



November 18, 2013

**Welcome to the LWV ABC Newsletter – the LINK-lite!**

This is the second issue of the LWV ABC newsletter. Thanks for your ideas. One suggestion was to call this THE LINK, but since it is such a mini-version of the LINK that I am trying out the title "LINK-lite". 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 – December 9 Lively Issues and Holiday Pot Luck** (*Andover Senior Center; hospitality at 6*)

**Lively Issues** is the topic for the December meeting. Lively Issues is a League term that sometimes confuses members. Checking with the publication, League Lingo, there isn't a definition for this term. The best definition might be: Issues are what the League studies based on collective information from the membership at all levels. Lively entertains the notion that discussions on these studies are usually lively. Below is the format for the December meeting.

The **charge for the December meeting** is:

All of you, on invitation of the LWVABC Board members, are asked to bring an issue to the December meeting that you think might merit the League to consider as a study topic.

Lois Ballinger has been asked to coordinate this meeting. She asks that you e-mail her at [loballin@comcast.net](mailto:loballin@comcast.net) with an issue that you would like to have considered for a future study or used as a meeting idea. Included in this email to her would be: Emails should be on Lois's desktop **no later than November 29**.

1. The Issue
2. The existing Position, if there is one, that could support this issue (see links to positions below)
3. Plan to give an elevator talk defending the issue. (An elevator talk is the amount of time it would take one to discuss or in this case defend an issue when riding an elevator from the first floor to say the tenth.) These issues will be discussed as a group, in a "lively" manner to determine if the issue should be a study topic and placed at a Local, State or National level.

And, it's a **pot luck**. Please bring a dish to share, thanks.

**Also for December 9, in follow-up to Nyador's presentation at our October meeting,**

(From notes of 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 to this region of Africa 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.



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

State Representative Peggy Scott of Andover (State Representative for Andover and 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) presented on the topic of possible changes to the Judicial Selection process in Minnesota. Gretchen Sabel also presented information on the LWV MN's position on this topic – you can read the position here: <http://www.lwvmn.org/document.doc?id=34>. Members are urged to follow legislative progress on this topic; more information on that bill will be shared in this newsletter once the legislature reconvenes in February.

**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>



**Special Event !! An Update from Secretary of State Mark Ritchie's Office  
Voting Rights: Impact To The Community**

**PROTECTING VOTING RIGHTS**

**Beth Fraser, Deputy Secretary of State, will address a public meeting  
on November 21, 2013 at 7:00 pm at the  
St. Louis Park City Hall Council Chambers  
5005 Minnetonka Blvd, St. Louis Park**

The meeting is sponsored by the League of Women Voters St. Louis Park and will review the Secretary of State's current work to advance voting and voting rights in Minnesota. Deputy Secretary of State Fraser will discuss the recent changes to Minnesota law, what the Secretary of State's office is doing to advance voting through the Secretary of State's office, and potential legislative changes that may be considered in 2014 and future legislative sessions. This is your opportunity to learn about what is happening with voting rights in Minnesota and within the Secretary of State's office. Following the presentation, there will be a question and answer opportunity. Join your neighbors for an important discussion.



Here is some information on State and National LWV Policy Positions, thanks to the Minneapolis LWV website:

## **WHERE WE STAND**

### **League of Women Voters Minnesota's Policy Positions**

LWV studies issues through a study and consensus process conducted by our members. Once there is understanding and agreement on the issue, members may adopt a position that serves as the basis for future action on that issue.

LWV Minnesota positions are detailed in our Program for Action. These positions serve the basis for our advocacy work at the Minnesota Legislature.

National positions are included in Impact on Issues. We work in conjunction with LWV US to advance issues that are before Congress.

### **LWV Minnesota [Program for Action](#)**

Learn about LWV Minnesota positions on the environment, social policy, education, criminal justice, natural resources.

### **[League of Women Voters United States' positions](#)**

Learn about our national positions on representative government, international relations, natural resources and social policy.

### **[LWV Minnesota's Guiding Principles for 2013 Legislative Session](#)**

## **Briefing papers**

LWV Minnesota performs nonpartisan research on issues conducted by members from across Minnesota. Topics for briefing papers are voted upon at LWV Minnesota's bi-annual conventions. Research was conducted with expertise from LWV Minnesota members as well as stakeholders from the community.

- [Citizen's United](#)
- [Judicial Selection](#)
- [Absentee Ballots](#)
- [Redistricting](#)
- [Education Funding](#)

## **[Studies](#)**

LWV members have studied a variety of issues in depth to arrive at a consensus position. Studies provide both the basis for our advocacy work and are an excellent resource for learning more about an issue.

## **[How we develop our positions](#)**