

The Voter

The LWV ABC Monthly Newsletter
January 2024



What is Alexandra House?

Monday, January 8
via Zoom

6:30 - online socializing

6:45 - Quiz on Labor History

7:00 - program begins

Alexandra House Executive Director Connie Moore will discuss violence against women in our area, how victims are supported, social impacts, the need for financial support and why funding has declined.

[Meeting Zoom Link](#)



Ice Cream Social

In December, we celebrated our 2023 accomplishments with an ice cream social. Members tested their knowledge of Minnesota flag history with the most knowledgeable bringing home poinsettia plants. **Geri Nelson** won the meeting door prize of an Ida B. Wells doll and book.

Our guest, Paul Huffman of LWVMN, discussed the need for redistricting reform and his work, in partnership with Common Cause, to develop a redistricting bill for the upcoming legislative session.

View Paul's Power Point Presentation for the details.

Redistricting Presentation

If you missed Paul's presentation ...

Redistricting Webinar

Tuesday, January 9
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

[Register for Redistricting Webinar](#)



Our first choice and our second choice.



Top finalist chosen by SERC and final version chosen by SERC.

Minnesota Flag

At our Ice Cream Social, members expressed their preferences for a new Minnesota flag from 32 of the flags submitted to the State Emblems Redesign Commission (SERC).

Our top choice was submission #F443, featured a loon and star within a blue circle on a green background. It was not one of the SERC finalists. Our second choice, "Mirror of the Skies" (dark blue with gold star and white and light blue swirls), remained in the official running when the commission narrowed the finalists to three on December 12. The final choice of SERC did not receive any votes from our members.

After public comments, SERC significantly modified the finalist flag entry, changing the star to symmetrical eight point star and removing the green and white stripes. Barring action by the legislature, the new flag and seal chosen by SERC will automatically become official May 11, 2024, when Minnesota observes Statehood Day.

For a fun critique of the commission's top three flags, watch this short animated video from CGP Grey

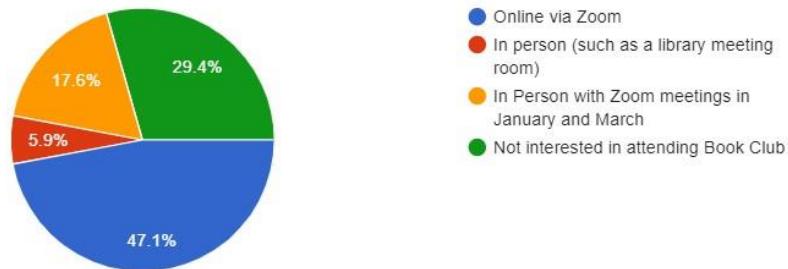
Minnesota Getting a New Flag Video

Take our Minnesota Flag quiz to test your knowledge of the Minnesota Flag history.

Minnesota Flag Quiz

Preferences for Future Book Club Meetings

Do you prefer attending a book club online via Zoom or in person?



Book Club Survey Results

Thanks to everyone who provided feedback by completing our book club survey.

Linda Rodgers won the novel *The Book of Lost Friends* in the drawing from those who completed our book club survey. **Jeorgette Knoll**, who tied with **Kathy Aanerud** for having read the most books, won the book *The Great Displacement: Climate Change and the Next American Migration*. Both books will be discussed in book club in 2024.

The survey results show that our current practice of holding book club on Wednesday evenings via zoom is preferred by those members that are interested in book club.

The most read books were:

- *A Good Time for the Truth* (2016) by Sun Yung Shin
 - *The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir* (2008) by Kao Kalia Yang
 - *White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide* (2016) by Carol Anderson, Ph.D.
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QCTV Producer Leslie Sauer-Smith pictured with LWV ABC Vice President Julie Trude.

Public Service Announcements

LWV ABC will be working with QCTV to record a series of short segments on election law changes, the Presidential Nominating Primary and more. Our own **Leslie Waterhouse** will interview Anoka County Elections Manager Tom Hunt for this series. Look for these to come out in late January.

In the meantime, if you have questions about the new laws affecting voting and elections in Minnesota or about the Presidential Nominating Primary, check out the links below on the LWV MN website.

[New laws affecting MN elections](#)

[Picking the President - LWV MN resources](#)



Voter Services Chair **Linda Rodgers** with **Paula Mohr**

Voter Registration Update

The Voter Registration Committee met on December 13 to discuss accomplishments during 2023 and begin planning for the future.

LWV ABC Voter Registration Activities in 2023:

- Posters, flyers and registration materials at all of the libraries in Anoka County.
- Digital Billboards on National Voter Registration Day (NVRD) at Rum River, Columbia Heights and Northtown Libraries
- Articles/letters-to-the-editors/columns published in The Northeaster, the ABC newspapers, The Press and Crow Wing papers for NVRD
- QCTV ran an interview with **Cindy Wetzell** regarding NRVD
- BLIP billboards (developed by **Rachel Mero**) for Memorial Day, Labor Day and National Voter Registration Day
- Community voter registration events in Columbia Heights, Coon Rapids, Ramsey, Nowthen and Spring Lake Park
- Totino-Grace and Coon Rapids High School registered seniors with the support of **Alyson Gullette** and **Cindy Wetzell**
- Senior housing resident voter registration led by **Naomi Peterson**

Upcoming Voter Registration Activities in 2024:

We will continue to build on our past successful activities and update our materials

- Voter Registration Training in February
- **Kathie Welchel** will begin to work with both Anoka Tech and Anoka-Ramsey to increase their voter registration and voter education
- **Cindy Wetzell** will contact the area director of Meals On Wheels to determine if there is a way forward for disseminating voter/voter registration information to meal recipients

As court challenges are settled and 2023 legislative changes are implemented, LWV ABC may need to pivot from voter registration toward more get-out-the-vote activities and outreach to communities with low voter turnouts. New ideas are always welcome!

Contact Cindy Wetzell or send an email to lwvabc@gmail.com with your ideas.

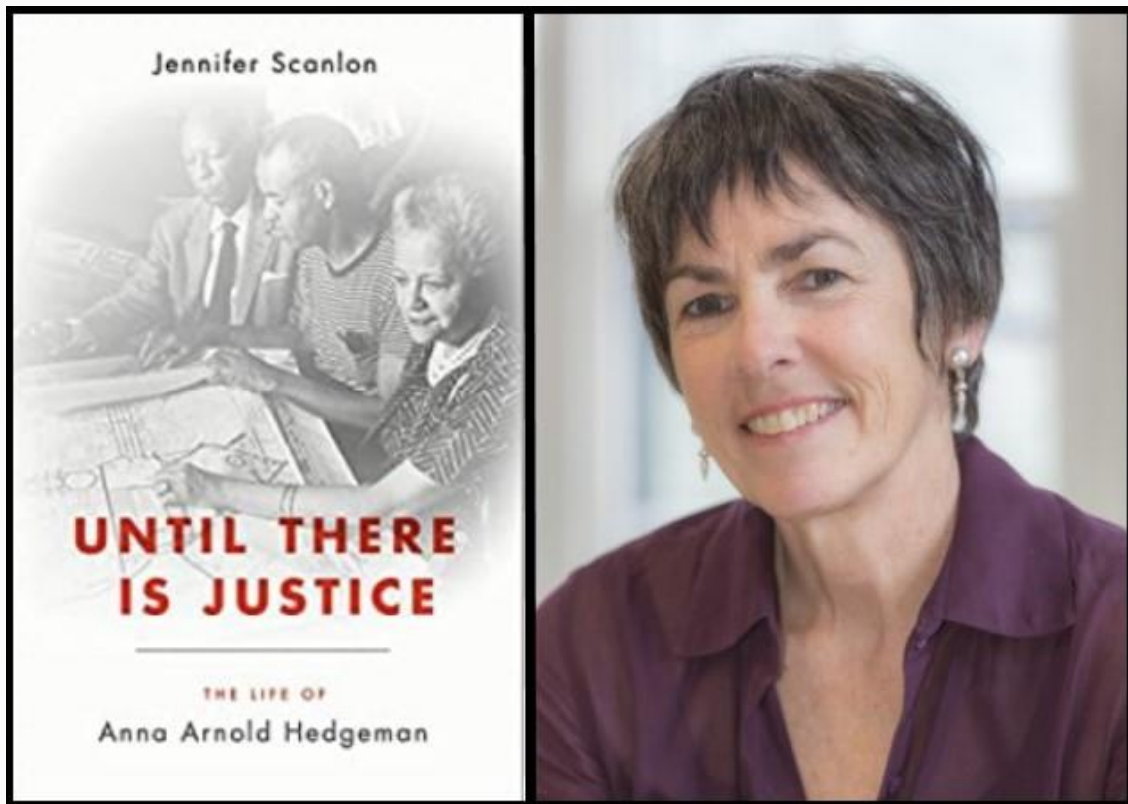


Project with Anoka County Library HELP NEEDED!

The Anoka County Library has invited LWV ABC to work with them on a project to create" information literacy passive programing*" around elections and voting for 2024. **The library will provide their social media specialist's services to help put together the visuals, and they need our help with content.** The topics they are planning to cover include where to find information on candidates, info on where and how to vote, and more. Would you like to work with the library on this? The work will begin in January. This is a good opportunity to work with our library partners to provide quality information for voters in what will be a discordant and mis-information election year. **Thanks to Sandy Connor** for fielding this opportunity for us!

If you're interested, email us at lwvabc@gmail.com - we would like to have three to four volunteers for this work.

**"Information literacy passive programming" is the creation of materials that inform the public without interaction between the library staff and patrons or the public - a display, a poster, an article for example. More info - [click here](#).*



Book Club

**Wednesday, January 17
7:00 pm on Zoom**

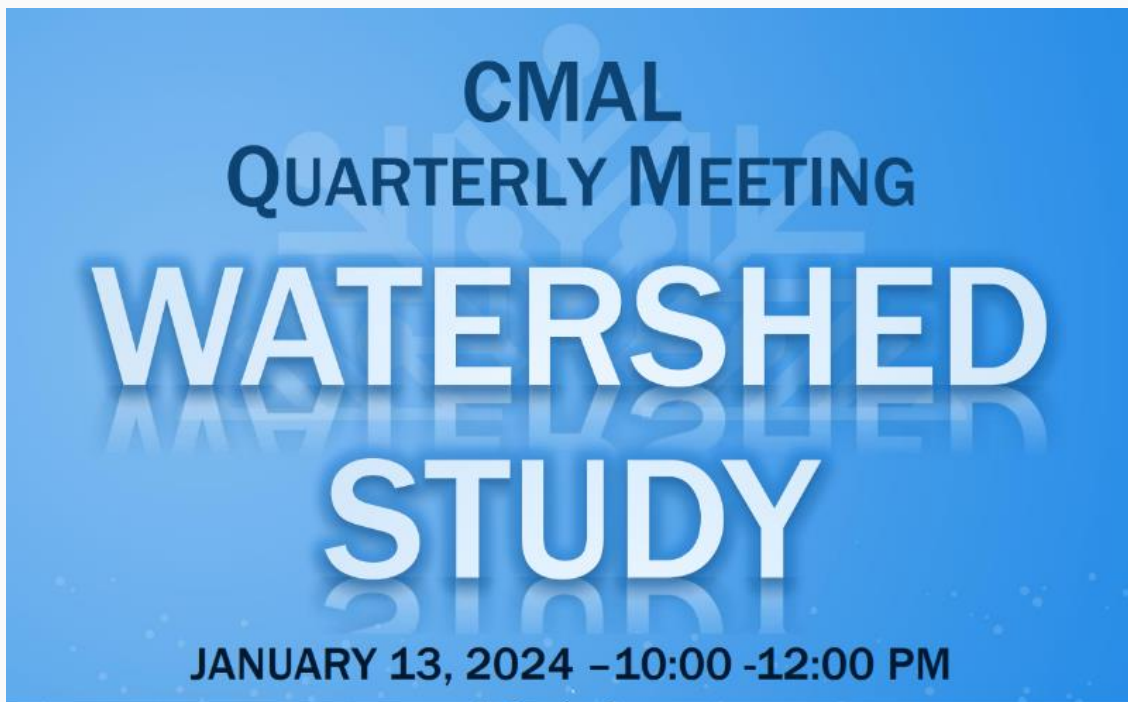
***Until there is Justice: The Life of Anna Arnold Hedgeman* by Jennifer Scanlon**

Raised in Anoka Minnesota, Anna Arnold Hedgeman (1899-1990) played a key role in over half a century of social justice initiatives. The first Black graduate of Hamline University, she went on to serve as the executive director of the National Council for a Permanent Fair Employment Practices Commission, an organizer the 1963 March on Washington and a founding member of the National Organization Women.

Usually cast as a supporting figure in civil rights history, author Jennifer Scanlon makes the case that Anna Arnold Hedgeman's contributions were as integral to the civil rights movement as leaders who are more regularly celebrated.

[Book Club Zoom Link](#)

[Upcoming Books](#)



CMAL Quarterly Meeting
Watershed Study
Saturday January 13
10:00 am
Zoom

The January meeting will be a report on the CMAL Watershed Study. This project is entirely educational in nature and not tied to any advocacy agenda at this time.

The study committee has researched Water in Minnesota and is slowly unraveling how watershed organizations work. The Watershed Study Committee has produced a draft Study Report, Questionnaire and Table linking the Watershed Districts and the Area Metro Leagues. The Study Committee is looking for feedback relative to

what might be missing from the Study Report or the Questionnaire.

[CMAL Zoom Link](#)

[CMAL December Newsletter](#)

January Jumpstart



2024 LWVMN Leadership Training **Jan 17 - Jan 31** **Zoom**

All League members are welcome to register for these learning opportunities!

- Jan 17 - Election Policy/Presidential Primary - 12:00 pm
- Jan 18 - Get on Brand! - 4:30 pm
- Jan 19 - 2024 Legislative Preview - 2:00 pm
- Jan 25 - LWVMN's Strategic Plan - 12:00 pm
- Jan 25 - LWVUS New Membership Program - 4:30 pm
- Jan 30 - Engaging Youth in Voter Service Work - 12:00 pm
- Jan 31 - Vote411 in 2024 and Your League - 12:00 pm

[Register for January Jumpstart](#)



CO2 Pipelines - Activism, Coalitions and Legislative Strategies

The UMRR December program focused on Carbon Dioxide Pipelines. A panel of experts from Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois provided an excellent and exciting discussion on the status of approvals and other issues here in the Upper Mississippi River Basin!

[Watch CO2 Pipelines Webinar](#)



St. Cloud's Circular Economy - Defining the Clean Energy Future

Feb 7, 1:00 pm

The City of St. Cloud is pursuing a course that could lead to their city operations to being carbon negative - taking in more carbon than they emit. They are integrating treatment of their wastewater, the use of solar energy to power their services and the recovery of biogas and fertilizer.

On February 7, LWV UMRR will host a webinar featuring St. Cloud's Public Services Director, Tracy Hodel. She will tell us about how the City Of St. Cloud has become a national and global leader in its sustainability work and the many positive community impacts resulting from these actions.

Register for Feb 7 Webinar [here!](#)



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.

Upcoming Citizenship Ceremonies

- **January 15** - Mount Zion Temple, St Paul
- **January 23** - Westminster Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis
- **January 24** - U.S District Courthouse, Minneapolis

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...

Feb 7 UMMR Program - St. Cloud's Circular Economy

Feb 12 MnERA Rally and Opening Day of Legislative Session

Feb 12 Program - Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

Feb 13 Special Election - Columbia Heights

Feb 13 Last Day to Pre-register to Vote for Presidential Nomination Primary Election

Feb 27 Precinct Caucuses

Voter Registration Training

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

LWV ABC Calendar

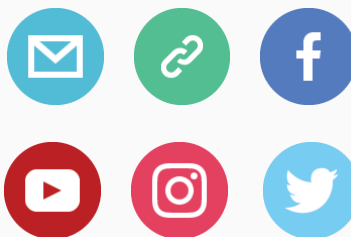
The League of Women voters is a non-partisan civic organization which promotes good government and active, informed participation in local, state and federal government.

We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.

Become a Member

Support Our Work

More About LWV ABC



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*The Voter
The Monthly Newsletter of LWV ABC*

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