

## ***November Meeting: Lessons Learned -- Things to Celebrate***

Join us for our monthly program on Monday evening, November 12.

We will have a lively discussion about our League's recent accomplishment of presenting 13 candidate forums for primary and general elections. Whether you worked on the forums, attended a forum, or just wished you had, your input will be valuable!

**Time:6:00** social and light supper provided by our scheduled volunteers,  
**6:30** Announcements and program

**Location:** Andover Senior Center, at the north end of Andover City Hall, 1685 Crosstown Blvd NW, Andover

**Questions:** [lwvabc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvabc@gmail.com)

Many of the forums were recorded by our community television partners and can be viewed on our website: <http://lwvabcmn.org/Elections.html>)



**Yes, we met the candidates!**

Now it's time to figure out what went well and what we need to change for 2020!

### **Recap of October 8 meeting: *Ranked Choice Voting***

Jeanne Massey, Executive Director of Fair Vote Minnesota spoke and answered questions on the topic of Ranked Choice Voting. Check out Fair Vote Minnesota's website at [fairvotemn.org](http://fairvotemn.org)

QCTV recorded the program for community television broadcasts and on-demand viewing on their website: <http://qctv.org/league-of-women-voters/>



## Friend of League Award Presented to Mel Aanerud at our October Program

The *Friend of League* award is presented annually by LWV ABC to recognize an individual or organization in the community who has made a significant impact on League through cooperation and support.



This year we honored Mel Aanerud for his portrayal of Will Rogers at a very successful fundraiser dinner that introduced LWV to a new audience, his support of our Observer Corps that led to a better understanding of Anoka County Board of Commissioners and transparency issues, and for forging a civic partnership with Ham Lake and East Bethel Chambers of Commerce

Mary Jo Truchon, watercolor artist and member of LWV ABC, creates artwork for our Friend of League honorees. This year's artwork for Mel featured a drawing of Will Rogers (inspired by Mel's portrayal of Will at our fundraiser) along with words of tribute to Mel.

## **December 10: YOU Own a Cooperative!**

Did you know that if Connexus Energy (CE) is your electricity provider, YOU are automatically a MEMBER of this electric cooperative? In fact, YOU are an OWNER of CE!



As members of the League of Women Voters, here are a few things to consider:

As an Owner of this monopoly, how much do you know about CE's elected Board Members? Is this organization very transparent in its activities? Does CE use "best practices" in its governance model? Remember, YOU are an Owner!

Yes, CE provides electricity to most of the North Metro communities (accept for the City of Anoka and part of Champlin). Geographically, the CE territory includes most homes and businesses in these counties: Anoka, Isanti and Sherburne. In fact, with about 130,000 Member-Owners, CE is the largest electric co-op in Minnesota, as well as being one of the largest co-ops in the United States.

Most LWV members know that Minnesota's November state-wide political elections usually have voter participation of over 70%. In contrast, the CE annual Board elections only have voter participation of a mere 8%.

With that in mind, as a CE Owner, you should circle these dates on your calendars: Dec. 10, 2018 and April 10, 2019.

On Monday, Dec. 10 at 6 pm, at the Andover Senior Center, the LWV "Lively Issues" discussion will include information about CE. This CE discussion topic will be led by retired State Legislator Kathy Tingelstad, who is a long-time LWV member, and a former challenger candidate for the CE Board of Directors.

On Wednesday, April 10, 2019, at 4 pm, the CE Annual Meeting and Board Election will be held at the CE headquarters in Ramsey. Your attendance and vote (or online vote, or vote mailed in advance of this date) are important. Remember, you are an Owner of CE!

For more details, contact Kathy at 763-286-7293 or via email at [TingelstadKathy@gmail.com](mailto:TingelstadKathy@gmail.com)

**Also December 10 – Potluck dinner and discussion of lively issues. Lively issues is the meeting where we review LWV positions and decide on areas we'd like to learn more about, things we'd like to change and actions we're planning to foster in the coming year.**

**More details in the December newsletter – but for now, remember to mark your calendar and figure out what you want to bring to share for our potluck!**



## **League Statement on Kavanaugh Confirmation Washington, DC**

From LWV US, 10/6/2018

– The League of Women Voters’ President Chris Carson and CEO Virginia Kase issued the following joint statement after the Senate voted to confirm Judge Brett Kavanaugh as the next Supreme Court justice. “The decision today will have long-term impacts on the justice system as we know it. Judge Kavanaugh’s hearing was a spectacle that we had not witnessed in modern day American history. For decades, Supreme Court nomination hearings have been conducted with great transparency, with respectful input from both sides of the aisle, and with support beyond a simple majority. That was not the case this time.”

“Judge Kavanaugh was confirmed by a margin of one, whereas historically Supreme Court nominees have been confirmed by much larger majorities. Two years ago, the Senate refused to even consider a presidential nominee for the Supreme Court, which is without precedent. The rancor of these recent departures from established processes has damaged the reputation of the Supreme Court.

We must ask: do we need to reform the process? Is it time to change the way the Senate confirms Supreme Court justices? Should the Senate restore the 60-vote threshold for nominees? These are tough questions that the American people will need to grapple with if we’re serious about making democracy work.”

**“For those who feel as though their interests are not being represented by the politicians in Washington today, know that you have the power to change the system. You have the power in your votes. The League’s bedrock remains nonpartisanship and we encourage all voters to use their voice to elect those that reflect your community and personal ideologies, your rights, and your voice.”**



*Chris Carson and Virginia Kase  
At LWV US Convention June 2018*

## Change in Leadership at LWV ABC (or... here's an opportunity for you!)

LWV ABC president, Jeorgette Knoll (right) is stepping down and vice-president Gretchen Sabel will be the president until the Annual Meeting and board election in April. Jeorgette will be traveling for most of November and December. When she returns she will be moving to the Big Lake area where she and her husband are building a new home.

Look at the list below and let us know if there is something you might be able to take on:

- \* Help with the website. Keep information up to date, add monthly meeting notices, delete outdated info. Requires about 1 or 2 hours per month.
- \* Write articles for newsletter. One or 2 hours per month.
- \* Share meeting night and hostess box duties with Gretchen. One meeting per month.
- \* Join the nominating committee.
- \* Attend board meetings.

***Note from the Newsletter Editor – LWV ABC thanks Jeorgette for her service in leadership to our League as well as at the state level. We need people to step up and help fill the void that Jeorgette is leaving! Now is a good time to find the leader within you and get more involved.***



**Have you noticed that LWV ABC has done away with disposable plates, etc?** We owe our thanks for this to Marcia Baudino, who started us off bringing her table service for 50 with reusable plates and silverware that she washes and returns to us each month. When Marcia's busy in the summer and fall, we use compostable plates, etc with a goal of zero waste. Want to know more about recycling? LWV ABC is planning to hold a session on what's new in recycling at sometime next spring. Details, of course, will be in this newsletter as the time draws near.

**What is Compostable at an Event?**

- All Food Scraps
- Tea Bags and Coffee Grounds
- Wooden Skewers or Popsicle Sticks
- BPI Certified Compostable Products
  - Compostable Plastic Cups, Straws, Utensils
- Non-Recyclable Paper
  - Napkins & Paper Towels
  - Paper Plates, Cups & Bowls



Aspen County Organics Container Event Signage

## Drafts and Discourse – November 21 at Torg Brewing, Spring Lake Park

Back again – LWV ABC's Drafts and Discourse – in a new venue! We will be meeting at Torg Brewing in Spring Lake Park. This newly-opened brewery at 8421 University Ave NE has lots of room and is fully accessible for all. We will meet here at 6pm for... well, drafts and discourse. The third



Wednesday of each month we will meet here, get some drinks and share

some snacks and then talk about events of the day. A different topic will be chosen each month for conversation starters (you can help plan them) – it could be a book to discuss, a video to watch and discuss or... there are many possibilities! These will be informal gatherings with a focus on informed and civil discourse, with beer and snacks. What could be better? Topics for each month will be announced on the LWV Facebook page and in the monthly email that announces our newsletter.



For more on Torg Brewing, check them out on Facebook at :

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/TorgBrewery/about/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/TorgBrewery/about/?ref=page_internal) or visit their website:

<https://www.torgbrewery.com/>

The brewery is located just south of Northtown on the same frontage road as Key's Café. Turn east from University at 83<sup>rd</sup> Avenue.

**(Yes, we know that Nov. 21 is Thanksgiving eve – what better time to slip away and talk policy and issues without your relatives?)**



### **Highlights of LWV ABC Board Meeting, Oct. 22, 2018**

The LWV ABC Board meets on the fourth Monday of each month, usually at the [Davanni's in Coon Rapids](#) (see earlier story for info on the July 23 meeting which will be held at the Anoka County Historical Society). All members and invited to attend; we gather at 11 and order lunch, then eat while we meet, ending around 1pm. At each meeting, we review the treasurer's report and discuss matters relating to upcoming meetings, projects and more. Here's a short recap of October's meeting, thanks to Arlene Gillett, Secretary:

-Kathy Tingelstad presented a short outline of her work funded by a Fellowship from the McKnight Foundation. They are working on a "Bill of Rights" for electric co-operative members.

-We discussed having a co-presidency to fill Jeorgette Knoll's term until a new president is elected at the annual meeting in April of 2019. The nominating committee will be contacting suggested candidates. Members can also raise their hands themselves – contact Mary Jo Truchon, Nominating Committee chair, if you are interested in serving in any capacity – 763.757.3084.

-Voter Service reported on all our expenses related to our candidate forums and high school voter registration. The topic for our membership meeting on Monday, Nov. 12th will be a discussion of these activities.

-We discussed having an unveiling event of our league display at the Anoka History Center, sometime next year. We could invite members of the Press, and state officers.



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®  
ANOKA, BLAINE, COON RAPIDS AREA

# THE VOTER

November 2018

## Save the Dates:

Monday, November 12. **LWV ABC Meeting – LWV ABC Voter Service 2018 Recap** - Meet at 6pm for light supper, meeting to follow. Andover Senior Center, 1685 Crosstown Blvd, Andover. All are welcome!

Wednesday, November 21 (the day before Thanksgiving) - **Drafts and Discourse** at Torg Brewery in Spring Lake Park, 6-8pm; 8421 University Ave NE, Spring Lake Park

Monday, November 26 – **LWV ABC Board meeting** at Davanni's, Coon Rapids. 11am to 1pm. All are welcome!

Monday, December 10 – **LWV ABC Meeting – You Own a Co-op and Lively Issues** - Meet at 6pm for light supper, meeting to follow. Andover Senior Center, 1685 Crosstown Blvd, Andover. All are welcome!

Wednesday, December 19 – **Drafts and Discourse** at the newly-opened Torg Brewery in Spring Lake Park, 6-8pm; 8421 University Ave NE, Spring Lake Park (just south of Northtown on the same frontage road as Key's Café)

Monday, December 24, 11am – **LWV ABC Board meeting** at Davanni's in Coon Rapids (Hwy 10 frontage road just south of Round Lake Blvd exit). Order food at 11, meeting commences at 11:30. This is a good opportunity to learn more about what LWV ABC is up to! (Note: this meeting time may be changed – watch this space for details!)

## 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).

## Do you have Information to share with LWV ABC?

Email your information to [lwvabc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvabc@gmail.com)