



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 Gretchen Sabel at gpsabel@yahoo.com. Deadline for submittal of material is noon on August 13. Thanks!

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

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

Upcoming Events – check the draft Annual Plan at the end of this newsletter for more info on LWV ABC meeting plans!

LWV ABC Events

- August 11 – Picnic and Pot Luck at Geri Nelson’s home in Champlin
September 8 – Kickoff! – Andover Sr Center
October – NO MEETING – Forums

Forum and Election Schedule (continued)

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

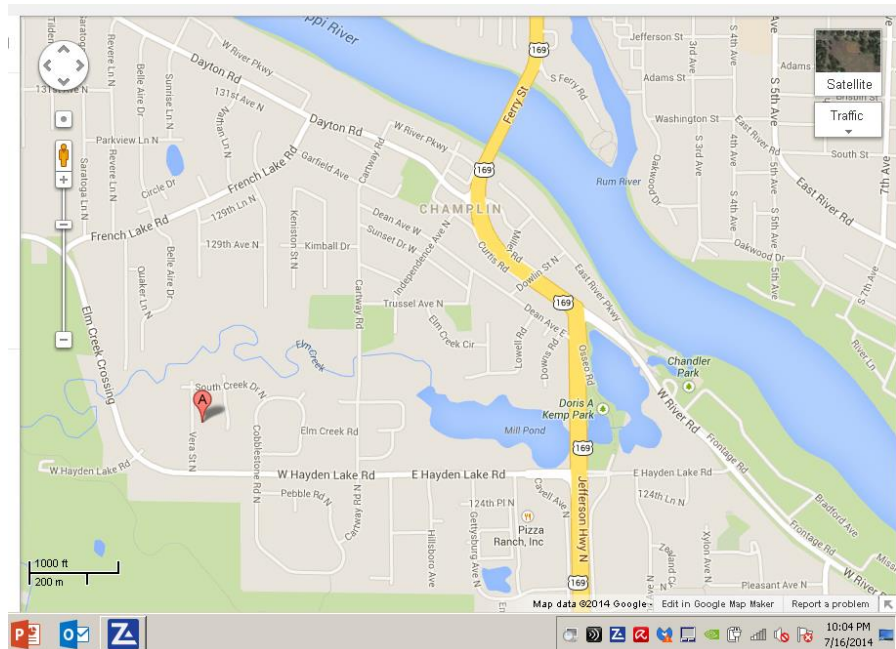
Forum and Election Schedule

- July 22 – Anoka County Primary Forum
August 12 – Primary Election

Help is needed for conducting the forums. If you have not already volunteered, consider doing so! To volunteer or if you have questions/comments/concerns about the forum schedule, contact Geri Nelson at geri.nelson454@msn.com or 763 421 7334.

Our August 11 Picnic and Pot Luck

We will be meeting at Geri Nelson’s: 1013 Vera St N in Champlin. Please bring a dish to share; we will meet at 6:00 pm for a tour of Geri and Darby’s yard as they embark on a major project to restore native vegetation and improve pollinator habitat. Dinner will follow. We will discuss topics like the BE campaign and Nyadoar Nipnip’s recent trips to Sudan with her nonprofit. 1013 Vera St N, Champlin. Directions: 169 to Hayden Lake Road, turn west 0.8 miles to Vera St. Blue house on the right.





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

**A Community Conversation on Human Trafficking in Anoka County, with Sheriff James Stuart and Violence Prevention Coordinator Donna McDonald and other community leaders**

Our July 14 meeting featured a vibrant discussion with guests Karrie Schaaf, Anoka Hennepin schools Homeless Coordinator; Anoka County Sheriff James Stuart and Anoka County Violence Prevention Coordinator Donna McDonald. The speakers stressed that human trafficking is a problem right here in Anoka County every day, and that girls from 11-14 years old are the primary target.

Sheriff Stuart described a recent investigation by two detectives where they worked full time for ten months to secure federal indictments against two traffickers and save the lives of 40 young women who were being trafficked. To do more work like this, more detectives are needed. Right now, investigation of trafficking has to be balanced out against investigation of other crimes, and the lengthy nature of the investigations makes it very difficult. Karrie Schaaf explained why a shelter for youth is critical for Anoka County to be able to get trafficked youth into safe settings. She also said that because we don't have investigators who work exclusively on human trafficking, the traffickers target our county for recruiting youth into the sex trade. Donna McDonald discussed the role of the media in leading kids to think that sexualized behavior is the norm, and urged people to keep your eyes open for situations that seem "off", where you feel that a youth may be in danger. These situations should be reported. LWV ABC member Becky Fink, administrator of Nucleus Clinic in Coon Rapids, discussed the health dangers faced by sex trade workers as seen in the clinic.

**What can be done?** Anoka County needs an overnight shelter for homeless youth and police detectives who work only to stop human trafficking. We all need to keep our eyes open and report situations that seem to indicate trafficking may be occurring. Also, we need to spread the word that human trafficking is happening in our community and needs to be stopped. This session was filmed by QCTV; we will send out information on the viewing schedule in the near future. Photos from the meeting follow later in this newsletter.

### **Our June Meeting – Tour of Animal Humane Society**

*Thanks to Jane Arndt for setting up this tour and providing this report for our newsletter!*



The June outing was a tour of the Animal Humane Society - Coon Rapids. The group of twelve attendees consisted of members and spouses/son. Our guide took us through the intake process, medical procedures, holding rooms and finally the areas where the various animals can be viewed for potential adoption. We were given a brief overview of the number of cats, dogs, rabbits, etc that are brought in to the shelter. Summer is when the shelter is swamped with litters of kittens. The overwhelming surprise was the sheer numbers of animals that are handled by the AHS. AHS operates on donations from companies and private individuals, providing an invaluable service to the surrounding communities.



**Welcome New Member!**



Gerri Nelson welcomes JoEllen Ambrose, recent retiree from Champlin Park HS social studies dept., as the newest member of LWV ABC.

**Thanks to our Local Cable Partners!**

LWV thanks QCTV for recording our July 14 event! Kudos as well to CTN Studios in Coon Rapids for their excellent coverage of the July 9 candidate forum!

*Right – QCTV crew at July 14 Community Conversation*





### **Summary - Candidate Forum Held for Coon Rapids Primary Election**

To assist Coon Rapids residents with preparing for their upcoming primary election on August 12, the League of Women Voters ABC (Anoka, Blaine, Coon Rapids area) held a Meet the Candidates forum on July 9 at Coon Rapids City Hall. The candidate forum was videotaped by CTN Studios and is available for viewing on demand at <http://www.ctnstudios.com> under the Government Specials heading, or it can be viewed on YouTube. The forum is also being broadcast on Channel 16 on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Sundays at 8:30 am, 2:30 pm. and 9:00 pm.



There are seven candidates for mayor, five candidates for Ward 3 council seat (in picture above), and three candidates for Ward 5 council seat. The top two vote-getters in the August 12 primary will advance to the November 4 general election.

Candidates at the forum provided introductory information and responded to questions submitted by the audience and read by the moderator. The mayoral candidates responded to questions about attracting young families to the community, citizen engagement, assisting homeless youth, and opinions on televising open mike. City council candidates fielded questions on skills and background for serving on the council, methods to attract new business to the city, and some of earlier questions of the mayoral candidates on attracting young families to the community, citizen engagement and televising open mike. Additionally, the city council candidates responded to questions on how the city could be bee friendly and opinions on allowing backyard chicken raising.

In closing statements, candidates encouraged residents to contact them with questions and concerns. Phone numbers for both mayor and council candidates are provided on the City of Coon Rapids website at <http://www.ci.coon-rapids.mn.us/>, under the News/Announcements heading. Similarly, the forum moderator, Arlene Gillett of East Bethel concluded the evening with a reminder to residents to contact the individual candidates with additional questions. In this picture, Arlene is shown getting ready for the forum with Geri Nelson.





**Photos from July 14 Community Conversation on Human Trafficking**



Karri Schaaf, James Stuart and Donna McDonald



Session moderator Jeorgette Knoll, Nucleus Clinic administrator Becky Fink and Gretchen Sabel



Audience listening thoughtfully



Nyadoar Nipnip, Gretchen Sabel and Susan Anderson

### LWV ABC Draft Annual Plan (as of June 9, 2014)

	Hostess 1	Hostess 2	Meeting Topic	Meeting Planner	Meeting Location
<b>May 12</b>	Carol Bradley	Lois Ballinger	Agriculture and Pollinators	Jeorgette Knoll, Mary Jo Truchon and Gretchen Sabel	Andover Senior Center
<b>June 11</b>	Field trip	No hostesses	Tour of Coon Rapids Animal Humane Shelter (NOTE – NOT 2 <sup>nd</sup> MONDAY!)	Jane Arndt	Humane Society and Harvest Grill
<b>July 14</b>	Joan Molenaar	Gretchen Sabel	Human Trafficking	Jeorgette Knoll	Andover Senior Center
<b>Aug 11</b>	Picnic and Pot Luck	No hostesses	Possible - Nyadoar Nipnip report from her trip to South Sudan	Gretchen Sabel	Picnic at Geri Nelson's
<b>Sept 8</b>	Kathy Aanerud	Jane Arndt	Possible – Jon von de Linde to talk about changes in parks, and get award	Mary Jo Truchon	Andover Senior Center
<b>Oct 13</b>	No Meeting		Forums		
<b>Nov 10</b>	Volunteer needed	Mary Jo Truchon	Are our cities pollinator-friendly? (ordinances, grants, etc)	Gretchen Sabel	Andover Senior Center
<b>Dec 15</b>	Potluck	No hostesses	Be part of the conversation, potluck and Lively Issues - state issues	Lois Ballinger (tentative)	Andover Senior Center
<b>Jan 12</b>	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed	Homeless and Sex Trafficking – Follow up	Jeorgette Knoll (tentative)	Andover Senior Center
<b>Feb 9</b>	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed	Groundwater update and review of LWV ABC position on water	Mary Jo, Gretchen, Kathy Tinglestadt	Andover Senior Center
<b>Mar 9</b>	At AR	No hostesses	Voting and Democracy with Anoka Ramsey	Kathie Whelchel	Anoka-Ramsey Community College
<b>April ??</b>	Potluck	No hostesses	Annual Meeting		Andover Senior Center
<b>May</b>	Volunteer needed	Volunteer needed	Pollinator Launch -	Gretchen Sabel	Andover Senior Center

This draft annual plan was developed by the LWV ABC Board at their annual retreat. Topics and speakers may change over time.

Volunteers are needed for hostessing as shown.

Please note the date for the September meeting – this was incorrect in previous versions of this plan.

If you see your name as a meeting organizer and are surprised, we hope you will agree to take on the role we identified for you. Thank you!