



January 25, 2014

Welcome to the LWV ABC Newsletter – the LINK!

OK, I was calling this the LINK-lite, but I'm told this should just be the LINK so there you go. Please direct your ideas and comments to me, 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 – February 10 – Elder Abuse *(Andover Senior Center; hospitality at 6)*

Anoka County Attorney Tony Palumbo will be discussing the Minnesota S.A.F.E. (Stop Abuse and Financial Exploitation) Elders Initiative. The goal of S.A.F.E. is raise awareness of physical, emotional and/or financial abuse of elders so that measures can be taken to stop and prevent this abuse. Mr. Palumbo's office led development of this program in Minnesota, more information on this program is available here <http://safemn.org/>.



Tony Palumbo has been with the Anoka County Attorney's office since 1977, starting with a two-year stint as a law clerk and now the elected County Attorney since 2011. His experience in this office covers the gamut of legal issues that are faced by Anoka County.

Here is Mr. Palumbo's summary of the S.A.F.E. Elders initiative which appeared in the Anoka County News last fall:

The National Center of Elder Abuse estimates that up to two million victims of abuse each year in the U.S. Victims of elder financial abuse in the United States lose close to \$3 billion each year. The Administration on Aging expects that by 2030, the U.S. population over age 65 will have doubled from 2000, with older adults representing 19 percent of the population.

Typically, elder abuse is committed by a family member or a caregiver and can include physical, emotional, or sexual abuse, or neglect and/or financial exploitation. To address this growing concern, the Anoka County Attorney's Office led a diverse coalition of professionals to launch the Minnesota S.A.F.E. (Stop Abuse and Financial Exploitation) Elders Initiative. The Minnesota S.A.F.E. Elders Initiative was created in 2012 through an initial partnership between the Anoka County Attorney's Office and the Vulnerable

Adult Justice Project. This group of professionals – including prosecutors, educators, law enforcement, experts on aging, financial advisors, members of the medical community and more – developed a toolkit for use throughout Minnesota to spot and reduce elder abuse.

Central to the toolkit is the video titled *Elder Victims: Abused, Exploited, Alone*, a 26-minute documentary created in partnership with Twin Cities Public Television. Free copies of the DVD are available through my office, or at safemn.org, a new website that contains resources, presentations, and fact sheets about elder abuse. Additional materials developed by the team include a mobile app for law enforcement and a prosecutor's trial notebook.

Abuse of our most vulnerable seniors occurs in all our communities. Unfortunately it is currently

underreported, difficult to spot, and even harder to prosecute. Only by addressing this problem at a community level can we ensure that all Minnesota seniors are safe.

I encourage people to ask the older adults in their life, "Is anyone taking your money without your permission? Are you afraid of anyone? Is anyone hurting you?" National experts suggest that these simple questions can help to discover elder abuse that would otherwise be missed.

If you know an older adult who needs help, call the Anoka County Common Entry Point at 763-422-7168. To find out more about what you can do to protect your loved ones from abuse, visit safemn.org. The statewide broadcast schedule of *Elder Victims: Abused, Exploited, Alone* can be found by visiting tpt.org.

Thanks to Arlene Gillette for organizing this session!



Our Last Meeting – January 13 – League Today

Our January meeting featured reports from the new LWVMN Executive Director, Susan Sheridan Tucker and Deborah Price, our state Membership/Leadership director. Susan spoke on the challenges and opportunities of League today from national, regional, and local perspectives, and Deb told us about the structure and the successes of the MLD program. The two themes stressed in this meeting were the need to engage younger women in League activities and the need to raise funds through the Capital Campaign program.

It is quite clear that social media will be the venue for attracting younger women, as the two newest and youngest attendees learned of our meeting through Facebook and the on-line version of ABC newspapers.

LWV Minnesota held an event for this purpose: **LWV Minnesota: The Emerging League - League Experiences Under 35**. This was held on Thu, 23 Jan, 2014.

As an introduction the two speakers, members were asked to make New Year's resolutions regarding League and to share them at the conclusion of the talks. The highlight of the closing comments was that from Beverly Toppin, friend of Jean O'Donoghue's, who said "My New Year's Resolution is to JOIN ABC League!" She gave me us check on the spot – welcome Beverly!



Right to left: President Susan Anderson, Membership Chair Kathie Whelchel, Rep. Jerry Newton, Timothy O'Grady. Speaker Deb Price behind Timothy, Mary Jo Truchon and Julie Trude.

To prepare for our May Meeting:

Agriculture Update (NEW)

The last few resource papers have been [posted today to the website](#). There are 23 resource papers in all. The Agriculture Update Leaders' Guide will also be posted soon and includes some tips on how to present the material together with suggested readings in the resource papers that would be most important for each of the consensus questions. Please use the [Agriculture Update group](#) in [the LWVUS Forums](#) or contact Agriculture Update Chair Norman Turrill at LWVTurrill@mac.com if there are more questions. – from LWV Leader Update email from Elizabeth MacNamara

We will be reviewing and studying the material in the national League's Ag study, but the LWV ABC Board has opted not to participate in the consensus because there was not enough time to cover the great amount of material and topics here before the consensus is due in April. If you have concerns about this approach, please bring them to the February meeting for discussion. Thanks!

CMAL Event Recap – Jan 18, 2014 at Ramsey Municipal Center

Our President, Susan Anderson, helped to organize the next installment in CMAL's Minnesota Finance 101 series. CMAL, the Council of Metropolitan Area League of Women Voters set up a public forum on Metropolitan Fiscal Disparities municipal revenue sharing and Minnesota's K-12 Funding Formula. Kathy Tingelstad, Chief Lobbyist for Anoka County and former Legislator and Anoka Hennepin School Board member, spoke on Fiscal Disparities past



and present. Representative Jerry Newton, former Anoka Hennepin member and current Legislator addressed the K-12 Funding Formula. This session was filmed by QCTV and will be aired locally on Cable Channel 6 at 1pm on January 25 and 26.

Kathie Tinglestad explained that the Charles R. Weaver Metropolitan Revenue Distribution Act of 1971 set up a revenue-sharing pool that takes 40% of the growth in commercial/industrial property taxes in the seven county metro area and redistributes it to area cities based on a formula. Anoka County cities are mostly net 'gainers' in this process; cities like Bloomington, Minnetonka, Eden Prairie and Edina are net 'contributors'. Revenues are also distributed to school districts and counties; this is an important source of income especially for District 11 where it makes up nearly 20% of the revenue the district receives. Metropolitan Council's website has excellent information on this program, you can read more here: <http://www.metrocouncil.org/Data-Maps/Fiscal-Disparities.aspx>

Jerry Newton shared information on K-12 Education Funding from his perspectives as a current member of the Minnesota House of Representatives and a past member of the Anoka-Hennepin School Board. He said that statewide, 87% of school funding comes from the state. Some funding comes from the federal government, primarily in the area of nutrition programs (free and reduced price lunch programs). This last year, significantly more funding was provided for education, but the problem is that the funding comes designated to specific purposes, such as special education, building maintenance, etc. This reduces flexibility for school districts. Additionally, the cost of private school student transportation and books is paid by the district in which those students live while the per-pupil funding for that student goes to the private school; this is another burden to the public schools. One way to help districts would be to keep total state funding at the current level but just divide it based on the number of students in the state and distribute it without saying how it has to be spent, except that the educational outcomes established by the state must be met.

CMAL is an area wide organization of the League of Women Voters which addresses topics of metropolitan area interest.

News from our Membership Chair:

From: "Katherine Whelchel" <kathiew7contacts@gmail.com>

To: database@lwv.org

Cc: "Betsy O'Berry" <betsyo@visi.com>, "Geri Nelson" <Geri_Nelson454@msn.com>, "Susan Anderson" <andersonstedman@gmail.com>, "Gretchen Sabel" <gpsabel@yahoo.com>, "Kathleen Aanerud" <aanerud4@comcast.net>

Sent: Sunday, January 19, 2014 3:50:44 PM

Subject: MN 401 LWV ABC membership report January 2014

MN 401 LWV Anoka Blaine Coon Rapids

Local: Jan 2013 Total 33

Local: Sept 2013 +3

Local: Jan 2014 +1

Total Jan 2014: 37

We have increased by four new members over last year, a more-than-10% increase! Keep inviting your friends to our meetings and spread the word!



Events of interest

Board Meeting: ABC Board meeting will be held on Saturday, February 8 at the Andover Senior Center at which all interested members are welcome. Starts at 9am.

Saturday, March 15 - *Springbrook Spree* at Murzyn Hall in Columbia Heights, 5:30 pm

This annual fundraising event supports Springbrook Nature Center in Fridley. The featured speaker this year is Darby Nelson, an aquatic biologist, professor emeritus, author of *For Love of Lakes* -- and husband to LWV ABC member, Geri Nelson. This is a fun and educational event. There's a buffet dinner, a great silent auction and lots of good folks to meet. For more information, visit the Springbrook website at: http://springbrooknaturecenter.org/springbrook_page.cfm?ID=42

Springbrook Nature Center has 127 acres of diverse natural areas, native habitats and wildlife. Its hiking trails, floating boardwalks, and its interpretive center with live animal exhibits provide opportunities to be close to nature. Plan to attend the Springbrook Spree to support the educational and relaxation opportunities offered by this metropolitan jewel.

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!