

The Voter

The LWV ABC Monthly Newsletter

October 2023



Heat Pump Technology

Monday, October 9, 2023

**Zoom and
Andover City Council Chambers
1685 Crosstown Blvd. NW
Andover, MN 55304**

6:30 - online and in person socializing

7:00 - program begins

Our guest speaker Arbor Otalora-Fadner, a program coordinator with the Center for Energy and Environment and a representative of the Minnesota Air Source Heat Pump Collaborative, will discuss air source heat pump technology. Air source heat

pump technology is an energy efficient and green upgrade for your home. Information will include what heat pump technology is, how it can benefit your home, and when it is a good time to make the switch. LWV ABC President Gretchen Sabel will share her recent experience with having an air source heat pump installed at her house.

The [Minnesota ASHP Collaborative](#) is a joint effort between [Center for Energy and Environment](#) and Minnesota utility companies.

The presentation will cover the latest news regarding rebates that may be available for home energy-saving-items. Rebates are potentially available from the MN Department of Commerce and the US Department of Energy's Office of State and Community Energy.

[Program Zoom Link](#)



Representative Zach Stephenson, **Senator Jim Abeler** and LWV ABC Program Co-Chair **Kathy Tinglestad**.

Legislative Update

In September, Representative Zach Stephenson and Senator Jim Abeler joined us for a lively discussion on the 2023 legislative session with a focus on environmental and educational legislation.

[Watch Program Video](#)



Friend of League 2023
TJ Tronson and North Metro TV

Each year, LWV ABC awards The Friend of League Award to a community member or organization who assists LWV ABC in achieving our goals of good government and active and informed voters. This year, Voter Service Chair **Linda Rodgers** presented the **Friend of League Award to TJ Tronson and North Metro TV** in recognition of their work in producing widely viewed video of Candidate Forums to inform voters during each election season. In 2022, North Metro TV went the extra mile when we found ourselves scrambling for venues for some of our county forums. Their willingness to work together to create a solution made it possible for us to complete our heavy agenda of candidate forums.

The beautiful watercolor of the award is courtesy of LWV ABC member **Mary Jo Truchon**.

Click on the button below to see view past Friend of League recipients

[Friend of League Webpage](#)





AHSD District 5 candidates, **Jody Anderson** and **Paula Mohr**.

Candidate Forums

By Linda Rodgers, Voter Services Chair

Candidate forums for local school boards have been completed. (There were no municipal races to cover.) **Paula Mohr** did a great job leading our efforts, scheduling all our forums (now taped-only, without live audience) at the studios of QCTV and North Metro TV. QCTV staff and TJ Tronson of North Metro TV were great to work with as always.

Forums for the three districts within Anoka-Hennepin school district were taped on September 14 at QCTV studios. All candidates participated. **Jody Anderson, Paula Mohr, Julia French and Linda Rodgers** conversed with candidates as they waited, timed the forums, and responded to last minute questions from QCTV staff. **Leslie Waterhouse** moderated along with **Cindy Shevlin-Woodcock from LWV BPMGO** (Brooklyn Park, Maple Grove and Osseo). Because our own members, **Erin Heers-McCardle and Susan Witt**, were candidates in two of the districts we needed to use a moderator from outside ABC.

Forums for Spring Lake Park, Columbia Heights and Fridley were taped on September 20 at North Metro TV studios. **Paula Mohr, Jody Anderson and Linda Rodgers** assisted.

- Spring Lake Park: Both candidates participated and **Wes Volkenant** moderated.
- Columbia Heights: One of the three candidates participated and **Sandy Connor** moderated.

- Fridley: Three of the five candidates participated and **Sandy Connor** moderated.

Thanks to **Pat Kennedy** for posting the forums online.

Please spread the word that the forums are posted on the ABC website, QCTV, North Metro TV and YouTube.

[Candidate Forum Webpage](#)

[YouTube Forum 2023 Playlist](#)



Jody Anderson and Sue Dergantz registering voters at Ramsey Happy Days 2023.

Voter Registration

by Linda Rodgers, Voter Services Chair

During September, ABC members hosted voter registration tables at the well-attended Ramsey Happy Days, registering 5 people, providing information regarding

online registration, helping one individual complete an absentee ballot application and handing out league information.

For the first time, LWV ABC also hosted a table at Nowthen Heritage Festival where the attendance was on a smaller scale. One 17-year old was very excited to learn she could pre-register and would do so online, and we handed out league information. Our presence there was an important first.

Thank you to the volunteers at these events (and all of the others we did) who have been fantastic—enthusiastic, helpful, informed and informative. And we had three new members sign up for volunteering!

A shout-out to **Rachel Mero** who coordinated the Blip electronic billboard advertising campaign for National Voter Registration Day. This year there were four billboards (8 sides) in different locations around the county.

Cindy Wetzell was interviewed regarding National Voter Registration Day by QCTV while at Ramsey Happy Days. Cindy also authored a letter-to-the-editor published in *The Northeaster* (first time!). The letter was published as a column in the *Press & News*.

Naomi Peterson is up and running with Senior Housing Voter Registration, and has scheduled three events for October—check them out on SignUp Genius.

[Sign Up for Voter Registration Events](#)

[LWV ABC in the News](#)



CMAL Quarterly Meeting **Legislation Affecting the Met Council**

Zoom
Saturday, October 14 2023
10:00 am - Noon

The Council of Metropolitan Leagues (CMAL) will be hosting Reva Chamblis, Vice Chair of the Metropolitan Council, who will discuss 2023 legislation affecting the Metropolitan Council including:

- Transit
- Parks
- Planning
- Water Management
- Affordable Housing
- Environmental Services
- Transportation

Following the discussion, there will be a short update on the CMAL Watershed Study.

[**CMAL Zoom Link**](#)

[**CMAL Meeting Flyer**](#)



UMRR

LWV ABC is a member of the LWV Upper Mississippi River Region Inter League Organization (LWV UMRR), an 'uber-League' that unites Leagues throughout the Upper Mississippi River Basin (Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois and Missouri). The mission of LWV UMRR is to advocate and educate on issues relating to the Mississippi through bi-monthly educational events on Zoom and a monthly newsletter.

Want to learn more? Click the buttons below:

[LWV UMRR Website](#)

[Sign Up for UMRR Newsletter](#)



Scientific Farming Practices

On September 23, the Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve, held an open house where they shared some of their research. The Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve is an important University of Minnesota biodiversity and ecosystem research center. Located in East Bethel, it sits at the meeting point of three major biomes: the tallgrass prairie, coniferous forest, and deciduous forest.

Dr. David Tilman noted that the global food system emits 30% of global greenhouse gases through land clearing, nitrogen fertilizer production and livestock methane. Even if all fossil fuel combustion were stopped in 2030, greenhouse gases will still exceed the 2050 Paris climate goals unless we change our agricultural practices. Research shows that biodiversity in farming will reduce greenhouse gases and require less fertilizer while also increasing yields.

Dr. Elizabeth Borer, who studies grasslands, shared that nitrogen in rain has been increasing since 1860. Water nutrient pollution through rain and water pollution causes native plants to evolve to suit the nutrient signature where they were growing, leading to an increase in non-native plants and more insect predation, leaving plants more susceptible to disease.

The LWV Upper Mississippi River Region ILO encourages individuals to advocate for increased funding in the Farm Bill to help farmers change farming practices.

Read the full UMRR Cedar Creek blog post and learn more about the Farm Bill on the UMRR website.

UMRR Cedar Creek Blog

UMRR Farm Bill Blog



Board Members **Wes Volkenant** and **Leslie Waterhouse** moderating recent candidate forums.

September Board Highlights

By Kathy Aanerud, LWV ABC Secretary

Agenda items covered at our monthly board meeting on September 25 included:

- Details were presented and discussed for our October 9 hybrid program at Andover City Hall, "Heat Pump Technology for an Energy Efficient Home." Time will be included for questions and a member's successful experience with a heat pump installation.
- Program plans underway for November on the topic of housing or food insufficiency or both.
- Candidate Forums for local school board races were successfully completed and recorded and are posted to our website for viewing. Appreciation expressed to the moderators, volunteers, and media partners, QCTV and North Metro TV.

- Voter registration activities at community events were summarized with gratitude to our member volunteers. Next up are voter registration events at senior housing locations. Three are scheduled thus far.

Members may access board meeting agendas and complete, approved board meeting minutes on the Members Only Website.



Election 2023 Reminders

Voting By Mail

Early voting began September 22, 2023. If you plan to vote by mail, absentee ballots must be requested by submitting a paper request. Online absentee ballot requests are only available when national and state elections are held.

Polling Places

Before you vote on election day, check your polling place. Your polling place may not be your usual polling place for school board elections.

[Absentee Ballot Request Form](#)

Our Photographers

Thanks to all our photographers - **Kathy Aanerud, Paula Mohr, Linda Rodgers and Gretchen Sabel** - who submitted pictures for this month's newsletter.

We are always looking for photos of LWV ABC events for our website and newsletter so please share your photos with us.

Email any photos directly to Communications Chair Pat Kennedy or to the LWV ABC email at lwvabc@gmail.com

Coming in November ...

Book Club - *We Are Meant to Rise* by Carolyn Holbrook and David Mura

Program Meeting - on housing and/or food insecurity

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



League of Women Voters ABC
1482 158th LN NW
Andover, MN 55304

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