

# The Voter

The LWV ABC Monthly Newsletter  
May 2024



## Field Trip!

### North Suburban Center for the Arts

110 77th Way NE, Fridley, MN 55432

Monday, May 13 at 6pm

- 6:00** - Walk around gallery and tour facility
- 6:30** - Discussion with Aly Rhodes, Director
- 6:45** - Begin craft project - Gnomes or other Fimo Clay sculptures
- 7:45** - Wrap up

This will be a meeting best appreciated in person, but we will open a Zoom link at 6:20 for a virtual tour of the facility, and then will also share Aly Rhodes' remarks for Zoomers.

Zoom Link

North Suburban Center for the Arts Website



## Annual Meeting

On April 8, we enjoyed dinner, celebrated member milestones, won door prizes, caught up with old friends and met new friends. **Kathleen Sekhon**, entertained us with her moving and funny personal journey seeking ERA ratification. All this while also completing our annual business meeting - elections, approving the budget, affirming local positions and discussing our updated non-partisanship policy

**Members can find Annual Meeting Documents in the Members Only section of our website.**

All Member Milestones



Jody Anderson pictured above with President Gretchen Sabel. Pictured below with Mary Jo Truchon and with Zilla Way.



## Zilla Way Award

The 2024 Zilla Way Award was presented to **Jody Anderson** for co-leading our action and advocacy with boundless enthusiasm and knowledge that empowers us. Jody connects us to LWVMN as she tracks legislative issues and she sparkles as a forum moderator.

The Zilla Way Award honors a LWV ABC member who has shown outstanding leadership in guiding our League. This award, created in 1996, was named in honor of LWV ABC member **Zilla Way**. The award features artwork by member and watercolor artist, **Mary Jo Truchon**.

### All Zilla Way Award Winners



Newly elected Nominations Committee Member Joan Molenaar and Nominations Committee Chair Jeorgette Knoll

## LWV ABC Elections

### Newly Elected Board Members:

- Vice President - **Julie Trude**
- Treasurer - **Wes Volkenant**
- Action and Advocacy Chair - **Jody Anderson**
- Voter Service Chair (Interim) - **Geri Nelson**
- Program Chair - **Leslie Waterhouse**

Officers continuing for the second year of their terms are President **Gretchen Sabel**, Secretary **Kathy Aanerud** and Communications Chair **Pat Kennedy**. The second year of the Membership Chair's term will be filled by Kathleen Sekhon and Paul Sitz. They were appointed by the board to fill the second year when Betsy O'Berry advised that she'd be stepping down to run for public office.

**Newly Elected Nominations Committee:**

Nominating Chair (1-year term) - **Jeorgette Knoll**

Nominating Member (1-year term) - **Joan Molenaar**

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**Renew Your Membership**

Our Annual Meeting marks our new membership year. Thanks to everyone who has already renewed their membership!

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 by check or by credit card through PayPal.

[Renew Membership](#)

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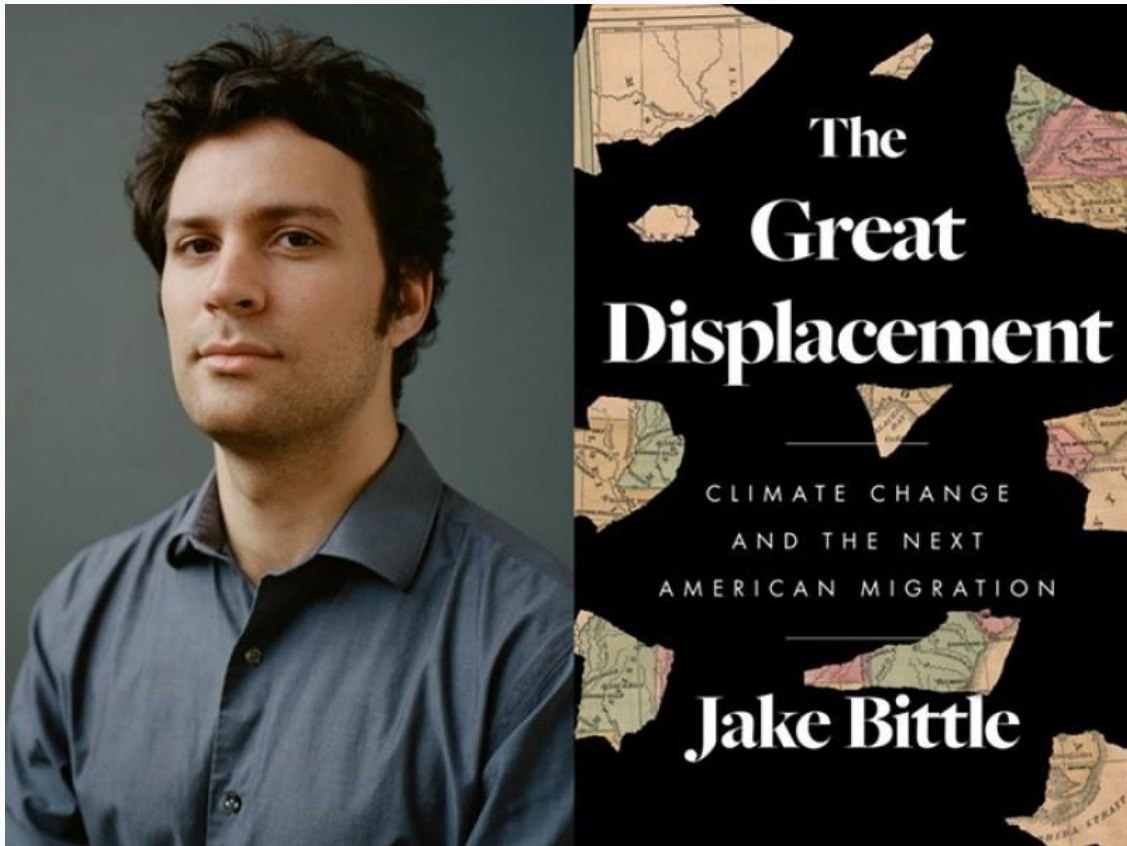
**Piecing Together the Future: The Metropolitan Mosaic  
CMAL Annual Meeting  
Saturday, May 11, 2024  
10:00 AM via Zoom**

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). Everyone is 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. All League members may attend the business Meeting but only delegates may vote.

[CMAL Zoom Link](#)

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## **LWV ABC Book Club**

**Wednesday, May 15**

**7:00 pm on Zoom**

***The Great Displacement: Climate Change and the Next American Migration (2023)*  
by Jake Bittle**

Over the next fifty years, millions of Americans will be forced inland and northward in what will be the largest migration in our country's history. *The Great Displacement* compassionately tells the stories of those who are already experiencing life on the move, while detailing just how radically climate change will transform our lives—erasing historic towns and villages, pushing people toward new areas, and reshaping the geography of the United States.

[Book Club Zoom Link](#)

## Upcoming Books

**THE BIGGER PICTURE**

- CHLORIDE IS NOT JUST A PROBLEM IN DULUTH
  - 50 IMPAIRMENTS FOR CHLORIDE STATEWIDE
- SALTY WATER IS A GROWING PROBLEM ALONG THE MISSISSIPPI
  - CHLORIDE INCREASING BASIN-WIDE (SOURCE: A 2023 UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN ASSOCIATION REPORT)
    - CHLORIDE CONCENTRATIONS IN THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI INCREASED BY AN AVERAGE OF 35% BETWEEN 1989 AND 2018
      - ROAD SALTING WAS IDENTIFIED AS A CHIEF CAUSE

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS' OF UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGION

Gretchen Sab...

zoom

## Legislative Session

Through LWVMN and the Upper Mississippi River Region (UMMR) ILO, League members have been very active this legislative session. Members not only observe and report on legislative meetings but have also submit testimony on bills of high priority to League.

LWV ABC President **Gretchen Sabel**, in her role with UMMR, testified before the Legislative Subcommittee on Water Policy.

LWVMN also submitted testimony on the following issues: (Click on issue to read the LWVM testimony)

- [End of Life Options](#)
- [Creation of City Wards](#)
- [Political Contribution Refund Modernization](#)
- [Prison Gerrymandering](#)
- [Rank Choice Voting](#)
- [Redistricting - Independent Citizen Commission](#)



- [Recycling -Electronic Waste](#)

***View Gretchen's testimony on YouTube.  
See the LWVMN Legislative Session webpage for more info on bills.***

[Gretchen's Testimony on YouTube](#)

[LWVMN 2024 Session Webpage](#)



## **Expanding our Reach, Extending our Influence**

### **LWV UMMR Annual Meeting**

**6:00 pm Business Meeting**

**7:00 pm Keynote Speaker**

**May 29, 2004 via Zoom**

LWV UMR's Annual Meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 29, beginning at 5:45 pm with delegate credentialing. The Business Meeting will take place from 6-7pm. Each member League in good standing can send one voting delegate to the Business Meeting. **This is a big year for LWV UMR as we welcome a fifth state - Missouri - into the ILO and work to expand our Board.** At this business meeting, we will present bylaws changes and a new budget to make these things possible.

***LWV ABC has an opening for a delegate - if you are interested in serving, email us at [lwvabc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvabc@gmail.com)***

At 7pm, LWV UMRR will host Steven Marking - the Riverlorian - for an hour of entertainment with his recent film, A Visit from Will Dilg, and discussion. All are welcome to join to enjoy the Riverlorian's program - delegate or not. The program will not be recorded but it's free to enjoy on the 29th - join LWV UMRR for this fun and meaningful event!



Steven Marking holds a Masters Degree in Vocal Performance from the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore, Maryland, and a Bachelors Degree from Viterbo University in his hometown of La Crosse, Wisconsin. He brings more than three decades of professional production and performance experience to his latest creation, **A Visit From Will Dilg**, and his ongoing masterpiece, **Our Mighty Mississippi**. Marking is also a guest speaker on cruise vessels on the Mississippi.

**About Will Dilg:** In the early 1920's Will Dilg's only son drowned in the Mississippi River, which led Will to become a tireless, fanatic firebrand. In 1922 he became the founding president of the Izaak Walton League of America. In this role, he led an extraordinary national crusade to preserve a 261 mile stretch of Mississippi River Backwaters we now know - 100 years later - as the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge.

[Click here to sign up for Marking's presentation - we will send a reminder with the Zoom link the day before the event!](#)



LWVMN Executive Director Michelle Witte, Associate Director Amy Perna and Civic Engagement Director Sam Streuken

## LWVMN Council

LWV ABC Delegates **Kathy Aanerud, Sandy Connor, Pat Kennedy, Geri Nelson and Gretchen Sabel** attended the LWVMN 2024 Council on April 26. Delegates adopted a new position on local journalism. Delegates also updated positions,

adding "cannabis" to our position on drug and alcohol use and adding "contraceptive education" to our existing position on lowering teen-age pregnancy rates.

### **Some Council Announcements:**

- **New Local Leagues:** LWV Bemidji and LWV Dakota County are now local Leagues. Previously, they were State Units under mentorship with LWVMN.
- **Financial:** LWVMN's financial reserves remain strong but LWVMN is still needing to tap reserves to fund annual operations.
- **Volunteer Webpage:** LWVMN has revamped its' website, including adding a "Volunteer" button at the top of each page. The new volunteer webpage is a one-stop way for members and non-members can volunteer for voter engagement activities

***Click on the buttons below to find LWVMN volunteer opportunities, read the new position on local journalism, or view the "Program for Action" to see all LWVMN positions.***

[Volunteer!](#)

[Local Journalism Position](#)

[LWVMN Program for Action](#)

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## **LWVUS Convention 2024**

**June 27 - 30, 2024**

**Washington, DC and Zoom**

**Deadline to Register: June 10**

Convention 2024 is a great opportunity for both new and long-term members to learn more about League. Convention delegates elect the LWVUS board, set the direction of League for the next two years and consider new positions for adoption by LWVUS. Only delegates can vote, but all of the Convention is open to registered observers, including the many break-out sessions on a wide variety of topics.

Be the first to hear who will be our new President and our new Executive Director!

Virtual cost is \$125 which is reimbursed by LWV ABC.

***Members interested in serving as a delegate or attending as an observer,  
email us at [lwwabc@gmail.com](mailto:lwwabc@gmail.com)***

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## **New LWVMN Home**

In May, LWVMN will be moving to a new office in the Landmark Center in St. Paul. The new location will have significantly lower rent and, unlike the current office, is fully accessible. LWVMN plans to hold an open house on August 20th.

The Landmark Center, built in 1892, was originally a federal court house. Now owned by Ramsey County, the building sometimes returns to that function when citizenship ceremonies are held there.

**[History of Landmark Center](#)**

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Pictures, provided by Blaine Historical Society, of Col. Dean O. Sabby, Air Force and Air National Guard, served 1962-1996.

## **Blaine Veterans' History**

In honor of Memorial Day, the Blaine Historical Society will present a talk on Blaine Veterans at the Northtown Library at 2:00 PM on Saturday June 1 - the Saturday after Memorial Day. BHS will also have an exhibit featuring Blaine Veterans at the Northtown Library during the month of June.

If you are or know someone who has ever lived in Blaine, is a veteran, and would like their story preserved for history, please contact Blaine Historical Society through their web site or bring your information to the talk on June 1.

[\*\*Contact Blaine History Society\*\*](#)

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## In the Legislature's Civility Caucus, Republicans and Democrats actually like talking to each other

Some of them even co-sponsor bills together

BY: DEENA WINTER - APRIL 8, 2024 7:00 AM



Rep. Sandra Feist, DFL-New Brighton, (right) and Rep. Kristin Robbins, R-Maple Grove, presented their bill that would require school boards to adopt policies on students' cell phone use on March 12. Photo by Michele Jokinen, House Public Information.

### Civility Caucus

The Minnesota Legislative Civility Caucus was founded in 2017 to foster effective policy making by promoting trust and understanding between political parties. The Caucus is chaired by two legislators from each body, one Republican and one Democrat. Current chairs are Representatives Kristin Robbins and Sandra Feist (district includes southern Anoka county), and Senators Zack Duckworth and Grant Hauschild.

Caucus leadership works with the State of Minnesota's Office of Collaboration and Dispute Resolution to identify priority activities and directions for the caucus. Activities have included trainings on negotiation and collaboration, regular luncheons, service projects, structured activities to get to know each other on a personal level, opportunities for collaboration (such as co-authoring a bill), a legislator exchange program and the sharing of resources.

Representatives Robbins and Feist recently jointly sponsored a bill on cell phones in

schools.

***Learn more from a recent article in the Minnesota Reformer, a short Almanac interview and the Civility Caucus resource webpage.***

[Minnesota Reformer Article](#)

[Almanac Interview](#)

[Civility Caucus Resources](#)



## **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

- May 13 - Minnesota History Center
- May 23 - Union Depot, St. Paul
- June 5 - Mount Zion Temple, St. Paul
- June 18 - Union Depot, St. Paul
- July 18 - Union Depot, St. Paul

***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.**

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## Coming in June...

**June** - Pride Month

**June 4** - Final Filing Date for State, County and Cities which allow primaries

**June 5** - Citizenship Ceremony

**June 10** - Program Meeting

**June 18** - Citizenship Ceremony

**June 27-30** - LWVUS Convention

**June 28** - Begin Early Voting for Primary Elections

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

**LWV ABC Calendar**

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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.

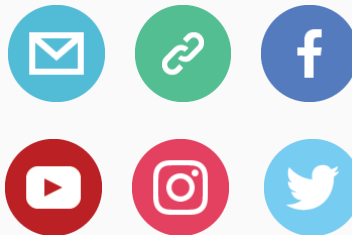
***We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.***

**Become a Member**

**Support Our Work**

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## More About LWV ABC



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

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*The Monthly Newsletter of LWV ABC*

