



**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](mailto:gpsabel@yahoo.com). Deadline for submittal of material is noon on June 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>

**CALENDAR – Click links to find info in this document!**

**Upcoming Events**

- May 29 – [Sex Trafficking Forum](#), 6 PM CRHS
- June 6 – [Pollinator Committee](#), 2:30@Bean
- June 9 – [Continuation of Board Retreat](#) 6pm
- June 11 – [Tour of Coon Rapids Animal Shelter](#)
- July 14 – [Sex Trafficking Action Plan discussion](#)
- August 11 – [Picnic](#) – Location TBA

**Forum and Election Schedule** (continued)

- September 22 – Anoka County General Election Forum
- September 29 – Coon Rapids General Election Forum
- October 2 – Champlin General Election Forum
- October 6 – Andover City + House 31B Forum
- October 9 – Anoka City + House 35A Forum
- October 13 – House 36 A + B, House 37 A + B Forum
- October 15 – Ramsey General Election Forum
- November 4 – General Election

**Tentative Forum and Election Schedule**

- July 9 – Coon Rapids Primary Forum
- July 22 – Anoka County Primary Forum
- August 12 – Primary Election

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

**NO REGULAR 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 the Harvest Grill at Bunker Hills Golf Club to discuss what we have learned. The Shelter can handle no more than 15 persons on a tour; there are still some spots open. Contact Jane Arndt at [randjarndt@yahoo.com](mailto:randjarndt@yahoo.com) if you are interested in participating in the tour or if you would just like to join us for the after-meeting discussion. Several husbands will join us for dinner, this will be a fun social event.

**Harvest Grill**  
12800 Bunker Prairie Road NW  
Coon Rapids  
763-755-1234

**Animal Humane Society**  
1411 Main Street NW  
Coon Rapids  
763-862-4030

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

**Notes from Our May 12 Meeting:**

**Agriculture policy, the Farm Bill and Pollinator Protection**

Thanks to all for an excellent meeting, including thanks to Carol Bradley and Lois Ballinger for the good meal. Jeorgette Knoll provided a good description of the process that the League went through to develop our positions and program, please see attached "Introduction to the Study Process" for more information. Mary Jo Truchon then described the 2014 Farm Bill. The links below will provide you with additional information. Mary Jo told us



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that one goal of this Farm Bill is to diversify crop rotations beyond corn and soybeans and to include the planting of cover crops so the soil is not left uncovered and subject to wind and water erosion. This could be good for pollinators as well and is very encouraging. Mary Monte with the Natural Resources Conservation Service was mentioned as an excellent resource for those interested in more information.

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/mn/programs/farmbill/?cid=stelprdb1242382>

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/farmbill/?cid=stelprdb1244022>

Participants next picked up the discussion of what our League could do to help pollinators; please refer to the Pollinators document at the end of this newsletter. A variety of options were brainstormed. There was a lot of interest in working with our cities and the county to learn their current practices and to seek to influence further pollinator protection and habitat enhancement. Some current projects that were known to members were discussed – Geri is having the conventional landscaping at her house replaced with all pollinator-friendly native plants, and Anoka County 4-H is holding pollinator camps this year. What could we do that would make a difference? A video was discussed as a way to spread the word, perhaps we could work with QCTV on this. At the end we decided to explore options for developing a video on local efforts to protect pollinators and enhance habitat, and to develop a plan for working with our local cities and Anoka County in this regard. A committee was formed to get rolling on this:

Geri Nelson  
Jeorgette Knoll  
Mary Jo Truchon

Arlene Gillett  
Gretchen Sabel  
Kathy Aanerud and Jane Arndt (tag team)

**This group will meet on June 6 at 2:30 pm at the Bean in Andover, in Clock Tower Commons just across from City Hall (<http://www.stateofbean.com/>).** Please join us if you are interested in being part of the planning team for this work!

### **Our July 14 meeting – Sex Trafficking**

Action Plan to Address Sex Trafficking in Anoka County



Our July 14 meeting will be a discussion of human trafficking in Anoka County, based on information gathered from the Human Trafficking Forum being held at 6pm on May 29 at Coon Rapids HS and in the recent LWVMN VOTER. Links to both are provided below. Members are urged to attend the Forum if possible and to review the information in the Voter to prepare for the meeting. At our July 14 meeting we will discuss possible actions our League could undertake to address this problem.

#### *Human Trafficking Forum*

May 29, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM @ Coon Rapids High School

<http://www.anokacounty.us/DocumentCenter/View/4489>

Here is a link to the VOTER:

[http://www.lwvmn.org/file/the-voter/Volume-92\\_No\\_1\\_2014\\_SPECIAL\\_ISSUE\\_2014.04.08.pdf](http://www.lwvmn.org/file/the-voter/Volume-92_No_1_2014_SPECIAL_ISSUE_2014.04.08.pdf)



### **Our August 11 Picnic**

Please reserve this date, more information to follow.

### **Voter Services Update**

Geri Nelson gave an update on Voter Services activities. Voter registration in area high schools is the current emphasis, as seniors are about to graduate. We will also visit the high schools next fall to catch students who turn 18 before Election Day. Additional help is needed to go to Crossroads East High School. Arlene Gillett has volunteered for this and needs a partner. Geri and Arlene are also developing a schedule for forums; the goal is to have each forum on a different night with no overlap. All will start at 6:30 pm. We will host primary forums in July as needed and General Election forums in late September and early October. All members will be needed to help put on the forums so please reserve time in your schedule for this. The TENTATIVE forum schedule is attached to this LINK.

Also, **LWV ABC now has revised our forum ground rules.** We will no longer cancel a forum if there is only one candidate who can attend – please refer to the new ground rules attached to this newsletter. Thanks!

### **Bonus Info!**

Cindy DeRuyter, Andover Recycling Coordinator, was at the May 12 meeting and let people know that rain barrels and compost bins are available through Coon Creek Watershed District: <http://www.cooncreekwd.org/>. There was a lot of interest in this. Pick up date is June 14 at the Coon Rapids recycling center – all items must be preordered. These items can also be ordered through the Anoka Conservation District if the June 14 pick-up date does not work for you. More information on the Coon Creek Watershed website.)

An advertisement for a "Rain Barrel &amp; Compost Bin Sale". The text says "Order Now! SALE! While Supplies Last!". It shows a white rain barrel and a black compost bin. The rain barrel is on sale for \$69 (regular price \$139). The compost bin is on sale for \$55 (regular price \$105). The ad includes logos for the Coon Creek Watershed District, Anoka Conservation District, and RecycleMinnesota.org. It also says "Order online then pick up your pre-ordered rain barrel &amp; compost bin in Coon Rapids on Saturday, June 14, 2014! Visit our website for details!" and "For more info &amp; to order visit: RecycleMinnesota.org".

### **LWV ABC Board Retreat**

This retreat began on May 10 and will continue on June 9 at 6pm, Andover Senior Center. Here's a summary of the discussions so far:

### **Draft notes from May 10, 2014, Board Retreat, held at Gretchen Sabel's house in Andover**

Attendees: Susan Anderson, Geri Nelson, Kathie Whelchel, Becky Fink, Jeorgette Knoll, Mary Jo Truchon, Betsy O'Berry, Kathy Aanerud, Gretchen Sabel, Joan Molenaar

Susan called the retreat to order at 9:20. There was a discussion of the form that minutes should take. Our goal will be to put out a newsy draft minutes soon after the meeting so that members who were not present will know what goes on and will be able to fully participate this.

Jeorgette distributed minutes from the Annual Meeting. Motion Nelson to approve the minutes, second Whelchel. Betsy asked for clarification on the budget changes that were discussed. This was clarified.



Betsy noted that we will be getting additional funds from the Phonathon, this will go into the Ed Fund. There was discussion on the wording relative to the Water Management position; this local position will be retained and updated this year. Two typos were noted also.

Discussion on awards – Jeorgette suggested that the Nominating Committee be asked to determine who gets awards. Kathy noted that the Handbook says this function has been given to the Community Relations Committee. Discussion. One way to handle this would be to have the Nominating Committee select the Zilla Way award recipient and keep Friend of League with Community Relations. Mary Jo noted that it is also the role of these committees to get the names of nominees and text for the award certificate to whomever is going to make the awards in a timely way. Question – is the Budget committee listed under the Treasurer? Yes, and Gretchen agreed to be the chair for this year. Additional members are needed here. The budget is to be drafted by February, this will be our goal for 2015. This committee was added to page 14 of the Handbook. This committee will be named Budget/Finance. Jeorgette will update the handbook.

Appointment to Committees: A slate of candidates were conditionally appointed and will be announced once all have accepted their positions.

Job descriptions of Board Members: Jeorgette will summarize the discussion here for the June 9 reconvening of this meeting.

Membership: Betsy handed out a list of members that have paid and not paid. Gretchen has agreed to send out invoices to those who need to pay. This year we will send just to unpaids. Next year we will send bills to all members in February along with notice of the annual meeting. Some things will be included in the bill - “ If you would like to request a scholarship for membership” and also include a line for additional donations. Also include mission on the bill. MN Council of Nonprofits has an excellent resource for knowing what we need to do here; LWV MN also has great information.

Voter Service: Geri has a list of volunteers and will be coordinating this. The first thing today is to get going on voter registration – Geri has new information on this and will present it at the start of Monday’s meeting. Kathy noted that the Ham Lake Chamber of Commerce will be sponsoring a forum there. The opportunity to co-sponsor will be explored. Geri has a goal to not hold forums on the same nights so we can spread out our efforts. Becky noted that nonprofits are required to offer voter registration. LWV ABC could figure out a way to effectively partner with others in this regard.

Calendar: Becky and Jeorgette will be working on the July topic, sex trafficking. Becky noted that the Sheriff’s office and Anoka Hennepin schools will be giving a talk on this subject on May 29 6-7:30 at CR HS. Notice of this will be posted on the LWV ABC Facebook page.

The meeting ended at 12:30 and will reconvene at 6pm on June 9 at Andover Senior Center.



From Jeorgette Knoll's discussion at the May 12 meeting:

## **Introduction to the Study Process**

01/14/2014 | by Gretchen Knell

**Studies** are part of League Program and, in League parlance, League Program includes all of the positions the League uses to affect public policy as well as the procedure for adopting these programs. Program is such an integral part of the League that, according to *League Basics*, "Program is the League's reason for being."

**Program** has three parts: 1) selection of an issue, 2) study of that issue, consensus and formulating a position, and 3) use of that position to influence public policy. All LWVUS positions are included in the League publication, *Impact on Issues, 2012-2014: A Guide to Public Policy Positions*, <http://www.lwv.org/content/impact-issues>.

This guide briefly covers how we got here, and, secondly, the perspective of participating in a national study at the local level. The purpose of a study, at any level, is to educate members so that they can be informed participants in consensus and provide the necessary data for formulating the ultimate position. Additional information about conducting a national study is on the LWVUS website at "Guidelines for LWVUS Studies," <http://www.lwv.org/content/guidelines-lwvus-studies>.

**Selection of an issue** begins with the Program Planning each League is asked to do. This is where the local Leagues identify issues that deserve a study at the national level or updates of existing positions.

These are issues where the LWVUS has no position, and, therefore, cannot act. Remember, Leagues cannot take action without a position. During Program Planning before the 2012 Convention, many Leagues expressed an interest in the agriculture issue. The Agriculture Update was brought to the convention floor as a not-recommended item and adopted by the delegates to Convention 2012. Step one completed.

**Study and consensus** began right after Convention when the LWVUS Board appointed a study committee chair, set up the process for selecting the committee, and approved a preliminary scope and timeline for the study. This set the parameters for the study committee's work. The study committee's first task was to review and suggest modifications as appropriate to the scope for the study.

A **scope** describes the limits of the study, describes areas to explore and often includes focus areas. The culminating position will address only those issues delineated in the scope. The scope of this Agriculture Update was approved by the LWVUS Board and distributed to local Leagues to give them direction during the study process.

## **Scope of the Study**

The scope of the study, as adopted by the LWVUS Board, states: The Agriculture Update will focus narrowly on: 1) current technology issues in agriculture including genetically modified organisms (GMOs), herbicides, pesticides, agriculture water pollution, water technology, antibiotics in livestock, and accurate food labeling; and 2) current agriculture finance issues including consolidation in agriculture industries, crop subsidies and the federal agricultural regulatory process.

The study committee began its work of refining the areas to be studied, researching and writing background information about the different areas contained in the scope, and preparing consensus questions and other materials to help direct local League discussion to consensus. All of these materials are/will be posted at <http://www.lwv.org/member-resources/agriculture-update>.

As each local League reports its consensus (or lack thereof) the reports are consolidated, and, based on this information, a committee formulates the **position** which, when approved by the Board, can be used for action.



## Timeline

Dates	Action
Oct. 2012	Board approves initial study scope, timeline and consensus criteria.
Nov. 2012	Study chair invites study committee applications.
Nov. 2012 – Jan. 2013	Education Fund Committee interviews applicants and references.
Jan. - Feb. 2013	Education Fund Committee proposes and receives approval of full Board for study committee appointments (via electronic meeting).
Jan. 2013	Study committee begins meeting, reviews study scope and timeline, and may recommend changes to Feb. Board meeting.
Feb. - Dec. 2013	Study committee prepares or selects study materials, a Leader's Guide, etc. and posts on website. A study forum or discussion list is opened.
Feb. - April 1, 2014	State and local Leagues may form study committees, examine study materials, hold public meetings, etc.
Nov. 2013	Study committee proposes consensus questions to the Education Fund Committee, which may discuss them with the study committee, and then propose and adopt them by the Board.
Jan. - April 1, 2014	State and local Leagues hold consensus meetings.
March 2014	Education Fund Committee proposes and Board appoints Member Agreement Committee.
Friday, April 4, 2014	Tentative deadline for consensus reports via electronic survey form only.
April 2014	Member Agreement Committee decides if consensus was reached, and if so, proposes a new position statement to the Education Fund Committee, which then proposes it to the full Board for adoption.
May 2014	Consensus result or new position statement is announced before Convention.



## Agriculture Policy

07/05/2013 | by Gretchen Knell

### The League's History

In 1986, the League undertook a two-year study and member agreement process on the role of the federal government in U.S. agriculture policy, examining elements of federal farm policy, its contemporary setting and policy alternatives. The resulting 1988 position on agriculture policy supports policies for sustainable agriculture and action to reduce the use of toxic chemicals on the farm. The League also supports targeting research programs and technological assistance to mid-sized farms and to sustainable agriculture. While many of the programs the League supports—farm credit at reasonable terms and conditions and programs to enable farmers to use sustainable agriculture—may benefit family or mid-sized farms, the League supports these programs for all farms, regardless of size.

The position supports “decoupling” (moving away from direct payments based on production) as consistent with the strong League consensus in favor of greater reliance on the free market to determine prices. Reliance on the free market for price determination also can support a gradual reduction in loan rates. The League does not envision total reliance on the free market to determine agriculture prices. In assessing programs that move agriculture toward greater reliance on the free market, consideration would include problems peculiar to agriculture, such as severe climate or natural disasters.

The League supports federally-provided farm credit, but believes the federal government should be the lender of last resort. The League position does not address supply controls, capping payments to farmers, protecting farm income or any particular commodity program. It supports the conservation reserve program and opposes the removal of lands prematurely from the conservation reserve.

In 1989, the League opposed legislation that would have preempted stricter state laws on the regulation of pesticides. In 1990, it urged the House to pass a farm bill that would protect land and water resources, reduce the use of toxic chemicals, and target research and technical assistance to developing environmentally sound agriculture practices. The League called for measures to strengthen conservation provisions, continue the conservation reserve, and permit retention of base payments and deficiency payments when farmers file and implement an approved plan for farming with environmentally beneficial practices. The League also called for national standards of organic production and opposed the export of pesticides that are illegal in the United States. In 1988-1991, the LWVEF worked with Public Voice for Food and Health Policy and state and local Leagues on a citizen education project on agricultural issues, including pesticide residues in food and water, sustainable agriculture, and research and technology.

### The League's Position

*Statement of Position on Federal Agriculture Policy, as Announced by National Board, October 1988:*

The LWVUS believes that federal agriculture policies should promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers, farms that are economically viable, farm practices that are environmentally sound and increased reliance on the free market to determine prices.

**SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE.** Federal policy should encourage a system of sustainable, regenerative agricultural production that moves toward an environmentally sound agricultural sector. This includes promoting stewardship to preserve and protect the country's human and natural agricultural resources.

**RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.** Agricultural research, development and technical assistance should continue to be a major federal function. Resources should be targeted to developing sustainable agricultural practices and addressing the needs of mid-size farms.



**AGRICULTURAL PRICES.** The LWVUS supports an increasing reliance on the free market to determine the price of agricultural commodities and the production decisions of farmers, in preference to traditional price support mechanisms.

**AGRICULTURE AND TRADE.** U.S. efforts should be directed toward expanding export markets for our agricultural products while minimizing negative effects on developing nations' economies. Consistent with the League's trade position, multilateral trade negotiations should be used to reduce other countries' barriers and/or subsidies protecting their agricultural products.

**FARM CREDIT.** Farmers should have access to credit with reasonable terms and conditions. Federally provided farm credit is essential to maintaining the viability of farm operations when the private sector is unable or unwilling to provide the credit farmers need.

Of these policies, the League believes the most essential for the future of agriculture are: encouraging sustainable agriculture; providing research, information and technical assistance to agricultural producers; and increasing reliance on the free market to determine prices.





## **League of Women Voters ABC Candidate Forum Ground Rules**

1. League of Women Voters (LWV) is a non-partisan organization which promotes the active and informed involvement of citizens in the voting process. LWV does not support or oppose political parties or individual candidates.
2. LWV sponsors candidate forums to give the voters the opportunity to hear and compare candidates' stands on issues. Questions will be gathered from various sources. As many questions as possible will be asked within the time limits.
3. In order to be invited to appear in an LWV ABC forum, a candidate must have publicly announced his/her intention to run, be eligible to hold the office and be qualified to be on the ballot. Write-in candidates for local offices may be invited if they have made a substantial showing that the candidacy is bona fide. (Bona fide might include campaign speeches, distribution of literature, press releases, issue papers, a campaign committee, website and/or headquarters.) Write-in candidates who have been eliminated in a primary are not eligible to appear in a general election forum.
4. The order of speaking will be determined by drawing numbers and the order will alternate or rotate thereafter.
5. LWV ABC encourages members of the public to submit questions to candidates before or during the forum. Questions should strive to accomplish one or more of the following purposes:
  - Define a candidate's position on issues concerning the office to which she/he seeks election.
  - Ascertain the process or method by which a candidate has formulated positions and/or would make decisions if elected.
  - Explain the reasons for past actions or positions taken by an incumbent candidate (with opportunity for non-incumbent candidates to explain what they would do on the same issue.)
  - Determine a candidate's knowledge, background and skills related to the office to which she/he seeks election.
6. LWV ABC reserves the right to screen questions. Our intention is, in good faith, to select questions that represent the interests expressed by the members of our audience and those who submit questions.
  - a. Questions will not be asked if they are:
    - Illegible
    - On personal matters unrelated to the elective position



- Unclear
- Inappropriately hostile/antagonistic/belligerent or friendly/supportive/gratuitous
- Submitted for the purpose of making a statement rather than gaining information.

b. Questions on one issue or similar issues will be consolidated and rephrased.

c. All written questions become the property of LWV ABC.

7. If any listener feels an issue has not been adequately addressed, we urge that listener to contact the candidates directly.
8. Time limits on responses will be strictly observed. Timekeepers will hold up a card to indicate the amount of time remaining with a STOP card at the end.
9. A table outside the forum hall will be available for distribution of campaign literature.
10. If an invited candidate is unable or unwilling to appear on the day of the scheduled event, the forum will still be held. The remaining candidate(s) will have an opportunity to express their positions on issues in their opening and closing statements and in response to questions submitted by the audience and read by the moderator. Unopposed candidates may appear alone.
11. LWV ABC will announce to the audience the candidates who are unable to or choose not to appear.
12. No substitutes or stand-ins for the candidates will be allowed. Under extraordinary circumstances, the moderator may read a statement from a candidate.
13. Candidates are asked not to endorse another candidate during the course of their comments.
14. No statements of a personal nature about another candidate will be tolerated. A person's public record, not her/his character may be examined.
15. Props are not allowed.
16. No applause or outbursts from the audience will be tolerated. The moderator has the authority to terminate the forum if warranted.
17. If seating space is a problem, each candidate will be requested to ask their supporters to yield their seats to undecided voters.
18. No campaign signs (including buttons or t-shirts worn by anyone attending) will be permitted in the forum hall.
19. Forum tapes must not be edited and must be shown in their entirety.
20. Candidates may not use video clips or photos in campaign ads.



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<b>JULY 2014</b>	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3		
	7	8	9 Coon Rapids Primary	10		
	14	15	16	17		
	21	22 Anoka Co. Primary	23	24		
	28	29	30	31	<b>Primary Election August 12<sup>th</sup> – No forums in August</b>	

Please direct questions/comments/concerns about the forum schedule to Geri Nelson at [geri.nelson454@msn.com](mailto:geri.nelson454@msn.com) or 763 421 7334



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4		
	8	9	10	11		
	15	16	17	18		
	22 Anoka Co. General	23	24	25		
	29 Coon Rapids City	30				



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

<b>OCTOBER</b>	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 ✓ Champlin City	3	
	6 Andover City House 31B And/Ham Lk/E Beth	7	8	9 ✓ Anoka City House 35A & B? Ano/Ram/And Anoka City Hall	10	
	13 Columbus Day House 36 A & B Ch/CR House 37A & B Bl/East CR CR City Hall	14	15 Ramsey City	16	17	
	20	21	22	23	24	
	27	28	29	30	31	<b>General Election November 4th</b>