
In this issue:

LWV ABC Summer Events –1
Summer Picnic?? – 3
Last month’s meeting – 3
Meet the Candidate Forums - 4
Membership Drawing Winner – 4
Welcomem New Members 5
Service Project - 5

LWV ABC on Instagram - 6
LWV ABC Board News - 6
Good Reads – 7
LWV US Convention Recap – 7
Contact LWV ABC – 9
CMAL Newsletter - 10
'Slay the Dragon Virtual Event - 12

LWV ABC Events – Summer 2020

Join us for these informative and important programs –
from the comfort of your home, via Zoom.

If you're new to this method of attending meetings and would like a little assistance , we'd be happy to help. Just send an email to us in advance of the date or time, and we'll step you through the process: lwwabc@gmail.com

Monday, July 13 – 6:00 pm social / 6:30 program
Renewable Energy in our Local Communities – Getting Involved

This program will be led by LWV ABC members Lonni McCauley and DeeAnn Christensen as we launch a new initiative to encourage members to work with their communities to make sure city ordinances are not obstacles to renewable energy (similar to the work we did with pollinator protection earlier).

For some good background, check out the recap of last month’s program, *below*, titled “Catch up on Last Month’s Program”.



The Zoom link and telephone option for our July 13 program:

Topic: LWV ABC - Renewable Energy Launch

Time: Jul 13, 2020 06:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87116132412?pwd=dWdnVWpHUzgyb0FZQVxall1bmVLQT09>

To join by phone only: Dial in to +1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 871 1613 2412

Password: 096177

Monday, July 27 -- 6:00 pm social / 6:30 program
All About Voting, Our Candidate Forums, Election Judges and More!

Special guests: Secretary of State, Steve Simon and Anoka County Elections Manager, Paul Linnell, will discuss the importance of vote from home this year and the need for election judges among those who are comfortable and able to be at the polls. There will be time for questions, too.

And last, but not least, our very own Voter Service volunteers will tell us about LWV ABC is doing with candiidate forums for Primary and General Elections. Learn how our local cable companies are partnering with our members and candidates to record videos, without an audience, and make these videos available on demand on our website.

The Zoom link and telephone option for our July 27 program:

Topic: LWV ABC - Election Update

Time: Jul 27, 2020 06:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89762685278?pwd=M1pObDZyN1RWK2d5c2hyU3BrV1piQT09>

To join by phone only: Dial in to +1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 897 6268 5278

Password: 702532



Minnesota Secretary of State, Steve Simon, and Anoka County Elections Manager, Paul Linnell, will be our special guests for our July 27 meeting. Join by Zoom or phone for this meeting! 6pm social, 6:30 program. Refreshments on your own.

SAVE THE DATE -- MONDAY EVENING, AUGUST 10
Plans Being Made for an Outdoor Gathering
(Back-up dates August 11 and 12)

Save the date. We're considering whether we might gather, with physical distancing, in Gretchen Sabel's big, shady backyard at 3540 153rd AveNW in Andover to socialize, celebrate, and conduct some postponed Annual Meeting business items.

You'd bring your own food, your own chair, and we will try to offer a Zoom link for for those who can't be present. Contact Gretchen with any concerns or input. Send an email to lwwabc@gmail.com with August Gathering in the Subject line. We'll get more info out on this in our August newsletter.

CATCH UP ON LAST MONTH'S PROGRAM

We welcomed State Representative Zack Stephenson to our June 8 program. We learned about his bill, Clean Energy First, other energy legislation, and his work on the Energy and Climate Finance and Policy Division Committee.

We also heard from Lonni McCauley and DeeAnn Christensen about the newly-organized Coon Rapids Regenerative Task Force. The purpose of this group is to accelerate regenerative energy solutions through education and action in Coon Rapids

Watch the video from the meeting produced by QCTV at this link: <http://reflect-qctv.cablecast.tv/vod/10821-LWV-Renewable-Energy-and-Sustainability-Work-St-High-v1.mp4>



Representative Zack Stephenson,
Lonni McCauley and
DeeAnn Christenson



**MEET THE CANDIDATES FORUMS –
CHECK THEM OUT ON OUR WEBSITE!**

Our Voter Service Committee has teamed up with local cable television stations and candidates to move forward with making videos of Meet the Candidates forums -- despite the need to conduct the forums without live audiences.

Meet the Candidates Forums are underway for the Primary Elections on August 4 in the cities of Anoka, Blaine, Columbia Heights, Coon Rapids, and for Anoka County Commissioner, District 6.

- Links to completed forums are placed on the *Meet the Candidates* page of our website and can be viewed on demand.
- For forums still coming up, voters can click a link to submit questions for candidates. Dates are being set for General Election forums and added to the website as they're finalized. Questions about Meet the Candidate Forums or want to offer assistance? Send an email to lwwabc@gmail.com with Candidate Forums in the Subject line

**Check out the Meet the Candidates page on our website:
lwwabcmn.org**

SOME KEY ELECTION DATES TO NOTE:

📅 **June 26:** Early voting with absentee ballots began for the August 11 primary

📅 **August 11:** Primary Election Day

📅 **September 18:** Beginning of early voting with absentee ballots for the November 3 general election

📅 **November 3:** Election Day

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DRAWING

Thanks to all the members who renewed their LWV ABC membership for the April 2020 to March 2021 membership year. As promised, those who paid by an announced deadline were entered into a drawing for the book "When Republicans were Progressive" by Senator Dave Durenberger and *Star Tribune* columnist Lori Sturdevant. Congratulations to the winner of the drawing, Jane Dunn.

For those who haven't renewed yet, emails have been sent with instructions for paying by check or by PayPal (via credit card). Questions about your renewal? Send an email to lwvabc@gmail.org

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!!

We look forward to meeting and welcoming these newest members of LWV ABC. Watch for virtual opportunities to say hello....

- Julie Cicileo , Forest Lake
- Thomas Schraufnagel, Blaine
(returning member from 2018-19)
- Tom Kiekhafer, Coon Rapids
- Debra Sundberg, St. Francis
- Shannon Melham, Coon Rapids



An updated Membership Roster has been placed in the Members-Only section of our website, lwvabcmn.org.

The Members-Only menu item on our website becomes available only after completing the Log In at the top of the page. *If you need assistance with logging in, send an email to us at lwvabc@gmail.org, using "Log In Assistance" in the Subject Line.*

OUR "SERVICE PROJECT"

With the emphasis on vote from home in this year's elections, Anoka County Elections office is projecting that they will send out 100,000 ballots! Each ballot will be accompanied by an "I Voted" sticker.

Here's where you can help: The "I Voted" stickers are on rolls of 250 stickers. They need to be cut, or torn along a perforated line, and placed in a baggie. Several members have been engaged on this project, but there's work to share!

Contact Gretchen at gpsabel@yahoo.com to pick up a bag of 20 rolls at her house, and return the completed project to Gretchen.





THE VOTER
July 2020

LWV ABC IS ON INSTAGRAM AT: [lww_abc_mn](#)

LWV ABC, with the help of our fellow, Hailey Shage, will be using Instagram to encourage voter registration and get out the vote. Our Instagram account is [lww_abc_mn](#). By using Instagram, we hope to reach more young adults.

If you have an Instagram account please follow us and like our posts. If you don't have an account, you can easily create one on the Sign Up page on [Instagram.com](#) by signing in using your Facebook account. "Likes" are critical on Instagram. When a post receives "likes", Instagram "promotes" the post, meaning more people will see it. In this time of social distancing, when we cannot register voters in person, electronic communication is critical to get out the vote.

Thank you, Pat Kennedy, for establishing us on this popular social media activity. Questions? Send an email to us at lwwabc@gmail.com with Instagram in the Subject line.

BOARD MEETING NEWS

Our Monday, July 27 meeting will convene at 9:00 am and will continue to use Zoom to meet virtually. The agenda and Zoom link and phone number will be posted in the Members-Only section of the website and will be sent to Board members. Contact us at lwwabc@gmail.org if you need assistance with accessing Members-Only on the website.

A couple of agenda items have been proposed, arising from LWV US National Convention:

1. Tying in future program meeting topics with our Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) goals for membership. Our DEI committee wasn't able to be active last year, and this could refocus our attention.
2. The possibility of family Membership to include under 16 and developing activities related to a program for middle school children.

More background and information about the above topics will be included in the Board Meeting agenda.

A summary of minutes from our June 22 are provided below:

Highlights of LWV ABC Board Meeting, June 22, 2020

by Arlene Gillett, Secretary

Voter Service reported that we will be doing two Primary forums this week, one in Anoka for the 6th District County Commissioner's seat and the Anoka Mayor's race, and one in Coon

Rapids for the City Council races there. Forums will be recorded by QCTV, and there will be no live audience. Questions from the community to be asked at the forum can be submitted on

our website. The State League is offering two refresher sessions for moderators in July, and training for Forum Chairs also in July. This looks to be a very busy year for forums.

Our voter registration activities this year will most likely have to adjust to changes imposed on us by the Covid-19. The decision on whether schools will hold distance learning this Fall is being delayed until the end of July. Most of the community events and festivals have been rescheduled or postponed. We may move towards being a resource for the social studies departments, assisting them with online voter registration and information about upcoming elections.

We discussed making short informational videos about voting this election season, for example, "I will vote because...". We could use QCTV for technical advice on it. We could work with our student intern to bring in the youth perspective on what platform to use - Tik Tok?, You Tube?.

WHAT'S ON YOUR READING LIST?

So many good books and resources to enlighten our thinking and conversations.

- LWV Minnesota offers suggestions at: <https://www.lwvmn.org/diversity-equity-inclusion> Transfo
- Transformative Circle offers their book suggestions, as well as videos, podcasts, and articles, at: <http://transformativecircle.org/anti-racism-toolkit/>

If you have a resource to add to the above lists, send us an email at lwvabc@gmail.com, and indicate Resources in the Subject line.

LWVUS – 100th ANNIVERSARY NATIONAL CONVENTION

This year's national convention was moved online due to COVID19 . Our delegates were Gretchen Sabel and Pat Kennedy. A summary of some key items and actions are forthcoming.

In the meantime, enjoy this short video of CBS Evening News Anchor Norah O'Donnell presenting the Keynote address: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w5Ua1M5RWg0>

Following is an email from LWV US with links to presentations from the convention, including an address by our new LWV US President, Debra Turner:



Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

Gretchen,

I am full of energy and inspiration after our 54th National Convention this past weekend. League delegates, observers, board members, and staff joined together virtually for the first time in our 100-year history. There's no arguing that this was a historic Convention.

On Friday, our League delegates [elected Dr. Deborah Ann Turner as the 20th board president](#) of the League of Women Voters of the United States for our 2020-2022 biennium. Deborah has an impressive resume, as a doctor, an attorney, and a long-time League member. [In her remarks on Saturday](#), she laid out her vision for the League during the next biennium: making VOTE411 a household name, advancing our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) work, and embracing intergenerational relationships. I am so excited to welcome Dr. Deborah Ann Turner as the President of our [new board](#), and I am confident her leadership will carry the League forward strongly into our next century.



I had the honor of kicking off our Convention Thursday evening, moderating a panel of powerhouse voting rights experts – who happen to be all women! Our [conversation on Facebook Live](#) included D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser, Valerie Jarrett of When We All Vote, Allison Riggs of the Southern Coalition for Social Justice (and newly elected board member of LWVUS!), and Alejandra Castillo of YWCA USA.



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®
ANOKA, BLAINE, COON RAPIDS AREA

THE VOTER

July 2020

We were honored to hear from CBS Evening News anchor Norah O'Donnell who delivered an inspirational and celebratory keynote video. She spoke to the intersection of activism and journalism, and the need for more Black and Brown women leading the work. You can [watch Norah O'Donnell's full speech](#) on our YouTube page.

As we celebrated our organization's centennial virtually and conducted our internal business, I [addressed the convention](#) about what it means to be nonpartisan in hyper-partisan times.

“When democracy is attacked, we can’t stay neutral. We must stand in our positions and advocate for what is right and just – we must stand in defense of the constitution.”

We know the League's mission of empowering voters and defending democracy has never been more important. With Deborah's board leadership, I am confident we will tackle this together over the next two years.

With much thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Virginia Kase', written in a cursive style.

Virginia Kase
CEO

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.

Council of Metropolitan Leagues (CMAL) Newsletter (2 pages):



Volume 57 – Issue 1

Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues

Established in 1962 as an ILO and is composed of the members of the local LWWs in the seven metro counties of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington Counties.

CMAL Board of Directors

Officers

Karen Schaffer, Chair
Ardyth Norem, Vice Chair
Holly Jenkins, Treasurer
Martí Micks, Secretary

Letter from the Chair

Greetings to all metro area League members! Today we re-establish the splendid tradition of the CMAL Newsletter which first began with the organization's founding in 1962. For decades these quarterly newsletters were sent to all metro area League chapters and interested political leaders to create open dialogue about CMAL work. And by "sent" of course I mean paper copies in the US mail. No wonder postage was such a large expense for the early CMAL!

I have had the opportunity to read many of the historical newsletters and they are a treasure trove of meeting notices/invitations with amazing rosters of speakers, reports from observers of metro government meetings, reports on lobbying activities in St. Paul and Washington, D.C., CMAL committee reports, and consensus planning.

Our goal in reestablishing this venerable tradition is to revitalize open communication that will:

- 1) Provide timely information about CMAL activities and programs
- 2) Publicize upcoming CMAL events
- 3) Publicize notable events of metro area League chapters
- 4) Share information about developments in metro area regional governance

Directors

Susan Anderson
Kate Redden
Peg DuBord

It has been an honor to serve as CMAL Chair. CMAL's study and consensus on regional governance completed in March 2019 was exciting and energizing. It showed that metro area League members remain interested in how regional government affects our communities. I thank all League members who participated on the committee and who participated in the consensus process.

- Karen Schaffer, CMAL Chair

2020 Annual Meeting / Board Elections

In lieu of conducting the 2020 Annual Meeting in May, the board has decided to use an online ballot to elect the new slate of officers for positions concluding their current term in 2020. CMAL Board meets monthly – remotely at present. If you are interested in regional government issues, have a passion for research and visiting with local officials, and would like to meet League members from across the metro area, CMAL Board membership could be a rich and rewarding experience. Be on the lookout for online ballots soon!

PROPOSED SLATE FOR THE ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

- Vice Chair 2020-2022: **Ardyth Norem (Wayzata/Plymouth)** is nominated to serve another term
- Treasurer 2020-2022: **Holly Jenkins (Dakota County)** is nominated to serve another term
- Director #1 2020-2022: **Susan Anderson (Anoka/Blaine/Coon Rapids)** is nominated to serve another term
- Director #4 2020-2022: **Thana Ross (Dakota County)** is nominated to serve a first term



Lynn Gitelis

Lynn Gitelis, a director on CMAL Board and member of the LWV Golden Valley, died on March 6, 2020. Our CMAL Board will miss Lynn’s intellect and vast knowledge. Her interest in political issues began young when she went to Iowa to serve as a volunteer on a presidential campaign.

- Her passion was environmental issues: she served many years on Golden Valley’s Environmental Commission and volunteered with Minnesota Environmental Partnership.
- She used her organizing skills to bring “Beyond the Yellow Ribbon” to Golden Valley.
- Her mantra was “Save the Earth. It’s the only planet with chocolate.”

A link to her obituary: <https://www.startribune.com/obituaries/detail/0000349773/>

Study on County Government

In January 2020 CMAL delegates voted to undertake a comparative study of the seven metro area county governments to 1) increase public knowledge of county government and 2) determine whether CMAL’s position on county government should be updated. Initial steps include forming a committee, conducting research through the end of the year, interviewing county officials starting in January 2021, and submitting study findings to the CMAL Board in April 2021.

Committee tasks will include: review and refine study guidelines as proposed by the CMAL Board, conduct research and attend committee meetings (mostly virtual), develop a questionnaire and conduct interviews, compile the study and results. The effect of the pandemic on county government operations will need to be addressed as well.

We are now seeking interest League members to join the County Government Study Committee. To join the committee, please contact Holly Jenkins at hollyc.jenkins@gmail.com. Still undecided? All are invited to learn more about the County Government Study Committee at a virtual meeting on Saturday, July 25, 10 - 11 am. To receive a meeting link, send a RSVP to Holly at hollyc.jenkins@gmail.com on or before July 24.

Metro Transit’s Response to COVID-19

Metro Transit has been adjusting its services to respond to the pandemic.

Essential Trips Only

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, transit should be used for essential travel only. Reducing demand will make transit safer for operators and those who have no alternatives but to take transit. Examples of essential travel include:

- Commuting to a job that cannot be performed at home.
- Obtaining groceries or other necessary supplies.
- Seeking medical services and medications (**do not take transit if sick**).
- To care for a family member, friend or pet in another household.

Helping Slow Community Spread

Those who must leave home for an essential reason and have no other option but to take transit should remember to:

- Leave space between themselves and other passengers and the operator, and to board and exit buses using the back door (front doors are available for those who need it for any reason).
- Cough/sneeze into a tissue or a sleeve.
- Regularly and thoroughly wash hands or use hand sanitizer when it is not possible to wash hands.

Face Coverings are Required

- Passengers are now required to wear face coverings while riding on Metro Transit trains and buses
- There is no plan to deny service to anyone who declines to wear a face covering nor to provide them to riders
- Transit operators are not required to wear face coverings.
- [Learn more about Metro Transit requirement](#)

These developments beg the question of the financial impacts on Metro Transit. GM Kooistra states that Metro Transit will receive \$214 million from the federal CARES ACT, which, along with budget reserves, provides one-time relief from the losses in fare and other revenues. For information from Metro Transit on pandemic issues, visit www.metrotransit.org/health.

LWV MN Virtual Event:

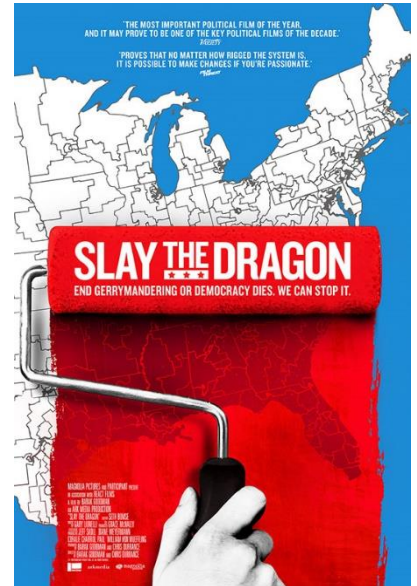
**"SLAY THE DRAGON" – FREE SCREENING
& PANEL DISCUSSION**

Registration is Now Open!

Join LWV MN for a free screening of the movie "Slay the Dragon," followed by a panel discussion about gerrymandering, redistricting and the People Powered Fair Maps campaign! This event will take place in two parts the weekend of July 24 and is open to everyone, LWV members and the public alike, so please spread the word to anyone you think would be interested.

A single registration will get you access to both the movie and the panel discussion.

[Register Today](#)



PART I: FILM SCREENING

Friday, July 24, 2020

LWVMN will present a free virtual screening of the documentary "Slay the Dragon," which shines a light on gerrymandering and follows a handful of citizens' groups who are outraged by an attack on the core democratic principle that every person's vote should count equally. They battle party operatives and an entrenched political establishment to fix a broken system.

The movie will be available for viewing between noon and midnight on July 24 through a private Vimeo page specifically for our screening. The link will be sent to those who have registered.

PART II: PANEL DISCUSSION

Sunday, July 26, 2020

The panel discussion on gerrymandering and redistricting will be held from **7:00-8:30 pm** on Sunday, July 26, and will feature a range of regional and national experts on different aspects of redistricting and the fight to ensure fair maps. The panelists include:

- Dan Vicuña, Common Cause National Redistricting Manager
- Allison Riggs, Interim Executive Director and Chief Counsel, Southern Coalition for Social Justice and LWVUS Board Member
- Nick Harper, LWVMN Civic Engagement Director
- Betty Bengtson, LWV Arizona Board Member and State Redistricting Lead

The panel discussion will take place online through a Zoom meeting. Access instructions will be sent in advance to those who have registered.

If you have questions or would like more information about the event or the panelists, please visit the "[Slay the Dragon](#)" event page.