

The Voter

The LWV ABC Monthly Newsletter
July 2025

No July Program Meeting

Our annual potluck picnic will be August 11 at 5:00 pm. Stayed tuned for the location.



Welcome New Members

Welcome New Members

Kerry Bogenreif of Lino Lakes

Amy Langemo of Ham Lake

Jo Rohady of Andover

Mary Talcott of Dayton



New LWV ABC Facebook Account

Thanks to **Jeorgette Knoll** and **Gretchen Sabel**, we now have a new Facebook account set up as a non-profit account. Between newsletters, our social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram and Bluesky) are the best way to stay up to date on League news and events.

Over 10 years ago, LWV ABC created a Facebook page. Back then all pages were personal. There was no option to create a business or non-profit page. Over the last year we have had our Facebook account flagged and frozen twice as the Facebook algorithm found our page might be a fake account, impersonating League.

Follow us and like our posts on our new Facebook page and join our LWV ABC Minnesota Members Group.

Facebook

LWV ABC Members Facebook Group



Voter Services

Gretchen Sabel and **Jeorgette Knoll** will be co-chairing our Voter Services with assistance from **Jennifer Geisler**.

School board elections will be held this year in the Fridley, Spring Lake Park and Anoka-Hennepin School Districts, as well as elections for mayor and city council in Circle Pines and Lino Lakes. Filing of Affidavits of Candidacy begins July 29. The last day to withdrawal candidacy is August 14.

LWV ABC does not hold forums for uncontested races, so our forum plan will unfold after we determine how many candidates file for each office.

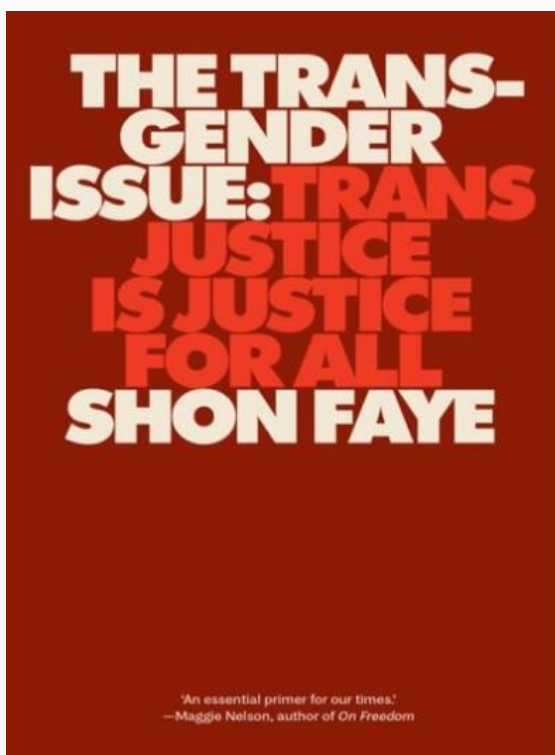


Board Highlights

By Kathy Aanerud, LWV ABC Secretary

- Welcomed Linda Rodgers as a newly-appointed Emeritus Board Member.
- Appointed Gretchen Sabel to be Acting Co-Chair of Voter Service, joining Jeorgette Knoll who is the other appointed co-chair.
- Approved plans to partner with Anoka County Historical Society for a series of four programs dealing with women's issues
- Discussed action steps to oppose the proposed cuts to Medicaid, including member letters to Congress and possible panel of speakers at a meeting.
- Discussed arrangements for annual summer picnic on Monday evening, August 11

Members can find Board Agendas and approved Board Minutes in the Members Only section of our website



July Book Club

Wednesday, July 16

7:00 pm on Zoom

***The Transgender Issue: Trans Justice is Justice for All* by Shon Faye**

Shon Faye intentionally and deliberately reappropriates the phrase 'transgender issue' in order to outline the reality of the issues facing trans people today, rather than as they are imagined by people who do not face them.

"With skill, rigor, and heart, Faye uncovers the reality of what it means to be trans in a transphobic society. In this compellingly readable study, she explores issues of class, family, housing, healthcare, sex work, the prison system, and trans participation in the LGBTQ+ and feminist communities. What she finds, ultimately, is that when we fight for trans liberation, we fight for a better world for us all."

Shon Faye is a writer based in London. She was an editor-at-large at Dazed, and her writing has been published by the Guardian, the Independent and Vice, among others. Faye recently launched an acclaimed podcast series, Call Me Mother, interviewing trailblazing LGBTQ elders.

Book Club Zoom Link

Upcoming Books



LWVMN Convention

June 6 and 7

Pat Kennedy, Geri Nelson, Gretchen Sabel, Julie Trude, Wes Volkenant, and Colleen Werdien were our delegates to convention, with **Pamela Jacobson** attending as non-voting participant.

On Friday night, Shelley Buck, President of Owámniyomni Okhódayapi, a Dakota-led nonprofit working to restore Dakota presence and values to the sacred site of Owámniyomni (St. Anthony Falls) opened the convention. On Saturday, Minnesota First Lady Gwen Walz, who was asked to speak by her former teacher (a League member), reminded us of the power of civic engagement and the role of League members in shaping our democracy.

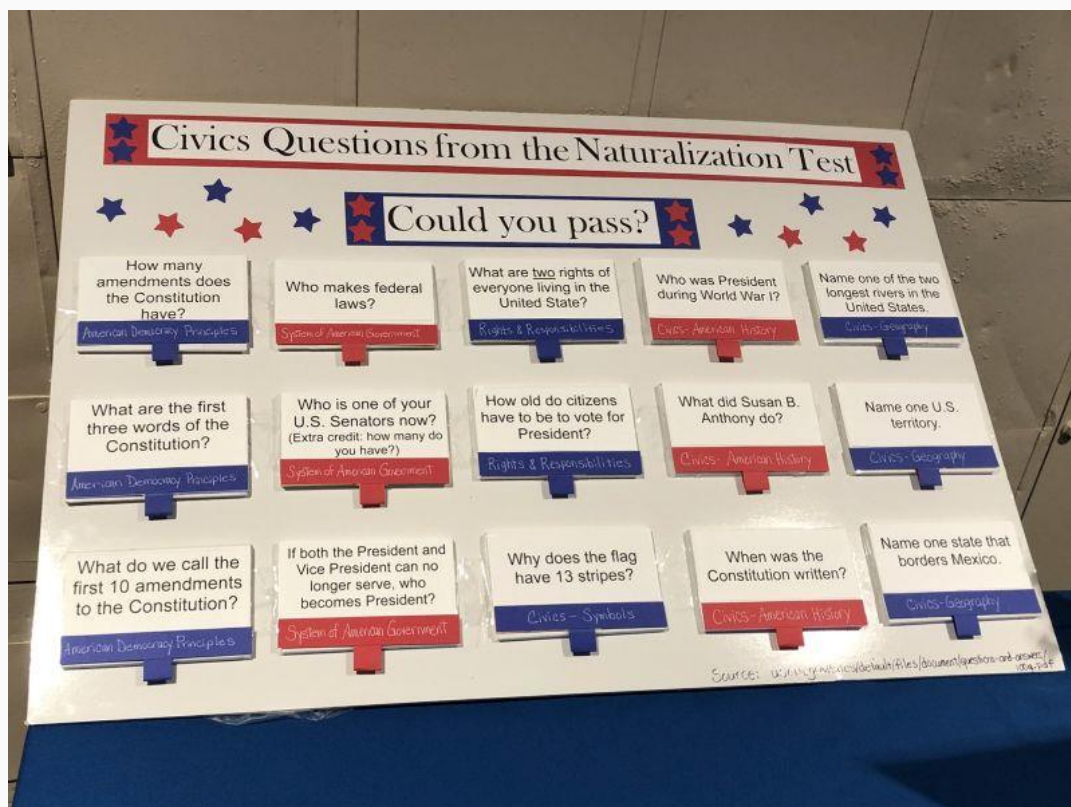
The delegates approved all the recommended changes to bylaws, including increasing the number of appointed board members from five to seven. **Laura**

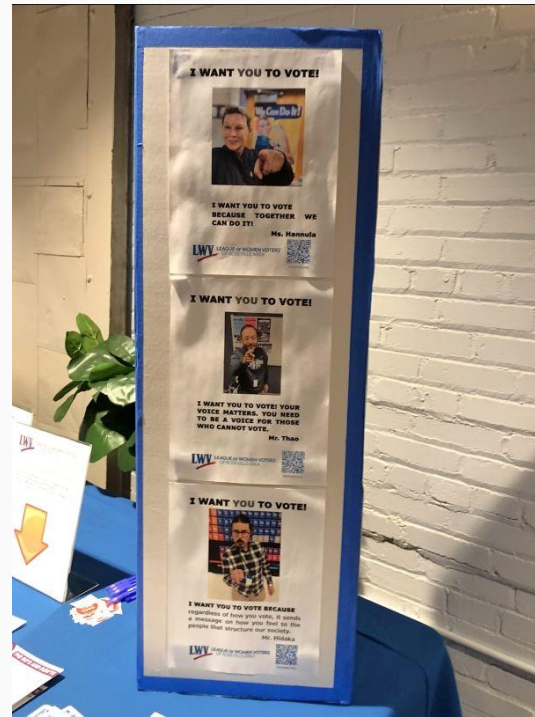
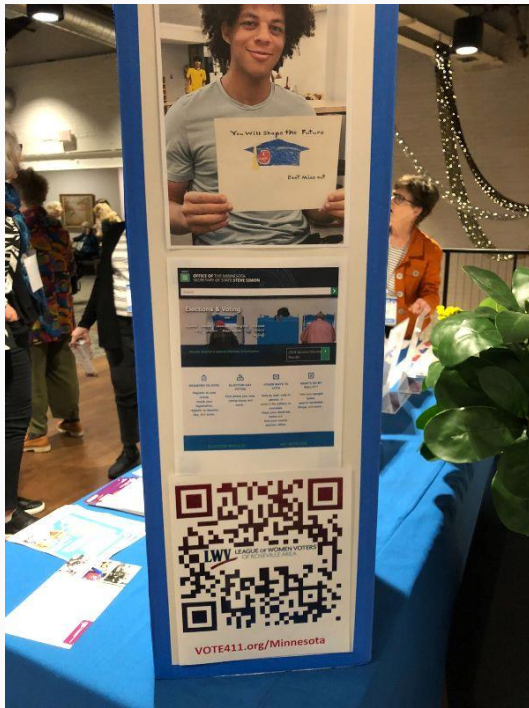
Helmer, LWV Eastern Carver County, will serve another term as President, and several new people were elected to the board.

Obsolete language was deleted from several positions. After objections were raised about removing "racial balance" language from the Education and Employment position, a committee was formed to explore the topic and make a recommendation. The delegates also approved a briefing paper on LWVUS Citizens Right to Know Position. The Briefing Paper will address whether technology changes are adequately addressed the 1984 position.

Delegates participated in several exercises to provide content for the membership campaign that LWVMN plans to launch in fall. **Geri Nelson** was interviewed for inclusion in a series of membership recruitment videos planned for later this year.

LWVMN Board

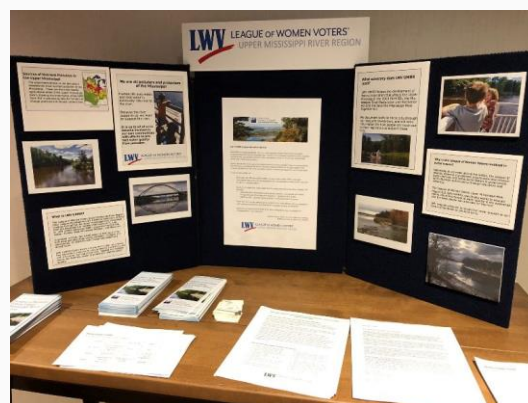




Ideas from Other Leagues

One of the purposes of attending Convention is to learn from other Leagues.
Some ideas for events:

- A board with questions and answers from the naturalization test
- A cardboard tower at high schools, featuring "I want you to vote" pictures of local teachers over the scan code to register
- Recreations of the original suffrage banners and dress





UMRR at Convention

Gretchen Sabel and **Colleen Wierden** (pictured seated in first picture above), along with other Minnesota members active in the Upper Mississippi River Region Inter League Organization, were on hand to teach delegates about drinking water and offer a taste test from five areas of the state - including water from Gretchen's well. Gretchen gave a brief presentation on Saturday encouraging members to get involved in UMRR.

Learn more about the Owámniyomni Okhódayapi restoration on the UMRR Blog.

[UMRR Blog](#)



Fired Up Fridays
12:00 Noon Via Zoom
July 11, next meeting

Every Friday, at noon, League members, including LWV ABC Action Chair **Jody Anderson**, get together to discuss current issue and actions that can be taken.

As we continue to mourn Melissa and Mark Hortman and hope for a swift recover for John and Yvette Hoffman, LWVMN suggests sending a note of thanks to your elected officials, at every level, for their public service.

Check out the frequently updated LWVMN "Take Action" webpage for more suggestions for taking action.

[Register for July 11](#)

[Take Action](#)



Choose Action over Complacency

On July 4th, Celina Stewart, LWVUS CEO, reminded us that we are in a constitutional crisis and everyone must take action to defend democracy:

"This isn't temporary turbulence that we can white-knuckle our way through. This is methodical erosion of our democratic values and policies."

"For too long, we've treated democracy like a spectator sport, showing up every few years to vote and then retreating to passive observation. "

"There is no cavalry coming; we, the people, are the cavalry of this moment."

We're asking Americans to join us in showing up in the streets, actively participating in nonviolent civil resistance to change the course of our history in this moment, and holding our elected representatives accountable through sustained advocacy at all levels — local, county, state, and federal.

"None of us have to do everything, but we all must do something."

[Read full LWVUS Blog Post](#)

LET'S MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR WOMEN!

Date: Wed, July 16, 2025
Time: 3:30pm & 7 pm screenings
(doors open at 3pm)

Location: The Main Cinema,
115 SE Main St
Minneapolis, MN 55414

\$20 Donation Level Ticket
\$5 Student Level Ticket

Tickets: <https://bit.ly/aauwvfm>

ZURAWSKI v TEXAS

AAUW Minnesota (The Branch) AAUW St. Paul, MN eliminating racism empowering women ywca Minneapolis WFM WOMEN'S FOUNDATION OF MINNESOTA

Zurawski v Texas Film Screening

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

3:30 PM and 7:00 PM

The Main Cinema

115 SE Main St

Minneapolis


Join Minnesota women's organizations for a screening of Zurawski v Texas, a documentary produced by Jennifer Lawrence, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton highlighting the consequences of restrictive laws on women's health care. The screenings will be followed by a Q&A with one of the directors

Tickets, which must be purchased online, are a \$20 donation to The Reproductive Freedom Fund.


[Buy Film Tickets](#)


[Reproductive Freedom Fund](#)






ANOKA RALLY & MARCH

 ANOKA COUNTY
GOVERNMENT CENTER

 JULY 17 AT 4:30 PM

GATHER NEAR ANOKA COUNTY
COURTHOUSE. AT 5 PM, WE
MARCH DOWN MAIN ST TO AKIN
RIVERSIDE PARK, WHERE WE
WILL HAVE WATER & COOKIES,
MUSIC & SPEAKERS, AND A
WHOLE LOT OF GOOD TROUBLE!

SEE YOU THERE!



Good Trouble Lives On

Good Trouble Lives On

Nationwide Day of Action

Thursday, July 17

Twin Cities Rally and March

6:00 pm - Hennepin County Government Center Plaza

Anoka Good Trouble Lives On

4:30 pm - Anoka County Government Center

5:00 pm - March to Adkin Riverside Park

Coined by civil rights leader Congressman John Lewis, "Good Trouble" is the action of coming together to take peaceful, non-violent action to challenge injustice and

create meaningful change.

On July 17th, the 5th anniversary of Rep. John Lewis' passing, there will be a nationwide day of action to demand an end to:

- The extreme crackdown on our civil rights – from our right to vote to our right to protest and speak freely.
- The targeting Black and Brown Americans, immigrants, trans people, and others with hateful, dangerous policies
- The slashing of programs that working people rely on – including Medicaid, SNAP, and Social Security

Registration is not required but will help organizers plan the event.

Details may change or more events added, so keep up to date by following the organizers on social media - Indivisible Twin Cities, Indivisible North Metro, 500501 Minnesota, Women's March Minnesota, among others - or check the GoodTroubleLivesOn.org webpage or mobilize.us webpage.

Twin Cities Indivisible

Anoka Good Trouble

Good Trouble Lives On



Save Act Lunch and Learn

July 18, 2025

12:00 PM via Zoom

Join Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon, Blue Earth County Auditor-Treasurer Mike Stalberger, and LWVMN Executive Director Michelle Witte to discuss the dangers of the federal SAVE Act

[Register for Lunch & Learn](#)



Naturalization Ceremonies

Naturalization ceremonies have resumed in Minnesota!

Upcoming ceremonies will be much smaller and held at federal court buildings one day a month. LWVMN will continue to help the new citizens get registered to vote after the naturalization ceremonies.

All volunteer spots are filled for the July, August and September ceremonies.

Coming in August ...

August 11 - Annual Potluck Picnic
August 11 - August Academy starts
August 14 - Last day for candidates to withdraw
August 25 - LWV ABC Board Meeting

Click button below to get details and find more events on our online calendar.

LWV ABC Calendar

The League of Women voters is a non-partisan civic organization which promotes good government and active, informed participation in local, state and federal government.

We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge and the confidence to participate.

Become a Member

Support Our Work

More About LWV ABC



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The Voter
The Monthly Newsletter of LWV ABC