



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

ANOKA, BLAINE, COON RAPIDS AREA

**THE VOTER**  
**OCTOBER 2017**

## October 9 – Equity and Inclusion

[Andover Senior Center](#)

**6pm social, program at 6:30**

Shelley Colvin, chair of the LWV Minnesota Equity and Inclusion Committee will be our guest at the October program meeting of LWV ABC. The topic is Equity and Inclusion. Shelley serves on the MN State Board of League of Women Voters, where she leads LWV's committee on Equity and Inclusion. and will share with ABC LWV the work that MN LWV is doing as well as share the work that she has done in the past. She will facilitate a conversation on issues of Equity and Inclusion and share how ABC LWV can support the work being undertaken at the state as well as how the state may support efforts our local league makes.



The committee Shelley chairs is tasked with examining issues on Equity and Inclusion, and how they affect the LWV Minnesota. The committee will work to increase the diversity of membership in local Leagues, their Boards and the LWV Minnesota Board, and committees. The committee will work to identify ways to work to educate, advocate and support equity and inclusion issues where they occur, particularly as they relate to democracy and voting, and will build a collection of resources that LWV members can use in their work.

Shelley and her committee will be a resource to Leagues as we examine issues such as the recent report **Black and White Inequality in All 50 States** by Mike Sauter of 24/7 Wall Street that puts Minnesota second from the bottom of states in terms of inequality, and the findings in the new survey, **The Lives and Voices of Black America on the Intersections of Politics, Race and Public Policy** released by the Perry Udem Research and Communication Firm. These two resources are found here <http://247wallst.com/special-report/2017/08/18/black-and-white-inequality-in-all-50-states-2/> and here [https://view.publitas.com/perryudem-research-communication/black-american-survey-report\\_final/page/1](https://view.publitas.com/perryudem-research-communication/black-american-survey-report_final/page/1) respectively.



This will not be a presentation but a round table discussion about Shelley's work, what we see as issues in our own community, and ideas for identifying and addressing Equity and Inclusion by way of League. This meeting will be the foundation for our November meeting where we will view the documentary **Equal Means Equal** and for our first 'pub' meeting where we will discuss the survey and report mentioned above. (Wait, what's that? A 'pub' meeting? Read on – we cover this later in this newsletter – page 5.)

Shelley Colvin is a member of LWV St. Louis Park. She is a substitute Middle and High School teacher with the St. Louis Park public schools. Her B.A. in Secondary Education is from Syracuse University and she holds a M. Div. Pastoral Care from Union Theological Seminary. Shelley was elected to the board in 2017 for a two-year term.



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## **Last month's program with Michelle Witte, LWV Minnesota Executive Director**

Thanks to LWV MN Executive Director Michelle Witte for coming out to LWV ABC on September 11! Her talk outlined the work being undertaken by LWV MN, including the advocacy work that will be done by new **Advocacy Director Nick Harper**. **Michelle's goal is to fire up local Leagues, support their good work and build a stronger LWV presence in Minnesota.** A long-time League member and volunteer herself, Michelle is **enthusiastic about the organization's mission** of empowering volunteers to become active in community and government affairs. To learn more about LWV MN, check out the state League's very excellent website: <https://www.lwvmn.org/>



## **Special Event – November 13 – Movie Screening of “Equal Means Equal”**

The poster features a large white graphic on a black background. On the left, a plus sign (+) is followed by a circle containing two horizontal bars, resembling an equals sign (=). An arrow points from this graphic to the right. To the right of the arrow, the text "There are no more excuses." is written in white. Below this, the words "EQUAL MEANS EQUAL" are written in large, bold letters, with "EQUAL" in red, "MEANS" in white, and "EQUAL" in blue. At the bottom, a red banner contains the text "THE DEFINITIVE DOCUMENTARY FILM ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN AMERICA" in white, bold, uppercase letters.

Save the Date! *(Note Change of Venue for our November 13 monthly Program)*

The November 13, 2017 meeting of LWV ABC will be co-sponsored with Anoka Ramsey Community College and will be held in the Legacy Room at the college. We will view the powerful and timely documentary film **Equal Means Equal** and follow it with a discussion of the disparate treatment of women, and the renewed interest in the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Students from the college will be encouraged to attend so our discussions will give us an idea of how women's rights and the ERA are viewed by college age women and men. This will be an interesting meeting!

Watch for more details. You can view the trailer for this film here: <http://equalmeansequal.com/trailer/>



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**Voter Service News Note change of dates for forums!**

**Anoka-Hennepin School District 11 School Board Candidate Forum**

The forum for Anoka-Hennepin School District 11 board candidates will take place **Tuesday, October 10** at 6:30 pm in the Sandburg Education Center, 1902 Second Ave in Anoka. If you have signed up to help or are available to volunteer, plan to arrive by 5:45 pm.

Three of the six school board seats in Anoka-Hennepin School District 11 are up for election on November 7. The seats are in Districts 3, 4, and 6. All 5 candidates have agreed to attend.

In District 3, candidates are Jessica Geisler of Coon Rapids and Bill Harvey of Champlin. The district is made up of Champlin, southwestern Coon Rapids, and Dayton.

In District 4, candidates are Anna Dirkswager and Brian Herda, both of Andover. The district includes northern Andover, Ham Lake, Nowthen, Oak Grove and northeastern Ramsey.

In District 6, Jeff Simon of Coon Rapids is running unopposed. The district comprises southern Andover and northern Coon Rapids.

Candidates will respond to prepared questions and then respond to written questions from the audience. LWV Voter Service Co-Chairs Geri Nelson and Arlene Gillette urge members to utilize this opportunity to see and hear the candidates talk about issues side-by-side and experience a forum LWV ABC-style.

**Spring Lake Park School District School Board Candidate Forum**

The forum for Spring Lake Park School District School Board will be held on **Wednesday, October 11** at 7:00 PM at the Spring Lake Park School District Services Center, 1415 81<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE, Spring Lake Park. LWV ABC is co-hosting the forum with by Spring Lake Park Community Education.

Four of the seven at-large school board seats in the Spring Lake Park School District 16 are up for election on November 7. Seven candidates are running.

Candidates are Steven Aalund, Spring Lake Park; Kelly Delfs, Spring Lake Park; Marilyn Forsberg, Spring Lake Park; Michael Kreun, Blaine; Daphne Ponds, Blaine; John Stroebel, Blaine; and Amy Wheaton, Blaine. All have agreed to come.

Please email Karen Varian [kvar121@aol.com](mailto:kvar121@aol.com) or Geri Nelson [geri\\_nelson454@msn.com](mailto:geri_nelson454@msn.com) to volunteer to help at the forum.

**Voter Registration Drives in the High Schools**

**Volunteers are registering voters at the high schools. If you'd like to participate, let Geri know by emailing [geri\\_nelson454@msn.com](mailto:geri_nelson454@msn.com).**



**THE LEAGUE  
NEEDS YOU!**





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**Highlights of LWV ABC Board Meeting, 9/25/2017**

1 - Our league sent a letter to each of the Anoka County Commissioners, regarding input and transparency of the actions of the Board of Commissioners. It was based on the work of our Observation Corps, done over many months of observation. Because there has been no response to this letter, we discussed what our response should be: have individual's call their commissioner?, work to set up a meeting with the Board?, have an investigative reporter from a newspaper look into it? It was resolved that Jeorgette Knoll would send an email to Jerry Soma, county administrator, to get the ball rolling.

2 - LWV member, Sandra Connor, volunteered to work with the Anoka County Historical Society to develop a Centennial Project for the LWV Centennial in 2019. We discussed what we might do to have a display there. If members are interested in being part of this work, please email [lwvabc@lwvmn.org](mailto:lwvabc@lwvmn.org) to raise your hand!

3 - We discussed the suggestion that we view the film, "Equal Means Equal" as part of our meeting on Equality and Inclusion in November, and then discussed perhaps holding it at the Anoka Ramsey Community College in order to include more students in the audience.

**Friend of League Award Presented at our September Program**

LWV ABC annually recognizes an individual or organization in the community who has made a significant impact on League through cooperation and support. This year we honored Leslie Sauer Smith of QCTV for her work and her enthusiastic cooperation with producing LWV ABC programs.

Mary Jo Truchon, watercolor artist and member of LWV ABC created a tribute to Leslie with the words below on a beautifully-created meadow:

***Presented to Leslie Sauer Smith  
Friend of League Award  
In recognition of  
Your exceptional production of programs at QCTV Community Television  
that educate and motivate our residents  
On Voting and Elections,  
Environmental Protection  
Public Policy and Community Involvement  
And for your enthusiastic cooperation and community spirit***

You can view videos created by Leslie for LWV ABC on QCTV's website, [qctv.org](http://qctv.org). Use the drop-down menu for "QCTV Programs", then select League of Women Voters.





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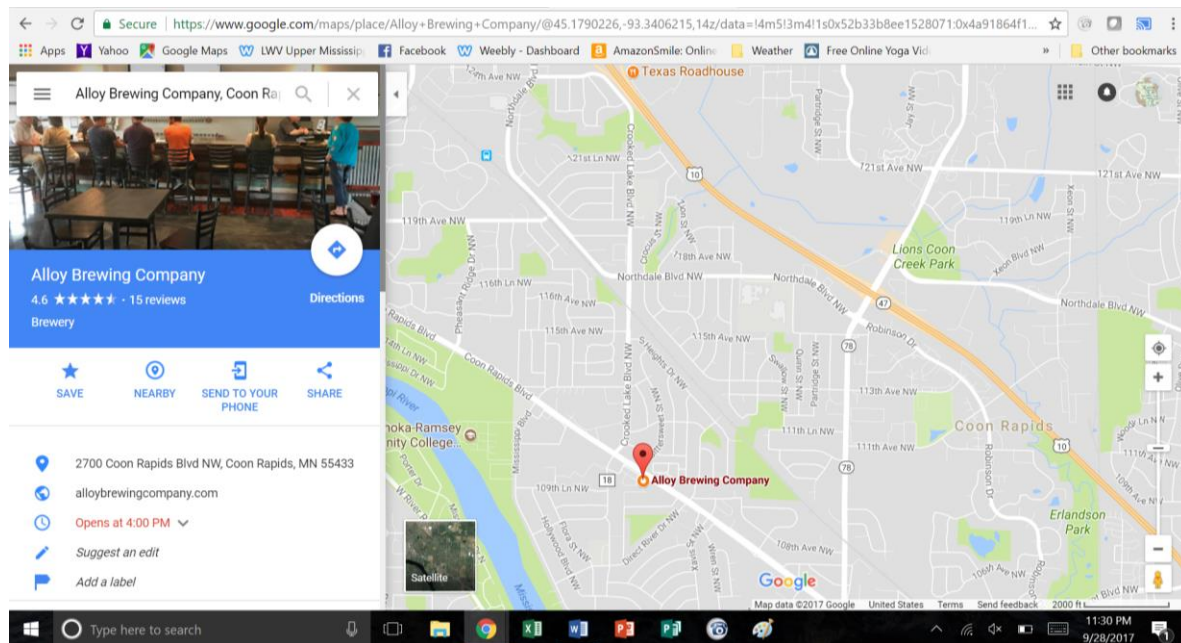
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Drafts and Discourse – Inaugural Voyage November 8  
**Back on page 1, we promised more information on the upcoming “Pub meetings”** being planned by LWV ABC. The first one – the great experiment – will take place on November 8 at Alloy Brewing in Coon Rapids. This new brewery will welcome LWV ABC members at 6pm. Buy a pint at the bar and join in the discussion. Alloy Brewing is at 2700 Coon Rapids Blvd in Coon Rapids.



Help is needed in planning these sessions! If you would like to be part of the team that plans these meetings, contact us at [lwvabc@lwvmn.org](mailto:lwvabc@lwvmn.org) and **raise your hand**. We'd like to use these informal events to open up to new people who may be interested in talking policy and learning more about LWV over a pint! And the name – Drafts and Discourse – **is up for grabs**. Would “Sips and Civility” be more appropriate? Better ideas are welcome!



**Alloy Brewing is too new to have a sign on Coon Rapids Blvd – here’s a link to this map:**

<https://goo.gl/maps/g4YgcvmEckr>



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## Save the Dates:

Monday, October 9, 6pm – LWV ABC regular meeting, Andover Senior Center – **topic is “Equity and Inclusion”**, with discussion leader Shelley Colvin, LWV MN Board member

Tuesday October 10, 6:30 pm -- Candidate Forum for **Anoka-Hennepin School Board**

Wednesday, October 11, 6:30 pm -- Candidate Forum for **Spring Lake Park School Board**

Saturday, October 21, 10:00 am -- Affordable Housing in the Metropolitan Area, presented by Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues of Women Voters (CMAL) See flyer on LWV ABC's Facebook page

Monday, October 23, 10:00 am-- LWV ABC Board Meeting at Davannis in Coon Rapids, 11:00 lunch orders; 11:30 meeting

Wednesday, November 8, 6pm – Drafts and Discourse at Alloy Brewing

Monday, November 13 – screening of the movie “Equal Means Equal” at Anoka Ramsey Community College – more details will be forthcoming in the November LWV ABC Newsletter!

## **Staying in Touch with LWV ABC**

**Visit our public website:** [www.lwvabcmn.org](http://www.lwvabcmn.org). If you need a refresher on accessing the Members Only section of the website, send an email to [lwvabc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvabc@gmail.com). We will reply with the link for you to bookmark.

**We're on Facebook:** Just search for “LWV ABC Facebook”.

**Our monthly newsletter, *The Voter*:** Members and other interested persons receive our newsletter by email in the early part of each month. Issues are also available on our LWV ABC website, [www.lwvabcmn.org](http://www.lwvabcmn.org).

## **Have Information to share with LWV ABC?**

Email your information to [lwvabc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvabc@gmail.com) for inclusion  
In one or more of the above