

The Voter

The LWV ABC Monthly Newsletter

April 2024

ANNUAL MEETING

2024 Annual Meeting

Monday, April 8

Zoom and Andover Community Center
Community Rooms A & B (Mike Knight Rooms)

Members Only

6:00 - Dinner and socializing

6:30 - Program begins

All members are encouraged to join us for the Annual Membership Meeting either online or in person. Enjoy a boxed meal and socialize while participating in our internal democracy - elect board members, approve the budget and set our direction for the upcoming membership year. And win some prizes!

Annual meeting speakers:

- Dr. Deb Turner's last State of League Speech (video clips included in President's remarks).
- Kathleen Sekhon will share her efforts to ratify the ERA over her lifetime.
- Jody Anderson will update us on current advocacy for a Minnesota ERA.
- Julie Trude will update us on our advocacy for Alexandra House and cover the new LWV Nonpartisanship Policy.

Not a member yet? It's a great time to join and get involved in LWV ABC.

RSVP

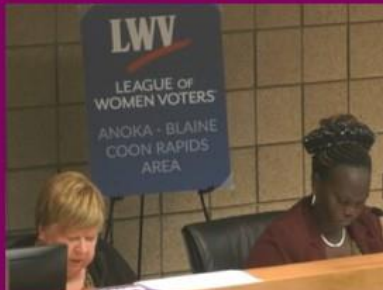
RSVP for the Annual Meeting to reserve your boxed lunch from Nelson Cheese and Deli - or to just let us know you will be attending by Zoom or are unable to attend.

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

Deadline for ordering is Wednesday April 3rd

RSVP

Help us continue Making Democracy Work!



Renew your membership today

Renew Your Membership

It is time to renew your League membership unless you are a new member that

joined in 2024.

Our dues remain \$60 for individuals, \$30 for additional family members and \$10 for students of any age. We also offer Flexible Dues - simply pay whatever amount fits in your budget.

Dues can be paid in person at the annual meeting, by mail or by credit card through PayPal.

[Renew by Mail or PayPal](#)



Who Manages Our Watersheds?

In March, **Wes Volkenant**, LWV ABC CMAL Representative, updated us on the CMAL ongoing study of watersheds.

All League members in the seven county metro area are also members of The Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL). Wes serves on the CMAL Board of Directors and one of LWV ABC's representatives to CMAL. The CMAL study is an informational study on how our watersheds are managed.

Watch Program Video

Welcome New Members

Welcome to our new members:

Carrie Bury of Andover

Angela Forsell of Ramsey

Joyce Gudding of Fridley

Kathryn Wesley of Ham Lake



Alexandra House Gala

Seven members of LWV ABC put on their party hats and costumes to attend the Alexandra House Hope Gala Masquerade Ball fundraiser on March 23rd at Leopold's Mississippi Gardens. Several of us "won" silent auction items while others donated directly.

Connie Moore, the Executive Director of Alexandra House spoke to us for our January program. We learned they face a funding crisis after a decline in grants.

Our league has been actively lobbying with Connie and local law enforcement to have domestic violence funding added to the supplemental budget. Thankfully, there is now \$10 million in the Governor's Supplemental Budget for victims of crime, including those suffering domestic and sexual abuse. The funding will only help for one year so our advocacy must continue to increase future state funding.



Vice President Julie Trude with newly appointed Membership Committee Co-Chairs Paul Sitz and Kathleen Sekhon at the Hope Gala Masquerade Gala.

March Board Highlights

By Kathy Aanerud, LWV ABC Secretary

- Continued planning was conducted for our annual meeting on Monday evening April 8 at Andover Community Center including agenda, food orders, short presentations by members, and a finalized budget.
- The Nominating Committee has continued to be in contact with members to determine their interest in running for the board positions that will be elected at the annual meeting.
- Vice President Julie Trude presented an updated *LWV ABC Nonpartisanship Policy* that was developed in coordination with LWVMN. The updates further clarify the role of board members in partisan activities. The policy was approved by the board and will be presented at the annual meeting for informational purposes.
- Four new members have joined LWV ABC. Current membership count is 77.
- Next board meeting is scheduled for April 22 via Zoom at 3:30. This will be the "board retreat" to plan for the upcoming year.

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



Pictures from LWVMN Convention 2023.

2024 LWVMN Council
Saturday, April 27, 2024
9:00 AM -12:00 PM
Zoom

LWVMN Council is an opportunity to participate in determining the direction of the League of Women Voters Minnesota (LWVMN) over the next year. Guest speaker will be LWVUS Board Member Joan Hunault of LWV Michigan.

Among the agenda items is a request from LWV Roseville to adopt a position, by concurrence, regarding local newspapers and democracy. If adopted by the Council delegates, this position will become an official LWVMN position.

LWV ABC has the opportunity to send six voting delegates. Since Council via Zoom is free this year, an unlimited number of members may attend as observers. New members are encouraged to attend. It's a great opportunity to learn more about League at the state level.

Members should contact us at lwvabc@gmail.com if interested in attending as a delegate or observer

Deadline for Registration: April 19

LWVMN Council Webpage

Proposed Position for Concurrence



CMAL Annual Meeting

Saturday, May 11, 2024

10:00 AM via Zoom

Newly-appointed Metropolitan Council Regional Administrator Ryan O'Connor will be the keynote speaker at the Annual Meeting of Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues of Women Voters (CMAL). Prior to his appointment by the Metropolitan Council as Regional Administrator, O'Connor had served as Ramsey County Manager since 2018.

All LWV members are invited to hear O'Connor's remarks and to ask questions about his vision for the future of the Metropolitan Council. Following O'Connor's keynote, CMAL will hold its annual business meeting for CMAL delegates.

Stay tuned for more details and zoom link.



LWV UMRR Annual Meeting
Expanding our Reach, Extending our Influence
May 29, 2024 via Zoom
5:30 pm

LWV Upper Mississippi River Region (UMRR) is an inter-league organization that focuses on nutrient pollution reduction and impacting the rate of climate change in the upper Mississippi watershed area. LWV UMRR is concerned about both surface and ground water in the Upper Mississippi Basin, both for the environment and human health. It is composed of four state Leagues and 58 local Leagues in the Upper Mississippi River watershed, including LWV ABC.

LWV ABC is allowed one delegate to the upcoming meeting. LWV ABC members **Gretchen Sabel and Colleen Werdien**, both serve on the LWV UMRR Board so they will also be eligible to vote.

Members should contact us at lwvabc@gmail.com if interested in attending as a delegate

UMRR Annual Meeting Webpage



LWVUS Convention

June 27 - 30, 2024

Washington, DC and Zoom

LWVUS Convention is your opportunity to help set national priorities, adopt national positions and elect our national board. The breakout sessions offer a wide variety of topics. Our new national executive director will be announced at Convention. Speakers have not yet been announced.

LWV ABC is allowed two delegates. Members may also attend as an observer, with the possibility of being upgraded to delegate (voting) status.

Members interested in attending as a delegate or observer please send an email to lwvabc@gmail.com

[LWVUS Convention Website](#)



Takeaways from the Fifth National Climate Assessment

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

12:00 - 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

The University of Minnesota Institute on the Environment is sponsoring a discussion on the Fifth National Climate Assessment (NCA5) – the US Government's report on climate change impacts, risks, and responses. Five contributors will share their top takeaways relevant to the Midwest region, including what we know at this time and what solutions give us evidence-based hope.

Speakers:

- Fayola Jacobs, Assistant Professor, Humphrey School of Public Affairs, and IonE Associate
- Grant Domke, Research Forester, U.S. Forest Service Northern Research Station, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and IonE Fellow
- Heidi Roop, Director of Climate Adaptation Partnership, Assistant Professor, Extension Specialist, and IonE Associate
- Dr. Melissa Kenney, Director of Research and Knowledge Initiatives, Institute on the Environment, and IonE Fellow
- Sara Smith, Midwest Tribal Resilience Liaison, College of Menominee Nation

[**Register for People and Planet Webinar**](#)



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Center for the Study of Politics and Governance

Dialogue Across Difference

The Center for the Study of Politics and Governance hosts "Dialogue Across Difference", a wide array of public events with elected officials, academic thinkers, and public leaders on a wide range of topics.

A Conversation with Senator Rob Portman

Monday, April 22

12:00-1:00 p.m.

In conversation with moderator Larry Jacobs, Rob Portman will draw on his three decades of experience working for two Republican Presidents and serving in Congress as a Republican Representative and US Senator to identify his approaches to achieving bipartisan progress.

[Register for Portman Webinar](#)

The Power of Women Voters with Anna Greenberg

Monday, April 29

12:00-1:00 p.m.

Women will be a driving force in the epic elections in 2024 for president and congress. Political consultant Anna Greenberg joins Professor Kathryn Pearson to pinpoint the critical issues and dynamics at play.

[Register for Greenberg Webinar](#)

Coming in May...

May 11 - CMAL Annual Meeting

May 13 - Program meeting at North Suburban Art Center

May 15 - LWV ABC Book Club

May 29 - 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.

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

