

The Voter – your LINK to LWV ABC

Welcome to the LWV ABC Newsletter – now called the THE VOTER, your LINK to LWV ABC!

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 for the next issue is noon, October 26. Thanks!

Also, - [click here for our Facebook page](#) or search on facebook for LWV ABC Minnesota for meeting information, follow-up items on past meetings, and useful information on issues and community events!

October 12 Meeting Guest Speaker: Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon

6:00 Light Supper and Social in Andover City Hall's Senior Center

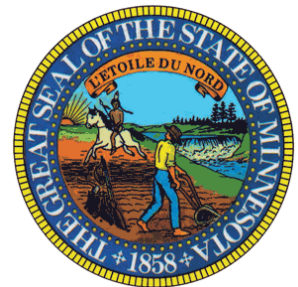
6:35 Welcome and Friend of League Award in adjoining City Hall Council Chambers

7:00 Presentation by Secretary of State



Our annual kick-off has been moved to October 12, when Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon will speak on *The Importance of Staying Restless About Democracy*.

The Secretary of State is an elected constitutional office in the state government executive branch. The office is vested with several responsibilities including the administration of elections and preserving documents filed with the state.



Secretary Simon is the twenty-second Minnesota Secretary of State. He began his tenure on January 5, 2015. Before his election as Secretary of State, he served ten years in the Minnesota House of Representatives representing communities in the vicinity of St. Louis Park and Hopkins.

LWV MN President Terry Kalil and LWV MN Executive Director Susan Sheridan Tucker will attend.

Also in attendance will be Katherine Lenaburg, operations manager for QCTV, who will be presented with a "Friend of the League" award. The award recognizes the initiative, leadership, and cooperation provided by Katherine and QCTV to educate citizens on elections, candidates, and important public policy issues. Their commitment to being on-site to tape candidate forums and public policy panels and to also readily provide studio facilities for such events has greatly expanded our opportunities for informing and engaging citizens via community cable stations. The award also recognizes Katherine's initiative in visualizing and producing public service announcements for League of Women Voters.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

October 8: Anoka-Hennepin District 11 School Board Election Forum

Three school board seats representing districts 1, 2 and 5 are up for election on November 3. A candidates' forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters ABC will be held 6:30 -8:00 p.m., Thursday, October 8 in the Sandburg Education Center, 1902 Second Avenue, Anoka. The forum will also be taped and replayed on local cable stations QCTV and CTN.

The incumbents in District 1, Tom Heidemann, an Anoka resident, and District 2, Marci Anderson, a Blaine resident, are running unopposed. Nevertheless, they will attend. District 1 includes Anoka and parts of Ramsey, Coon Rapids and Andover. District 2 includes Blaine and a portion of Coon Rapids.

In District 5, which represents Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Fridley and a portion of Coon Rapids, incumbent Nicole Hayes and Scott Simmons, both from Brooklyn Park, have filed for candidacy.

Arlene Gillett, LWV ABC Voter Service co-chair, will moderate the forum. Candidates will respond to prepared questions and then respond to written questions from the audience.

Voters should note that their polling place for the November 3 election may be different than past primary and general elections. Polling places and district numbers can be identified on the MN Votes voter resource website provided by the Minnesota Office of Secretary of State or by phoning 651-215-1440. Information is also available from Anoka or Hennepin County's election offices. Persons not yet registered to vote may do so at polling places on Election Day.

October 19: A special consensus meeting of LWV ABC concerning a study of the United States constitutional amendment process will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Andover City Hall Senior Center. Social time begins at 6:00 p.m. Materials for this meeting will be distributed during the social time at the October 12 monthly meeting. A consensus effort polls individual local leagues to determine criteria that should be used to evaluate a proposed constitutional amendment.

The LWV Brooklyn Park Osseo Maple Grove members have been invited to participate in the discussion.

October 24: The Upper Mississippi River Region Independent League Organization (ILO), Dubuque, Iowa.

An ILO of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri LWV state chapters has been formed to address natural resource issues that transcend political boundaries. Gretchen Sabel, the Minnesota state league representative, will give a keynote speech on nutrient pollution at this first annual meeting. She has also been nominated to be the Upper Mississippi River Region ILO president. Officer elections will occur at the meeting.

Dee Ann Christensen and Lonni McCauley will represent LWV ABC at the meeting. Other volunteers may attend. Conference registration of \$35 ends October 10. Rooms at reduced rate will be held at the



Hampton Inn until September 30. Call or email Gretchen Sabel, gpsabel@yahoo.com or 763-486-2509 for more information.

October 24: LWV ABC Board meeting – Lunch orders at 11:00, meeting time 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Davanni's, 3430 129 Avenue NW, Coon Rapids. The meeting is open to all. Members who have a specific issue to discuss should contact President Jeorgette Knoll by October 17 to place it on the agenda.

High School Voter Registration:

LWV ABC volunteers are needed to conduct student voter registration at several high schools. National Voter Registration day was September 22, but the actual voter registration days at specific high schools are different to accommodate school schedules. Contact Geri Nelson at geri_nelson454@msn.com to volunteer.

September 14 Monthly Meeting Notes

From LWV ABC President Jeorgette Knoll:

Local Action – County Government

Members - were advised that our local study item is now a local action item. The Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL) has a position on county government that covers those county government items that our League planned to study. So, rather than spend our time doing a study, we can use the CMAL position to take action.

Our action will cover evaluating the Anoka County website and possibly comparing it to other county and municipal websites; researching the public input process for Anoka County government, other counties and municipalities; and observing county committee and board meetings primarily to understand the decision making process. We also have plans to meet with county board members and staff.

We will develop check lists for observers to use as they participate in the action so that we can objectively compile findings, share observations and offer feedback, recommendations and/or commendations when the project is complete. Dee Ann Christensen is leading the LWV ABC county government committee in designing the checklists. When the checklists are complete, we will offer an observer corps training for those interested in participating. Observers do not need to be members of League.

Truth in Taxation meeting, December

Becky Fink suggested that members observe the Anoka County "Truth in Taxation" meeting that is held each December. It is a meeting that is open to the public and will be a good place to begin the observing process. However, as Jo Ellen Ambrose reminded us, if you attend as an observer you wear your observer hat, not your advocate hat. It is important to keep that in mind especially at the Truth in Taxation meeting where public input is welcomed. As observers we cannot participate or offer comments. Look for more information about the "Truth in Taxation" meeting closer to the date.

Getting Involved

If you are interested in being on the Anoka County Government study/action committee, leave a message at lwwabc@gmail.com and we will notify you of meetings.

Coon Rapids Diversity Initiative

Dee Ann Christensen reported on an initiative of the Coons Rapids Lions Club to address issues around serving a growing diverse community. The Lions held its first meeting on the topic on September 10. Approximately 20 people attended with representation from many ethnic groups and community organizations including LWV ABC. Additional meetings will be held 7-9 p.m. at the Coon Rapids Civic Center on September 30 and October 19.

<http://abcnewspapers.com/2015/09/17/coon-rapids-becoming-a-more-diverse-community/>



Not a member yet?

LWV ABC meets on the second Monday of the month in Andover City Hall Senior Center, located at 1685 Crosstown Boulevard NW.

For membership information, contact Katherine Whelchel at kathiew7contacts@gmail.com or 612-618-6882.