



March 23, 2014

Welcome to the LWV ABC Newsletter – the LINK!

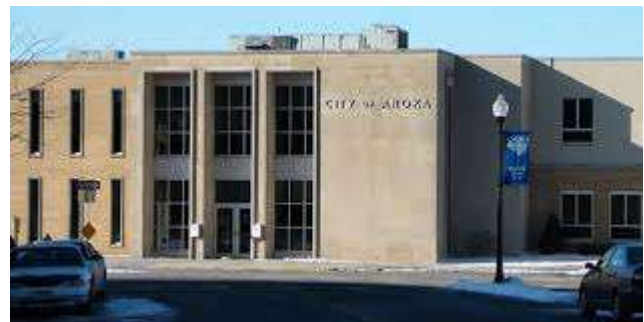
What do you have to contribute for the next issue of this newsletter? Consider sharing events, follow-up on past meetings, info on member accomplishments, etc! Please direct your ideas and comments to me, Gretchen Sabel, at gpsabel@yahoo.com. Deadline for submittal of material is noon on April 19. Thanks!

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

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

LWV ABC Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held at Anoka City Hall Community Room (downstairs) on Saturday, April 12th from 8:30 to 12:30. This is the meeting where we do the business of the League: elect officers, adopt a budget, hear reports on the activities of the last year and brainstorm programs for the Summer Salons and the next year, and present the Zilla Way and Friend of League awards. It's a great time to get to know the members and the League!



What to bring:

- Your can-do attitude and enthusiasm!
- Your check for dues (\$50), if you haven't already paid
- Your LWV ABC Handbook if you have it (will be provided for new members)
- The agenda and meeting materials you receive in a coming email (some copies will be provided for those without email or printers)
- A potluck dish to share for lunch - make sure you bring cold things in a cooler or a crock pot for things that need to be served warm.

See you at the Annual Meeting!

Our Last Meeting – March 10 – Protecting and Encouraging Bees and Pollinators



At our March 10 meeting, Jim Myers, a beekeeper from Andover, provided a discussion on his experiences in this field. In the brainstorming session that followed, the group identified possible actions that could be taken - what can we as LWV ABC do to help enhance and protect populations of pollinators? The list of brainstormed ideas is attached at the end of this newsletter. Thanks to Jane Arndt and Kathy Aanerud for the creative and lovely light supper they provided with an assortment of honey-related foods!

Follow-up: Sandra Shanley is working with Gretchen Sabel to develop a draft "what you can do" factsheet. There is also an upcoming free workshop on pollinator protection at Macalester College on April 5, see information below under Events. If you are interested in carpooling, please email our gmail account at lwvabc@gmail.com.



Photos from March 10 meeting – top left, speaker Jim Myers answering questions; bottom right, President Susan Anderson providing information on upcoming CMAL event; other photos, attendees. We had a large crowd with several folks who are new to LWV. A good outreach event! Photo credit: Kathy Aanerud

Our May 11 Meeting:

At our May meeting, we will spend some time learning about the LWV US study on agriculture (see below) and will also develop our action plan for what we as a League will do to protect pollinators and enhance pollinator habitat.

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 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.



Looking ahead to summer 2014 and the upcoming new LWV program year (starting in September 2014):

At the Annual Meeting, we will be developing topics for our summer meetings – please bring your ideas for speakers and topics! Some ideas that have been raised so far:

- Local animal shelters
- Update on Nyadoar’s experiences with her non-profit in Africa
- Sex trafficking in Anoka County
- Corrections and mental health
- Other topics flowing from our December “Lively Issues” discussion

Events of interest

“Bad for Bees: A new threat in your backyard”

Even if you don’t use chemicals in your garden, you still could be harming bees, butterflies and other living things. Learn more about the alarming spread of “pre-poisoned” plants in the garden business and what you can do to combat this trend. Bee experts and landscapers will discuss how to make sure you have a healthy backyard.

The April 5 Bad for Bees workshop features:

- Dr. Vera Krischik, U of M entomologist, discussing these chemicals and the harm they can do to bees;
- Heather Holm on how to create backyard landscapes that are healthy for birds, bees and other living things, using native plantings; and
- Erin Rupp and Kristy Allen, from Beez Kneez, talking about urban hazards and actions consumers can take to get these chemicals out of the nursery trade.

Saturday, April 5, 9 a.m. to noon

Campus Center (free parking nearby), Macalester College, St. Paul

This workshop is free and open to the public—everyone’s invited

Sponsored by St. Paul Audubon Society, www.saintpaulaudubon.org



“Building the Society We Want: How do We Get There?” The first Town Hall Forum sponsored by BE: Part of the Conversation Capital Campaign for LWV Minnesota and Augsburg College’s Democracy Project: Martin Sabo Symposium will be held in Augsburg’s chapel on **March 25th at 7 PM**. Speakers are Dane Smith from Growth and Justice, who will speak on growing economic disparities and Mitch Pearlstein from the Center of the American Experiment, who will address the impacts in cultural changes in stable family structures, the value of education, etc. Tom Berg, author of *Minnesota’s Miracle: Learning from the democracy that worked*, and Joan Higinbotham, LWV, will moderate questions from the audience. Refreshments following the program. All LWV members are invited. Let’s form some carpools!

Film screening at Minnesota History Center, Saturday, April 5, 2:00 pm: **Girl from Birch Creek** -- Via this film, discover the story of **the late Justice Rosalie Wahl**, a lifelong equality advocate and the first woman appointed to the Minnesota Supreme Court, through this original documentary from award-winning Minnesota filmmaker and guest Emily Haddad. Program is free. www.minnesotahistorycenter.org



Ideas Generated at the Bee Meeting, March 10, 2014

Bring these to the May LWVABC meeting and develop an action plan.

- Check out the Xerxes Society – volunteer and learn
- Don't keep our yards so neat, leave old flower stalks as nesting habitat for native bees
- Build native bee homes – reference on Xerxes website
- Entice bumblebees
- Shop wisely
- Keep some bare soil for native bee habitat (looks like little ant hills)
- Check city ordinances for bee-friendly
- Promote bee-friendly city resolutions
- Work with parks to enhance habitat in public places
- Safeguard bee habitat
- Encourage native plants in their native forms
- Talk to your nursery about the plants you buy this spring – are they treated with pesticides or fungicides?
- Read labels – look for ...?
- Write the companies that make pesticides and request larger, more readable labels
- Alternative pesticides – corn gluten meal
- Plant “Pollinator Pockets” in parks
- Practice ‘elevator speech’ to promote awareness
- Pollinator gardens in neighborhoods – make a teaching moment like raingardens
- Plant clover instead of grass

Notes:

- Eva is giving a talk on native pollinators at the April 12 gardening event at Bunker Activity Center - http://anokamastergardeners.org/adult_education/landscapinggarden_fair
- Farm bill has matching funds for farmers to plant pollinator plants (may have gotten this wrong)