

The Voter

The LWV ABC Monthly Newsletter
January 2023



LWV ABC Monthly Program Meeting

Firearms Safety Consensus Meeting

Monday
January 9, 2023

- 6:30 - online socializing
- 6:45 - online quiz to test your knowledge of Martin Luther King, Jr
- 7:00 - program begins

Our January program meeting will be a members only consensus meeting via Zoom.

A consensus meeting is your opportunity to weigh in on what changes should be made to the current LWVMN firearms position in its "Program for Action". Vice President Julie Trude will present the consensus questions and lead the discussion.

Please read [The "Firearms in Minnesota 2022" Study Report](#) prior to the meeting for an overall view of some current firearm issues.

All LWV ABC members will be emailed the Zoom link.

If you are unable to attend this meeting, you can still weigh in on what changes should be made to the current LWVMN firearms position

- Review the [Leader's Guide \(p. 3-4\)](#)
- Read [The Firearms Study Report](#)
- Complete the [Consensus Questions Response Ballot for Individual Members](#)
- Send your response to LWV ABC by Feb.1st at lwwabc@gmail.com

Firearms in Minnesota 2022 Report

Marti Micks, Chair of the LWVMN Firearms Safety Committee, provided us an update on firearm safety back in March 2022. The video is available as part of our Spotlight on Issues videos.

Watch Firearms Safety Update





December Social

22 members enjoyed the ice cream social at Andover Community Center, with 8 more attending online. Linda Rogers tested our knowledge of famous suffragists with participants winning their choice of LWV swag - water bottles, bags and pins. Jody Anderson was the lucky winner of the suffragist jigsaw puzzle door prize!



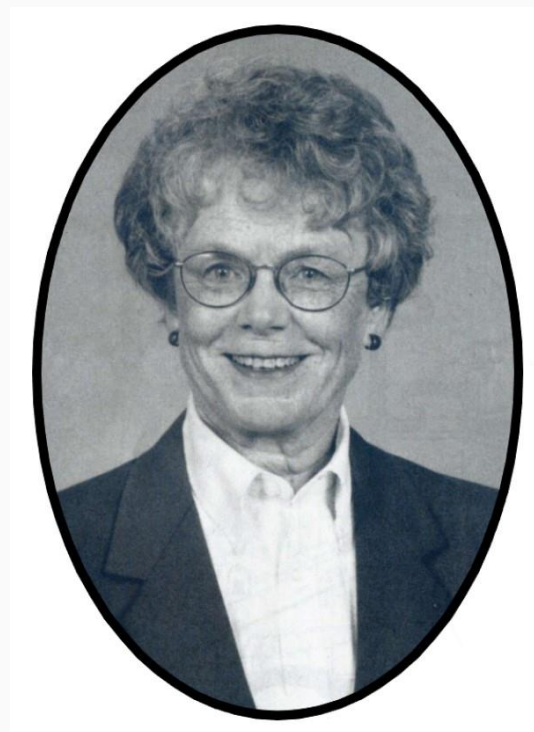
Remembering Dee Ann Christensen

Dee Ann Christensen was LWV ABC's Program Chair, and a founding member of our County Observer Corps. She approached both these roles in her "all-in" manner, thinking big and giving her time and energy unfailingly. A broken leg didn't stop her from attending League events, and she attended and recorded County Board meetings to document discussions and decisions. Dee Ann set a high bar for the quality and variety of our monthly programs - her big thinking and many connections brought us great speakers like Congressman Dean Phillips and the upcoming (Jan 17)

event with Attorney General Keith Ellison.

Since joining League in 2015, Dee Ann was always scrupulous in maintaining a non-partisan stance in her League work, despite being deeply involved in party politics. Dee Ann was always willing to volunteer including contributing heavily to the CMAL County Government Report, serving on the LWVMN Climate Change Taskforce, promoting Census 2020, serving on the LWV ABC Board of Directors and volunteering wherever needed for candidate forums. LWV ABC recognized Dee Ann's hard work in 2022 with our [Zilla Way Award](#).

Dee Ann's family invites League members to the celebration of Dee Ann's life on January 14 from 6-9pm at Purple Rose Hall, 2975 Coon Rapids Blvd, Coon Rapids.



Susan Anderson's Passing

LWV ABC President Gretchen Sabel was informed on December 27 that Susan Anderson passed away. Susan was able to attend our December 13 meeting, but went into hospice not long after that.

Susan has been affiliated with League for decades, receiving the [Zilla Way Award](#) in 2015 for her active involvement in LWV ABC. Susan served as the LWV ABC President 2014-2015, and most recently served as the LWV ABC representative to the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL), while also serving on the CMAL Board of Directors.

Susan was active in local politics since 1967 when she joined the Blaine Charter Commission. She later served on the Anoka-Hennepin District 11 School Board, the Metropolitan Council and on the Ramsey City Council for four years.

We will share memorial information when available.



Carpool

LWV ABC has started an online Sign-Up to organize carpooling for the upcoming LWVMN events in St. Paul. If you are able to offer your driving services or are interested in being a carpool passenger, click on the button below for our online Sign-Up Genius form.

[Sign Up to Carpool](#)



Tuesday
January 3, 2023
11:00 AM - 2:30 PM

**Email LWVMN Civic Engagement
Director Sam Streukens if you
plan to attend.**

Email: sstreukens@lwvmn.org

ERA Rally

Join ERAMN and allies for some Capitol Action & Legislator visits followed by a Rally in the State Capitol Rotunda.

11:00 AM - Michelle Witte will lead a short walk to the Capitol Rotunda (through the Senate tunnels!) where we will have a table to write a note to your legislator and rally for the Equal Rights Amendment along with some of our partners!

11:30 AM - Capitol Action & Legislator visits.

1:15 PM - ERA Rally in Capitol Rotunda

Wear your green and white!

[Sign Up to Carpool](#)

Legislative Interviews

LWV ABC members - watch your email for info about Legislative Interviews to be conducted in January. Format of in-person, Zoom, or coffee appointments to be determined. We will target new legislators and ask their constituents to lead the discussions.

In a Legislative Interview, local Leagues follow suggested questions from LWVMN that are based on likely legislative priorities and will be most helpful to LWVMN's advocacy efforts – as well as learning about legislator's own priorities. Discussion notes are submitted to LWVMN and they'll also be placed in the members only section of our website.

The purpose of a legislative interview is to provide an opportunity for League members to meet their legislators, hear their perspectives, and develop an ongoing relationship. The [Legislative Interview Guide for 2023 is at this link](#)

State Lobby and Observer Corp

Join with the League of Women Voters Minnesota (LWVMN) Lobby and Observer Corps to advocate for positions and top priorities with the new 2023 Legislature. These **topics include the**

ERA, climate change, pro-voter policies and more.

There are **one-hour Zoom calls** on Mondays at 11:30 to put you in the know and identify actions for creating partnerships with legislators. **Contact** Jody Anderson, our Action Co-Chair, if you'd like to be involved with this Lobby and Observer Corps activity; and she will put you in touch with this group.

A [complete list of LWVMN's 2023 Legislative Priorities is at this link](#). More information about LWVMN's Program for Action with [background information about adopted position can be found at this link](#).



Duties of Minnesota Constitutional Officers as written in the Constitution

[Jason Marisam, JD, Professor at Hamline Mitchell College of Law](#) and Minnesota Attorney of the Year for both 2021 and 2022, will speak at a webinar for LWV on **Thursday, January 12 at noon**. This webinar will focus on the constitutional roles of the Secretary of State, State Auditor and Secretary of State. These Constitutional Offices were fiercely contested in the 2022 general election. The commercials of the candidates presented differing views on what the roles of these officers should entail. **What does the Minnesota Constitution lay out as their duties? This talk lays the foundation for the upcoming speaker series** on Constitutional officers, see the item following on the talk by Keith Ellison on January 18. Registration information will be sent soon.



**COUNCIL OF
METROPOLITAN
AREA LEAGUES**

Metro Area Government

**Saturday
January 14, 2023
10:00am**

CMAL's panelists will discuss accountability, transparency and civic engagement in Metro Area Government in 2023.

Panelists:

- Debbie Goettel – Hennepin County Commissioner
- Laurie Halverson – Dakota County Commissioner
- Trista MatasCastillo – Ramsey County Commissioner

Open to all LWW members and members of the public.

Audience members will be able to ask questions of the panelists.

CMAL Zoom Link



Pro-Democracy Rally

Tuesday
January 17, 2023
9:30 AM 12:00 PM

Join the *We Choose Us* coalition for a rally and press conference with elected and community leaders to support protecting and expanding our democracy.

We Choose Us is a multicultural, interfaith, state-wide, nonpartisan coalition of grassroots organizations, unions, and advocacy groups fighting to protect and expand multiracial democracy in Minnesota.

[Register for Rally](#)



**Wednesday
January 18, 2023
12:00 PM**

**In Person: St. Paul News Network
Studio**

Livestreaming: SPNN's Facebook

Conversation with Keith Ellison

Join LWV ABC and LWVMN for a discussion with Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison to learn more about the Office of the Minnesota Attorney General. Jody Anderson of LWV ABC will be joining LWVMN leaders and Keith Ellison on stage.

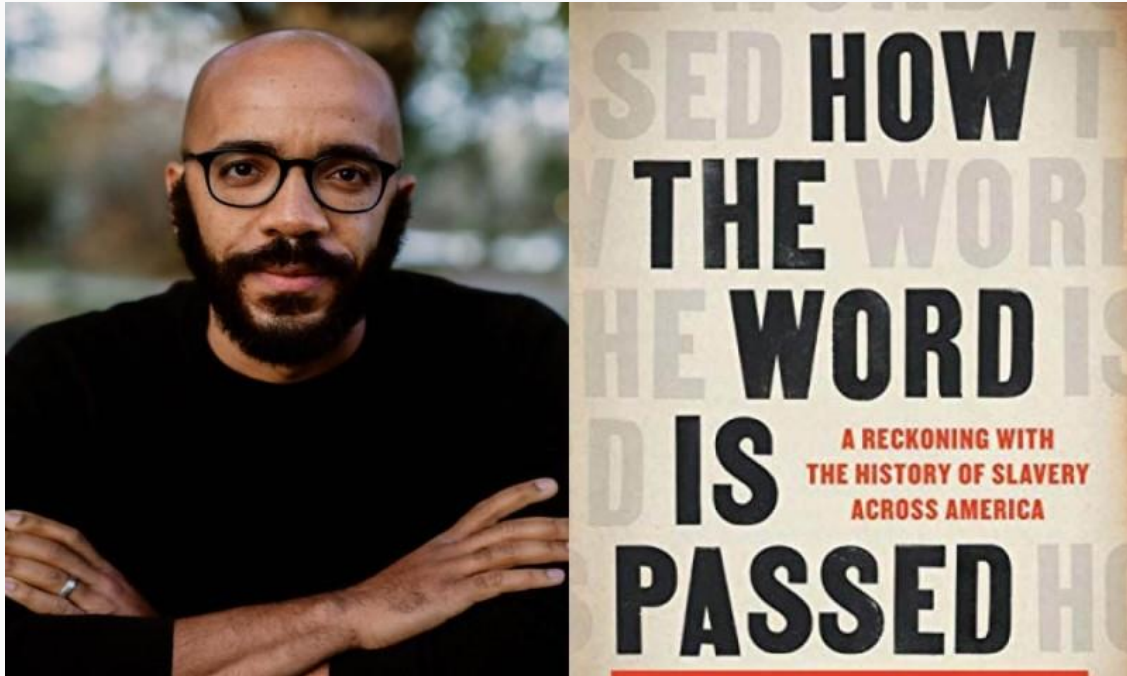
Questions for Mr. Ellison must be submitted by January 5.

Part of a series to further our understanding of Minnesota Constitutional Offices. The series is co-sponsored by LWV ABC and LWVMN.

[Submit Questions](#)

[Sign Up to Carpool](#)

[Watch Livestream](#)



January Book Club

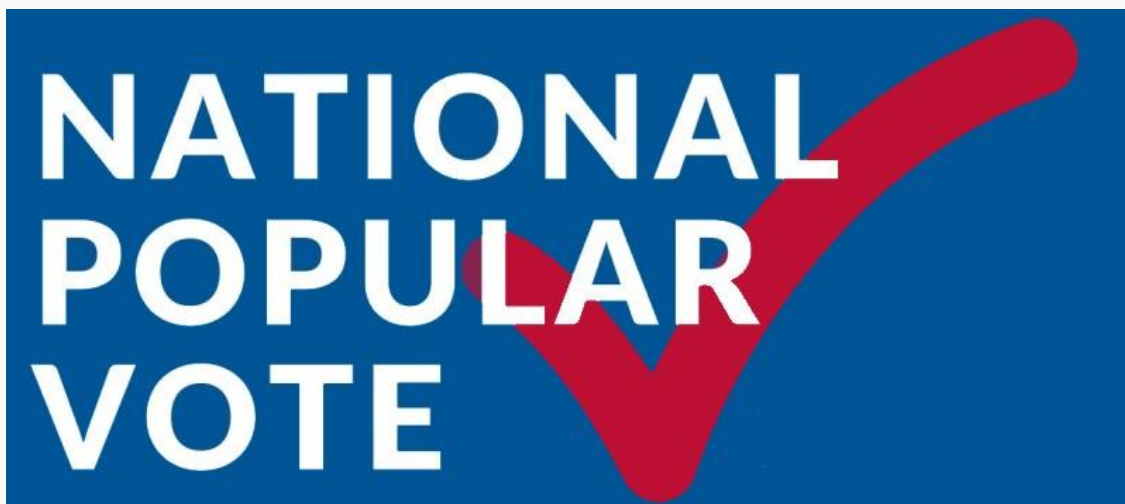
Wednesday
January 18, 2023
7:00 pm

Join us to discuss *HOW THE WORD IS PASSED* (2021) by Clint Smith.

Beginning in his hometown of New Orleans, Smith visits nine places that memorialize the legacy of slavery. interweaving scholarship and personal observation with interviews of residents, tourists, scholars, tour guides, and museum officials, Smith examines how “the word” about our history with slavery is passed on to us.

[Book Club Zoom Link](#)

[Upcoming Books](#)



Is the Electoral College Outdated?

Join the discussion with Clean Elections Minnesota and League of Women Voters of Minnesota. This is a **virtual discussion** about the National Popular Vote Compact (NPV). States signing the Compact would agree to give their electoral votes to the presidential candidate having the most popular votes nationally, regardless of the vote in their state. It would mean for the first time that the candidate supported by the most voters would be guaranteed the Presidency.

Participants: Patrick Rosenstiel, a Minnesotan and National Chair of the National Popular Vote Compact and a nationally recognized figure in public affairs will be interviewed via zoom at 7:00-8:00 PM on Thursday, January 19, 2023. He'll be interviewed by Lori Sturdevant, award-winning political reporter and editorial columnist for the Star Tribune.

Join the Conversation About the National Popular Vote With Patrick Rosenstiel and Lori Sturdevant on Thursday, January 19, 7:00-8:00 pm

[Register Here for NPV Discussion](#)



December 19, 2022 Board Highlights

By Arlene Gillette, LWV ABC Secretary

The Board discussed doing legislative interviews with our four newly elected state legislators. The interviews need to be done by the end of January. We do these interviews to establish a relationship with the legislator. The questions we ask are basic ones that are supplied to us by the State League. The interviews will be done individually, and can be done on zoom.

On January 18 LWV ABC will partner with LWVMN for a program with Rep. Keith Ellison, part of the LWVMN series on a "civics conversation" on state government. It will be done in a studio in St. Paul, and shared with county high schools. Our February membership meeting will have State Senator Mary Kunesch, speaking about the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Task Force.

The Voter Service Chair reported that Vote411 is in place for School Board and Municipal elections. LWVMN will take care of it state-wide. Also, the new newsletter format has over 50% of subscribers opening it [increasing to 65% for December issue], with a reminder that the newsletter on phones is different from that on a lap top.

Our planning calendar includes all the things we need to do leading up to our Annual Meeting in April.



We Need You!

LWV ABC is seeking members for leadership roles:

- Voter Services Chair
- Program Chair
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Chair

Send us an email if you are interested in finding out more about these positions or other activities to get involved with:

lwvabc@gmail.com



Register New Citizens

Join League members from throughout the Twin Cities area to help new citizens get registered to vote.

Volunteers pass out pens before the ceremony, answer questions and collect the completed voter registration forms following the end of the ceremony.

All upcoming ceremonies will be **at the River Centre** in St. Paul. Morning and afternoon shifts are available, or sign up for both and spend the day.

Upcoming Citizenship Ceremonies:

- Thursday, January 19
- Thursday, February 16
- Thursday, March 23

All volunteers, not just LWV members, are welcome and encouraged to sign up.

[Sign-Up for Citizenship Ceremonies](#)

Note the separate tabs across the top of the Sign-Up Genius form for each date.

Coming in February ...

Our February meeting will feature Senator Mary Kunesch (District 39, serving Columbia Heights, Fridley, Spring Lake Park, New Brighton and St. Anthony) speaking on the establishment of the Office of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives. This office, established through a bill that Senator Kunesch sponsored in 2021, will be posting their first annual report on January 15.

For background, read the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women report to the legislature that was published in December 2020. This meeting will be on February 14, only on Zoom; 6:30 social time and 7:00 start. Links to prepare for the meeting:

[Senator Kunesch](#)
[MMIR report, December 2020](#)
[Information on establishment of the Office of MMIR](#)

See more upcoming events on our calendar.

LWV ABC Calendar

The League of Women voters is a non-partisan civic organization which promotes good government and active, informed participation in local, state and federal government.

The League is committed to diversity, equity and inclusion in principal and practice.

Become a Member

Support Our Work

More About LWV ABC



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