



January 6, 2014

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 gpsabel@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 – January 13 – League Today (*Andover Senior Center; hospitality at 6*)

January 13! Share this link to invite your friends to learn about League!

Our January meeting agenda has been set! We will hear reports from two LWVMN staff members. The new LWVMN Executive Director, Susan Sheridan Tucker, will speak on the challenges and opportunities of League today from national, regional, and local perspectives. Deborah Price, our state Membership/Leadership director, will tell us about the structure and the successes of the MLD program. We will conclude with a short exercise from the MLD handbook to energize us all for a productive 2014!

This is a marvelous opportunity to invite your friends and colleagues to see the full scope of LWV as well as an excellent motivation for ourselves to raise the level of our involvement.

We will be meeting in our regular location - Andover Senior Center at 1685 Crosstown Blvd. NW (corner of Hanson and Crosstown Blvds), starting with refreshments at 6pm and program at 6:30. See you then! - Kathie Whelchel, Membership Chair

Our February 10 LWV ABC Meeting

Thanks to Arlene Gillette for arranging for Anoka County Attorney Tony Palumbo to talk about Elder Abuse at our February 10 meeting. We will get more information out on this soon, both on our Facebook page and in the next issue of our newsletter.

Our Last Meeting – December 9 – Lively Issues

Lois Ballinger lead our Lively Issues discussion. Welcome to the two guests present: Timothy OGrady (AR Student from Coon Rapids) came to learn more about League and is interested in learning more about both League and government. Linda Mandrell is actually a new member as she has just joined, she has worked in District 11 and was a professor at Bethel, now works at the airport doing training.

Lois lead the group in a discussion of the topics that were raised by members. We are looking for two issues to send to LWV US, and other things will be forwarded to State or addressed locally. The topics raised were Bees/pollinators (Sandra Shandley), Fracking (Kathie Whelchel), Redistricting (Gretchen Sabel), Elder Abuse (Arlene Gillette), Immigration (Carol Bradley), Climate Change (Lois Ballinger) and Health Care (Lois Ballinger).

The two topics that will be forwarded to LWVUS are Pollinators and Fracking. We will have a program on bees/pollinators in March and will review the national study on Agriculture when it comes out this spring. Relative to Fracking, Kathie discussed the problems with carrying frac sand on open train cars – the sand is so fine that it causes lung scarring and much blows off as it is carried across Minnesota to the North Dakota oil fields. There is also concern for water in areas where frac sand is mined and where fracking occurs. Geri noted that the Winona



League has developed a position summary on fracking and has gotten the OK from state and national to lobby on this position. Lois and Mary Jo talked about ground water concerns.

Climate Change was suggested as a local topic. Lois asked whether we want to ask our cities what they are doing to address this issue. Geri suggested that the League members go to the city councils in the nine cities that we serve to ask them to talk about this. Linda discussed the idea that the movie "350 – Do the Math" be shown for discussion. This could be a good item for a joint program with the Anoka Ramsey Student Council.

Follow-up to June 11 meeting on Silica Sand Mining

The EQB has extended the period for public comments on "Tools to Assist Local Governments in Planning for and Regulating Silica Sand Projects". In response to requests from various stakeholders for additional time to review the document, the comment period has been extended to January 27, 2014. This document was prepared to fulfill the legislative requirement to prepare model standards and criteria for mining, processing, and transporting silica sand. The December 13, 2013 "Tools" document is a draft. Its release signaled the start of a public comment period.

The document can be viewed and downloaded from: <http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/>. Comments can be submitted via e-mail to: silicasand.eqb@state.mn.us or by US Post to Jeff Smyser, Environmental Quality Board, 520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

Events of interest

Board Meeting: ABC Board meeting on Saturday, January 11 at the Andover Senior Center at which all interested members are welcome. Starts at 9am.

CMAL: (Coalition of Metro Area Leagues) regional meeting on Saturday, January 18 at the Ramsey City Council Chambers on Ramsey Boulevard off Highway 10 in the COR. More info will be sent to LWV ABC members after the Jan 11 Board Meeting.

Pollinators! *Three upcoming events relating to the environmental problems facing bees and other pollinators, what the loss of these critical elements of our ecosystem will mean to humans, and what we can do to help.*

February 25 - Izaak Walton League, Brooklyn Park (7:30pm):

Heather Holm will explain the importance of Bumble and other native Bees and of certain Beetles, Flies and Butterflies. The time has come when all environmentally inclined conservation groups should decide to come to the rescue of our seemingly insignificant but basically important native pollinators. However, there will be many industrial and commercial groups that will be in opposition to sensible practices. Many farmers, every gardener and flower grower should be interested in this vital agricultural subject. Let's learn which pesticides are the worst and which alternatives are the best. For more information, contact Dick Brown, Conservation Issues Chair, Breckenridge Chapter Member of Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation or see the Izaak Walton website at <http://www.breckenridgeikes.org/activities.html>.

February 7th, 11:30 luncheon at Greenhaven in Anoka - Philolectians will feature Becky Masterson who is the University of Minnesota Bee Squad Coordinator. Both honey bees and wild bees are now faced with a multitude of challenges that include a lack of floral resources, pests, diseases and pesticides. As the Bee Squad Coordinator and Program Developer, Becky is responsible for customer communication, program development and marketing. In between those duties, she spends as much time with the bees as possible.



Tickets (\$14) must be purchased by January 29 by check at Party Papers (with additional names in the memo line if you are purchasing for others) in Anoka or online at: tempotickets.com/philolectian (for a \$2.50 fee). Philolectians is a women's learning organization.

March 10 - LWV ABC session on Bees and Pollinators. We will feature a local beekeeper and others knowledgeable on the issue. Our goal is to come up with a plan of action to determine what our League can do on this issue. Members interested in this topic should attend one of these other events if possible so we can bring broader knowledge into our meeting!