

The Voter

The LWV ABC Monthly Newsletter
February 2024



Minnesota
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Relatives
Office



Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives

Monday, February 12, 2024
Via Zoom

6:30 - online and in person socializing

7:00 - program begins

Guest speakers Dr. Nicole MartinRogers of the Wilder Foundation and Juliet Rudie, Director of the Office of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives, will be presenting recent research findings on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives. Senator Mary Kunesh will be introducing our speakers.

Dr. Nicole MartinRogers (*White Earth Ojibwe, descendent*) has a doctorate in sociology from the University of Minnesota and has been a research scientist with Wilder Research since 2001.

Juliet Rudie (*Lower Sioux Indian Community*) has served as director of the MMIR Office since February 28, 2022. She previously served as Chief Deputy with the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office, as well as a St Paul patrol officer and sergeant.

Senator Mary Kunesch (*Standing Rock Lakota, descendent*) authored the 2019 legislation creating the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Taskforce and the 2021 legislation creating the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Office.

[MMIR Program Zoom Link](#)

2023 MMIR Report

The 2023 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Report primarily focuses on how systems respond once a person has gone missing or died under suspicious circumstances and best practices for multi-system response for new and unsolved cases

[Read October 2023 MMIR Report](#)

2020 Task Force Report

The 2020 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Task Force Report focuses on the systemic causes, collecting and reporting data, addressing policy and practices within institutions, reducing and eliminating violence, and helping Indigenous women and girls heal from violence.

[Read 2020 MMIW Task Force Report](#)



OUR SERVICES
The complexities of domestic and sexual violence require multidimensional services and support.

Alexandra House provides:

- 👉 Emergency Shelter
- 👉 24-Hour Helpline
- 👉 Elder Abuse Services
- 👉 Youth Services
- 👉 Legal Advocacy
- 👉 Hospital Advocacy
- 👉 Housing and Supportive Services
- 👉 Community Education and Training
- 👉 Support Groups and Therapy Referral

Alexandra House
Working to end domestic and sexual violence.

What is Alexander House?

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

[Watch Program Video](#)

DECREASED FEDERAL & STATE FUNDING

- 👉 Federal → Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) seeing a 40% cut in funding
- 👉 No increase to our state grant base funding in 9 years
- 👉 Inflation
- 👉 Individual donor fatigue | multiple causes

We save lives every day through our collective efforts.



Alexandra House
Working to end domestic and sexual violence.

Domestic Abuse Funding Advocacy

During the January program presentation on Alexandra House, when asked what we could do, Executive Director Connie Moore asked audience members to contact their legislators regarding funding for domestic abuse services. While the need for

services continues to increase, funding has not increased. State grant based funding has not increased for 9 years and federal funding under the Victims of Crime Act is seeing a 40% cut in funding.

After evaluating the situation under the LWVMN Position on Violence Prevention, the LWV ABC directed the LWV ABC President to send a letter to the governor and all our local state legislators regarding the need for increased funding.

On January 24, **Jodie Anderson**, **Gretchen Sabel** and **Wes Volkenant** hand delivered our letter to the Governor's office. LWV ABC Vice President **Julie Trude**, along with the Executive Director of St. Paul and Ramsey Domestic Abuse Services and Connie Moore of Alexandra House plan to meet with a member of the Governor's staff in February.

We urge you, as individuals, to contact your elected officials.

[Read LWV ABC Letter to Governor](#)

[LWVMN Position on Violence Prevention \(Pages 41-42\)](#)



Anoka County riverbed restoration project from Anoka County Parks website.

Research Volunteers Needed

Last year, the metro-area leagues of the CMAL organization voted to initiate a new project launching an informational study of our metro area Watershed Districts. The project has evolved to studying all 33 Watershed organizations in the metro area. As a CMAL Board member, **Wes Volkenant** has worked on this project for the past eight months. He will speak about it at our March 10th program meeting, via Zoom.

Volunteers are needed to research four of the Anoka County watershed agencies to collect specific, available web information about from our Anoka County area, and to set up interviews with watershed staff to fill in additional information for a CMAL questionnaire. The four Watershed organizations are:

- Coon Creek Watershed District
- Sunrise River Watershed Management Organization
- Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization
- Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization

Data collection will take place in February. It's a good opportunity to learn more about water resources in our area, and the people who look after them!

Contact Wes Volkenant or email us at lwvabc@gmail.com if you would like to help with this important project.

Map of Anoka County Watersheds

Find your Watershed



#Day1forERA Rally

**Monday February 12
10:00 am -12:00 pm
State Capitol Rotunda**

Last year, the legislative session ended before the Senate passed an ERA bill. Join bill authors, key leaders, and supporters to rally for the ERA on the first day of the legislative session.

***Email us at lwvabc@gmail.com
if you are interested in carpooling.***

2024 Proposed Language of SF37

All persons shall be guaranteed equal rights under the laws of this state. The state shall not discriminate against any person in intent or effect on account of race, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, or sex, including but not limited to pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes and reproductive freedom, gender identity, gender expression, or sexual orientation.



Leslie Waterhouse with Anoka County Elections Manager Tom Hunt

Election Information 101

In January, QCTV taped a series of short (4-6 minute) public service announcements on elections starring Anoka County Elections Manager Tom Hunt and LWV ABC member **Leslie Waterhouse**.

Topics include explanations of the Presidential Primary, how to register, absentee voting, recent election law changes and ballot security. All the PSAs will be airing on QCTV and are also available for viewing on the QCTV website and on YouTube.

[Watch on QCTV](#)

[Watch on YouTube](#)



Secretary of State Steve Simon with LWVMN President Laura Helmer

Presidential Primary

March 5 Election Day

Early voting started January 19

The Presidential Nominating Primary is not a traditional primary. Although conducted like an election by election officials, it is actually a political party process to choose a candidate for the General Election. Only major parties may participate.

Unlike many states, Minnesota does not require voters to register with a party. When voting, you simply ask for the ballot of the party of your choice, signing a statement "I am in general agreement with the principles of the party for whose candidate I intend to vote."

Find out more about the Presidential Nominating Primary by watching the recent interview of Secretary of State Steve Simon by LWVMN President Laura Helmer.

[Watch Steve Simon Interview](#)

[Get Your Sample Ballot](#)

Precinct Caucuses

FEBRUARY 27, 2024



Precinct Caucuses

February 27, 2024

7:00 pm

Precinct caucuses are local meetings of political parties. Attendees present and vote on resolutions to include in party platforms, choose local party leaders and elect delegates for upcoming local conventions who will endorse candidates for the Legislature and Congress.

You can participate if you:

- Are eligible to vote by General Election Day, November 8, 2024
- Reside in the precinct
- Must attest that you have voted for their party's nominee in the past, are intending to vote for their party's nominee in the future or generally agree with that party.

You will be able to find your caucus location with the Caucus Finder starting February 7.

Precinct Caucus Finder



Anoka County Library Partnership

Sandy Connor, Julie Trude and **Mary Vander Laan** met with Anoka County library staff at Northtown library on January 19 to discuss partnering to share voter information through visual media.

LWV ABC and Anoka County Libraries will be developing a poster to highlight changes to voter registration laws, a piece on how voters may learn more about candidates, and an explanation of the permanent absentee ballot application process to be included with Books by Mail. (Books by Mail is available for Anoka County residents who are unable to physically visit the library due to illness, disability or visual impairment.) Our excellent voter registration materials created by **Rachel Mero** will be made available in libraries. Mary also suggested bookmarks go out in books picked up in book lockers.

This partnership with Anoka County Libraries will greatly expand our outreach to the public (and help our print budget). **Sandy Connor's** good connections with library staff has really paid off!



Some 2022 LWV ABC moderators - Karen Varian, Linda Rodgers, Susan Witt, Wes Volkenant, Gretchen Sabel and Leslie Waterhouse

2024 Candidate Forum Training

2024 is a big year for elections so LWVMN is offering training in March and April

- Moderator Training
- Event and Forum Planner Training
- Question Facilitator Training

Members who wish to moderate a candidate forum need to complete the training if you are new to the moderator role or received training prior to 2022.

Space is limited so register now

Register for Candidate Forum Training



January Board Highlights

By Kathy Aanerud, LWV ABC Secretary

Agenda items covered at our monthly board meeting on January 23, 2023 included:

- Arrangements have been finalized for February 12 program with Senator Mary Kunesh introducing the director of the Center for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives along with a researcher at Wilder Center.
- The Board approved a letter to the Governor's office and local legislators expressing urgent concern for the crisis in funding for domestic and sexual violence agencies and the need for additional state funds. Members will hand deliver the letter. Awareness of this issue arose from the January program with the executive director of Alexandra House.
- Chair of LWV ABC's Voter Registration Committee provided a report outlining plans for training on voter registration, identifying pivoting roles to voter education and get-out-the vote in light of legislative changes, and partnerships and actions being pursued.
- Co-Chair of Advocacy and Action Committee presented LWVMN's Legislative priorities and overall strategies for 2024.
- Voter Services chair described work underway on a list of 2024 Primary and General Elections and partnership forged with New Brighton Area LWV.
- Planning is underway for LWV ABC's Annual Meeting on Monday evening April 8 at Andover Community Center.

Members can find Board Agendas and approved Board Minutes in the Members Only section of our website



Remembering Deborah Turner

LWVUS President Dr. Deborah Ann Turner died from complications of a pulmonary embolism on January 28. Dr. Turner served as President of LWVUS since June 2022.

Dr. Turner joined the Des Moines Metropolitan League in 2010. She served as Des Moines president from 2011-2015, while also serving on the LWV Iowa board as the state vice president from 2011 to 2015, becoming co-president in 2015. In 2016, Dr. Turner League's was elected to the national board of directors, where she served on the Finance committee, Governance Committee, and chaired the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee.

A lifelong advocate of women's rights, voting rights and reproductive rights, Deborah Turner will be missed.

[More About Dr. Turner](#)



St. Cloud's Circular Economy

Defining the Clean Energy Future

February 7, 2024

1:00 PM via Zoom

St. Cloud's Public Services Director, Tracy Hodel, 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. We will learn how a community has taken waste products and turned them into an enterprise that is flipping the script on climate change!

Register for Webinar



CENTER FOR BIOETHICS *Ethics Grand Rounds*

A series featuring prominent local, national, and international bioethics scholars who lecture on a wide variety of health equity issues.

Health, Equity and Climate Change



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA | OFFICE OF ACADEMIC CLINICAL AFFAIRS

Health, Equity and Climate Change

**February 2, 2024
12:00 PM via Zoom**

The U of M Center for Bioethics is hosting Dr. Julian Sheather (PhD), an ethicist who advises the World Health Organization, the British Medical Association, and Médecins Sans Frontières. His talk will center on all the challenges the health impacts of climate change present to the complex questions of global and intergenerational equity and fairness.

Register for Webinar



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. Morning and afternoon time slots are available.

Upcoming Citizenship Ceremonies at Earle Browne Heritage Center

- **February 20**
- **March 20**

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 March...

March 5 - Presidential Primary

March 9 - CMAL Quarterly Meeting

March 11 - Program Meeting - Watershed Districts

March 20 - Book Cub - *Whiteness in Plain View*

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

LWV ABC Calendar

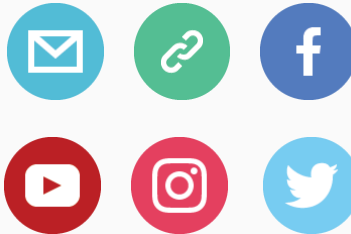
The League of Women voters is a non-partisan civic organization which promotes good government and active, informed participation in local, state and federal government.

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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