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Join us for our June Program Meeting

**Book talk with
Star Tribune columnist Lori Sturdevant and
US Senator Dave Durenberger**

Our guest presenters will discuss the book they co-authored, "When Republican Were Progressive." Our planned in-person event in 2020 was postponed due to the pandemic; however, participants will find the content of this live, virtual conversation timely, lively, and forward-looking. A Star Tribune book review commented that the book "...is a fascinating combination of Durenberger's firsthand account regarding three terms in the U.S. Senate, hundreds of anecdotes....a platform for positive change and a skimpy yet alluring look into his personal life."



QCTV community television will video record the event, and it will be available for viewing later in the week at LWV ABC's YouTube channel [YouTube @ LWV Anoka Blaine Coon Rapids Area](#)

Join the meeting by clicking this link in this green box. The public has been invited to attend by requesting the Zoom link from us at lwvabc@gmail.com.

[Click here to join the meeting
on June 14 at 6pm](#)

MEET OUR VERY SPECIAL PRESENTERS!

Dave Durenberger is a retired three-term U.S. Senator and the retired chair of the National Institute of Health Policy. He also served as a senior health policy fellow at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. Lori Sturdevant is a retired Star Tribune editorial writer and the author of several books of Minnesota history including "Her Honor: Rosalie Wahl and the Minnesota Women's Movement."

Recap of our May Meeting:



Nucleus Clinic - Protecting reproductive health in a pandemic

Speaker - Becky Fink, Executive Director, Nucleus Clinic

Nucleus Clinic in Coon Rapids is the only independent, reproductive health, sexual health and education specialty community clinic between St. Paul and St. Cloud. Keeping the doors open during this pandemic year has been challenging. Becky Fink shared her experiences, challenges and successes in a presentation May 10. The clinic saw a major reduction in visits, especially early in the shut down, which has lowered revenue for the past year. Becky spent many hours tracking down Personal Protective Equipment, and clinic patients had to be flexible in how they met with clinicians and provided the needed samples to diagnose their illnesses. Nucleus Clinic made it through, and are now working to catch up with those who postponed visits due to the pandemic. Many thanks to Becky for her service to our community, and for speaking to our League!

LWV Minnesota Convention 2021

The 2021 LWV MN Convention is being planned as a virtual convention and will be held the weekend of June 11-13. LWV ABC is sending a full delegation of six - Gretchen Sabel, Julie Trude, Linda Rodgers, Sandy Connor, Kathy Aanerud and Pat Kennedy - plus observers Wes Volkenant, Shalonda Gordon, Kathie Whelchel and Geri Nelson. Watch for an update on what took place here in our July edition of this LWV ABC Voter!

Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues

The Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL) is an umbrella organization of local Leagues across the Metro area. CMAL provides education and advocacy for LWV on Metro-wide issues. As a member of LWV ABC, you are also a member of CMAL



CMAL is conducting a study of county governance in the Metro area. LWV ABC's Wes Volkenant will lead the CMAL Anoka County study group with Dee Ann and Julie Trude assisting. Over the summer they will complete a lengthy questionnaire about county operations and transparency. The study will be completed by December.

Working with High School Students to Register New Voters

Julie Trude is LWV ABC's Vice President, and she's also taken the lead in working with students in our area high schools, starting with District 11 schools, to register 18 year olds to vote.



She will be making contact with students in programs that require community service, like National Honor Society and Key Club, and working with them to find ways to reach students in their schools who will be eligible to vote in the next election.

Julie's shown that this will be an effective way to reach students. By working with a student at Coon Rapids High School, she was able to identify that there would be an opportunity to register students when the graduating seniors came in to pick up their caps and gowns. In two hours they reached 54 seniors to either register on their phones using the posted QR code, or complete a paper form. This is a fantastic success!

Voter Registration – Get out into the Community and help register voters!

LWV-ABC has a new vice-chair for voter registration—Cindy Wetzell (under the Voter Services Committee chaired by Linda Rodgers). What follows is a preview of what volunteering for voter registration might look like going forward.

Because the next national election is 18 months away, we have a terrific opportunity to build on our current voter registration outreach before the next huge voter registration push in 2022. This year, in our county, there are currently only three elections on the calendar in November—all for school board seats. However, that shouldn't stop us from building our network of contacts now in all of the cities that we serve. Our goal is to interact with more of our citizens through community events, church programs, festivals, art fairs and even concerts. And there are likely dozens more ways we can be a presence in the community to register residents to vote.

That's where you all come in. We need to share our ideas and our energy. Because not only do we need to find places to go to register voters, we also need to actually go and do that work—to staff a table; to hand out flyers; to help people fill-out their forms either on paper or online; to answer their questions about registering.

To help you do that, we will be providing voter registration training later this month. In conjunction with the Minneapolis voter registration coordinator we have put together a training focused on our communities. That training (on Zoom) is

scheduled for Saturday, June 12th from 10:30-11:45. The training is less than 90 minutes and will answer all the questions you have about voter registration. The invitation to the training was sent to your email on June 5 through Signup Genius.

We are currently working to request tables at several community events that are occurring over the summer. An email with the Signup Genius link will be sent periodically as more events are available to us. If you know of a festival, an art fair, or a community celebration that might be a good opportunity for voter registration, either find out about the possibility of having a table there or forward the information to me and I can check with the organizer. Sometimes, we can staff a table with another organization such as the Chamber of Commerce, the Lions, or another non-profit. I just ask that you keep me in the loop (registervoteslwvabc@gmail.com) so that we can keep track of all the events we participate in.

When you volunteer to staff a table we will provide you with all of the materials you will need. Usually, there are two volunteers per table. Eventually, we will have at least two (and preferably three) complete kits of materials available in different locations around the county. These kits will include voter registration forms, absentee ballot applications, tablecloth, poster and easel, sanitizing tips, individually wrapped face masks, "I Will Vote" stickers, candy, pens and a 3-ring binder packed with information on voter registration.

Please consider volunteering at one (or more!!) events to help register voters in our county! Remember, we will be having a voter registration training on Saturday, June 12th from 10:30-11:45. Watch your email for more information!

Photo below from September 2019 LWV ABC Voter – let's get this rolling again!

Multicultural Night to Unite – Coon Rapids

August 6, 2019 at the Coon Rapids Soccer Complex

Thanks to LWV member Kathie Wheelchel who organized LWV's table at the Coon Rapids Multicultural Night to Unite on August 6! Lots of people visited our table and learned about LWV, thanks to the members who helped with the event!



Booth staff here: Belinda Lawrence, Ariene Gillett, Sandy Connor and Susan Anderson. Additional participants, but not pictured, were Dee Ann Christenson, Luanne Koskinen, and Kathie Wheelchel.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATES

Welcome to our New Members!

Diane Kroll, Stacy
Stephanie Schroeder,
Blaine
Shalonda Gordon, Coon
Rapids

Thank you to the 70 members who have renewed their membership! Your timely response makes the jobs of the treasurer and membership chair much easier. A special thanks to 23 members who included an extra donation to support WV ABC.

For the last few still getting reminders about submitting dues for the current membership year, remember that we offer a Flexible Dues option (Pay What You Can) Find information about renewing membership by check or PayPal on our website:

<https://my.lwv.org/minnesota/anoka-blaine-coon-rapids-area/join-lwv-abc-or-renew-your-membership>

Updated and New Materials for our In-Person Events!

The Membership Committee has

- Updated our Membership Application Brochure
- Created a "League Basics" brochure to provide the public with more information about LWV

We're ready to share these with the public at in-person gatherings this summer, including voter registration events.

You can find the League Basics information on our website at

<https://my.lwv.org/minnesota/anoka-blaine-coon-rapids-area/member-handbook/league-basics> as part of our new electronic Member Handbook.



Check out the latest posts on the LWV ABC Antiracism Blog at this link:

<https://www.lwvumrr.org/lwv-abc-blog/category/antiracism-resources>

UPCOMING BOOK AND FILM CLUB DISCUSSIONS

Summertime Zoom gatherings for LWV ABC Members & Friends

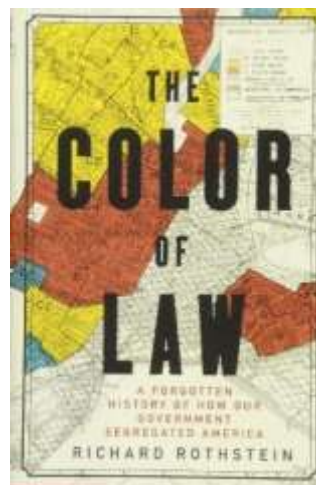
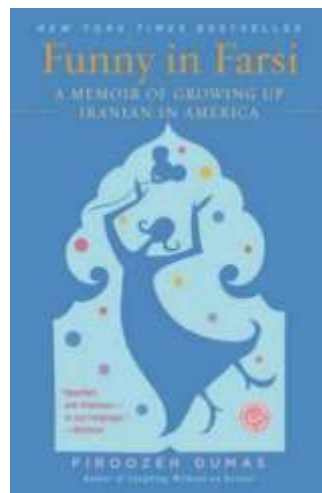
Expand your knowledge of diversity, equity and inclusion topics
from the comfort of your deck, yard, or comfy chair

Check the Calendar on our website <https://my.lwv.org/minnesota/anoka-blaine-coon-rapids-area> for meeting times, as well as description, book/film availability and zoom link. Everyone is welcome to join our discussion about the issues raised in the book or film.

FILMS:



BOOKS:



Our Members are Serving in Our Communities

Congratulations to our members for stepping forward to serve:

- **Belinda Lawrence** was recently appointed to a vacancy on the Anoka County Library Board. The library board members, consisting of seven Anoka County residents, are appointed by the County Board of Commissioners to serve as the library's governing board.
- **DeeAnn Christensen** was recently elected to Board of Directors of the Anoka County Historical Society. The board sets the strategic course for the organization, maintains financial stewardship and commits volunteer time to ensure goals are met.
- **Wes Volkenant** is now serving on the Andover Planning Commission, in addition to his work as administrator of the "Eye on Anoka County" Facebook page. This page reports on what goes on in Anoka County - particularly at the County Board. It is an informational site - County Board Committee and Board Meeting Agendas, observer meeting notes, minutes from Committee or Board meetings, and news stories about Anoka County Board and Commissioners.

Are there other connections we should know about? Send an email to lwvabc@gmail.com

Highlights of LWV ABC Board Meeting, May 24, 2021

We welcomed new Board members: Program Committee Chair, and Action Committee Co-Chairs. We discussed how to best transmit action notices to our membership, so that the topic stands out in the subject line, and to differentiate it from other League messages. We decided to give some thought to using the word "Program" in the subject line.

How to handle student voter registration and candidate forums this Fall was also discussed. Contacting the National Honor Society at the high schools might be the most productive way to reach the students for voter registration this Fall. We are thinking of hosting a training class for forum chairs, and perhaps recruiting some students to help with the candidate forums.

Finalizing our plans for the June 14th membership program with Lori Sturdevant and Dave Durenberger discussing their book, "When Republicans Were Progressive" was the next topic. We discussed how to reach a wider audience; we could do it as a webinar, have a press release for the newspapers, put a link to it in our newsletter, do a Facebook posting, and get LWV MN in on it.

Arlene Gillett, Secretary

Learn about other Leagues:

This article, in the October 3, 2020 Bemidji Pioneer, documents the role that LWV Bemidji played in Bemidji's civic life 100 years ago. It's an interesting read. [Find the article at this link – click here.](#)



1From Bemidji Pioneer, Oct 3, 2020

How We Know 2020 Elections Were Fair and Accurate

Did you miss this live one-hour webinar with Secretary of State Steve Simon and county election officials from metro and greater Minnesota? Watch the video recording at the link below – and learn about the many checks and balances that are in place to ensure election safety and integrity -- and how our counties managed the special challenges of 2020. Moderated by Michelle Witte, Executive Director of LWV Minnesota.

YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Et6It6UodWI>

Do you have Information to share with LWV ABC?

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.

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.