

**In this issue:**

Candidate Forums –1

Climate Change, November 11 meeting –2

Welcome to newest member -3

October ABC LWV meeting recap -3

Voter registration events -4

Humphrey forums -4

LWV Minnesota First Night Gala -5

Legislative interviews -6

Preview of upcoming events -6

Latest LWV ABC board meeting -6

Diversity Equity and Inclusion -7

Save the Dates -8

**Tuesday, November 5, 7 am to 8 pm – Polls are open for Election Day.**

**Questions: [www.mnvotes.org](http://www.mnvotes.org)**

**Candidate Forums** [Click to view](#)

*Thanks* to our forum chairs for organizing, promoting, and presenting LWV ABC's candidate forums this fall, as well as to moderators and other volunteers who contributed.

Jody Anderson chaired the forum for **Anoka-Hennepin School Board, Districts 1, 2, and 5 and Ramsey City Council, Ward 3**. Karen Varian and Susan Witt chaired the forum for the **Special Primary Election for Anoka County Commissioner District 6**. Their hard work paid off– the forums were well run and well attended.

**Below, left to right, from the forum for Special Primary Election for Anoka County Commissioner District 6, chaired by Karen Varian and Susan Witt.**

- Susan Witt in thoughtful planning with Gretchen Sabel and Arlene Gillett
- North Metro TV staff Taylor Warnes and TJ Tronson prepare to record the event
- Sue Dergantz and Arlene Gillett coordinate their timer roles



**Below, left to right, from the forum for Anoka-Hennepin school board candidates, chaired by Jody Anderson.**

- Erin Heers McCardle, candidate for Anoka-Hennepin School Board, District 1
- Tom Heidemann, candidate for Anoka-Hennepin School Board, District 1
- Nicole Hayes, candidate for Anoka-Hennepin School Board, District 5, with Marci Anderson, candidate for Anoka-Hennepin School Board, District 2



**Climate Change – *Is there anything I can do in my life to make a difference?***

Featured at our November 11 meeting, 6:00 pm, Andover City Hall

Our November meeting will feature folks in our area and in our League who are creating new habits to reduce their carbon footprint, increase carbon storage, raise public awareness and lead change.

The meeting will be different than usual – we’ll start out with a short climate change intro and then Peggy Kvam from LWV Minnetonka, Eden Prairie, Hopkins will talk about her “better than Net Zero” home that’s winning national recognition. We’ll follow up with a resource fair featuring local community members who are helping address climate change in their daily lives. They’ll be stationed at tables around the room and meeting attendees can visit with them, learning about what they have been up to.

The meeting will start with dinner at 6:00. We’ll have announcements at 6:25, then move to City Council chambers for the meeting. The resource fair will begin by 7:30, and attendees will get plenty of time to chat with our changemakers.

This is a meeting that will inform and inspire . . . **See you on November 11!**

**Welcome to our newest member . . .**

**Alyssa Kruzel of Roseville.** Great to have you with us, Alyssa!

**Recap of October meeting of LWV ABC** [View the October program here](#)

The October meeting featured *Transformative Circle– Reaching Across Race, Culture and Class*, presented by Lori Anderson and Nyakade Tot. Transformative Circle is an initiative in Coon Rapids bringing together people of diverse backgrounds and cultures to build community relationships. The values demonstrated through its activities are values shared by LWV ABC. It was exciting to hear about strategies at work through Transformative Circle. [View the October program here.](#)

**Friend of League Award presented at our October Program**

Our *Friend of League* award is presented annually by LWV ABC to recognize an individual or organization making an impact on our communities through cooperation and support of LWV goals. This year’s honoree was Lori Anderson, Chairperson and Founder of Transformative Circle. Her commitment to conversation, partnerships, education, inclusion, and outreach fosters mutual respect and trust, transforms minds and attitudes, and is building a resilient community. Lori was an ideal honoree, because LWV ABC shares that commitment.



Mary Jo Truchon, watercolor artist and member of LWV ABC, creates personalized artwork for our Friend of League honorees. Her work is featured in the above photos, left to right.

- Friend of League Lori Anderson, founder and chairperson of Transformative Circle
- The Board of Directors of Transformative Circle. Left to right: front row: Belinda Lawrence, Diane Larson, Luanne Koskinen, Lori Anderson, Elsa Norte, Nyakade Tot; Back row: Betsy Kiekhafer
- This year’s award featured a colorful kaleidoscope with words of recognition.

### Ongoing Voter Registration Events

Thanks to the organizing work of Arlene Gillett, Voter Services Co-Chair, and a crew of volunteers, LWW ABC has participated in several voter registration events this summer and fall.

**50-plus registrations** to date aren't the only outcome. Our volunteers have assisted with many questions pertaining to the November 5 elections, the upcoming presidential primary, how to do self-service voter registration online and more. One such voter registration activity was staffing a table at the Senior Resource Fair at Margaret Place Apartments. This well-attended event and a prominent table position led to interactions with many of the attendees.

*Arlene Gillett and Pat Kennedy. Also staffing this event were Sue Dergantz and Cynthia Wetzell*



### Lunchtime Forums at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs

University of Minnesota, 301 19th Ave S., Minneapolis

- **Data-Informed Solutions or Youth Voting and Civic Engagement**  
11:45 am, Wednesday, November 6
- **Women Running for Office: Looking Ahead to the 2020 Elections**  
Noon, Thursday November 21



Register for these free events at: <https://www.hhh.umn.edu/upcoming-events>

## LWV Minnesota First Night Gala

The League of Women Voters Minnesota had a fantastic gala on October 26 to celebrate the First Night of the next 100 years of LWV! Twelve women were honored this night. Their stories were inspirational. Check out <https://www.lwvumrr.org/blog/lwv-mn-gala-features-firsts> for a sampling of the stories we heard.

LWV ABC was well represented at this Gala, with Geri and Darby Nelson, Sandy Connor, Kathy and Mel Aanerud, Arlene Gillett, Zilla Way, Gretchen Sabel, Susan Anderson, Leslie Waterhouse, Jeorgette Knoll and Mary Knoll.



(Amy Klobuchar wasn't able to attend, but she sent LWV Birthday Wishes in a video.)



**Legislative Interviews – January 2020**

This is a fun event for LWV and the community alike. The event we had planned for last January was scrubbed due to intense cold . We are planning to try again this January, before the Legislature goes back into session on February 11. You will soon get an email asking for help – so watch for it.

**Mark your calendar now!**

The LWV MN Historical displays are coming to our local libraries this winter: January 14-28 at the Northtown Library, and Feb 1-15 at the Rum River Library.

<b>January 13 at 6:30 pm – Northtown; February 1 at 11 am – Rum River</b>
Girl Scout flag ceremony
Welcome speech (short)
Choir singing patriotic songs
Take a picture with a Suffragist
LWV ABC table with voter registration and info on voting process, Presidential Primary and importance of Census
Treats (possibly census cookies)
Special event at Northtown: Talk by Sandy Connor on History of LWV and how the world has changed since women got the vote in 1919
Special event at Rum River: Community visioning exercise and sharing of memories of significant voting events

We are going to kick off each of these events with an opening ceremony, so mark your calendars now! Here’s the plan: January 13 at 6:30 pm – Northtown; February 1 at 11 am – Rum River.

Many thanks to Leaguer’s Sandy Connor and Susan Anderson who are taking the helm on planning these events! They will need help along the way, so stay tuned!

**Highlights of LWV ABC Board Meeting, October 28, 2019**

Arlene Gillett, Secretary

- We have done legislative interviews in the past, where we invite the legislators who represent all of the many areas our local league covers, to a question and answer session. The Board decided to plan to do the interviews again, probably in January before the session begins on February 11. Because we have 18 legislators who represent our members, we discussed breaking it up into smaller geographical units, and having the meetings at local libraries or coffee shops. We have a committee of three

members who will work on setting this up, and would welcome anyone else who is interested to join with them. We will talk about this at our November membership meeting.

- The Board discussed how to implement the results of a recently completed member survey that asked about their preferences for meeting dates and times. One issue was to have daytime meetings in January and February, and what day of the week to hold them. We felt that many members might not be able to make a daytime meeting during the week, and that a weekend meeting time might work better.

- We went over topics for upcoming membership meetings, including gun violence, the upcoming Presidential Primary, and reviewing our State League's positions on issues.

### **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – Watchwords for LWV!**

LWV at all levels is working to build a more diverse and inclusive League. LWV US is hosting a series of webinars – details below. These webinars are open to all, you are encouraged to attend a webinar and/or explore previous recordings and resources on the LWV US website.

At the LWV MN gala, we heard from many diverse women who are groundbreakers in their field. Their stories are inspiring. One speaker, Senator Patricia Torres Rey, really focused on what LWV must do to become a more diverse organization, and the role that a strong and diverse League can play in making sure our democracy is open and equitable to all.

Here at the LWV ABC level, we formed a Diversity Committee that has yet to meet. We'll be getting a meeting organized soon – if you'd like to be part of this, email us at [lwvabc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvabc@gmail.com).

We need to get rolling on this so we can truly reach out to everyone in our communities with information about census and voting in 2020.

### **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Webinars hosted by LWVUS in 2019**

We will be using this series to take a deeper look at the topics we've been exploring for the past year and offer tools every member can use in their League work. We encourage **Leagues to watch together and make time for discussion afterward.**

**Upcoming Webinars:** Recordings and resources from our previous webinars can be found on the [League Management Site](#). November 21, 2019: [Register](#)      December 19, 2019: [Register](#)



**Save the Dates:**

Monday, November 11, 6 pm – **LWV ABC Meeting on Climate Change**. Gather at 6:00 at Andover City Hall for a light meal, then migrate to City Council chambers at for the program/Resource Fair.

Monday, November 25 - **LWV ABC Board meeting** at Davanni's in Coon Rapids (Hwy 10 frontage road just south of Round Lake Blvd exit). Order food at 11, meeting commences at 11:30. This is a good opportunity to learn more about what LWV ABC is up to!

Monday, December 9 – **LWV ABC Monthly Meeting** – gather at 6:00 at Andover City Hall for a light meal, Program to be announced

Monday, December 16 - **LWV ABC Board meeting** at Davanni's in Coon Rapids (Hwy 10 frontage road just south of Round Lake Blvd exit). Order food at 11, meeting commences at 11:30. This is a good opportunity to learn more about what LWV ABC is up to!

**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).

**Not a member of LWV ABC?**

**Membership is open to people of all genders, age 16 or older.**

Join LWV ABC using [PayPal](#) or by using the [Membership Form](#).

**Help us Make Democracy Work!**