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**In this issue:**

May – Different Races Organizing Peace - 1  
LWV ABC Annual Meeting Recap - 2  
Zilla Way Award Recipients – 3  
Book and Film Discussions – 4  
Membership Notes – 5  
Highlights of the Board Meetings – 5

Voter Services – sign up now for forum training! - 6  
CMAL Annual Meeting and Position Updates – 7-8  
Update on Redistricting – 9  
Voter Registration at Citizenship Ceremonies – 10  
LWV US Convention - 10  
Contact LWV ABC – 10

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**Different Races Organizing Peace (DROP)**

Featuring students from Andover High School

**Date:** Monday evening, May 9

**Time:** 6:30 Gathering Time\*; 7:00 Welcome and Program

**Where:** Andover City Hall -- Council Chambers  
1685 Crosstown Boulevard NW, Andover

[Click here for link to map](#)

\*Weather permitting, our in-person gathering will take place outdoors at City Hall, with treats



--Or you can attend virtually. Watch for an email the day before the meeting with the Zoom link. The social time on Zoom will include another fun quiz game!  
--QCTV will also be on hand to record the event for later viewing.

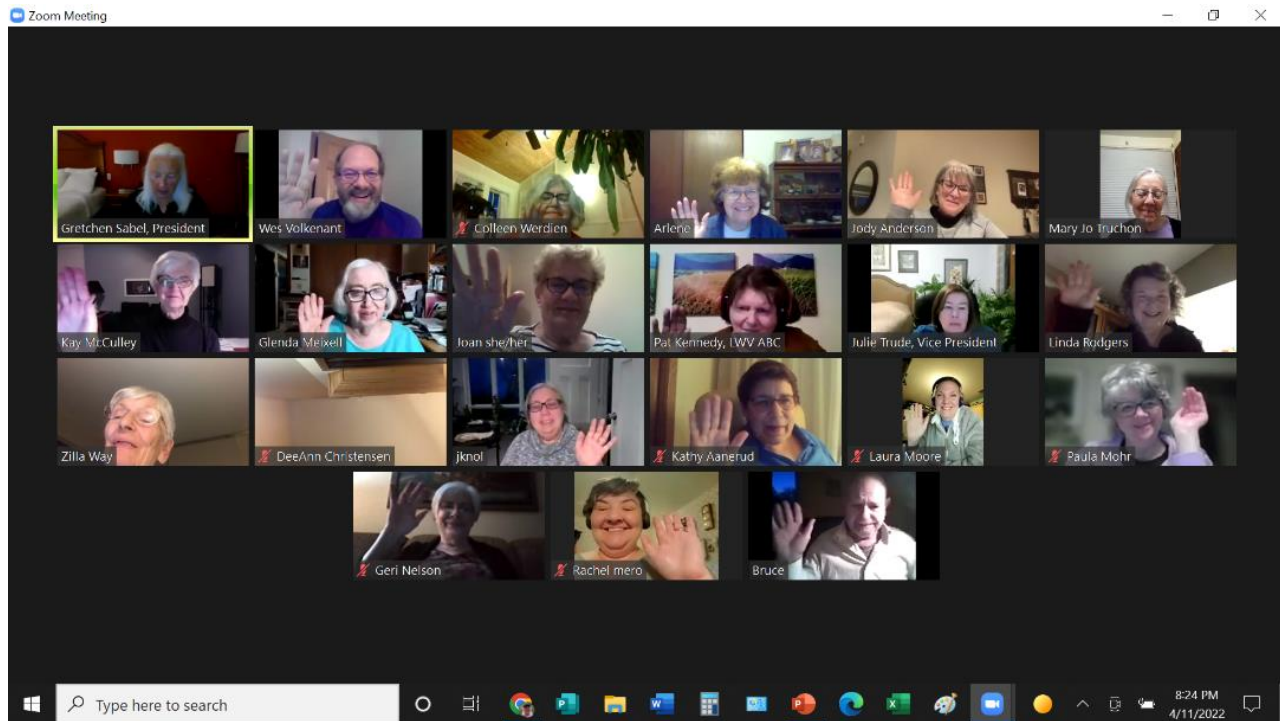
Join us to meet this outstanding group of students from Andover High School! Some of us heard their presentations during public comment at an Anoka-Hennepin School Board meeting, and we wanted to hear more about and from them.

The following introduction for our program was written by the group's president, **Conor Jolly**. We are a group founded on the basis of ensuring that activism doesn't end when it stops trending. Our mission is to educate ourselves and others on racial equity. We are constantly seeking ways to make our voices heard so that we can push for change where it counts. Much of our focus now is on change within the school system, because we see problems and we have a voice to fix them. We want our push for change to be constant, not reactionary, and we want to inspire as many like-minded young people as we can to advocate for peace and justice just as we have decided to.

Our thanks to **Tammy Petersen**, Youth Service Coordinator at Andover High School for being our connection to this program.

## A Successful Annual Meeting – April 11

With thanks for Zoom technology, we had a good turnout for a productive Annual Meeting on April 11. It was a great meeting – thanks to all who participated! We've got detailed notes on the [LWV ABC Blog at this link](#) – check it out there.



### -Highlights of this year's Annual Meeting include:

-Elections were held for the odd-year positions on our board, with unopposed incumbents being reelected for two year terms:

**Vice President:** Julie Trude

**Treasurer:** Wes Volkenant

**Voter Service Chair:** Linda Rodgers

**Program Chair:** Dee Ann Christensen

Also elected to non-board positions on the **Nominating Committee** were Mary Jo Truchon (chair) and Glenda Meixell (committee member). **We thank these leaders for their contributions to LWV ABC!**

**Other business items included** adopting a budget, affirming our local non-partisan policy and more. Read the details of these items in the meeting invitation that went to members:

<https://www.lwvumrr.org/lwv-abc-blog/lwv-abc-annual-membership-meeting-april-11-at-6pm>

## Zilla Way Awards for 2022

This award was created by the LWV ABC board in 1996 to honor a local League member who has provided outstanding leadership in guiding our organization. It was named for Ms. Zilla Way for her 65-year participation in League and her role as LWV ABC mentor and advisor. Usually one member is honored annually with this award, but the selection committee felt that we needed to **increase that to two awards this year given the outstanding accomplishments of these two recipients, DeeAnn Christensen and Wes Volkenant.**



***Dee Ann** is friendly, interesting and engaged in our community.  
She is a fierce champion of democracy.*

*Dee Ann gives much of herself to the work of LWV ABC by:*

- Serving on the LWV ABC board
- Actively participating in Voter Service
- Contributing to the CMAL Study of County Governance
- Taking on the Program Committee [chair position]  
to inform and enliven our membership meetings and
- Working with the LWV ABC Observer Corps to  
attend and study Anoka County Board and committee Meetings.

*Dee Ann is courageous in her defense of good government  
She speaks truth to power face-to-face with County Commissioners to  
Help achieve transparency and accountability for our citizens.*

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***Wes** is a friend of truth.*

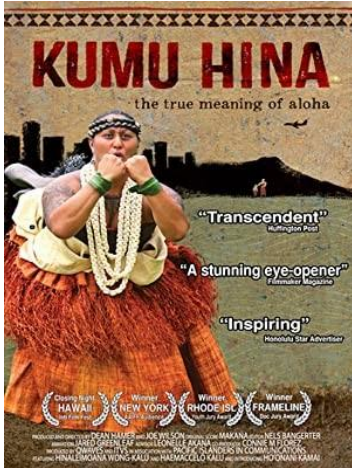
*He makes LWV ABC more effective and relevant in our community by*

- Serving on the LWV ABC Board
- Moderating our non-partisan candidate forums
- Leading our efforts to develop a redistricting map for Anoka County
- Observing Anoka County Board and committee meetings
- Contributing to the CMAL County Governance Study
- Stepping up to organize our LWV ABC meeting featuring Anoka County Parks
- Searching for the facts and publishing them on his Eye on Anoka County website

See photos of our past recipients on our website at: <https://my.lwv.org/minnesota/anoka-blaine-coon-rapids-area/about-us/zilla-way-award>. LWV ABC is proud to honor these leaders!

## LWV ABC Film Discussion for May – on Zoom

*Expanding our knowledge of diversity, equity, and inclusion topics*



Join on us on **Wednesday May 4 at 7:00 pm** for a discussion of the film *Kuma Hina –The True Meaning of Aloha* (2015).

In honor of Asian-Pacific Islander month, our May film provides some insight into Hawai'iian culture. Described by *Indie Wire* as “a subtle but inspiring tale”, *Kumu Hina* offers an intimate portrait of the life of Hina Wong-Kalu, a *mahu* (transgender) woman and a *kumu* (teacher) of Hawaiian language, history, and culture.

Find the zoom link for the discussion on our website:

<https://my.lwv.org/minnesota/anoka-blaine-coon-rapids-area/event/kuma-hina-may-2022-lwv-abc-film-discussion>

Watch *Kuma Hina* before the discussion on a DVD from Hennepin library or stream for free through [Kanopy](#), a library streaming service, or on [TubiTV](#).

## LWV ABC Book Discussion – on Zoom

*Expanding our knowledge of diversity, equity, and inclusion topics*



Join us on **Wednesday May 18 at 7:00** for a discussion of the book, *The Pretty One*. It is a series of essays on Keah Brown's experience as a young disabled Black person. Brown writes very personal essays about her struggles with body image, her relationship with her abled body twin, learning she was “disabled” in middle schools, as well as broader topics such as representation in media. “At once funny and uplifting, thoughtful and sobering” (*Bustle*). **Find the zoom link for the discussion on our website:** <https://my.lwv.org/minnesota/anoka-blaine-coon-rapids-area/event/pretty-one-keah-brown-may-lwv-abc-book-club>

Brown is a freelance journalist and disability activist. Read more of her work:

- [Disability Representation and the Problem with “Inspiration Porn”](#)
- [Disabled People Are Not an Inconvenience](#)
- [Saying Stephen Hawking Is “Free” From His Wheelchair Is Ableist](#)

## Membership Renewal Time!

**Thanks to all members who renewed during March and April! *If you have not yet renewed your membership, our treasurer has sent you a reminder email - [you can renew your membership here by check or PayPal](#).*** Our

membership dues remain the same – Individual Membership \$60, Additional Household Members \$30 and Students \$10. If our dues are a financial hardship, simply choose Flexible Dues and pay what you can – no explanation necessary. Remember that student dues are available to students of any age (sixteen or older) who attend school full or part-time!



## Welcome New Members

Welcome to our new members **Alyson Gullette, Jan Peterson** and **Jim DeRuyter** -- all from Andover! Looking forward to introductions and their involvement in our activities.

## - Highlights of LWV ABC Board Meeting and Annual Retreat

**April 25, 2022**

The Membership Chair reported on a DEI Roundtable Meeting she attended that featured the Hennepin County Elections Voter Outreach Director as guest speaker. The Outreach Director focused on working with underserved populations to give them access to voting. They will be publishing a Voter Tool Kit to help people register to vote. We need to think about outreach to homeless people in Anoka County, to try to make contact and encourage them to vote.

The Program Committee outlined the topics for our upcoming membership meetings. Our May meeting will be a student presentation at the Andover City Council chambers, which will be video recorded by QCTV. A possible subject for our June meeting will be environmental topics, and we may connect with Transformative Circle on a Juneteenth celebration at the Coon Rapids Dam as well.

We then discussed the Action Chair position on the Board. We really do not have a common understanding of what the Action Chair's duties are. After doing some research on how other Leagues handle this issue, we decided that the Action Chair would not have the same restrictions on political activity and nonpartisanship as the President and Voter Services Chair.

- Arlene Gillett, Secretary

## Voter Service Activities

It will be an amazing year!. Watch for further information and sign-ups. Your assistance will be needed to serve our communities!

● **Voter Registration** will include an active schedule of voter registration activities at community events, residential facilities, and more. Plans are also being made for participation in National Voter Registration Day on September 20. **Watch for training opportunities and event sign-ups.**

● **Candidate Forums** are in preliminary planning stages. If you haven't yet replied to this invitation from Linda Rogers, here's your reminder:

**From:** League of Women Voters ABC [mailto:[lwvabc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvabc@gmail.com)]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 12, 2022 5:17 PM

**To:** LWV ABC Members

**Subject:** If you'd like to talk about upcoming Meet the Candidates or Voter Registration events

Dear LWVABC members,

Last night at our annual meeting we previewed voter service activities from April through the election.

If you plan to host or moderate a Meet the Candidates session, please give me a call or email. Or, if you're wondering what that involves, please call or email. There are lots of different jobs to pick from, all with the support of your fellow league members.

Thanks for thinking about this! 😊

Waiting for the phone to ring,

Linda Rodgers, Voter Services Chair

763.21.2718

[itslinda jean@gmail.com](mailto:itslinda jean@gmail.com)

**Get involved with CMAL!**

- Attend the Annual Meeting -- where a position will be adopted based on the CMAL *County Government Study*
- Consider becoming a delegate to this Council – learn about metro area issues

**60<sup>TH</sup> Annual CMAL Convention**

**Saturday May 14, 2022, 10 am- Noon**

**Keynote Speaker:** *Building the Region's Transit Network*  
by Met Council Member Deb Barber  
**Business Meeting immediately follows**



**COUNCIL OF  
METROPOLITAN  
AREA LEAGUES**

Meeting Zoom Link:

<https://lwvmn-org.zoom.us/j/81764610814?pwd=YWFxcTl5bHNtZy9HMS85UGJvZEdlZz09>

Phone connection, dial in at 312.626.6799 Meeting ID: 817 6461 0814 Passcode: 939193

All League members and guests are welcome to attend this virtual meeting:

--Following the keynote speaker, this year's agenda will feature **the update to the County Government Position**. All 19 metro leagues have now reviewed and submitted member votes on the consensus questions following the 2022 CMAL Study on County Government. Find this study at: [CMAL County Government Study 2022 January.pdf - Google Drive](#)

During the meeting, delegates to CMAL will vote **on updating the County Government Position -- found after this article on page 8 of this newsletter**. Karen Schaffer, President of CMAL, will then provide press releases about the County Government Study and new Position to area media.

**Interested in Metro Area Issues?  
Consider Being A CMAL Delegate**



LWV ABC is allowed two delegates to the Council of Metro Area Leagues. CMAL holds quarterly meetings presenting programs especially focused on topics related to living in the Twin City metro region. All league members are welcome to attend programs, but only delegates may vote or serve on the board. Votes occur on bylaw amendments, position changes and whether to support new studies. Currently, there is an open one-year board position with CMAL.

Nineteen leagues compose CMAL. Our website has listed recent programs. Meetings occur on Saturday mornings. Learn more on our CMAL website page: [CMAL Positions | LWV ABC](#) If you have questions, please contact Gretchen or Julie at [lwvabc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvabc@gmail.com).

## CMAL Proposed County Government Position 2022

CMAL supports measures to ensure accountability and visibility of county government. (1975, 2022)

CMAL believes that accountability and visibility of a governmental body, such as a county, are obtained by:

- ✓ Effective communication of its policies and procedures to residents of the jurisdiction;
- ✓ Public access to the budget process where priorities and policies are set, including an opportunity for the public to give timely and meaningful input;
- ✓ Offering members of the public opportunities to provide timely and meaningful input into policy development, county initiatives and capital projects, including, by way of example, one-on-one meetings with county commissioners, virtual and in-person town meetings, and open houses;
- ✓ Provision of ample and easily accessible notice of the location, time, date and agenda for county board meetings, county board committee meetings, county board work sessions and county advisory committee/commission meetings;
- ✓ Posting on its website minutes or discussion notes from county board meetings, county board committee meetings, county board work sessions, and county board advisory committee/commission meetings;
- ✓ Posting on its website video recordings of county board meetings and county board committee meetings;
- ✓ Dissemination of information on the procedures for appointment to advisory committees/commissions, as well as posting the number of members for each committee/commission and the identity of current appointees;
- ✓ Ensuring public access to county board meetings, county board committee meetings, county board work sessions and county advisory committee/commission meetings, plus the opportunity for members of the public to make public comment at county board meetings and county board committee meetings;
- ✓ Regular communication between county government and municipalities and between county government and other levels of government.

CMAL also recognizes the responsibility of residents to become adequately informed.

CMAL views the Metropolitan Council as the regional planning and coordinating body, while the counties are viewed as administrators, implementers and enforcers of regional policy. CMAL believes that counties should be involved in the initial planning and policy-making stages of Metropolitan Council activities in order for counties to carry out their eventual implementation.

CMAL supports measures to improve cooperation and communication between the Metropolitan Council and county government in the metropolitan area.

CMAL believes that county government should post general information on its website about funds received from or through the Metropolitan council and how such funds are used.

## LWV ABC Proposes Redistricting Maps to Anoka County Board

LWV ABC members actively engaged in preparing and submitting proposals to the Anoka County Board to urge a more effective redrawing of new district boundaries following the 2020 census.

Past practice by the Anoka County Board for this every-10-years activity had been to make minimal changes. Alternatively, League members proposed maps that provided a new outlook recognizing the differences in communities and combining communities of interest – and urged adopting a new plan that would be superior to modifying the current plan at its edges. The League's plans were prepared following a vigorous review of population data and Anoka County's communities.

At the county board workshop on April 12 Commissioner Schulte acknowledged the receipt of LWV ABC's proposals, but erroneously dismissed them as not meeting established redistricting criteria. In that meeting and in future redistricting discussions of the county-presented maps, the commissioners seemed to focus on incumbent protection and making minimal changes.

The commissioners' discussions occurred in county board workshops and in a county board meeting where there are no provisions for public comment. Commissioner Meisner then offered a time for public comment at the Property Records and Taxation Committee on April 19 in advance of the County board's April 26 meeting where a final decision would be announced; and it was noted that the public could submit written public comment for the April 19 meeting.

In the end, the commissioners advanced yet a further version of their maps, with still minimal changes to previous district lines, at their April 26 meeting, and their Map C passed on a 6-1 vote.

While none of the maps presented by the Anoka County commissioners met the League's desired outcome of valuing communities of interest while adjusting for population\*, some public visibility and creating awareness of the absence of public input was achieved. The League is further motivated and enlightened to continue pursuit of transparency in governmental decision making.

*\*See the Action and Advocacy page of LWV ABC's website at: <https://my.lwv.org/minnesota/anoka-blaine-coon-rapids-area/lwv-abc-action-and-advocacy> for: LWV ABC's letter to Anoka County Commissioners with maps A and B, our related press release, Anoka County Board's maps A, B, C, D with related data and video of public comments at April 19 county board workshop.. The video recording of the April 26 Anoka County Board meeting is at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMGbzdHyjI>*

*Our published Letters to the Editor of Anoka County Union Herald and The Life are posted on LWV ABC's website on our In the News page: <https://my.lwv.org/minnesota/anoka-blaine-coon-rapids-area/lwv-abc-news-2021-and-2022>*

## LWV US 2022 National Convention

### *Women Power Democracy*

All League members are invited to this biennial national gathering that will be taking place **June 23-June 26**. Attendees will have the opportunity to **join attend in person and explore Denver, CO or participate online**. The Convention will be a fully hybrid experience with both combined and unique experiences for in-person and virtual attendees. LWV ABC can send two delegates, but any LWV member can attend in a non-delegate role. Our board elected Gretchen Sabel to be one delegate, and she will be traveling to Denver to participate in person. Our second delegate, Membership Chair Pat Kennedy, is attending virtually. If you are interested in attending, check out this link for more information: <https://convention.lwv.org/>

## Help Register New Citizens to Vote!

LWV MN sends League volunteers to Citizenship Ceremonies to help new citizens register to vote. This is rewarding work, and much thanks and recognition go to Judy Stuthman from LWV Roseville who has been leading this work. Now LWV MN is seeking two volunteers to work with Judy and eventually succeed her as coordinator. The state is making changes to the process that will make it easier to sign up volunteers. If you are interested in learning more about this, contact Gretchen Sabel at [lwvabc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvabc@gmail.com) and she'll get you in touch with folks at LWV MN.



**Citizenship Ceremony**

## Get 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.

Check out the **LWV ABC blog**:

<https://www.lwvumrr.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](http://www.lwvabcmn.org).

