Election](#), a one-hour discussion where elections administrators will share and answer questions about their experience in the recent election cycle.

Chief Executive Officer, Virginia Kase, will moderate a panel with Florida Secretary of State Laurel M. Lee, New Jersey Secretary of State Tahesha Way, and Chair of Mecklenburg County Board of Elections Carol Hill Williams. The panel will discuss the challenges they faced and their roles in engaging voters, countering misinformation, and implementing our free and fair elections. We'll also take questions from the Facebook LIVE audience. We hope you can [join us on Tuesday for this event](#).

2021 - 2022 People Powered Fair Maps Strategy

Join us for a presentation and discussion

In response to an excellent suggestion in the last Advocacy and Program for Action Team (APAT) meeting, LWV Minnesota will host two 1 hour Zoom presentations/discussions to discuss the LWV Minnesota 2021 – 2022 PPFM Strategy. These meetings will be held at 7:00 PM on Thursday, December 17, 2020 and 7:00 PM on Thursday, January 7, 2021. This presentation will feature Nick Harper, LWVMN Civic Engagement Director and Paul Huffman, LWVMN Redistricting Coordinator. The information presented will support the objective of enabling local Leagues and individuals to engage in those aspects of redistricting that most interest them, in a manner and with a level of commitment that works for them.

The key areas we will discuss include:

- Estimated timeline for state and local redistricting activities
- Current status and strategy for legislation to address state-wide (congressional and legislative) redistricting;
- Focus on local redistricting efforts, both for local redistricting and to influence; legislators to reflect local interests in state-wide redistricting;
- Tools for mapping and support/training to be available;
- State alliance for redistricting and opportunities to development local partnerships ;
- Opportunities for local Leagues and individual League members (and non-members) to participate in and support the PPFM Campaign.

Since this is only an hour we will not be able to go into great detail on any single aspect of the plan for the next 2 years. Due to the importance of local engagement and action, we will schedule meetings in January to discuss local redistricting and communities of interest in greater depth. Please contact me with additional questions or comments at phuffman@lwvmn.org.

Do you have Information to share with LWV ABC?

Four ways to stay 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.