

**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](mailto:gpsabel@yahoo.com). Deadline for submittal of material is noon on February 22. 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 of Upcoming Events**

**LWV ABC Events**

- Feb 9 – Membership meeting, topic Water Resources, Next Steps – Andover Senior Center at 6pm
- Feb 23 – Board meeting – Davanni’s, Coon Rapids at 11am for lunch order & social / mtg starts 11:30
- March 9 – Membership meeting, forum presented by the MSCSA (Minnesota State Colleges Student Association) on their governance and their legislative issues in education – Andover Senior Center at 6pm
- March 23 – Board Meeting – Davanni’s, Coon Rapids at 11am for lunch order & social / mtg starts 11:30
- April 18 – LWV ABC Annual Meeting – Andover Senior Center, at 8:30am

**Other Events**

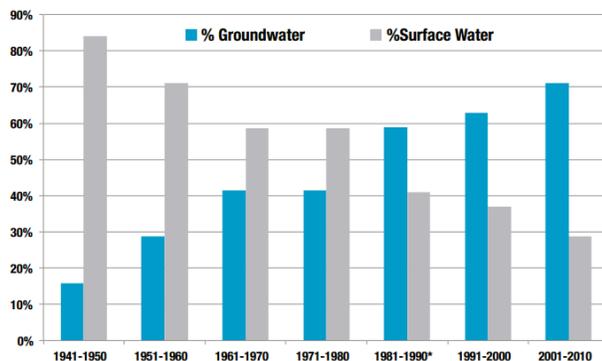
- Feb 12 – Anoka Rotary meeting on Water, 7:30 am at Greenhaven (information follows)
- Feb 28 – Springbrook Nature Center fundraiser, Beez Kneez featured speaker (information follows)

**Water Resources - Next Steps for Water Supply and Environmental Integrity**

February 9, 2015 starting at 6pm  
Andover Senior Center, 1685 Crosstown Blvd NW, Andover

Water supplies in the north metro must provide adequate clean water for all the people and uses in our area, while still accommodating growth and continuing to provide flow to wetlands, streams, lakes and rivers. Pressures are leading to evaluation of options and increased interest in conservation as a tool to preserve these resources.

MUNICIPAL WATER USE IN SEVEN-COUNTY TWIN CITIES METROPOLITAN AREA



The community is invited to come to the February 9 LWV ABC meeting and learn about pressures facing water resources. The speakers for this session will be Lanya Ross, professional geologist from Metropolitan Council and Bart Biernat, environmental health specialist from Anoka County. Together, they will describe the conundrums facing our area today and the tools that cities and citizens can use to address the problems.



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This meeting will be taped for later cable cast and will also be available for online viewing. Social time and refreshments at 6:00 pm in the Andover Senior Center, followed by the program and discussion at 6:30. The Andover Senior Center adjoins City Hall and is located at 1685 Crosstown Boulevard NW.

## **Past meetings available for viewing on QCTV**

Thanks to QCTV, our January meeting on the shortage of school counselors and our December 10 session on pollinator advocacy are currently showing on QCTV's channel 15, and are also available for viewing on YouTube.

QCTV listings - <http://www.qctv.org/qctvguide15.php>

Pollinator video on YouTube – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SdVrHzAYAWc>

School counselor video on YouTube – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k6llT40zys4&feature=youtu>

## **Pollinator Advocacy**

Wow! Bee Teams in the cities of Andover and Champlin are making great progress! If you would like to be more involved in this work, contact Gretchen Sabel at [gpsabel@yahoo.com](mailto:gpsabel@yahoo.com). Thanks! Meeting notes from the first meetings of these groups will be included in the email that sent you this newsletter.

## **Wetlands and the creatures who live in them (including pollinators) the Musical:**

Joan Spence from the Anoka Conservation District was one of our guests for the December 10 pollinator advocacy launch program. Joan has an idea for public outreach and education that might be exciting to you - and your help is needed to bring it to fruition! Here's Joan's idea - if you'd like to be part of the team, please contact Gretchen Sabel at [gpsabel@yahoo.com](mailto:gpsabel@yahoo.com) and she will include you when the first meeting of the team is set.

*I have this idea for an entertaining way to teach people about wetland science and wetland regulation - a musical! I think it would be most fun if it were developed and performed by high school students but middle school students could certainly be a part too, the more the merrier. I don't expect "us" (the team members) to be in the production but we sure need folks in the audience or else this whole thing is simply an exercise for no purpose. Your help would be fantastic! I want to give students who are interested in the behind the scenes as well as on-stage, promotion, all the different tasks that are important for success. So I'm counting on the League to help form this idea. What parts of learning about wetland science and wetland regulations is important? Would it be useful if the home buyers and remodelers were more aware so that they could ask the contractors and architects and landscape architects better questions and hold those experts accountable for their answers? I think it would be useful to have a discussion with the folks who are interested enough to meet for coffee.*





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**MARK YOUR CALENDARS! –**

## **LWV ABC ANNUAL MEETING SATURDAY APRIL 18**



The date for this meeting has been set for Saturday, April 18. The meeting will be held at the Andover Senior Center - more info will come out on this event in the next newsletter.

There will be no Monday-night membership meeting in April, as the Annual Meeting takes its place for this month.

## **LWV MN Needs your Help!**

When you are thinking about your charitable donations, consider making a donation to the state League. LWV MN is critical to our local work as they support and provide communication between local Leagues, and connect us to LWV US. Click here to access the donation page; you can donate online or send in a check: <https://www.lwvmn.org/donate> .

## **Welcome New Member!**

Bruce Pomerantz from Fridley recently joined LWV ABC and is looking forward to becoming active in our League. Bruce recently retired from the State Library Service in the Department of Education. Welcome to LWV ABC, Bruce!



## **Community Events -**

### **Anoka Rotary meeting on Water**

You are invited to the Clean Water Forum Sponsored by the Anoka Rotary Club Rotary Club Presidents! Panelists and open discussion will highlight the issues surrounding water, not only in our own communities, but around the world. Learn about the state of water and how Rotarians can take action to become advocates and change makers for clean water. Dr. Phillip Rolchigo, Pentair Vice-President of Technology, responsible for Pentair's Global Research, Development and Engineering functions; Gene Merriam, Past President of the Freshwater Society and Past Commissioner of the MN DNR and former MN State Senator; Darby Nelson, Ph.D. in biology, former MN State Representative and author of For Love of Lakes and Val Johnson, Director, Water and Sanitation for the Rotarian Action Group (WASRAG), Founder, Action 4 Water, Co-Founder, H2O for Life.

**February 12, 2015 Breakfast 7:15-8:15 Program 8:00-10:30**

**Green Haven Golf Course, 2800 Greenhaven Road Anoka, MN**

For further information and to register for the event go to: [www.anokarotary.com](http://www.anokarotary.com) or register online at

<https://www.eventbrite.com/login/?referrer=/myevent%3Feid%3D15201885248>

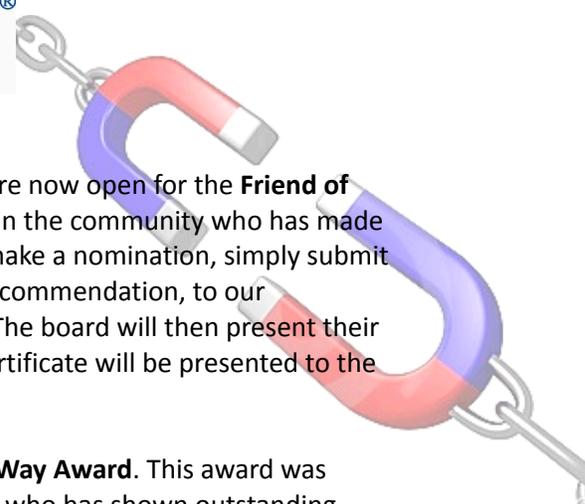
Cost \$20 per person \$10 per student

### **Springbrook Nature Center Fundraiser**

The annual fundraising auction and dinner for Springbrook Nature Center this year will feature a program by Beez Kneez -- a honeybee education and advocacy organization. This always-enjoyable event supports Springbrook's programs for environmental education and family-oriented activities. The event is Saturday, February 28, 5:30 pm at Murzyn Hall in Columbia Heights. Check out the flyer and further details at: [http://www.springbrooknaturecenter.org/springbrook\\_page.cfm?ID=42](http://www.springbrooknaturecenter.org/springbrook_page.cfm?ID=42)



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## LWV ABC Annual Awards:

Be thinking of nominations for LWV ABC annual awards. Nominations are now open for the **Friend of League** certificate. This certificate honors an individual or organization in the community who has made a significant impact on LWV ABC through cooperation and support. To make a nomination, simply submit the name of the individual or organization, along with a few words of recommendation, to our Community Relations Committee (Kathy Aanerud and Jeorgette Knoll). The board will then present their recommendation to the membership at the annual meeting, and the certificate will be presented to the honoree at our September kick-off meeting.

Our Nominations Committee will be soliciting nominations for the **Zilla Way Award**. This award was created by the LWV ABC board in 1996 to honor a local League member who has shown outstanding leadership in guiding our organization. It was named after Zilla to honor her more than 50 year participation in League and her continuing role as LWV ABC mentor and advisor. The Nominating Committee (Joan Molenaar, Grace Baltich, Sandra Shanley, and Mary Jo Truchon) will receive nominations from members, select the recipient, and the award will be presented at our annual meeting in April. A list of past award recipients for both awards is being assembled and will be posted in our Dropbox.

**Tracking Volunteer Hours:** Members should enter their own data on the state's website; this is different than was requested previously. EVERYONE who is active with LWV is requested to go to the state website and report the time they spend on LWV activities, including attending meetings (including drive time), preparing food as hostesses, serving on committees, etc. You can find the form here on the LWV MN website; you will need to create a username and password to access the Member Resources part of the website. <http://www.lwvmn.org/MemberResources>. Once signed in, click on "Count on LWV: Toolkit for Data Reporting". Next, select "Online Volunteer Timesheet" and complete the form online. Thanks in advance for doing this to help!

The screenshot shows the website [www.lwvmn.org/member-resources/toolkit-for-data-reporting](http://www.lwvmn.org/member-resources/toolkit-for-data-reporting). The navigation bar includes links for HOME, ABOUT US, EDUCATE, ADVOCATE, REFORM, and VOTING. The main content area is titled "Count on LWV: A Toolkit for Local LWV Data Reporting".

**Member Resources Menu:**

- Member Resources Home
- New Member Form/Member Update Form
- Council/Convention
- Count on LWV: Toolkit for Data Reporting**
- Committees/Portfolios
- Democracy Reform: Education & Advocacy
- Legislative Interviews for 2015 Session
- Local LWV Info
- LWVUS
- Online Voting Rights Project
- Policies, Guidelines, and Forms
- Who do I talk to at the State Office?

**Count on LWV: A Toolkit for Local LWV Data Reporting**

Please submit monthly:

- Sign-in Sheet for any and all events**

AND:

- Monthly Reporting Summary** (to submit via US mail or e-mail)

OR:

- Online Monthly Reporting Summary** (Google Forms submission)

**Optional Forms to Collect local LWV Data:**

If you would like to submit data through an online form, please click the link below.

- Volunteer Timesheet** (to be filled out by members)
- Online Volunteer Timesheet**
- Assembling Data from Volunteer Timesheets
- Accessing data from your local webpage and/or Facebook page

League of Women Voters is entering a new era of applying data-gathering methods to our activities in order to track our work and progress in voter service, civic engagement, and democracy reform.

*This is the future.* Measuring our impact is important. It allows us to show LWV's value. It allows all of us to compare the time and energy we put into our work to the results obtained. It is necessary because foundations and funders increasingly require this type of data from grant applicants to ensure that the programs they fund are having the intended impact.

Your LWV may want to choose one member to collect and report the information. This could be a current officer or someone who would just do this task. Approximately one hour per month is all the time it will take.

This toolkit will help you. Its main feature is the **Monthly Reporting Summary** which we ask be filled out and sent to

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**Attention Amazon Shoppers:** You can now access Amazon through the LWV MN website and do your shopping while benefitting LWV MN! Just go to the LWV MN website at <http://www.lwvmn.org/> and click on the Amazon smile button. From here, your Amazon shopping is the same as always. Thanks!



**CMAL Meeting Summary** - Topic: Planning for Regional Parks in the Metropolitan Area (notes by Julia Wallace, Minneapolis LWV)

Regional parks were the focus for the quarterly meeting of the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL) on January 17. The new *Regional Parks Policy Plan* is one of four policy plans that will guide implementation of *Thrive MSP 2040*, the Metropolitan Council’s 30-year vision for our region. Four panelists addressed the plan and the development and future plans of two of the ten regional park implementing agencies.

Planners Jan Youngquist and Raintry Salk of the Metropolitan Council’s Regional Parks and Natural Resources Division presented an overview of the regional parks system and directions suggested in the new policy plan. The *1974 Metropolitan Parks Act* established the system, which is tasked with preserving open space, identifying park lands, and granting funds to regional parks agencies. The regional parks serve the role of state parks in the metropolitan area. Regional parks and trails are



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are generally focused on bodies of water, both lakes and rivers, providing opportunities for passive recreational activities. natural resource based, and

The Metropolitan Council does not own or manage the regional parks. It partners with 10 implementing agencies which own, develop and manage the parks and trails, with planning assistance and funding from the Metropolitan Council. The Council is the fiscal agent for dedicated state funds including the Parks and Trails Fund from the Legacy Amendment, which are distributed following the approval of individual park master plans. The implementing agencies (seven county-based and three cities) also manage other local parks that are not part of the regional system. In 2014, the 54,000 acre system included 42 regional parks, 12 park reserves, 8 special recreation areas, and 40 regional trails. While regional parks are found throughout the metropolitan area, the system does not include local, neighborhood parks, sports fields and recreation centers maintained by local governments.

The new plan provides four directions. Two of them reinforce current plans – expanding the parks system and providing a comprehensive trail system. Two others represent shifts in emphasis – strengthening equitable usage by all residents, and providing multi-modal access to parks, trails and transit networks. Development and implementation of these directions is involving enhanced community engagement. In developing the plan, staff met with many stakeholder groups, and held 16 focus groups with communities of color. All implementing agencies have also had an opportunity to comment on the draft plan, and final adoption by the Metropolitan Council is anticipated on Feb 11.

Local examples of how regional parks fit into the plans of implementing agencies were provided by John VonDeLinde, Division Manager of Anoka County Parks and Community Services, and Jonathan Vlaming, Associate Superintendent for Planning, design and Technology for the Three Rivers Park District. Anoka County is addressing equity and access in various ways, including partnering with the Minneapolis YMCA to provide a location for summer day camps, and using the county dial-a-ride bus system to take people to parks. VonDeLinde described an ambitious plan for an improved urban experience in Fridley, a transit-oriented development with trail connections to the Rice Creek Chain of Lakes.

Vlaming pointed out that Three Rivers (which includes Hennepin County outside of Minneapolis and some parks in adjacent counties) comprises half of the entire regional parks system. Their parks and trails are heavily used, with visits doubling in the last six years. They are planning for diversity, including the aging population. At the same time, they are upgrading the Hyland Ski and Snowboard area, which draws teenagers to these gender-neutral activities.

All the speakers agreed that while there are some details to be worked out in how to apply the new directives, all agencies are working together and are anticipating successful implementation and improved services for metropolitan residents. Vlaming said that having 10 implementing agencies provides a nice diversity, and that all are not quite on the same page with the Metropolitan Council yet. But *Thrive MSP 2040* is a good beginning, requiring collaboration to determine how the new policies, especially equity, will be implemented. He noted the intent to expand trails in the inner ring suburbs, and the recognition of bicycle networks.

The session was videotaped, and the video and PowerPoint presentations should be available through CMAL at a later date.



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### Come to Duluth for the State LWV Convention!

A screenshot of a web browser window. The address bar shows the URL: www.lwvminn.org/file/council\_convention/2015-convention/SAVE-THE-DATE-Convention-2015.color.pdf. The browser's address bar also shows several tabs and search engines. The main content area displays a blue and white graphic with the following text:

**Join us in Duluth!**  
**June 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**Convention 2015:**  
**Innovation and Inclusion**  
**LWV Minnesota 2020**

The graphic also includes the City of Duluth logo and the LWV Minnesota logo. The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows various application icons and the system clock indicating 12:06 AM on 1/27/2015.