



April 27, 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 May 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>

Our May 12 Meeting:

Agriculture policy, the Farm Bill and Pollinator Protection

Monday, May 12 - 6pm at Andover Senior Center (social at 6pm, program starts at 6:30)

A discussion lead by LWV ABC members Jeorgette Knoll and Mary Jo Truchon will provide information on the new LWVUS Agriculture position, the recently-passed US Farm Bill and what it means for Minnesota. Gretchen Sabel will seek member input on development of material and an action plan for pollinator protection in the LWV ABC service area. A draft of the information sheet is being developed.

Here is some information on the LWVUS study:

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.



June 11, 2014, FIELD TRIP to Coon Rapids Animal Shelter

NO MEETING ON MONDAY, JUNE 9

Thanks to Jane Arndt for organizing a field trip for us to the Coon Rapids Animal Humane Shelter on Wednesday June 11th from 4:45-5:45 pm. After the tour, we will adjourn to another location (to be announced) to discuss what we have learned. The Shelter can handle a max of 15 persons on a tour.

This takes the place of our regular meeting on Monday June 9.



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.



LWV ABC Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was held at Anoka City Hall Community Room (downstairs) on Saturday, April 12th from 8:30 to 12:30. Kathie Whelchel shared this report - thanks to Kathie.

WHY I LOVE THE ABC LEAGUE!

Yesterday's Annual Meeting was a classic example of why ABC has gained state and national kudos for its achievements. Our strong core of dedicated and politically savvy women completed the long agenda of items ON TIME and enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch in the Community Room at Anoka City Hall.

Dues have been paid by 19 of our 39 members, including those sent directly to our treasurer. If you haven't yet paid, you will be receiving a mail reminder to do so.

Our elected officers are as follows:

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| • President (continuing) Susan Anderson | Term through April 2015 |
| • Vice President : Jeorgette Knoll | Term through April 2016 |
| • Board Secretary: Carol Bradley | Term through April 2015 |
| • Treasurer: Betsy O'Berry | Term through April 2016 |
| • Membership Chair: Kathie Whelchel | Term through April 2016 |
| • Voter Service Chairs: Geri Nelson & Arlene Gillett | Term through April 2016 |
| • Community Relations Chair: Kathleen Aanerud | Term through April 2016 |
| • Program: Gretchen Sabel and Mary Jo Truchon | Term through April 2016 |
| • Nominating Committee Chair (off Board) Joan Molenaar | Term through April 2015 |
| • Nominating Committee Member (off Board) Sandra Shanley | Term through April 2015 |
| • Nominating Committee Member (Board) Mary Jo Truchon | Term through April 2015 |

The Board's Annual Retreat Date has been set for Saturday May 10. Location will be announced. This is where items brought up at the Annual Meeting will be discussed further and next year's schedule will be decided, including the Summer Salons which have been renamed Community Conversations.

The Membership Chair asked all present to indicate their support for one or more of the Board Chairs. The greatest need will be for assistance with Voter Service. Members signed up to assist with spring Voter Registration at the local High Schools, candidate forums, and voter registration training. Others agreed to serve on the Budget Committee which according to our by-laws needs to be formed, the Program Committee, help with They Represent You and the Member Guide, and asking local nurseries before buying plants that may have been treated with neonicotinoid pesticides.



Susan Anderson was approved and funded to attend the LWVUS Conference in Dallas, TX. Kathleen Aanerud received the Zilla Way Award for her outstanding Community Outreach service. Other actions will be reported by the Board Secretary.

It was a joy to see how our members addressed issues and actions in such a respectful and professional manner. We truly are an outstanding group of women!

Submitted by Kathie Whelchel, Membership Chair

Photos taken by Kathleen Aanerud



Jeorgette Knoll, Susan Anderson and Carol Bradley



Kathleen Aanerud and Zilla Way



**Gerri Nelson, Linda Rodgers, Jane Arndt
Kathie Whelchel and Arlene Gillett**



Zilla Way, Marj Perry and Lois Ballinger



Lynda VanDriel, Kay McCulley, and Julie Trude



Mary Jo Truchon, Sandra Shanley, and Geri Nelson



Kay McCulley, Julie Trude and Gretchen Sabel

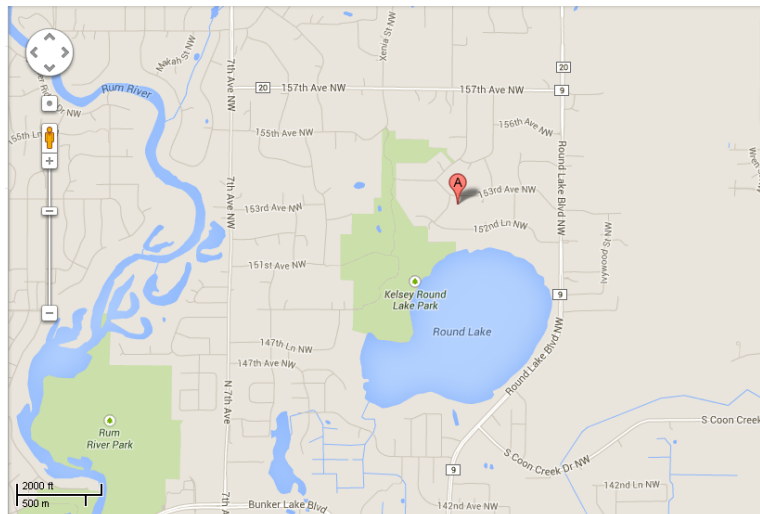


Kathie Whelchel and Arlene Gillett

LWV ABC Board Retreat

9am on May 10 at Gretchen Sabel's House, 3540 153rd Ave NW, Andover. We will begin at 9 and go until we are done. This is where we will finalize our program for the coming year.

Round Lake Boulevard to 153rd Ave NW, west on 153rd Ave. Yellow house with green roof; "AMSOIL SOLD HERE" sign at end of driveway.





Member News

Kathie Whelchel provided us an update with news from Nyadoar Nipnip's recent trip to South Sudan, a very troubled area of the world. She is now on her second trip to her father's village there with clothing for children and others in a humanitarian mission.

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

Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2014 7:04:58 AM

Subject: News from Nyadoar

I just received a phone call from Nyadoar. She apologized for not staying in touch, but after she returned from South Sudan, she was ill and is now on antibiotics and recovering. Nyadoar was not able to get to her father's village because of the war. She said her life was saved because she was an American citizen. As soon as she showed her American passport, the militia said "Leave her alone, she is an American."

Today she is leaving again with more supplies for South Sudan and expects to return on June 17. She said she would be glad to share her experiences at one of our summer meetings, either July or August. The clothing and food money we sent she distributed to the children where she was stopped. She said it was heartbreaking to not be able to help all those who were in need, but she did the best she could.

I know we will all be sending her our prayers and honor her dedication to her people in such a trying situation!
Kathie Whelchel



Kathie Whelchel, Nyadoar Nipnip and Susan Anderson at the September kickoff.