



November 3, 2013

**Welcome to the LWV ABC Newsletter!**

This is the start of the LWV ABC newsletter. It will change as we move ahead; your input is needed to make it serve the needs of our League. For example, what should we call the newsletter? Another question is format – should it be an attachment to an email, like this, or just included in the email? And what should be in the newsletter? Lots of opportunities for improvement! Please direct your ideas and comments to Gretchen Sabel at [gpsabe@yahoo.com](mailto:gpsabe@yahoo.com). Thanks!

Also, - remember to check our Facebook page for meeting information, too!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/League-of-Women-Voters-ABC-Minnesota/423643367725301>

**Our Next Meeting – November 11 – Judicial Selection: Maintaining the Impartiality of our Courts**

The League of Women Voters ABC invites members and the public to attend a forum on Judicial Selection: Maintaining the Impartiality of our Courts on Monday evening, November 11 at Andover City Hall's Senior Center (<http://goo.gl/maps/AqKTt>). There will be refreshments and social time at 6:00 followed by the forum at 6:30 pm.

Forum presenters will be State Representative Peggy Scott of Andover who is a member of the House of Representatives' Judiciary Finance and Policy Committee and Sarah Walker, President of the Coalition for Impartial Justice, a bipartisan organization that has developed recommendations for impartial judicial selections. Gretchen Sabel will present information on the LWV MN's position on this topic – you can get a headstart and read the position here: <http://www.lwvmn.org/document.doc?id=34>.

**Our October 8 meeting—State Election Law Updates**

League members and friends had an opportunity to hear directly from Anoka County Elections Manager Cindy Reichert at the October 8 meeting. Reichert summarized election law updates for 2013 that include no-excuse absentee voting that will be available August 2014, expanded mail balloting, lower thresholds for taxpayer funded recounts and a taskforce and pilot project on electronic poll books.

Here in Anoka County, Reichert has had a busy summer and fall as she trains local election officials and judges on new election equipment and software. Reichert even arranged for one of the new ballot counting machines to be available for meeting attendees to test. Voters will still be using paper ballots, but as meeting attendees experienced, the ballot counter gives more complete and easy to read instructions on ballots with errors.

Reichert welcomed meeting attendees to contact her with any questions -- 763-323-5275.

**Also at our October 8 meeting:**

New member Nyadoar Nipnip of Coon Rapids presented information about the fundraising work she's doing on behalf of children in the Gambella region of Ethiopia and in South Sudan (<http://goo.gl/maps/KMsaf>). Nyadoar will be traveling there in December and will transport supplies that she will deliver directly to children and families.

Donations can be brought to our December 9 meeting. Suggested items include:

- First aid items
- Tylenol, especially children's
- Cough medicine
- Clothes—infant to age 16
- Shoes
- Blankets
- Back packs & school supplies
- Funds to transport the goods to Africa

Cash and checks are welcome; Nyadoar is still in the process of establishing 501c3 tax exempt status.



### **Events of interest**

#### **Bees at the Tipping Point /Creating Bee Friendly Flowers & Habitat**

University of Minnesota – College of Continuing Education

Saturday, Dec 7. 9:00 am to 11:00 am

Tuition: \$50

Course description and more info: <http://www.cce.umn.edu/courses/CS-0520.html>

#### **History Forum – Jane Addams, Women and Urban Reform**

Minnesota History Center, St. Paul

Saturday, December 7, choose from 10 am or 2:00 pm

Cost: \$15

<http://tickets.mnhs.org/default.asp?cgcode=43>

#### **Gala for Hope -- Fundraiser for Hope 4 Youth / drop-in services for homeless youth in the north metro area**

Hosted by Vennekretsen Lodge, Sons of Norway in Anoka.

Green Haven Banquet Center in Anoka

Saturday, November 16, beginning at 5:30 p.m. with dinner served at 7:30 p.m.

<http://abcnewspapers.com/2013/10/25/hope4youth-host-fundraising-gala-support-local-teenagers/>

For ticket, donation and sponsorship information, contact Diane Halvorson at [dshanokason@gmail.com](mailto:dshanokason@gmail.com) or 763-786-6909 (work) or Claudia Bomier at [bomier4@hotmail.com](mailto:bomier4@hotmail.com) or 763-427-4847 (evenings).