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What's Happening in September? Forums, forums, forums....

Due to the work of our volunteers on Meet the Candidates forums, we've not scheduled a program for our second-Monday meeting night this month. But there are many other opportunities to gather virtually and maybe even in person. Book and film clubs,



**Meet the Candidates Forums
We're on to the General Election!**

We're continuing to bring Meet the Candidates forums to voters in our area, navigating the need for social distancing. With the help of local cable channels and Facebook Live, LWW volunteers are holding forums minus a "live" audience. Forums are recorded and made available on-demand on [our website](#), [our YouTube channel](#) and broadcast on local cable stations.

Questions for candidates can be submitted via the form [on our website](#).

In Anoka County, forums are being conducted with candidates for city offices, state legislative seats, county commissioners, and Anoka Conservation District 1. In Champlin, candidates for city council and state legislative seats will participate.

Check our LWW ABC website, <https://my.lww.org/minnesota/anoka-blaine-coon-rapids-area>, where you can:

- See the full schedule of forums being filmed and the co-sponsors who share our efforts.
- Submit questions for the candidates.
- Watch videos of forums when they're posted following the filming of each forum.

Thanks to co-sponsors, forum chairs, moderators, and volunteers, and to Geri Nelson, Linda Rodgers, and Bruce Pomerantz for leading this project. And remember – Early voting begins September 18!

Book and Film Discussions via Zoom! with LWV ABC

Expand your knowledge, participate in interesting discussions via Zoom. Member Pat Kennedy has organized some more noteworthy and relevant selections. Here are dates and descriptions for some of the upcoming titles.

Click on our website Calendar for the Zoom link and more information.

- **Wednesday, September 2 -- The film, 13th**

Director Ava DuVernay documentary argues that the 13th amendment provided a loop hole for the continuation of slavery, converting slavery from a legal business model to an equally legal method of punishment for criminals resulting in mass incarceration.

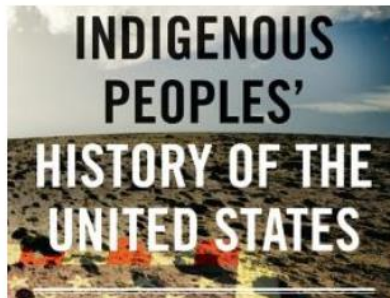
- **Wednesday, October 7 – The film, *The Hate U Give***

Director George Tillman, Jr presents the story, based on a young adult novel, of Starr who witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Now, facing pressure from all sides of the community, Starr must find her voice and stand up for what's right. (PG13)

- **Wednesday, October 21 – The book, *An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States***

Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz challenges the founding myth of the US and shows how policy against the Indigenous peoples was colonialist and designed to seize the territories of the original inhabitants, displacing or eliminating them. Spanning more than 400 years, this peoples' history radically reframes US history and explodes the silences that have haunted our national narrative.

**Time is 6:15 pm Socializing, 6:30 Discussion
for all book and film discussions**



Our Condolences to Luanne Koskinen

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Luanne Koskinen's son, Armas, who passed away unexpectedly after a brief illness on August 16. His obituary is posted here:

<https://www.startribune.com/obituaries/detail/0000365787/?fullname=armas-koskinen>

Luanne doesn't have an email address, but her postal address is listed on our Membership Roster. If you need assistance locating the roster on the Members page of our website, or would like the postal address emailed to you, contact us at lwvabc@gmail.com.

Voter Registration

National Voter registration Day is September 22. LWV US has asked all Leagues to work to promote voter registration; we have committed to registering 50 new voters on that day. To that end, LWV ABC Voter Registration leader Arlene Gillett is working with Jane Dunn (member of our VS Committee) to assist our local high schools in online voter registration; they have developed a cadre of social studies teachers from all high schools in Anoka County and gotten their agreement to work on providing information to students on online voter registration. Additionally, Membership Chair Pat Kennedy has written to all senior housing facilities in Anoka County, offering LWV ABC as a resource for registration and voting questions.

Also, be sure to take individual action to make sure your neighbors, friends, family, and anyone you can converse with are registered.

www.Vote411.org is the LWV on-line resource for all voter information, including how to register. Another good resource for Voter Registration in Minnesota is the Secretary of State's web page at www.mnvotes.org or by phone at 651-215-1440.

Vote From Home

Stay safe. Stay engaged

[This article submitted to Geri for review – and was approved.]

Vote from Home is a campaign to engage Minnesotans in safely and conveniently voting from home. We're reaching out to voters who are not able or would prefer not to go to their polling place on Election Day for reasons of health, transportation, this year's pandemic and more.

Help a friend, neighbor, or relative be connected to this fall's election. Check out this nicely-illustrated website page from LWV Minnesota for simple steps to voter registration and for obtaining a ballot by mail: <https://www.lwvmn.org/vote-from-home>

How about providing an attractive ***Vote from Home* yard sign** to increase awareness of this voting opportunity? Geri Nelson has signs, and she will deliver to you! Contact her at lwvabc@gmail.com, with Yard Sign in the subject line.



Attend Compelling Events – from the Comfort of your Home

- Attend a free Zoom forum from the Minnesota History Center, *The Murky Past & Uncertain Future of the Electoral College*.
 - When: Tuesday, September 15, 6:30 to 8:00 pm
 - What: Rosemarie Zagarri of George Mason University will discuss the origins of the Electoral College. She will pose the question for the audience "what can be done to remedy the inadequacies of the Electoral College?"
 - It's free, but **registration is required**; <https://www.mnhs.org/event/8511>
- There are many other free virtual events that Pat Kennedy has gathered on our website calendar: <https://my.lwv.org/minnesota/anoka-blaine-coon-rapids-area/calendar>. Check out The Untold Stories of Women's Fight for the Vote, Talking About Race, Learning Circles, Citizenship Ceremonies, voting and elections topics and more!

In Gretchen's Big Backyard

On August 10, many LWV ABC members gathered in Gretchen Sabel's backyard for a socially-distant gathering. It was great fun, and we're going to do it again on September 28 to celebrate the end of our VERY busy forum season! We'll send out details later in the month, but mark your calendars now and save the date.

Not a potluck, just a chance to talk with our members and catch up.

Do you want to make sure you get our emails? Read the article on page 5 about how to make sure that you get our emails. It seems that many may be ending up in Spam folders... and there's a fix for that!



News from our Board

- **Our next board meeting is Monday, September 28 at 9:00 am via Zoom.** The Zoom link and starter agenda are provided to board members a couple of days in advance of the meeting -- and the Zoom link is also posted with the Agenda in the Members section* of our website (kwvabcnn.org).
- To add an item to the Agenda, send an email to Board President Gretchen Sabel at lwvabc@gmail.org, with Board Meeting in the subject line.
- *If you need assistance with logging into the Members section of our website, send an email to lwvabc@gmail.org, using Website in the subject line
- **Following is a summary of some key items from our August 24 board meeting** provided by Board Secretary Arlene Gillett.

Gretchen Sabel reported that she read a statement of the League's position on the prospect of disbanding the Anoka Human Rights Commission. The Board agreed with the position that now is certainly the wrong time to eliminate the Commission.

Linda Rogers and Kathy Aanerud discussed issues around getting questions to the candidate forums in a time of Covid with no audience, and where we should go to see the videos of the forums. They are working on messages on our Facebook and website. Also, they noted that the Vote411 website has a lot of missing information, and needs to be updated.

We discussed possible changes in the format of our newsletter, how and where we present it. We will keep it in its current form while we study a variety of ideas for it.

Our Book Club and Film Club are now up and running. The Book Club discussion is set for the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:00PM, and the Film Club discussions will be the 3rd week of the month. Look for emails about them.

---Arlene Gillett, Secretary

More Ways to be Involved— Community Programs to Plan

We want to form a couple of committees to plan programs and activities on important community involvement issues: (1) community policing and (2) school diversity issues. Can you help our program committee define the topics and find speakers to help our members understand the issues? We want to have these programs for our late fall and winter meetings, so this is a short-term effort.

To learn more and discuss how you could be involved, contact Gretchen Sabel at lwvabc@gmail.com.

Coming in October

- **Monday, October 10, via Zoom** – The program for our “Fall Kickoff” will be _____ We will also catch up on some postponed business from our April annual meeting, including the Zilla Way award for an outstanding member. (Did you notice that blank there? We need some help filling in the blanks... see the previous “More ways to be involved” article for the ‘help wanted’ notice.)

Check Your Spam Folder for Emails from LWV ABC

Didn't get the August 2020 newsletter email? Check your Spam folder. Many of the recent emails from LWV ABC went to email Spam folders.

There are two things you can do to prevent LWV ABC emails from going to your Spam folder.

1. Add LWV ABC email addresses to your "Contacts" or "Address Book" (name may vary by which program you use). LWV ABC actually has two email addresses - both should be added:

- lwvabc@gmail.com
- lwvabc@lwvmn.org

You may also want to add the email addresses of LWVMN and LWVUS:

- lwv@lwv.org
- info@lwvmn.org

2. Mark any LWV ABC emails in your Spam folder, as "Not Spam". To do this:

- Find the Spam folder in your email program menu. The email menu is usually located on the left side. The “Spam” folder is usually listed after folders such as "Inbox", "Sent" and "Trash"
- In Gmail, you will need to scroll down and may have to click "more" to see the Spam folder.
- Click on the Spam folder to open the folder.
- Click on the check box in front of any emails from LWV ABC.
- Click on the "Not Spam" button, usually located at the top.
- After clicking the "Not Spam" button, the email(s) should be in your inbox.

Did you notice anything different about this newsletter?

We are changing things up some in our communications. Our monthly email now links directly to easy-to-access posts for our three top stories. The look of our newsletter has changed - we've switched to all-black headers for our stories for clearer printing. And we still prepare the .pdf version of the newsletter that's posted on our website.

Why all these changes? Our members are diverse and access information in a great variety of ways. For those who read the newsletter on their phones, the quick links in our email will give them the information they need. For those who want to read all the details, the online newsletter is there like always. Finally, we have members who don't do email at all. For these, we print and mail via US Post a copy of the newsletter. We appreciate feedback on all this – email us at lwvabc@gmail.com with your comments and ideas!

And yes, there are a variety of fonts in this newsletter. Do you have a preference? Times New Roman or Calibri? Are you a serif fancier? Does our occasional use of **bold** annoy you? Let us know!

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".

We're on Instagram: Go to: https://www.instagram.com/lwv_abc_mn/ . Be sure to follow us on Instagram, and share our posts!

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 .

From the most recent LWV US email:

Hard Won. Not Done.

[One hundred years ago, this month, the 19th Amendment was codified in the U.S. Constitution](#) and women have made tremendous strides in the century since. Yet, true equality for all women at the ballot box remains elusive. Far too many women and other eligible voters remain disenfranchised from voting.

Old discriminatory practices like cuts to early voting, closings of polling locations, and strict voter ID laws, combined with new suppression tactics that have emerged during a global pandemic, have reminded us of the frailty of our democracy if we don't defend it vigorously.

[This centennial](#) is a time to honor and acknowledge the women who came before us, and to use the lessons of their fights to shape a fairer, more just future. To further this conversation, on August 12, LWVUS CEO Virginia Kase virtually sat down with LWVUS President Deborah Turner for [a powerful discussion on what lies ahead for democracy in America, and how all women can be active participants](#).

As we head full-steam toward November 3, stay safe, stay healthy, wear masks, and vote. Commemorate this milestone and honor the legacy of the women that came before us by making your voice heard this year.

Note from Gretchen:

LWV US President Debra Turner is a powerful and amazing woman. A doctor and activist, I had a chance to meet her at LWV Upper Mississippi River Region meetings where she came representing LWV Iowa. She is warm and funny, very personable, and shares her broad insights in engaging ways. Take some time to watch the video highlighted above and get to know Dr. Turner!

"We, as an organization, acknowledge our own difficult history with racism while we embrace our future, where DEI will become part of our DNA."*

*League of Women Voters of the US
Dr. Deborah Turner, President*



** Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)*