



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

ANOKA, BLAINE, COON RAPIDS AREA

The Voter Your LINK to LWVABC News

Annual Meeting Edition

April 2016

Mission: The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

This LINK includes the agenda and reports for the annual meeting. Please, bring it to the meeting! Also, it will be helpful to bring your copy of the LWV ABC Member handbook. (if you don't have a copy, contact Kathy Aanerud and one will be emailed to you).

LWV ABC 78th Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 16, 2016

First Congregational Church
1923 3rd Ave., Downtown Anoka

9:45	Arrive with potluck brunch dish, enjoy Social Time
10:00	Brunch is served
10:15	Call to Order
12:00 noon	Ajourn Annual Meeting
12:00 – 1:30	Strategic Planning

The Annual Meeting is the most important and often the only business meeting of the League year. It is the entire membership's opportunity to direct the course of LWV ABC.

The Annual Meeting has four basic goals:

1. To elect a slate of officers representative of the membership.
2. To adopt a local Program on governmental issues which reflects the interests of the membership and to re-adopt or drop present local positions.
3. To adopt a budget that provides for the financial support of the League as a whole.
4. To review and/or amend local League bylaws.

In addition to these basic goals the Annual Meeting is a time to:

- Recognize special individual and group efforts;
- Renew interest in future League activities;
- Reacquaint with members and welcome new members.

Please pay your annual dues of \$60.00 at the Annual Meeting. New members who joined after January 2014 and paid dues at that time do not need to pay dues again until the 2016 annual meeting. You can mail your dues to Kay McCulley at 14431 Wolfram St. NW, Ramsey 55303.

LWV ABC 78th Annual Meeting Agenda

April 16, 2016

Welcome and Call to Order: Jeorgette Knoll, president

Reports:

Minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting were approved by the board at the annual 2014 annual retreat

Agenda:

Welcome, Introductions, Brunch		15 min
Treasurer's report	Pg. 3	10 min
Membership report	Pg. 4	10 min
Program Report	Pg. 6	10 min
Voters Service	Pg. 9	20 min
Communications Report (demo web site)	Pg. 11	20 min.
Proposed Budget	Pg. 13	20 min
Adopt Local Program	Pg. 15	10 min.
Non-Partisan Policy	Pg. 17	5 min.
Current Board	Pg. 19	
Nominating Comm. Rep	Pg. 20	10 min
Zilla Way Award	Pg. 21	15 min
Program Ideas	Pg. 21	15 min
Strategic Plan	Pg. 22	1.5 hours
Roster	Pg. 23	

1. Treasurer

Betsy O'Berry

LWV ABC Year End Treasurer's Report 2016

ABC LWV Treasurer's Report For the year ended 3/31/16			
	Year to Date Total As of 3/31/16	Budget Fiscal Year 3/31/16	Over/under Budget Year to date
Income:			
Dues and Rebates	2,390.00	1,800.00	590.00
Contributions/Members	700.00	500.00	200.00
Events/salons	25.00	0.00	25.00
Fund drives (Phonathon/LWVMN share)	0.00	0	0.00
Sales of Books, T-shirts, stickers	1,376.00	0.00	1,376.00
Grants (Voters service grants)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sponsorship	13.00	0	13.00
Transfers from Ed fund	1,765.62	1,500.00	265.62
In-kind contributions	1,215.97	150.00	1,065.97
Transfers from savings/draw down cash	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total income	7,485.59	3,950.00	3,535.59
Expenses:			
Admin & Committees:			
Gen'l supplies, stationary, archives	282.85	50.00	232.85
Postage	42.63	25.00	17.63
Items for sale (Books, mugs, t-shirts)	1,798.16	0.00	1,798.16
Member Services:			
Newsletter (Link) - Mailing and Ink	0.00	20.00	(20.00)
Annual meeting	0.00	25.00	(25.00)
Member tools (brochures and pins from	0.00	75.00	(75.00)
Community relations:			
Voters service activities	221.90	0.00	221.90
They Represent You	98.65	200.00	(101.35)
Other publications	0.00	20.00	(20.00)
Pollinator materials	109.60	100.00	9.60
Public relations and publicity	195.00	0.00	195.00
Web site	190.09	0.00	190.09
Program and action:			
Contribution to Be Campaign - LWVM	500.00	500.00	0.00
Meetings and events	269.37	0.00	269.37
Action and local study	0.00	0.00	0.00
Awards	115.21	25.00	90.21
Total Admin and committees	3,823.46	1,040.00	2,783.46
Delegates travel and affiliation:			
State Convention/Council	966.63	1,000.00	(33.37)
National Convention	0.00	0.00	0.00
Workshops	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dues:			
CMAL & Expenses	0.00	60.00	(60.00)
PMP-LWVUS	1,296.00	750.00	546.00
PMP-LWVMN	810.00	750.00	60.00
UMRRILO	25.00	0.00	25.00
Total Delegate, travel and affiliation	3,097.63	2,560.00	512.63
Total expenses	6,921.09	3,600.00	3,296.09
Net Income (loss)	564.50	350.00	239.50
Beginning Cash	1,869.46		
Ending Cash	2,433.96		

2. Membership

LWV ABC Membership Report 2015-2016

Submitted by Membership Chair, Kathie Whelchel

Our current paid membership total is now 49 members (as of March 2016).

New members joining since April 2015	6
Member transfer from another League	1
Members planning to rejoin in 2016	4
Life Member	1
Renewing members	41

Monthly Attendance at Membership Meetings: April 2015 through March 2016

Date	Topic	Attendance ABC members	Attendance others
4/ 11/15	Annual Meeting	14	0
5/11/15	Gretchen Sabel	13	4
6/08/15	Pollinators & Pesticides -Arlene Gillett	13	7
7/13/15	Tour of Coon Rapids Recycling Center	Didn't take attendance	
8/10/15	Picnic at Geri Nelson's home: Rain garden update	19 total	?
9/14/15	Local Government study: Anoka County	18	0
10/12/15	Sec. of State Steve Simon presented "Staying Restless About Democracy" The LWVMN ABC Friend of League Award presented to Katherine Lenaburg for her ACTV support of League events	19	6
10/19/15	Amending the Constitution consensus meeting	12	0
11/14/15	Libraries Today: Ruth Hemingson & Bruce Pomerantz	17	2
12/14/15	Lively Issues: Review of Local Positions. Guests: Susan Sheridan Tucker & Liz Haan LWVMN. Kevin Parker MSCSA President	10	1
1/11/16	Money in Politics by Gary Goldsmith, Mn Campaign Finance Board, Jerry Newton, & Kathy Tingelstad, legislators	18	7
2/8/16	ABC Program Planning	12	0
3/14/16	ILO Presentation by Lonnie McCauley "Water Issues of the Upper Mississippi Region"	14	0

The QCTV cable company taped the ABC October and January events which were held in the Andover Council Chambers. These were attended by many members of the community beyond what the sign in sheet numbers indicate (above)

MLD Report: ABC continued as a Level II league participating in bi-monthly conference calls. Susan Anderson, Geri Nelson, and Kathie Whelchel were the ABC participants.

ABC members participating on LWVMN committees are Kathie Whelchel, Kathleen Aanerud, and Jeorgette Knoll on the State Communications Committee. Kathy Ahlers joined ABC and the State

Communications Committee in 2016. Geri Nelson is on the State BE: Part of the Conversation capital campaign and the LWVMN Nominating committee.

A special thanks to Lois Ballinger for organizing and maintaining the ABC Calling Tree for many, many years. Her team gives monthly reminders to all our members and Friends of League as well. This is one reason for our consistently good attendance. She is now passing this responsibility on to Bruce Pomerantz. Please contact him if you wish to be part of the Calling Tree.

3. Program

LWV ABC Program Report 2015-2016 Submitted by Program Chair, Gretchen Sabel

This was a productive year for LWV ABC! In addition to our voter service work that's described later in this report, we formed an Observer Corps that is monitoring the decision making process in our local governments and lent support to the formation of the new Upper Mississippi River Region Inter League Organization. Our League participated in two national consensus discussions – one on election financing and one on constitutional amendments.

Our member, Susan Anderson, was also very active in the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues, an ILO here in the Twin Cities that has been addressing local government funding and issues relating to Metropolitan planning. Four members of LWV ABC participated in the Governor's Water Summit, held in St. Paul in March.

The dedication of Sandra Shanley to bird-dogging pollinator-related news was essential to our advocacy on pollinators. Our work here increased awareness and spurred action in our local cities, including pollinator-friendly city proclamations in Champlin, Andover and Anoka. Thanks to Kathie Whelchel, too, for organizing us to have a table for outreach at the Green Expo in Blaine last April. We are doing it again this year, volunteers needed for booth staffing!

And we had a unit in the Andover parade! This we are swapping out our participation in the parade for a table at Andover's Pollinator Party in late July, so you will have another opportunity to wear wings in public.

Here's a more detailed list of what we did at our monthly meetings:

May 2015 - May Pollinator Update and Prep for Summer of Action. This meeting featured fun activities and the opportunity for participants to sign up for parades, booths and other action.

June 2015 – Pollinators – Pesticides and Protection: Finding Balance

Pesticides – a risk to bees but a benefit to crops? We sought to understand the balance! This June panel featured:

- Activist - Lex Horan - Pesticide Action Network of North America
- Regulator - Joe Zachman - Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- Researcher and Bee Advocate - Gary Reuter - University of Minnesota Bee Lab

It was a great opportunity to learn about pesticides and how their use impacts our imperiled pollinators.

This program was presented by LWV ABC as part of our continued action to engage residents in reducing the loss of pollinators through improved habitat, informed use of pesticides, and awareness of educational resources.





July 2015 - Tour of Coon Rapids Recycling Center. Many thanks to Colleen Sinclair for the excellent tour she provided for the League of Women Voters and friends last night! This recycling center is very well run, and we really appreciated Colleen's common sense management style. She explained to us the how and why of recycling materials, and let us know what we can expect in the future in this growing area.



August 2015 – Picnic at Geri and Darby Nelson's and a presentation by Gretchen Sabel on healthy, pollinator-friendly lawns.

September 2015 - We began our new local study on **Government Transparency**, and got on first steps to make this a reality. All members and persons interested in this topic are invited to participate in this ongoing effort.

October 2015 - Secretary of State Steve Simon gave a stimulating discussion on **The Importance of Staying Restless about Democracy**.

Here is a link to the video of this event on YouTube - thanks to QCTV for recording and posting it! <https://youtu.be/rdyjrAgGU2E>



Left to right: Betsy O'Berry, Geri Nelson, Steve Simon, Julie Trude, Jeorgette Knoll and Mary Jo Truchon.

November 2015 - A Discussion about Public Libraries, with Ruth Hemingson, Branch Manager of the Northtown Library in Blaine. Bruce Pomerantz of LWV ABC was the moderator in this meeting where we looked at what is going on in libraries today, both in general and in Anoka County. How have changes in technology changed people's relationship with books and libraries? What changes are coming? Will Anoka County be ready to meet these challenges? Libraries have steadily been adopting new technologies. What do we see in the future?



December 2015 – Potluck and consensus discussion on amending the US constitution.

The latter discussion was led by JoEllen Ambrose, and was a thorough and exhilarating conversation!

January 2016 - Panel discussion on Campaign Financing in Minnesota. Watch a video!

Here's a link to our January 11 program on Campaign Finance in

Minnesota: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWwfME3NbFo> Thanks to QCTV for filming it and making it available for all! And thanks to Gary Goldsmith, Representative Jerry Newton and former Representative Kathy Tingelstad for being our speakers!

February 2016 - LWV ABC Program Planning (Lively Issues) and Caucus positions

March 2016 – Lonni McCauley talked about the work that the **Upper Mississippi River Region ILO** will be doing to protect and enhance the Mississippi. This work focuses on nutrient loss reduction, as in discharges from wastewater treatment plants and fertilizer-containing runoff from farm fields. While having nutrients is essential for all life, too much nutrients, and in the wrong places, is a bad thing. Nutrient discharges into the Mississippi have led to development of a vast area of the Gulf of Mexico where the over growth of algae has resulted in oxygen depletion and the death of many sea creatures.

Fundraiser at Banfill Locke – March 31 - Mary Jo Truchon spoke briefly about the history of the Banfill-Locke house, dating back to 1847, that houses the Center for the Arts. She then expressed appreciation for the current art exhibit of endangered and threatened species, discussed the importance of protecting the environment, and how we can all be involved in protecting monarchs and bees. Mary Jo described her joy of educating young people about nature and her optimism for their role in protecting the earth. She concluded with a brief history of her involvement with League of Women Voters, the importance of helping young people become involved in the political process, and LWV's activities with voter registration and community outreach.



April 2016 – Annual Meeting!

4. Voter Service

LWV ABC Voter Service Report 2015-2016

Submitted by Voter Service Co- Chair, Geri Nelson

Candidate Forums

Arlene Gillette moderated the candidate forum last fall for the Anoka-Hennepin School Board candidates in District 1, 2 and 5 held in the Board Room at the Sandburg Building. Twenty people attended.

We held a forum for the Primary and Special Election for Senate District 35, which followed the resignation of Sen. Brandon Peterson. It was livened up with the Legal Marijuana Now Party candidate. There was a full house at Anoka City Hall.

The Connexus Energy Board of Directors election has had 6% and 8% voter turnout the last two years, so the public needs a better understanding of candidates and the importance of participation. We invited all four candidates, but only the challengers agreed to come. It became more of an informational forum with Duane Ninneman from CURE giving background on rural electric cooperatives and the challengers answered just the three introductory questions on tape. The questions from the live audience of twenty five people were very interesting. The election will be finalized April 15th.

Voter Registration

Voter registration in the fall, 2015 was more successful than before with interest in the presidential race already building.

School	Volunteers	Date/Time	# Registered
Andover HS	Julie Trude Marj Perry	Sept 30	10
Anoka HS	Pat Hagerty Zilla Way	Oct 6	5
Blaine HS	Mary Jo Truchon Julie Trude	9/30	8
Anoka Technical HS	Geri Nelson		11
Champlin Park	Geri Nelson JoEllen Ambrose	9/22 lunch	30
Coon Rapids HS	Kathie Whelchel JoEllen Ambrose	Oct 8	30
St. Francis HS	Arlene Gillett Sue Kraack		4
Total			98

Other Activities

QCTV, LWVMN and LWV ABC cooperated to tape a *Caucus: Power up Your Vote* program that was shared statewide. Susan Sheridan Tucker, LWVMN Executive Director moderated. Our own Kathy Tingelstad represented the Republican Party and Vicki Wright represented the DFL Party.

Jessica Andrist, staff member at Margaret Place (Mary T) in Coon Rapids, asked us to hold a Caucus training session for their staff, residents, and public. We used the Caucus tape and answered questions. 23 people attended.

This spring we had a successful Voter Registration Training workshop with 25 participants including four students, several community members as well as LWV members. Ten people got together to put eight high school registration kits and 20 senior residence kits together. The spring registration drives have commenced!

5. Communications Committee

LWV ABC Communications Report 2015-2016

Submitted by Communications Chair, Kathy Aanerud

It was another active year of partnerships, outreach and publicity to create community awareness of LWV ABC programs and advocacy and to promote civic engagement.

QCTV Community Television: Gretchen Sabel, Jeorgette Knoll, and Geri Nelson effectively utilized the relationship that they forged last year with this community partner that serves Andover, Anoka, Champlin and Ramsey.

- Programs were produced at QCTV studios for two important topics:
 - 11-19-15 Upper Mississippi River Inter-League Organization, hosted by Gretchen Sabel
 - 05-22-15 Safe Passage for Minnesota Children, hosted by Jeorgette Knoll
- Two public service announcement were produced for League of Women Voters Minnesota to promote membership
- A 30-minute program was produced to educate and motivate voters for precinct caucus participation

LWV ABC Website: With thanks to Bruce Pomerantz, LWV ABC launched a website using a nationally-offered template, League Easy Web (LEW). We have entered into an agreement with California LWV for use of the template and future updates. The website will provide us with public visibility and provide our members with a Members Only section for easy access to documents and photos. Information and a demo will be provided at the Annual Meeting.

Pollinator Partnerships: Continued outreach efforts were conducted to increase community awareness of the plight of pollinators and actions that can be taken by everyone to protect environmental conditions. LWV ABC activities included:

- Members staffed information tables at farmers markets
- Pollinator Proclamations were presented and passed at Champlin, Andover and Anoka City Councils
- We took the lead on conducting publicity efforts for the *Andover Pollinator Tour* – resulting in feature stories in Star Tribune and Anoka County Union as well as being listed in garden calendars and Andover’s city newsletter (itemized below).

LWV ABC Facebook page: Gretchen Sabel and Jeorgette Knoll keep our facebook page thriving with vital topics and up-to-date information on League activities.

Publicity for Programs and Candidate Forums: Press releases to local media resulted in news articles as itemized below. Also noted below are events videotaped by community television and made available for viewing on their websites and on YouTube:

Date	Event	Publication	Cable Coverage
Mar 2016	Connexus Candidate Forum	<i>Anoka County Union</i>	CTN
Jan 2016	Candidate Forum for Special Election in SD 35	<i>Anoka County Union</i>	QCTV
Jan 2016	Money in Politics	<i>Anoka County Union</i> (Calendar item)	QCTV
Oct 2015	Candidate Forum for A-H School Board	<i>Anoka County Union</i>	QCTV
Oct 2015	LWV to Host Minnesota Secretary of State	<i>Anoka County Union</i>	QCTV
Aug 2015	Andover Pollinator Tour	<i>Anoka County Union</i> <i>Star Tribune</i>	--
June 2015	Pollinators, Pesticides, Protection – Panel*	<i>Anoka County Union</i> <i>Blaine Banner</i> <i>Star Tribune</i>	QCTV
April 2015	LWV Hosts Student Leaders	<i>Anoka County Union</i>	

*Also sent postcards to area garden centers

Friend of League Award: We honored Katherine Lenaburg, Operations Manager for QCTV, at our October meeting with this award that recognizes an individual or organization in the community who has made a significant impact on LWV ABC through cooperation and support.

Katherine was recognized for her interest in and enthusiasm for the activities and goals of LWV and her initiative, leadership and cooperation in educating citizens about elections, candidates for public office and important public policy issues. We expressed appreciation for the ready availability of QCTV studio facilities that expand our opportunities for citizen engagement.

Community Partnerships: Members continue to link us to other community organizations on topics of mutual interest including city governments, county government departments, Anoka Conservation District, Master Gardeners, water protection groups, environmental protection groups, pollinator awareness projects, community colleges and more.

Monthly newsletter (*The Voter*): Our thanks to Gretchen Sabel and Bruce Pomerantz for keeping us informed with timely monthly newsletters.

Member Handbook and Annual Meeting Link: Thank you, Jeorgette Knoll, for keeping us organized and informed with your updates and gathering of information for these vital communication tools.

6. New Business:

1. Adoption of the Budget – PROPOSED BUDGET :

ABC LWV

Proposed Budget for year ended 03/31/17

	Budget Fiscal Year	Actual 4/1/15 - 1/16/2016	Proposed Budget Fiscal Year End 3/31/17	Notes and Explanations
<u>Income:</u>	<u>3/31/16</u>	<u>1/16/2016</u>	<u>3/31/17</u>	
Dues and Rebates	1,800.00	2,390.00	2500	Project a bit above last year.
Contributions/Members	500.00	700.00	500	Project just a bit below last year
Events/salons	0.00	25.00	0	
Fund drives (Phonathon/LWVMN share)	0.00	0.00	0	
Sales of Books and T-shirts	0.00	1,246.00	75	3 books left @ \$25/each
Grants (Voters service grants)	0.00	0.00	400	Geri says this is a reasonable amount
Sale of Stickers (I'm old enough to vote)			350	Some sales already made, more to follow
Sponsorship	0.00	13.00	60	
Transfers from Ed fund	1,500.00	1,765.62	0	That was a one-time thing
In-kind contributions	150.00	1,166.84	0	Not really 'income'* donations etc.
Transfers from savings/draw down cash	0.00	0.00	0	No change
Total income	3,950.00	7,306.46	3,885.00	

Expenses:

Admin & Committees:

Gen'l supplies, stationary, archives	50.00	256.75	100	
???	25.00	0.00	0	
Items for sale (Books, mugs, t-shirts)	0.00	1,036.46	0	
Stickers for sale (I'm old enough to vote)			700	Geri is buying these

Member Services:

Newsletter (Link) - Mailing and Ink	20.00	0.00	42	Kathy Aanerud has been donating this
Annual meeting	25.00	0.00	50	May be a charge for next year's meeting
Member tools (brochures and pins LWV)	75.00	0.00	50	We can pick up some stuff when here.

Community relations:

Voters service activities	0.00	0.00	400	Same as the grant request guess above.
They Represent You	200.00	98.65	200	Seems we always need more of these
Other publications	20.00	0.00	0	
Pollinator materials	100.00	109.60	0	Seeds and such for distribution
Public relations and publicity	0.00	195.00	0	What was this? Stickers? (Anoka Winterfest, Green expo)
Web site	0.00	5.00	300	100 set up; then 200 annual March to March
"I'm old enough to vote" stickers			700	We will sell; also use for our own purposes

Program and action:

Contribution to UMMR ILO			200	Would be wonderful; go toward a Watershed Game
Contribution to Be Campaign - LWVMN	500.00	500.00	500	
Meetings and events	0.00	269.37	300	Food, etc
Action and local study	0.00	0.00	0	
Awards	25.00	115.21	100	Is this frames and paper?
Total Admin and committees	1,040.00	2,586.04	3,642.00	
Delegates travel and affiliation:				
State Convention/Council	1,000.00	966.63	200	
National Convention	0.00	0.00	1000	In the past, we have set aside \$1000.
Workshops	0.00	0.00	0	
Dues:				
CMAL & Expenses	60.00	0.00	0	No CMAL dues for 2016 re S Anderson
PMP-LWVUS	750.00	1,296.00	1300	
PMP-LWVMN	750.00	810.00	1000	
UMRRILO	0.00	25.00	25	Annual Dues
Total Delegate, travel, affiliation, and Dues	2,560.00	3,097.63	3,525.00	
Total expenses	3,600.00	5,683.67	7,167.00	
Net Income (loss)	350.00	1,622.79	(3,282.00)	

2. Adoption of Local Program:

LWV ABC LOCAL POSITIONS

Local positions are the result of studies conducted within LWVABC and are used to advocate within the LWVABC service area. They are not included in LWVUS or LWV Minnesota program.

Appointive Process in Local Government (1978) (reviewed and elected to keep April 18, 2015)

LWV ABC supports publicized and orderly application and appointment process which will maximize participation of qualified individuals and assure efficient operation of advisory boards and committees.

Appointive Process in Anoka Hennepin School District 11 (1979) (reviewed and elected to keep April 18, 2015)

LWV ABC supports publicized and orderly application and orientation process, which will maximize representation and efficient operation of advisory committees.

Metro Watershed Management Organization and the Implementation of the Metro Surface Water Management Act (1992) (reviewed and elected to keep April 18, 2015)

LWV ABC supports the establishment and implementation of comprehensive surface and ground water management for the metropolitan area.

Anoka County Park System (1994) (Revised 2010) (reviewed and elected to keep April 18, 2015)

- LWV ABC supports the establishment of a well publicized citizen's advisory board to ensure that Anoka County government will be aware of and sensitive to county resident's park concerns.
- LWV ABC supports regular meetings of representatives of city and county park staff to exchange ideas and common concerns and to ensure that city park boards are aware of county park board plans and activities.
- LWV ABC supports a greater base of citizen support for the park system through the employment of a full or part-time coordinator to organize activities of volunteers.

Licensing of Rental Properties (2004) (reviewed and elected to keep April 18, 2015)

LWV ABC believes that municipalities need a licensing policy for rental properties and have an obligation to regularly inspect rental properties in their jurisdiction. Inspections should include examination of both the exterior and interior of the rental dwelling unit and the common areas of the interior used by all tenants. Cities should enforce code compliance to ensure the health and

safety of the property's tenants. City codes/ordinances should include a reasonable time for the correction of code violations. Emergency cases: when a violation constitutes an imminent peril to life, health, safety or property, the city may require immediate compliance and, if necessary, take appropriate action to correct the violation.

Home health Care (2007) (revised 2008) (reviewed and elected to keep April 18, 2015)

LWV ABC supports the provision and delivery of safe, affordable, flexible home health care services for all, including the elderly and disabled.

At the Annual meeting members review and elect to keep, update, or drop local positions.

Members are encouraged to let the board know when they 'take action' based on one of LWV ABC's local positions.

3. Non-Partisan Policy

The nonpartisan policy is reviewed and/or revised at the annual meeting.

LWV ABC Nonpartisan Policy

Reviewed and Approved April 18, 2015

1. The President and Voter Service Chair will refrain from public involvement in political campaigns during their terms of office. Involvement includes such things as having one's name on campaign literature, displaying yard signs and holding coffee parties for a candidate. (Attending a precinct caucus is fine.) Board members who are candidates for political office should resign from the Board or take a leave of absence during their own campaign.
2. No League member who is highly visible in a political party, closely associated in some way with a candidate, or identified with an issue under discussion at a candidate forum should be involved in running that event. The object is to prevent, in the eyes of the public, either an actual or apparent conflict of interest.
3. Explain to incumbent candidates (and to new League members) that while League may have lobbied the office holder on an issue, that function is kept separate from voter service activities for the general public. The League position on an issue is never stated by the League during a public candidate forum.
4. Co-sponsorship can present problems of perceived bias, especially if the other organization is identified with a particular point of view or endorses candidates before the election. If LWV ABC's name is on a project, be certain that League guidelines for non-partisanship and fairness are agreed upon ahead of time and followed. If the group has endorsed issues or candidates before the forum, League should decline to be involved. Explain that we are concerned about even the possible appearance of endorsement.
5. Moderating for other forum sponsors: League does want to encourage citizen involvement and to provide experienced moderators for the community, but does not want to jeopardize its reputation by participating in poorly conceived or executed forums. If you are asked to moderate for another group, you must explain our nonpartisan policies to them and find out the following:
 - a. Motivation of the sponsoring group
 - b. Have all candidates been invited? Are they attending? If not, why not?
 - c. What are the issues in this election?
 - d. Format and ground rules? Do the candidates know them?
 - e. Will timers and ushers for collecting questions be provided? (You may want another League member to sort questions and to help you keep track of speaking rotation if there are several candidates.)
6. All voter service projects, including candidate meetings, should include a disclaimer that League neither endorses nor opposes candidates for political office.

At the annual meeting LWV ABC members review and if necessary update the Nonpartisan Policy.

Proposed Change to Non-Partisan Policy:

Geri Nelson proposed the following change in policy because we need to have co-sponsors to get the voter service grant.

1. Co-sponsorship **is encouraged, but** can present problems of perceived bias, especially if the other organization is identified with a particular point of view or

endorses candidates before the election. If LWV ABC's name is on a project, be certain that League guidelines for non-partisanship and fairness are agreed upon ahead of time and followed. If the group has endorsed a candidate before the candidate forum, League should decline to be involved. Explain that we are concerned about even the possible appearance of endorsement.

4. Election of Officers

Current Board 2015-2016

Officers and committee chairs are elected at the annual meeting. Other members of the board are appointed at the annual retreat.

All members are encouraged to serve on the board. Contact a member of the nominating committee if you are interested.

Office		Elected/Appointed	Term
President	Jeorgette Knoll	Elected 2015	2 years
Vice President		vacant	2 years
Secretary	Arlene Gillett	Elected 2015	2 years
Treasurer	Betsy O'Berry	Elected 2014	2 years
Membership Chair	Katherine Whelchel	Elected 2015	2 years
Voters Service Chair	Co-Chairs Geri Nelson and Arlene Gillette	Elected 2014	2 years
Communications Chair	Kathy Aanerud	Elected 2014	2 years
Program and Action Chair	Gretchen Sabel	Elected 2014	2 years
Board Member at large/Parliamentarian	Zilla Way	Appointed 2015	1 year
CMAL Representative (Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues)	Susan Anderson	Appointed 2015	1 year
Membership Committee Member		Appointed 2015	1 year
Voters Service Committee Member	All members		1 year
Communications Committee Member	Bruce Pomerantz	Appointed 2015	1 year
Program and Action Committee Member	Mary Jo Truchon Lynda Van Driel (off board)	Appointed 2015	1 year
Budget /Finance Committee Chair	Gretchen Sabel	Appointed 2015	1 year
Nominating Committee Chair (Off Board)	Joan Molenaar	Elected 2015	1 year
Nominating Committee member (Off Board)	Sandra Shanley	Elected 2015	1 year
Nominating Committee Member (Board)	Mary Jo Truchon	Appointed 2015	1 year
Bylaws Committee Chair (Off Board)	Kay McCulley	Appointed 2015	1 year
Bylaws Committee Member (board)	Jeorgette Knoll	Appointed 2015	1 year
LWV ABC Historian (Membership Committee/off board)	Kathy Tingelstad	Appointed 2015	1 year

Nominating Committee Report

Nominating Committee:

Chair: Joan Molenaar

Off Board Member: Sandra Shanley

Board Member: Mary Jo Truchon

LWV ABC Board and Committee Member Nominations April 2014

TREASURER 2016 - 2018

Kay McCulley

PROGRAM 2016 – 2018

Susan Anderson

VICE - PRESIDENT 2016 - 2018

vacant

VOTERS SERVICE 2016- 2018

Geri Nelson and Arlene Gillett

COMMUNICATIONS 2016 – 2018

Kathy Aanerud

NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2016 - 2017

, Chair

, Elected member

Proposed Board 2016-2017

Office		Elected/Appointed	Term
President	Jeorgette Knoll	Elected 2015	2 years
Vice President			1 year to fill vacancy
Secretary	Arlene Gillette	Elected 2015	2 years
Treasurer	Kay McCulley	Nominated 2016	2 years
Membership Chair	Katherine Whelchel	Nominated 2015	2 years
Voters Service Co -Chairs	Geri Nelson and Arlene Gillette	Nominated 2016	2 years
Communications Chair	Kathy Aanerud	Nominated 2016	2 years
Program and Action Chair	Susan Anderson	Nominated 2016	2 years
CMAL Representative	<i>To be appointed at retreat</i>		1 year
Membership Committee Member	<i>To be appointed at retreat</i>		1 year
Voters Service Committee Member	<i>To be appointed at retreat</i>		1 year
Communications Committee Member	<i>To be appointed at retreat</i>		1 year
Program and Action Committee Member	<i>To be appointed at retreat</i>		1 year
Nominating Committee Chair (Off Board)		Nominated 2016	1 year
Nominating Committee member (Off Board)		Nominated 2016	1 year
Nominating Committee Member (Board)	<i>To be appointed at retreat</i>		1 year
Bylaws Committee Chair (Off Board)	<i>To be appointed at retreat</i>		1 year
Bylaws Committee Member (board)	<i>To be appointed at retreat</i>		1 year

6. Other Business:

- **Recognition**

- The Zilla Way Award

- The 'Zilla Way' 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 fifty year participation in League and her role as LWVABC mentor and advisor. It is presented each year at the annual meeting.

- The Friend of League Certificate

- The 'Friend of League' certificate is presented to an individual or organization in the community who has made a significant impact on LWV ABC through cooperation and support.

- The recipient of the certificate is announced at the annual meeting and presented at the fall kickoff meeting. Member, Mary Jo Truchon initiated and designed the 'Friend of League' certificate in 1991.

- **Discussion of Summer Community Conversation Meetings and Program Ideas for Membership Meetings throughout 2016-17.**

- 1). Government Structure, including Observer Corps update
- 2). Nitrogen Reduction
- 3). Comprehensive Plans
- 4). Single Payer Health Care, including costs, structure
- 5). Voter Services Recap
- 6). Homeless/Affordable Housing
- 7). Transformative Circles, diversity and inclusion
- 8). Your Voice, Your Vote
- 9). School "stuff", what is happening in the schools, district update, school structure
- 10). League Achievements
- 11). Energy co-ops and corporations

- **Hostess sign up for program year** – Gretchen will coordinate hostess sign-up and 'The Box.' - please sign up for a hostessing slot at the Annual Meeting!
- **Strategic Plan**

Announcements:

- Annual Retreat Date
- Green Expo
- Council and Legacy Luncheon

LWV Minnesota Strategic Planning – *Your invitation to participate!*

The last hour (or more) of our annual meeting will be spent on the strategic plan.

It will help if everyone familiarizes themselves with the questions prior to the meeting.

Please plan to stay for this session and plan for a lively discussion!

Recently, the state League's Board of Directors approved going forward with a strategic plan for LWV Minnesota. We have engaged consultant Anne Carroll of Carroll, Franck and Associates to support this process. Strategic planning is an essential organizational tool to help Boards, staff, and constituencies remain true to their mission, and serves as an organizational roadmap so we align our work with our agreed-upon goals.

As part of this process we want to hear from every League member. We have asked all local League Presidents to host input sessions by the end of May for members to provide their input to a set of key questions to help shape the state League's strategic plan. Your participation ensures we hear a diverse range of thoughtful perspectives from throughout the state, so watch for an invitation from your President.

If you can't participate in person, we welcome your thoughts on the same questions via an online survey [here](#) -- it shouldn't take you more than 20 minutes. In addition, even if you do attend the in-person session, you may use the online survey to add other ideas or perspectives

Every voice counts, and we appreciate yours!

Thanks in advance for contributing to LWV Minnesota's new strategic plan.

Below is an overview and schedule for this 2016 process:

- March 2016: Plan the strategic planning process and how to engage stakeholders
- April-May: Engage stakeholders from across the state (League members, partners, donors, funders, etc.)
- June-mid July: Compile and analyze stakeholder contributions and post to LWV Minnesota website.
- Early August: Based on stakeholder input, draft statewide strategic planning goals and key strategies.
- Late August: Gather statewide stakeholder feedback via online survey; compile, analyze, and post results on the LWV Minnesota website
- September and beyond: Finalize and collaboratively implement new Strategic Plan

If you have additional ideas, feel free to also offer your ideas online:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LWVMNStrategicPlanning>

We also encourage you to follow progress on the state website (<https://www.lwvmn.org/strategic-planning/planning-process>), which includes additional information and updates throughout the process.

For more information, email state League executive director Susan Sheridan Tucker at 16splan@lwvmn.org.

Thanks again!

Roster – Official LWV US – please make any changes or corrections and return to Membership Chair

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