
In this issue:

February – County Governance - 1
Recordings of past meetings – 2
Caucuses are Feb 1 – 2
Darby Nelson – 3
Welcome New Members – 3
Book and Film Discussions – 4

Legislative Interviews – 4
Update on Redistricting - 5
Voter Registration at Citizenship Ceremonies – 6
LWV ABC Board Information – 6
Contact LWV ABC – 7

Join us for our February Monthly Program Meeting

County Government in the Metropolitan Area – A study by the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL)

Date: Monday evening, February 14

Time: 6:30 Social, 7:00 Program

Where: It's a virtual meeting, via Zoom – Zoom link will be sent to members in an email. Because this is a consensus meeting, only LWV ABC members may participate in the voting.

Vice President Julie Trude will provide an overview of *County Government in the Metropolitan Area*, a study that was conducted by CMAL to update CMAL's position on this subject. The study committee, led by Mindy Greiling (LWV Roseville Area) engaged in research regarding the accountability, visibility and accessibility of county governments as well as the relationship between county government and other levels of government. Other LWV ABC members who participated in producing this report are Dee Ann Christensen and Wes Volkenant.

Hear county comparisons and participate in consensus questions that will establish CMAL's position on county government. Help LWV ABC develop their input to the study with your vote on the consensus questions. Input from members is critical for LWV ABC to develop our position on this study.



Read the study here before the meeting:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TPF1ZKlzkFN13QzgatPD57DlnRym6Nuc/view>

Did you miss some past programs?

Watch them now on our YouTube channel

Our thanks to Program Chair Dee Ann Christensen for arranging these recent outstanding programs. Watch, review, or share with others at the video links provided below.

The History and Legacy of the Indian Boarding Schools at the University of Minnesota Morris:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=CjPGM8u8n1U

UMN Morris Acting Chancellor Janet Schrunk Ericksen discusses the background of the Indian Boarding Schools that operated at the current UMN Morris site and the challenges with learning more about them, including locating unmarked burials. UMN Morris alumni Jennifer Simon (Cheyenne River Lakota), member of the UMN Morris American Indian Advisory Committee and Director of Indian Education for Minneapolis Public Schools, discusses the impact and trauma of Indian Boarding Schools on our youth today.

Taped January 10, 2022. Produced by QCTV



Federal Voting Rights Legislation:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=YXlq76-9IU

Guest Speaker: US Representative Dean Phillips

Taped December 13, 2021. Produced by QCTV.

We appreciate the **partnership with QCTV**, and the technical assistance **with staff person Leslie Sauer-Smith**, to produce these videos.



Caucuses are February 1 – LWV Minnesota holds positions on a variety of policy issues.

Proposing a resolution at caucus provides an opportunity for members to express their voice on issues supported by LWV MN and influence what is accepted as part of a party platform. Each party designs its own process for drafting, proposing and approving resolutions. Often, a proposed resolution requires you to fill out a specific form. Contact your preferred party for information on the process and forms. For more information, [follow this link to the LWV MN website](#) for political party contacts and LWV template caucus resolutions.

In Memorium -- Darby Nelson

We are saddened by the loss of LWV ABC member, friend, and advocate for conservation, Darby Nelson of Champlin. We are grateful that his wife, Geri Nelson, shared Darby with us these many years – and we send our condolences to Geri and family.

Star Tribune article by Bob Timmons honoring Darby: “A Minnesotan whose love of rivers and lakes ran as deep as his advocacy.... a teacher, legislator, author, and relentless defender of Minnesota's waterways”: www.startribune.com/a-minnesotan-whose-love-of-rivers-and-lakes-ran-as-deep-as-his-advocacy/600137943/

Obituary and heartwarming tribute to Darby:

www.startribune.com/obituaries/detail/0000414413/?fullname=darby-miles-nelson



Photo posted on Facebook when Darby and Geri received an award from CURE.

Welcome New Members!

We welcome **Jodi Johnston of Coon Rapids** to League of Women Voters ABC. And welcome back to a former member, **Kathy Ahlers of Columbia Heights**. We look forward to having these members involved in our activities.

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 any isolation you're feeling!

Upcoming Films:

February 2, 2022 – [*Standing on My Sisters' Shoulders*](#)
(2002) for African American History Month
March 2, 2022 – [*Made in L.A.*](#) (*Hecho en Los Angeles*)
(2007) for Women's History Month

Upcoming Book:

[*White Rage – The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide*](#) (2016) By Carol Anderson, Ph.D.
Part 1: March 16, 2022 and Part 2 April 20, 2022

All events at 7:00 pm

Link to the calendar on our website for book/film descriptions and where to obtain.

Our Legislative Interviews – Watch them here!

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

We had 11 legislators from Anoka County and Champlin accept our invitation for an interview about their priorities for the upcoming legislative session! If there are interviews that you didn't have an opportunity to attend during the various scheduled live webinars, you can **watch the recorded YouTube videos at your convenience at the above-referenced link.**

Legislative Interviews are an opportunity for League members and members of the public to meet our legislators and learn about them. The interviews are also an opportunity for our legislators to share their views and perspectives on issues important to Minnesota and to our local communities. Legislative Interviews are held at the end of January, just prior to start of the Minnesota Legislature session.

We thank you for submitting questions and attending the webinars. And to name a few who made this activity possible, we thank Gretchen Sabel for launching our planning meetings during the month of December; Paul Sitz for taking leadership and activating volunteers to schedule the legislators; Linda Rodgers, Julie Trude, Sandy Connor, Leslie Waterhouse, Bruce Pomerantz and Laura Oberle for moderating the interviews; Geri Nelson for mentoring and back-up; and Pat Kennedy for the website set-up and technical assistance to make all of this work in a virtual format!



Senator Jim Abeler was our first interviewee!

An Update on Redistricting

--Compiled by Wes Volkenant, Treasurer, LWV ABC

Let's begin with some key dates, past and forthcoming, for 2022:

- **Monday, January 31** - 2022 "Short" Legislative Session will convene.
- **Tuesday, February 1** - Precinct Caucus evening
- **Monday, February 15** - Legislative proposal for redistricting Congressional and Legislative boundaries is due. (Since the Senate is controlled by the Republicans and the House by the Democrats and each has a proposal that favors their own party's chances for the next decade, an agreed-upon proposal is unlikely.)

Monday, February 15 (or shortly after) - With no single Legislative proposal in place, the Judicial panel of 5 Minnesota judges, appointed by the State Chief Justice, will release its Congressional and Legislative plan, which will be the Minnesota redistricting from 2022 to 2032. As the judicial panel has already conducted public hearings and solicited input from interested parties, it is likely that the panel will release its determination very quickly after the Legislature fails to submit a single proposal to the Governor.

There were two excellent *MinnPost* articles in the past six weeks that I **recommend for your reading prior to February 15**. The [first by Peter Callaghan](#), looks at who the five-member judicial panel is composed of, and what some of the considerations they will have been considering these past few months.

The Senate and House Republican and the Senate and House DFL each drew up maps they submitted as Senate and House Majority and Minority proposals to the judicial panel already. There were over one hundred proposals submitted besides those four. The judicial panel, earlier this month, chose to have four proposals argued/discussed orally before them. One of those (Wattson) is closely connected to LWV-MN this year. Another was presented in the interests of Communities of Color. And there were proposals that effectively were the Democratic State Party and Republican State Party's proposals apart from those of their, should we say, self-interested legislators. [This is an excellent article with access to map proposals](#) that you can compare to the judicial panel's final result.

None of these proposals divvy up Anoka County and northern Hennepin County the same way - neither in Congressional terms nor in terms of the legislative districts. Once known, the cities and then the school districts and counties can begin their process of drawing up precincts, perhaps wards, and even commissioner districts by the end of April.

So, I'm on pins and needles already. I hope that after you explore this further yourself, your appetite for our new political future will be whetted, as well.

Help Register New Citizens to Vote!

In 2022, Citizenship Ceremonies continue to be held at RiverCentre in St. Paul. Each Citizenship Ceremony day, approximately 1,200-1,400 people became citizens through numerous 15-20 minute ceremonies of about 65 citizens each. The League of Women Voter will have to have 8 tables for League members to register voters out in the hall where new citizens exit following their ceremony. Masks are required.



Upcoming Citizenship Ceremonies :

Tuesday, February 15

Morning session, 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Afternoon session, 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Thursday, March 17

Morning session, 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Afternoon session, 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Friday, March 18

Morning session, 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Afternoon session, 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Sixteen volunteers are needed for each shift. If you are able to volunteer for a morning shift or an afternoon shift (or both), please send an email to citizenshipceremonies@lwvmn.org with the date and shift(s) you are available to help.

LWV ABC Board Meetings

The LWV ABC Board meets on the fourth Monday of each month via Zoom. All members are invited to join in the meetings, just email us at lwvabc@gmail.com and you will receive a link.

Who's on the Board? [Check out this link](#). Minutes of our Board meetings are posted on the LWV ABC website [at this link](#). And guess what? There are openings on the Board if you'd like join in the work of leading LWV ABC! We are currently recruiting for Secretary...

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.lwvummr.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.