

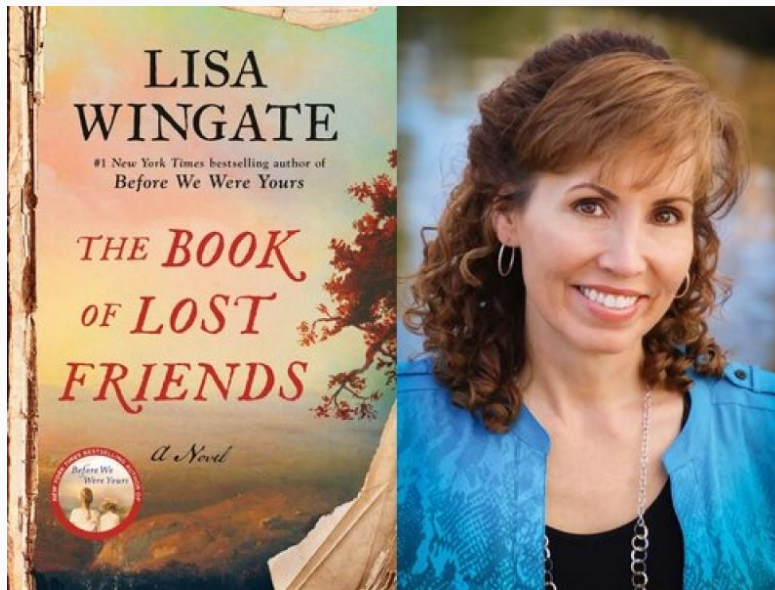
# The Voter

The LWV ABC Monthly Newsletter  
July 2024



## No Monthly Program Meeting in July

Join us at Lions Coon Creek Park on August 12 from 5:00 to 8:00 for our Annual Potluck Picnic.



**July Book Club**  
**Wednesday, July 17**  
**7:00 pm on Zoom**  
**Discussion Leader: Geri Nelson**

***The Book of Lost Friends***  
***by Lisa Wingate***

In this novel, Lisa Wingate brings to life stories from actual “Lost Friends” advertisements that appeared in Southern newspapers after the Civil War, as newly freed slaves desperately searched for loved ones who had been sold away.

Louisiana, 1875: In the tumultuous era of Reconstruction, three young women set off as unwilling companions on a perilous quest: Hannie, a freed slave; Lavinia, the pampered heir to a now destitute plantation; and Juneau Jane, Lavinia’s Creole half-sister. Each carries private wounds and powerful secrets as they head for Texas, following roads rife with vigilantes and soldiers still fighting a war lost a decade before.

Louisiana, 1987: For first-year teacher Benedetta Silva, a subsidized job at a poor rural school seems like the ticket to canceling her hefty student debt—until she lands in a tiny, out-of-step Mississippi River town.

Book Club Zoom Link

Upcoming Books



### Voter Registration

Thanks to LWV ABC members **Cindy Wetzell, Gretchen Sabel, Susan Witt,**

**Carrie Bury, Paula Mohr, Linda Rogers, TJ Jensen, Joyce Gudding and Rachel Mero** for our successful voter registration events in June in Columbia Heights and Spring Lake Park. LWV New Brighton Co-President Grace Gee joined Gretchen at Spring Lake Parks Tower Days.

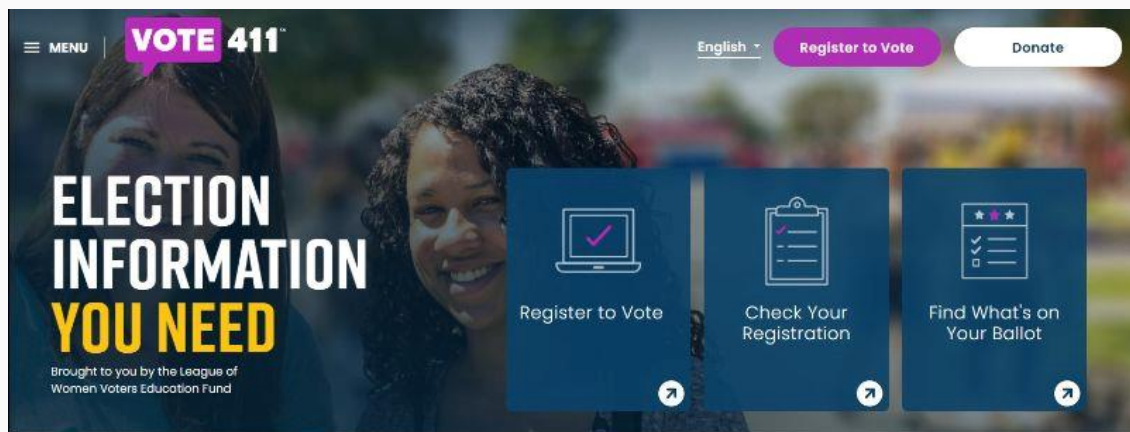
More volunteers are needed if we hope to register more voters this summer. Next up is BurbFest at Moore Lake Park in Fridley on July 13.

Spots are also available for events in September.

- Sept 7 - Ramsey Happy Days
- Sept 21 - Columbia Heights Pride Fest
- Sept 28 - Nowthen Heritage Festival

***Click the button below to sign-up***

**Sign Up for Voter Registration**



## **Voter Guides**

Remember the League "Voter Guides" we used to publish as pamphlets? We still have Voter Guides featuring Candidate Information. Now they are online at [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org)

All candidates in the August primary races - Anoka Commissioner #1 and #5 and Ramsey City Council - have been sent an email by LWVMN. The June 20 email contains a personalized link to submit their candidate information and answers to 3 to 4 questions.

***You can help make sure all voters in your area have access to this important candidate information.***

Go to Vote411 and click on "Find out What's on my Ballot". On the next page simply enter your address. Your personal Voter Guide should list your candidates for the upcoming primary election. If any of your candidates have not responded, please contact them and request they participate in the Voter Guide. If candidates state they did get an email, they should check their spam folder or email LWVMN at [vote411@lwvmn.org](mailto:vote411@lwvmn.org)

Note: Candidates for the General election will be contacted in September to participate in the Voter Guide.

[Vote411 Voter Guides](#)



## **Candidate Forums**

Candidate Forums for the August Primary election will be taped this week and available for viewing by next week. The deadline for candidate questions was July 8.

## Watch Candidate Forums



Board Members Leslie Waterhouse and Jody Anderson at May 2024 board meeting.

## Board Highlights

By Kathy Aanerud, LWV ABC Secretary

- Discussed the interest from LWV New Brighton for sharing the Columbia Heights Forum. This will be referred to Geri Nelson, our Interim Voter Service Chair, for further considerations of coordination.
- Pat Kennedy has updated our website with a page for the candidate forums for the Primary and General elections.
- Our forum captains will be recording their arrangements on a Google spreadsheet prepared by Pat and available to all members for planning purposes.
- Summer and early fall programs were discussed: --No program in July. Summer break! --August 12 program will be a picnic social at Lions Coon Creek Park in Coon Rapids. --September 9 program will be Matt DeBow of Anoka County Union Herald discussing local newspaper issues. --October 14 will be an election-related topic.

- Consensus that there won't be a board meeting in July unless business is identified that needs our attention. Next board meeting would then be August 12.

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



In person convention delegates are pictured above.

Our Delegates Pat Kennedy, Gretchen Sabel and Wes Volkenant (representing CMAL) were among the third of delegates attending virtually.

## **LWVUS Convention 2024**

By Wes Volkenant

Despite the chaotic nature of the hybrid Plenary Sessions of the 2024 LWVUS Convention from Washington, DC, business of the LWVUS was actually accomplished. Interestingly, electing the new President and Board and adopting a Budget/setting the final PMP for local Leagues was perhaps the easiest work in the first two days. There was far too much confusion with Amendments, so-called Points of Order, the virtual attendees, Parliamentary Procedural discussion, and unreliable timing of debates to permit the nomination of new Nominating Committee members, establishing Program pieces for the next two years, deciding on policy,

concurrences and updates for the full 10-hours of Plenary to run smoothly, but despite those concerns, run we did - even if we ran over by more than an hour, causing the Sunday finish-up session to begin an hour earlier - at 7AM!



## **2025-2026 LWVUS Program Making Democracy Work**

Convention delegates once again approved Making Democracy Work Campaign as the League program priority for 2025-2026. The Campaign for Making Democracy Work includes redistricting reform, voting rights protection, improving elections, money in politics and direct election of the President by popular vote. LWVUS staff and financial resources will be prioritized in these areas.

Delegates adopted by concurrence the Washington position on the Decline of Local Newspapers which had been recently adopted by LWV Minnesota.

Delegates passed resolutions affirming our commitment to support DC Statehood, Reproductive Rights, Ethics in Government, Public Libraries, Climate and Immigration reform.



Delegates also authorized a LWVUS study of the Federal Judiciary. LWVUS does not currently have a position on the Federal Judiciary.

***Learn more about direct election of the president by watching the One Person, One Vote panel discussion which opened Convention 2024.***

**Turn Up For One Person, One Vote Panel Discussion**



President Dianna Wynn and CEO Celina Stewart.

## **New LWVUS President and CEO**

Convention 2024 delegates elected Dianna Wynn as the new President of LWVUS. A member of LWV Wake County (Raleigh, North Carolina), a communications expert and former President of ACLU North Carolina, Wynn was first elected to the LWVUS Board in 2022.

At the convention, the LWVUS board announced the unanimous appointment of Celina Stewart as the new Chief Executive Officer. Stewart joined the LWVUS litigation staff in 2018, most recently serving as Chief Counsel.

***Listen to their Convention speeches to learn more about our new leadership.***

**Convention 2024 Address from President Dianna Wynn**

**Convention Address from LWVUS Incoming CEO Celina Stewart**



## **Kim Teehee, Keynote Speaker**

Kim Teehee, director of government relations for the Cherokee Nation, was the keynote speaker at the LWVUS 56th National Convention in Washington, DC. Teehee is the delegate-designate to the U.S. House of Representatives from the Cherokee Nation.

Since 2019, the Cherokee has asserted its right to a delegate in the U.S. House of Representatives. The Treaty of Hopewell of 1785 and the Treaty of New Echota of 1835 both state that the Cherokee Nation "shall be entitled to a delegate in the House of Representatives of the United States whenever Congress shall make provision for the same."

The House has not yet voted to seat Teehee. Once seated, her role will be non-voting, similar to those of representatives from Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands.

**Kim Teehee Speech**



**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**

- **July 18** - Union Depot, St Paul
- **August 15** - Union Depot, St Paul
- **September 17** - 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.**

---

## **Coming Next Month...**

August 12 - LWV ABC Annual Picnic

August 13 - Primary Election Day

August 20 - LWV ABC begins accepting candidate questions for General Election Forums

***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.

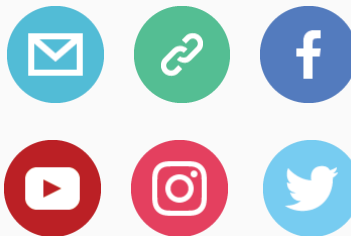
***We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.***

**Become a Member**

**Support Our Work**

---

## **More About LWV ABC**



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

---

*Copyright © 2024 LWV ABC,  
All rights reserved.*

*The Voter*  
*The Monthly Newsletter of LWV ABC*

