

The Voter

The LWV ABC Monthly Newsletter

April 2023

ANNUAL MEETING

Annual Membership Meeting

Monday, April 10, 2023

Andover Senior Center (and Zoom)

6:15 pm Dinner

6:45 pm Social Activity (online and in person)

7:00 pm Meeting

Join us as we celebrate the last year and plan for the upcoming year.

The Annual Membership Meeting is a members-only event - if you aren't a member and want to join, now's a good time!

[Zoom Link for Annual Meeting](#)

Become a Member

RSVP to Reserve Meal

RSVP Due April 3

RSVP for the Annual Meeting to reserve your boxed lunch from Nelson Cheese and Deli - or to just let us know you will be attending by Zoom or are unable to attend.

If your budget allows, we welcome donations of \$10 to help defray the cost of the meals.

RSVP for Annual Meeting

Help us continue Making Democracy Work!



Renew your membership today

Our membership year ends in April for everyone who joined or renewed during 2022. Our membership dues remain the same – Individual Membership \$60, Additional Household Members \$30 and Students \$10.

If our dues are a financial hardship, simply chose Flexible Dues and pay whatever amount your budget allows.

Remember that student dues are available to students of any age who attend

school full or part-time!

Nearly half of our membership has already renewed - Thank you!

Click on the button below to print the renewal form to mail or pay online with PayPal. You can also pay in person at the Annual Membership Meeting.

Renew Membership



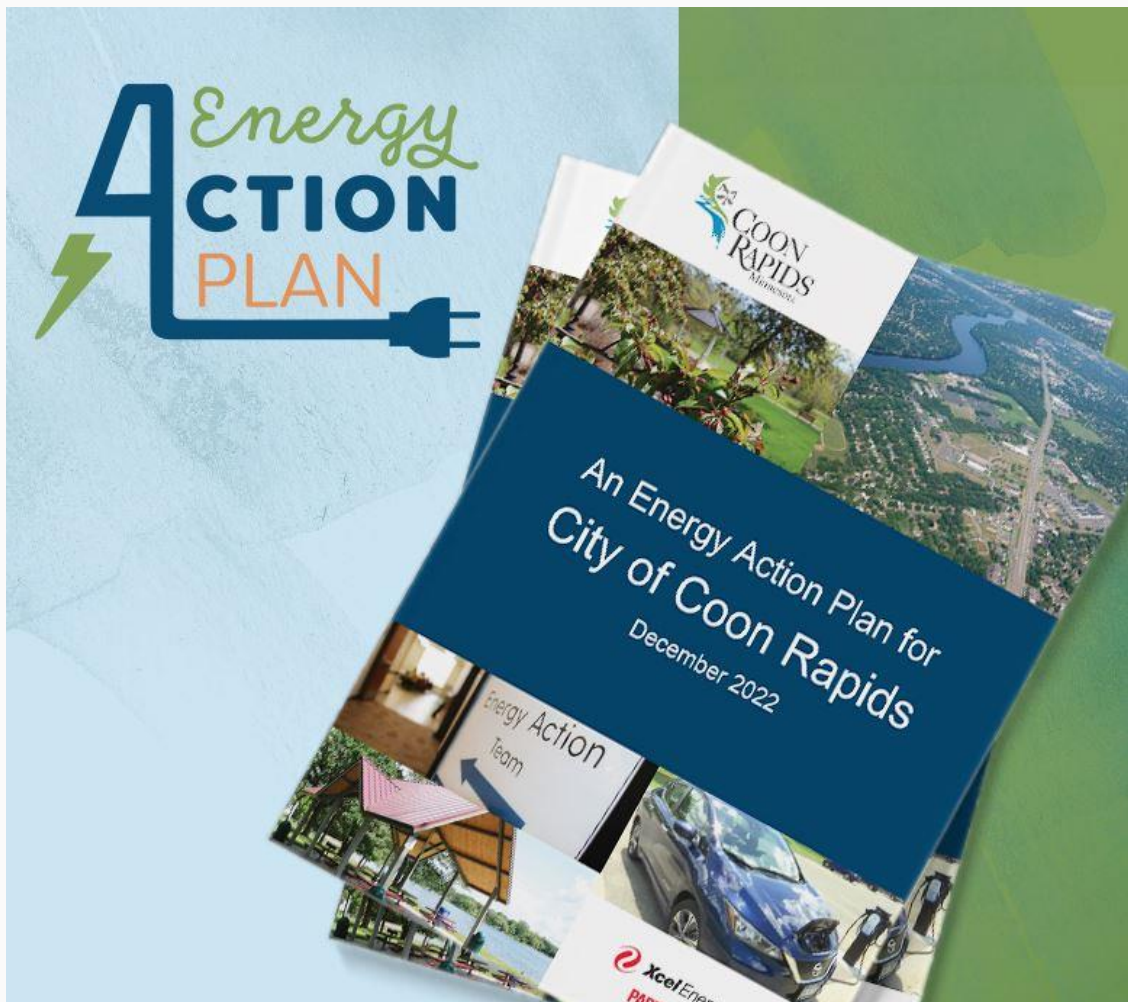
What is the ERA and Why do we need it?

Our guest on March 13 was Suzann Willhite, President of ERA Minnesota (ERAMN). The non-profit ERAMN has two goals: add an Equal Rights Amendment to the Minnesota Constitution through a ballot measure and to enact the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment as the 28th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Many thanks to Suzann for her passionate and informative talk, Sue Dergantz for arranging the program and QCTV for producing the video!

Watch the video on the LWV ABC website or YouTube channel.

[Watch Program Video](#)



May Program Meeting and Beyond

Our new Program Committee is preparing an array of meetings for the next year.

In May, we will talk about what cities are doing to improve their environmental performance. Our guests will be **Kari Rehrauer** (Coon Rapids Ward 2 councilmember) **and Olivia Dorow Hovland** (Coon Rapids Sustainability Planner) to present a program on the **Coon Rapids Energy Action Plan** recently approved by the city council.

Watch for details in the May newsletter - but mark your calendar now for May 15 and every second Monday!



Blaine Special Election

April 11, 2023

If you live in Blaine Ward 2, remember to vote in the Special Election on April 11. Our Candidate Q&A, moderated by Leslie Waterhouse, is available on our website.

[Watch Candidate Q &A](#)



Northtown Library National Voter Registration Billboard, 2021

Voter Service Update

While continuing to conduct voter registration at senior housing, the LWV ABC Voter Services team have been busy planning for future events :

- updating voter registration posters and cards
- planning digital billboards
- reserving tables at community events
- contacting high schools
- meeting with our cable television partners
- coordinating with libraries
- monitoring pending voter legislative
- planning voter registration training

Thanks to members Arlene Gillett, Alyson Gullette, Rachel Mero, Paula Mohr, Joan Molenaar, Naomi Peterson, Linda Rogers, Kathie Welchel and Cindy Wetzell for all their work!

Once the legislature makes final decisions about pending voter legislation deadlines, LWV ABC will offer updated voter registration training.



Criminal Justice Position

In 2022, the LWVUS Convention adopted a comprehensive Criminal Justice Position. For the first time, LWV has a position that addresses most aspects of the Criminal Justice System including Policing, Pre-Trial Procedures, Sentencing, Incarceration and Re-entry.

In general, the new position supports a criminal justice system that

- is just, effective, equitable and transparent
- eliminates systemic bias
- promotes safety for law enforcement officers and communities
- promotes collaboration between government and community
- focuses on humane treatment and rehabilitation
- relies on evidence-based research in decision-making

In the past, LWVUS only had a position on sentencing, relying on other positions to support or oppose some other aspects of the criminal justice system. For example, advocacy for access to police records fell under the Citizen's Right to Know position and advocacy against solitary confinement fell under the Individual Liberties position. For states which had not adopted additional criminal justice positions, the ability to engage in criminal justice advocacy at the local and state level was limited.

The new position allows LWV members to advocate on a much wider scale at the local, state and federal level. Not every possible piece of criminal justice legislation is addressed under the LWV policy so the LWVUS Legislative and Policy team is available to consult before advocating for or against proposed legislation.

To find out more, watch the March 22, 2023 presentation by Rebecca Goldman, LWVUS Justice Reform Legislative and Policy Specialist and Co-chairs of the LWV California Criminal Justice Interest Group, Carolina Goodman and Maxine Anderson.

LWVUS also has webpage dedicated to the Criminal Justice Position.

[Criminal Justice Position Video](#)

[Criminal Justice Position Webpage](#)



ERA Rally

LWV ABC members Gretchen Sabel and Jody Anderson celebrated International Women's Day on March 8th by attending the ERAMN rally at the capitol.



March 27, 2023 Board Highlights

By Arlene Gillette, LWV ABC Secretary

Preparations for our Annual Meeting, and a discussion of the Budget for next year occupied a large part of our meeting. We made decisions on the box lunches that will be made available to members at the meeting, where to get them and how much they will cost. Budget issues centered around the possible need for holding a fund raiser to meet all of our expenses for the year.

The League state convention is being held June 2 -3 in New Ulm, MN this year. Based on our number of members, we can send 5 delegates to it, although other members can attend if they would like to go. If interested in attending, you can notify a Board member.

Work on amendments to our League bylaws has been ongoing most of this year, and continued at this meeting. The bylaws spell out the legal definitions of what our policies are, our membership terms, and rules on any changes to be made in the bylaws. Any proposed amendment to the bylaws requires the approval of LWV MN.

Members can find board agendas and minutes in the Members Only section of the website.



LWVMN Convention

June 2-3, 2023
New Ulm

Learn more about League and help set the direction for LWV Minnesota for the next two years.

LWV ABC is allowed 5 delegates - and the opportunity for more to be upgraded to delegates.

Convention starts at 6:00 on Friday with many fun social activities during the day on Friday, including a special event about the upper Mississippi River Region, led by LWV ABC's Gretchen Sabel and Geri Nelson.

Accommodations are available at a special rate for Friday and/or Saturday night if you **reserve a room by May 5**.

Reimbursement is available from LWV ABC for registration fees and accommodations.

Email us if you are interested in being a delegate to the convention.

lwvabc@gmail.com

Click button below to learn more at the LWVMN Convention Webpage.



Register New Citizens

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

Morning sessions - 8:45 AM-12:00 PM
Afternoon sessions - 12:30 PM-4:00 PM

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

Upcoming Citizenship Ceremonies:

Thursday, March 30 - University of St. Thomas Law School - morning

Tuesday, April 11 - RiverCentre - morning and afternoon

Wednesday, May 10 - RiverCentre - morning and afternoon

Thursday, May 11 - MN State Capitol Rotunda - morning

Wednesday, June 14 - RiverCentre - morning and afternoon

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.

LWV ABC is a member of LWV Upper Mississippi River Region ILO. This group is made up of more than 50 local Leagues from the Mississippi Headwaters to St. Louis, and provides environmental programs that are open to all.

On Monday, April 3, there will be a program on ground water and land use, looking at how the hydrologic system works and then two specific examples of how land use is impacting water quality.

And on May 22, LWV UMRR's Annual Meeting will feature speakers from LWV US with a theme of "United, We Stand Stronger".

Learn more about LWV Upper Mississippi River Region

April 3 - Ground Water and Land Use Webinar

May 22 - United, we Stand Stronger!

Coming in May ...

Deadline for reduced hotel rate for LWVMN Convention

Coon Rapids Energy Action Plan program

A Hmong Wedding Story Book Club

UMRR Annual Meeting

Click button below to get details and find more events on our online 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 principle and practice.

Become a Member

Support Our Work

More About LWV ABC





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