Letter to LWV ABC Forum Volunteers from Linda Rodgers, December 2020

Dear League volunteer,

***Thank you*** for your valiant service to local voters by helping with LWVABC’s *Meet the Candidates* sessions across Anoka County. “Valiant” is not an exaggeration. Our sessions covered **53 races** for office in cities, Anoka County, and the state legislature.

Forums don’t just happen, someone has to see to all the details and nuances. You crossed the t’s and dotted the i’s, even as you contended with family challenges, changes in daily lives due to COVID and civil unrest, other demands on your time, and your own health.

In the midst of the unpredictable and dangerous pandemic, League members crafted a new virtual format and implemented it consistently across forums, followed COVID safety protocols, and preserved the integrity of forum process. We adapted to quirks of our varied venues, and followed direction from LWVMN.

Thank you to our forum hosts: Lonni McCauley, Gretchen Sabel, Bruce Pomerantz, Kathy Aanerud, Paula Mohr, Geri Nelson, Jody Anderson, and Linda Rodgers, and assistants Roger McCully, Kay McCully, Dee Ann Christensen, Rita Newton, Paula Mohr, Shirley Andreason, Jane Arndt, Arlene Gillett, Sandra Connor, Sue Dergantz,and Kathy Tingelstad. Thank you to our planful and unflappable moderators, Kathy Tingelstad, Geri Nelson, Karen Varian, Arlene Gillett, Bruce Pomerantz, Wes Volkenant, and Linda Rodgers.

Special thanks to Geri Nelson, who steered our course overall, and to Bruce Pomerantz, who coordinated efforts for all of southern Anoka County.

Pat Kennedy described and promoted the forums via our website and social media, and designed an easy way for the public to submit questions and view the taped forums.

Kathy Aanerud wrote and shared promotions and pushed them out in print. Others, including Gretchen Sabel, pitched in with Facebook posts.

QCTV, CTN, North Metro, and city staff of Nowthen, Columbia Heights and Fridley shared their staff and technical expertise in orchestrating and taping the forums. In one instance, local police helped assure forum safety. A number of community nonprofits joined us as co-sponsors.

We had candidates who said they would show but didn’t, and candidates who surprised us by showing up. We hosted first-time participants and put them at ease. Bruce held one forum outside. One candidate challenged our authority over our own forums and we responded in a proactive manner. And we held our first forum ever in Nowthen, thanks to a first-time chair who kept finding a way.

*Meet the Candidates* demanded your time, creativity, and can-do attitude– and you sparkled. Thank you.

Linda Rodgers

Local LWV\_\_\_\_\_\_ABC\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Final Grant Reports are due via email to **info@lwvmn.org** by **Monday, December 7, 2020 at 4:00pm**.

Grant reports submitted after this date may not be eligible for final payments. All grant reports must be submitted using this form. Please note that receipts for expenses over $100 must be attached. If you have questions about this report, please contact Laura Helmer, LWV MN President, at [lhelmer@lwvmn.org](mailto:lhelmer@lwvmn.org)

Please add rows to the tables, as needed.

1. **Summarize your Voter Service activities:**

**Voter Guides**

| Communities/  Districts/  Races Covered | Community Partners | Method of Distribution | # of Guides Distributed |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| NA |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

**Candidate Forums**

| Date | Name of  Race/Contest | Community Partners | Moderator  (name and local League) | Est. Size of Audience  (both in-person and virtual) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| June 23 | Primaries  Anoka Mayor  County Commissioner District 6 | N/A | Geri Nelson-ABC  Chair-Anderson | 7  Mayor 40  Co Comm 38 |
| June 25 | Primaries  Coon Rapids at Large & Ward 4 | N/A | Linda Rodgers-ABC  Chair-McCauley | 6  1486 |
| July 14 | Primaries  Columbia Heights City Council 2 At-Large | N/A | Kathy Tingelstad-ABC  Chair-Pomerantz | 4  3172 |
| Aug 18 | Anoka Mayor  2 at-large Anoka city council seats | North Surburban Optimists  MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce | Karen Varian-ABC  Chair-Anderson | 7  Cty Coun 492  Mayor 255 |
| Aug  20 | Senate 35  House 35A | North Surburban Optimists  MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce | Karen Varian-ABC  Chair-Rodgers/Anderson | 7  35 107  35A 114 |
| Aug 24 | Coon Rapids City Council  Wards 1,2,4, At Large | North Surburban Optimists  MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce  Coon Rapids Women of Today  Transformative Circle | Linda Rodgers-ABC  Chair-McCauley | 7  730 |
| Aug 25 | House 36B  House 37A | North Surburban Optimists  MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce | Linda Rodgers-ABC  Chair-McCauley | 7  36B & 37A 135 |
| Aug 27 | Anoka County Commissioners  Soil & Water Commissioners | North Suburban Optiimists  MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce | Geri Nelson-ABC  Chair-Rodgers | 6  CC all Dist 743  S/W 618 |
| Sept 2 | Champlin City Council Wards 3 & 4  House 36A  Senate 36 | Champlin Women of Today  North Suburban Optimists, MetroNorth Chamber | Linda Rodgers-ABC  Chair-Nelson | 5  Ci C W3/4 90/69  SD36 64  36A 45 |
| Sept 3 | Blaine mayor, City Council  House 37A | North Suburban Optimists  MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce | Geri Nelson-ABC  Chair-Pomerantz | 4  Mayor 256  Ci Coun 1/3 175 |
| Sept 9 | Andover mayor, City Council House 35B | North Suburban Optimists  MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce | Bruce Pomerantz, Karen Varian-ABC  Chair-Sabel | 8  Cty Coun 2316  Mayor 2237  35B 183 |
| Sept 10 | House 41B | North Suburban Optimists  MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce | Karen Varian-ABC  Chair-Pomerantz | 5  41B 363 |
| Sept 15 | Senate 41  House 41A | North Suburban Optimists  MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce  Positively Fridley | Kathy Tingelstad-ABC  Chair-Pomerantz | 4  41 - 124 |
| Sept 16 | Ramsey mayor, City Council | North Suburban Optimists  MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce | Wes Volkenant-ABC  Chair-Rodgers/Anderson | 6  Mayor 388  Ci C At L 207  W 2/3/4 170/11/23 |
| Sept 17 | Nowthen mayor, City Council  House 31A | North Suburban Optimists  MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce | Arlene Gillett-ABC  Chair- Paula Mohr | 6  Ci C 287  Mayor 481  31A 50 |
| Sept 23 | Ham Lake mayor, City Council  Senate 31  House 31B  County Comm | North Suburban Optimists  Ham Lake Chamber of Commerce | Kathy Tingelstad-ABC  Chair-Aanerud | 7  City 201  31 135  31B 63  CoComm 1117 |
| Sept 30 | Columbia Heights mayor, City Council | North Suburban Optimists  MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce | Gretchen Sabel-ABC  Chair-Pomerantz | 4  Mayor 1479  CC 1430 |
| Oct 2 | House 37B | North Suburban Optimists  MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce | Mary Santi-White Bear Lake  Chair-Pomerantz | 4  37B 67 |
| Oct 8 | Senate 37 | North Suburban Optimists  MetroNorth Chamber of Commerce | Bruce Pomerantz-ABC  Chair-Rodgers | 4  SD 37 46 |
| Total | 19 Events  53 Races | **7 Partners** | **9 Moderators**  **8 Forum Chairs** | **108 in person**  **17,735 Virtual\*** |

**\*** This does not include viewers of the cable programs: QCTV - 22 videos aired and available on demand North Metro - 9 videos aired and available on demand

Fridley Municipal - 2 videos aired (not on demand except our upload to YouTube)

CTN - aired 3 videos (on demand included in YouTube)

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**Voter Registration**

| Date | Event - Include Location & Target Audience  (students, new citizens, etc.)  Indicate if virtual | Community Partners | Method (paper, online, etc.) | Est. Contacts Made | Est. New Voters Registered |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Dec  Jan | Northtown Mall  Rum River Library |  | Paper |  | 0 |
| Jan | Blaine High School social studies classrooms | BHS social studies teachers | Online |  | ? |
| 2/25/ 2020 | Coon Rapids High School Seniors | Anoka-Hennepin District HS social studies teachers | online | All seniors | 30 |
| 2/24 | Coon Rapids High School |  |  |  | 8 |

**Other Voter Education Events**

| Date | Event - Include Location  (Indicate if virtual) | Community Partners | Est. Size of Audience  (both in-person and virtual) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sept 20-30, 2020 | Sending postcards with registration and voting information to unregistered voters in Anoka County using MaptheVote.org to identify target audience. 500 were done by LWV ABC volunteers and 250 by student partners organized by Youth Civic Engagement Fellow Hailey Shaiger. | Coon Rapids High School National Honor Society | Total: 20  New: 10 |
| Oct | Video for Coon Rapids HS | Intern: Hailey | 39 views |
| Oct 12 | LWV ABC meeting on Voting Security featuring Anoka County Elections Chief | QCTV  Anoka Co. Elections | Zoom taped by QCTV |

#### **2. Promotional Activities:**

#### Which of the following did you use to promote your Voter Service activities? (check all that apply and indicate approximate number)

#### \_X\_ Press Releases \_\_6\_\_ Number of Press Releases

#### \_X\_Facebook \_806\_ Number of **persons reached**

#### \_\_\_ Twitter \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Tweets

#### \_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Number of emails

#### \_\_\_ Flyers \_\_\_6\_\_ Number of flyers

#### \_X\_ Instagram \_218\_\_

218 voting related Instagram posts.

Gained 213 followers.

Generally reached 300-800 accounts a week.

One post reached 509 accounts.

Individual posts specifically targeted at Anoka County (specific info on voting in Mn in the picture part of the post) reached 30-100 accounts (grew over time).

Only get demographics for last week but seems last week seems typical of what it usually is - 48.7% age 34 or under.  Generally 70-75% women

#### \_\_X\_\_City Newsletters \_\_2\_\_ number of newsletters

#### \_\_X\_\_ Blogs \_\_3\_\_ Number of blogs

#### If you tracked or boosted your Facebook posts for events, we’d appreciate knowing what impact it had on the number of new members of your group, attendance, cost or other data here: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Addendum to: LWV ABC VS Grant Report**

**Voter Registration**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Event | Partners | Method | Est Contact | Est Registered |
| Jan 4 | Anoka County Library Northtown | Anoka County Library | In Person | 50 | ? |
| Jan 13 | Anoka County Library Northtown | Anoka County Library | In Person | 40 | 3? |
| Jan 25 | Anoka County Library Fridley Mississippi Branch Lobby | Anoka County Library | In Person | 50 | 1 |
| Jan 25 | Columbia Heights Library Lobby | Columbia Heights Library | In Person | 50 | 5 |
| Jan 29 | Metro North Adult Basic Education Resource Fair | Metro North Adult Basic Education | In Person | 50 | 1 |
| Feb 1 | Anoka County Library Rum River | Anoka County Library | In Person | 50 | 1? |
| July 13 | Email to share with clients and residents on how to register and request absentee ballot with deadlines | Senior Housing Managers and Community Organizations | Email | 86  30 |  |
| Sep 23 | Email to share with clients and residents on how to register and request absentee ballot with deadlines | Senior Housing Managers | Email | 86 |  |

**Other Voter Education Events**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Event | Partners | Audience |
| Jan 4 | A Primer on the Presidential Primary | Anoka County Elections Manager.  Anoka County Library | 35 Live. |
| April 29 | How to Conduct an Election in a Time of a Pandemic | Senator Michelle Bachman.  Senator Carolyn Laine.  QCTV. | No live audience.  15 views on YouTube.  Aired on QCTV, available on demand on QCTV. |
| July 27 | Election During a Global Pandemic | Minnesota Secretary of State.  Anoka County Elections Manager.  QCTV. | 36 Live on Zoom.  41 YouTube Views.  Aired on QCTV, available on demand on QCTV. |
| Oct 12 | Ballot Security in Minnesota | Anoka County Elections Manager.  QCTV. | 27 Live on Zoom  15 views on YouTube.  Aired on QCTV, available on demand on QCTV. |

Hailey’s video on How to Vote in Person had an additional 17 views – 39 on Hailey’s YouTube, 17 on LWV ABC’s You Tube

**Flyers** – a lot of flyers in person, some were left of Rum River and Northtown during the traveling exhibit and left with Mississippi library after the Legislative interviews

150 Copies of the Presidential Primary Info from SOS were printed and used

50? (Kathy Aanerud printed) brochures A Primer on the Presidential Primary (extras were used at other Voter registration events)

Estimate 40 half sheet flyer made from the back of the Presidential Primary brochure

**3. Volunteer Time:** Those who provide funding to organizations like LWV Minnesota often want to understand our members’ commitment to the organization. One way we demonstrate our passion and belief in the work of the League of Women Voters is through the time we personally invest in this work. Please **estimate** the number of hours your members spent planning and executing the events described above.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Role** | **Total Hours** |
| Voter Service Chairs | 565 |
| Event Planners | 163 |
| Moderators | 91 |
| Communications | 328 |
| Event Volunteers | 288 |
| Membership (included in Communications) | NA |
| Voter Registration Drive Volunteers | 10 |
| Other: Postcard GOTV & stamps | 44 |
| Other: students: video for new voters, GOTV | 15 |
| **Total Hours — All Volunteers** | 1504 |

Local LWV\_\_\_\_\_\_ABC\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**4. Expenses:** Below, please summarize your expenses using the categories provided. Please attach copies of receipts for expenses over $100.

**Voter Service Grant Fund Expenses**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Expense Item** | **Details/Vendors** | **Amount** |
| Space/Venue Rental |  |  |
| Refreshments |  |  |
| Printing Costs | Office Depot/Max, Presto Printing | $326.86 |
| Honorariums (note: amounts cut in half from application) | Moderators @ $25  Forum Chairs @ $50  Voter Service Chair @ $100 | $1775.00 |
| Mileage Reimbursement |  |  |
| LWV Banner |  |  |
| Liability Insurance |  |  |
| Audio/Video Production including Technical Support |  |  |
| Promotion/Publicity/Advertising |  |  |
| Supplies | USPS stamps  Thanks for the pens and sanitizer! | $91.00 |
| Other: water | Water $16.11  Sanitizing supplies $10 | $26.11 |
| Blue horizontal banner | Did not receive |  |
| 2 - 18 x 24 signs | Did not receive |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  | **Total Actual Expenses** | $2218.97 |
|  |  |  |
|  | **Less Local League Contribution** | $350.00 |
|  | **Less Ed Fund Withdrawal** | NA |
|  | **Less First Half Grant Received** | 325.00 |
|  |  |  |
|  | **Balance of Expenses** | $1543.97 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |

Local LWV\_\_\_\_\_ABC\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |
| If the Balance of Expenses is equal to or greater than the proposed 2nd half of the grant, then the full amount of the proposed 2nd half will be paid. If there is an additional balance remaining after all grant funding has been paid, that is the responsibility of the Local League.  If the Balance of Expenses is less than the proposed 2nd half of the grant, then the final grant payment will be equal to the Balance of Expenses.  If you did not spend all of the first half of your grant, you may be asked to send the unspent amount to LWV MN after the committee reviews your report. | | |

**Remember to attach copies of all receipts for expense over $100 to this report.**

Report Prepared by:

Geri Nelson Voter Service Co-Chair

Name Title

Geri Nelson 12/7/2020

Signature Date

[Geri\_nelson454@msn.com](mailto:Geri_nelson454@msn.com) 763 421 7334

Email Phone

The final check should be mailed to Wes Volkenant

1482 158th Ln NW

Andover, MN 55304

***Thank you for all your hard work in our Voter Service Activities***

***and for preparing this report!***