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**In this issue:**

LWV Statement on George Floyd's Death – 1  
June 8 Meeting – 2  
Other upcoming meetings – 3  
Candidate forums and voter registration - 4  
LWV US Convention – 5  
Student intern – 6

May Board Meeting Highlights – 6  
May Meeting Recap – 7  
Job Opening – Here come 'de Judge! -8  
Our website – 9  
Upcoming Events - 9  
Contact LWV ABC – 9

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## LWV Minnesota Statement on the Death of George Floyd

The League of Women Voters of Minnesota stands in solidarity with our fellow Minnesotans who grieve the loss of George Floyd and condemn the horrendous circumstances of his death. We call on our law enforcement officials to provide transparency during this investigation, and to seek justice for him, his family, and his community. And we stand ready to work with our government officials and the community to pass meaningful reforms that will address systemic racism, the heart of these tragic killings that disproportionately target Black people. Elected officials must be responsive to the calls for change that have gone unheard.

## LWV US Statement on the Death of George Floyd

"The League of Women Voters grieves the murders of George Floyd and the countless other Black lives that have been tragically taken at the hands of rogue law enforcement officers who are rarely held fully accountable for their actions.

"We also mourn those who have lost their lives or been harmed, mentally or physically, as a result of America's pervasive culture of anti-blackness. The systems of oppression that have perpetuated the myth of white supremacy in our country must be dismantled if we are ever to become the nation we pledge to be—*indivisible, with liberty and justice for all*.

"As an organization whose mission is to empower voters and defend democracy, we stand in solidarity with all Black communities. The League shall do so not only by speaking out against racism in all forms, but by doing the work required of us to be anti-racist. We are committed to listening to and amplifying Black voices, and educating ourselves and our children on the historic and ongoing systemic racism that plagues this country.

"The League acknowledges, painfully, that America is a nation founded on racism. Therefore, all who live in this country must contribute to and participate in organizations actively working to

achieve full liberation and inclusive freedom. We must all advocate for anti-racist policies at every level of government.

"We join the League of Women Voters of Minnesota in calling on law enforcement officials to provide transparency during this investigation, and to seek justice for George Floyd, his family, and his community.

"Finally, we echo the call of our partners at the NAACP: we must all vote in November – the road to change lies at the ballot box."

**Monday, June 8 at 6:30 via Zoom**

**Renewable Energy and Sustainability Work: State and Local Efforts**

The Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8919935208>

(The Zoom room will open at 6pm, come early and socialize a bit. Program will begin at 6:30.)

Representative Zack Stephenson of Coon Rapids will be our guest presenter. He's a member of the Energy and Climate Finance and Policy Division Committee at the



Representative Zack Stephenson,  
Lonni McCauley and  
DeeAnn Christenson



Minnesota House of Representatives, author of the Clean Energy First bill, and an active participant on other significant energy legislation this year. We're very appreciative to have Representative Stephenson join us.

We will also hear about the newly-organized Coon Rapids Regenerative Task Force from LWV ABC members, Dee Ann Christensen and Lonni McCauley. The purpose of this group is to accelerate regenerative energy solutions through education and action in Coon Rapids.

Join us to learn and ask questions about Minnesota's energy policies and initiatives. QCTV will host the Zoom and record the event for on-demand viewing on their website.

See follow-up to this program on July 13, described below.

### **Future LWV ABC Programs**

(mostly virtual, but we will be feeling our way back into in-person meetings as the summer draws to the end)

**Monday, June 22, 6:30 pm, via Zoom**

#### **Update on Status of:**

- **Redistricting efforts** (including constitutional amendment) with guest Paul Huffman, census and redistricting coordinator for LWVMN
- **Legal challenge to absentee ballot signature witness requirement**, with Nick Harper, civic engagement director for LWVMN.

This program will be arranged and led by LWV ABC member, Paul Sitz.

**Monday, July 13, 6:30 pm, via Zoom:**

**Follow-up to the above Renewable Energy and Sustainability program on June 8:** This program will launch a new initiative to encourage LWV ABC members to work with their communities to make sure that city ordinances are not obstacles to renewable energy (much like we did with pollinators earlier).

**Monday July 27, 6:30 pm July 27, via Zoom:**

**Tentative date; check back later for confirmation or new date-**

**Get the Latest on our Meet the Candidates Forums!** Our Voter Services team will provide an overview of the plans for this year's candidate forums and where and how members are needed to help, including making our communities aware of how to "meet the candidates". We will also talk about voter registration activities in this time of quarantine.

**Monday, August 10. evening time to be finalized**

**Possible social-distance gathering** in Gretchen's back yard, to say hello, socialize some, and tend to some of the unfinished items on our annual meeting agenda including the Zilla Way Award. We'll see where we are with the virus as the date gets closer. ***This would definitely have a virtual option in any case, and may be solely virtual if appropriate.***

**Thursday September 24, 6:30 pm**

**Meet the Candidates forum** is scheduled to be held in person at Majestic Oaks. LWV ABC is cosponsoring this forum with Ham Lake Area and East Bethel Chambers of Commerce. This event may move to our online format if requested. *See article below on Meet the Candidates forums.*

**Other September-October programs may be added as issues come up.** We will attempt to keep the calendar on our website, [www.lwvabcmn.org](http://www.lwvabcmn.org), current for a quick check of events.

### **Update -- Meet the Candidates Forums**

Active and innovative planning is moving forward to present this year's Meet the Candidates forums in an online format.

Our Voter Service Co-Chair, Geri Nelson and her mentee, Linda Rogers, along with volunteer Bruce Pomerantz, are meeting regularly to work out a schedule to record the forums, identify the races and candidates, enlist forum moderators, and recruit and engage community sponsors. The move to an online format is made possible by a partnership with QCTV. We are very grateful to QCTV for their ambitious offer and solid technical skills.

The one exception to the online format may be the September 24 forum that we have been co-presenting the past couple of election cycles with the Ham Lake Area and East Bethel Chambers of Commerce. It is currently scheduled to be held at Majestic Oaks in Ham Lake. The in-person plan will be reviewed as summer progresses, and we have indicated our willingness to make the online format available if needed.

As previously reported: Forum Ground Rules have been updated with modifications specific to the online aspects of the forums. These forums will each be specific to an office, i.e. mayoral, council, legislative, rather than a group of offices within a forum

If you haven't yet volunteered to work on forums for your community or have questions about the forums, send an email to Geri Nelson's attention at [lwvabc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvabc@gmail.com)

### **Voter Registration**

Arlene Gillett, Voter Service Co-Chair for Voter Registration, will be checking with local high schools, when their staff becomes available later this summer, to identify their plans for voter registration activities. Our usual interaction with students will be significantly affected by the pandemic; and Arlene will be determining if there may be alternative non-contact assistance we can provide. If you have questions or information about voter registration, send an email to Arlene's attention at [lwvabc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvabc@gmail.com)





The dates are June 25-27. Convention information at this link: <https://www.lwv.org/2020Convention>

At our last board meeting, we elected Gretchen Sabel and Patricia Kennedy to fill the two delegate spots allocated to our local league. But we need alternates who can be “credentialed” (at pre-determined times) if our delegates aren’t going to be available. Contact Gretchen through [lwvabc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvabc@gmail.com) if you’d be willing to serve as an alternate. There is no cost for attending as an observer.

The keynote address will be presented by Nora O’Donnell, CBS Evening News anchor and managing editor, on Friday, June 26



and made available on YouTube shortly after. Throughout her career, O’Donnell has covered American elections and won multiple prestigious journalism awards, including Emmys for her sexual assault investigation as well as her Election Night coverage.

More information will be forthcoming from LWVUS about observing other convention events, including a special pre-meeting for Minnesota Leaguers attending the LWV US convention.

Attending an LWV US convention is a great way to learn about LWV and all the work that we do. It is amazing to see how different Leagues are across the country, and yet we are united in our mission of protecting democracy. You will come away revitalized and rededicated to our work!

Photo right - LWV US President Chris Carson and LWV US Executive Director Virginia Kase on stage at the 2018 convention in Chicago.

## THE VOTER

June 2020



### Our Student Intern For Election Activities





## THE VOTER

June 2020

Virtual meetings are underway with our student intern, Hailey Shaiger, to identify election activities for her involvement. She comes to us via the LWV MN *Youth Civic Engagement Fellows program* following President Gretchen Sabel's outreach to our local high schools. Hailey will be a senior at Coon Rapids High School this fall.

Currently LWV ABC members Wes Volkenant, a former high school social studies teacher, and Patricia Kennedy, an exceptional guide to us on our technology efforts and community engagement, are discussing and mentoring next steps with Hailey. Likely activities at Coon Rapids High School, and perhaps our communities, will include voter registration, educational events around key issues in the election, and promoting voting in the August primary and November general elections.

2020 is an exciting year to help students understand and participate in our election processes – and we're pleased to be working with Hailey. To read more about the LWV MN *Youth Civic Engagement Fellows program* program: [www.lwvmn.org/youth-civic-engagement](http://www.lwvmn.org/youth-civic-engagement)

### Highlights of the May Board Meeting, submitted by Secretary Arlene Gillett

June 1, 2020 via Zoom (delayed from May 26 due to Memorial Day)

Voter Service reported that we have the potential of 55 forums to do this election season, depending on how many candidates file for the positions. QCTV is willing to handle all of them. The forums will be recorded with no audience, and will just have the moderator, the timer, and the candidates. There is really a narrow window of time to do forums between the end of the filing period, and the election, so we can try to schedule these forums on Saturdays, or any time during the week. We will ask for questions to be submitted from our co-sponsors as well as the community. QCTV will post the forums on their website, and we will put them on YouTube through our website. We hope to have a moderator training session soon.

The Program Committee reported on a tentative schedule of program topics to be covered at our membership meetings this summer. They range from community work on renewable energy, the status of redistricting issues, and an overview of voter service programs for the upcoming election season.

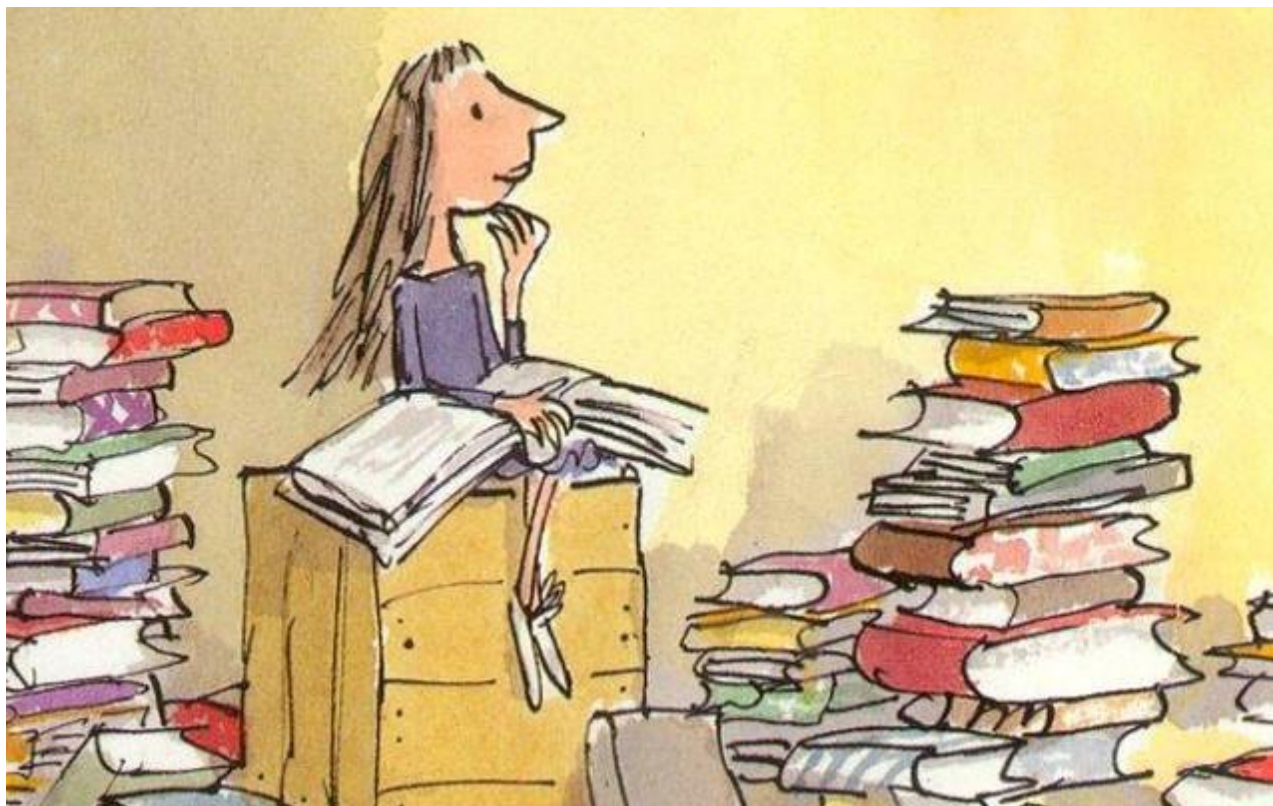
We discussed making a variety of informative videos to put on our Community Facebook page, Instagram, or TikTok. We could have volunteers tape 30 second messages on like, "how to register to vote", for example. We could involve our student intern, Hailey Schlagel, to do videos that might be of interest to young people. Our next step will be to contact our intern about it.

## Summary of Our May Monthly Program – An Update on Anoka County's Library Operations During Quarantine

We thank Patti Hetrick, interim director of Anoka County's library system, and QCTV's production staff, Leslie Sauer Smith, for so successfully providing our first live program via Zoom for our members and community. Patti Hetrick was joined by Jamie Dunn, adult services librarian.

We were grateful to learn of the services that Anoka County Library continues to creatively, ambitiously and safely provide during the pandemic -- and the volume of activity in normal and our current time. We also learned of future plans for library facilities and operations. Participants appreciated the generous amount of time for questions, sharing of thankful anecdotes of how library services improve our lives, and an invitation from our presenter to submit suggestions to her for continued enhancements and improvements.

Did you miss the program? You can watch it on demand on QCTV's website. Just click this link:  
<http://qctv.org/league-of-women-voters/>





LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®

ANOKA, BLAINE, COON RAPIDS AREA

# THE VOTER

June 2020

## Job openings (part-time temporary):

### Minnesota Needs Election Judges

#### Requirements:

- Must be a U.S. citizen
- Must be able to read, write and speak English fluently
- Must not be related to another Election Judge in the same polling location
- Must not be a candidate in the election, or a family member of a candidate

**Contact your city to apply.**



Our cities are looking for election judges for both the August Primary and November General elections. Consider signing up!

Being an election judge is an opportunity to participate in an election, making sure that voting is conducted fairly.

Here's a job posting from the City of Fridley – all our cities are looking for judges so contact your city clerk today if you are interested in serving:

The City of Fridley is in need of Election Judges for the remaining 2020 elections: August 11 and November 3. The pay is \$10 an hour. We are also recruiting for Student Election Judges. Attached is a flyer for both Adult and Student Judges and you can learn more at [FridleyMN.gov/ElectionJudge](https://FridleyMN.gov/ElectionJudge).

Students who are at least 16 years of age, while not eligible to vote until they are 18, can still participate in the election by being a student election judge. It's great experience!

### Minnesota Needs Student Election Judges

#### Requirements:

- Be a U.S. Citizen
- Be Between ages of 16-18
- Not be related to another Election Judge in the same precinct
- Have permission from a legal guardian

**Contact your city to apply.**





### **Our Website –**

**LWVABCMN.org** [www.lwvabc.org](http://www.lwvabc.org)

**Including the Members-Only Section\*\***

- Stay in touch with LWV ABC's activities. Click and explore the information available -- [www.lwvabcmn.org](http://www.lwvabcmn.org) .
- Looking for a copy of our Membership Roster or other *Members-Only* documents? If you don't see *Members-Only* in the menu on the left-hand side of the website -- and if you can't locate the email sent to each member with instructions for password set-up, send an email to [lwvabc@gmail.org](mailto:lwvabc@gmail.org) so we can connect you to our webmaster.

### **Other Upcoming Events**

**(in addition to program descriptions on page 1-2)**

**Monday, June 22 – LWV ABC's Board Meeting**, via Zoom, at \_\_\_\_ AM. Submit agenda items to Gretchen a couple days in advance.

#### **Upcoming Events**

Our Board Meeting for May – This monthly meeting will be rescheduled due our regular fourth-Monday date falling on Memorial Day and will be conducted via Zoom.

Our Monthly Program Meeting, June 8, 6:00 pm -- Further information will be forthcoming, and will likely include a continued Zoom format.

**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](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.

**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](http://www.lwvabcmn.org) .