

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS - RoMaFH

ROSEVILLE, MAPLEWOOD, FALCON HEIGHTS

Also serving the communities of Little Canada and Lauderdale



VOTER

March 2007

www.romafh.org

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Membership Directory Update:

Anne Haugan
1161 Oakcrest Ave
Roseville, MN 55113
651-484-3856

March Unit Meetings MPCA Study

March Unit Meetings will be a discussion of the LWVMN publication:
Examining a State Agency:

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

This publication was mailed to all league members a few weeks ago. FIND IT, READ IT, Bring it with you to your unit meeting along with your March VOTER which includes questions we will discuss (see pages 9 and 10)

A LWVMN committee spent two years on this study and our own Judy Rosenblatt helped with the final "reading" and editing AND wrote the questions we will try to cover.

We will not be taking consensus as both LWVMN and LWVUS have positions which allow us to lobby state and national governments on these issues.

Tuesday, March 20, 5:30P.M. Timberlodge Steak House
Contact Stephanie DeBenedet, 651-483-1006
or jdbenedet@msn.com

Wednesday March 21, 9:30A.M. Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Victoria and County Rd. C
Contact Kathy Ciernia at 651-644-1749

Questions? Call Ann Berry, 651-484-4502 or annberry@usfamily.net

2006-7 Board of Directors

Teri Kysylyczyn
Barbara Yates
Co-Presidents

Andrea Brodtmann
Secretary

Florence Sprague
Treasurer

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Nystrom, Eileen Ulrich, Carole
Erickson, Lorraine Fischer CMAL
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Public Relations

Angela Robinson
Action Chair

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Lorraine Fischer (Maplewood),
Barbara Lehn (Little Canada)
Jill Lund (623 School Board)
Observer Program

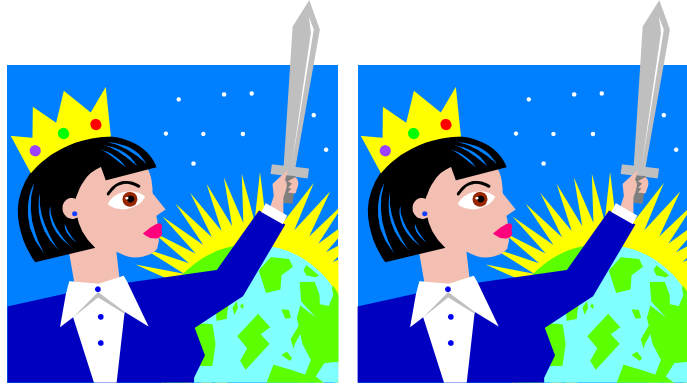
Andrea Brodtmann
Patricia DeFrancis
Sandi Lutz, Linda McLoon
Voter Service

Karen Schaffer
Gale Pederson
Membership

Georgiana Sobola
Units/ Admin. Asst

Laura French, Diane Nystrom
Newsletter

Joan Stark
Betty Harper
Finance Committee



Co-Presidents' Letter

During last year's primary and general selections, RoMaFH members Cynthia Richardson and Judy Rosenblatt were among those staffing the LWVMN election hotline. This contribution of volunteer time enabled the League of Women Voters to provide information to voters as a public service and raised funds for our local League. Thank you Judy and Cynthia for stepping up.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you'll find the list of people who have volunteered as officers and directors for RoMaFH in 2007-2008. These are the people who will recruit members, put together our outstanding monthly programs, observe City Council meetings, and do all the other work that supports our mission. (See the "Water Facts" throughout this newsletter, taken from Barbara Liukkonen's February presentation on Minnesota's Water Resources.)

Contributions of time and talent are what the League of Women Voters is all about. The RoMaFH League is fortunate to have so many talented members who give so generously of their time.

Please join us for the April meeting, where we'll be discussing the Minnesota League's study of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Studies like these are another reflection our organization's important mission.

Teri Kysylyczyn & Barb Yates

Co-presidents

Windows and Mirrors for All

By Florence Sprague



The Science Museum of Minnesota is hosting a forum on *Race and Immigration* on Thursday Evening, March 29, 2007. This forum is one in a series that explores an in-depth understanding of race and its impact on our society. The forum will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. in the **Science Museum 3 D Cinema**. Admission: \$12. Seniors: \$8. Reservations suggested.

Water Facts

The Shoreland Education Program is based at the University of Minnesota Extension Service with cooperation from the University of Minnesota Water Resources Center and Minnesota Sea Grant Program. Its goal is to educate Minnesota citizens about shoreland management to improve water quality, habitat and aesthetics of Minnesota lakes and rivers. For more information on publications and workshops, go to www.extension.umn.edu/shoreland and

SPIN

By Florence Sprague

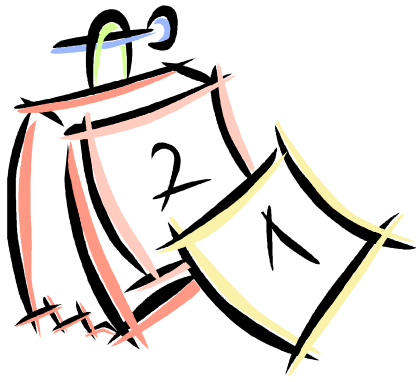
Spin. Politicians and their spokespeople do it all the time. Opposing groups joust for the most appealing twist on an issue, the phrase that casts the best light on one position and the worst light on the opposing position, even if it is possibly misleading. It doesn't only happen in contemporary politics. We all know at some level that "history is written by the winner."

This was brought home to me forcefully in a book I read for a recent SEED class, Neither Wolf Nor Dog by Minnesotan Kent Nerburn. I highly recommend this fascinating and challenging retelling of conversations and experiences Nerburn had with an Indian elder.

We have talked before about how North America was not an uninhabited wasteland when European colonists arrived in the 1600s. It was less densely populated than crowded Europe and inhabited by communities of cultures dramatically different from those of Europe, but those communities were real, structured and of great age and history. The words used to describe the interactions between white and Indian communities define how we see and feel about what happened. Dan, the main speaker in Neither Wolf nor Dog, points out many instances in which the common language of our history is really spin as much as fact. These ideas are not mine, but his, filtered through me.

When Europeans came to North America (a designation disliked by some, since this continent is no more aptly named for an Italian explorer than it is linked to the Indies) they considered land without major cities and a network of roads as unclaimed. Their understanding of "property" did not encompass any other interpretation. In reality the land was more likely to be communally used and seen as belonging to itself, not to man at all by the indigenous societies. The two concepts of the relationship of people to land were orthogonal and the bulk of the colonists made no effort to try to understand the system of peoples who seemed so radically different from them. The combination of language and conceptual incompatibility made the treaty process by which the taking of the land of North America is justified a farce, even before the U.S. government abrogated treaty after treaty. The concept of private ownership of property is quite central to "Western Civilization." Property, as in ownership of exclusive rights in and control of something is central to contemporary American culture and was in Europe at the time of colonization.

The shortage of land and restriction of property rights for some groups of people was one impetus toward migration to North America. So accustomed am I to one way of thinking that the absence of such a property concept is really difficult for me to truly comprehend. How do communities handle the interface with, and competition for, this finite resource without it? Well, they did until



Calendar of Events 2007

Mar 20-21	Unit Meetings "State Study"
Mar 28	Board Meeting
April 29	Book Sale
Apr 17-18	Unit Meetings "Diversity/ Immigration"
Apr 25	Board Meeting
May 8	Annual Meeting
May 23	Board Meeting
June 25	Rosefest Parade
June 27	Board Calendar Planning Meeting

Water Facts

There are 90,000 miles of rivers and streams in Minnesota, and 11,842 lakes of 10 acres of more.

Minnesota has half the wetlands of 100 years ago.

Source: Barbara Liukkonen,
Water Resource Educator for
University of Minnesota Water
Resource Center

external population pressures from people with different philosophies occurred. Native people belonged to the land, not the other way around. The land was sacred and respect for it a part of their religion. Religion was not in a book or a cup, it was in the land everywhere. Dan asserts that in Indian culture it is equally foreign and incomprehensible to consider "owning" land. Standoff.

The concept of westward expansion into the frontier is central to American history as taught to every schoolchild and the word frontier figures prominently. Dan's dictionary defined frontier as "the edge between the known and the unknown". Known by whom? Whites see history of settling of North America as landing on the shores and moving westward through hostile territory and pacifying it. How many loaded "spin" words can you spot in the previous sentence? To the Indians it was a case of being pushed inward and losing their homelands. They saw the different European groups fighting with one another but all wanted things from the Indians. They didn't live beyond the frontier, they knew the land where they lived.

Dan also points out that the words used to describe conflicts between white farmers and plains Indians are also loaded. If there was a battle that ended in favor of the Whites, they "won", if the Indians came out on top in a conflict they are describing as having massacred innocent settlers. European settlers raised armies, Indians had uprisings, or went on the warpath. This type of language is beginning to change in our books and our museums. I pulled out the 6th grade Minnesota history textbook used at my school and the language is more evenhanded. The final outcome is still as unbalanced and the influx of Europeans is accepted, but the description of the actions of the Sioux and the Ojibwa are not so inflammatory. More people are sensitive to this topic, but it is far from resolved. Most books, movies, songs etc. disseminated by the dominant culture portray the settlers as the ones being threatened, not the native peoples. And if your ancestors were harmed by Indians, or even if you just grew up on land that was once Indian land, you probably don't want to believe that you have no right to it. This is just the tip of the iceberg of spin of the interactions between Whites and Indians. Every word counts. What we say and hear said influences what we think and too many phrases are absorbed without thought and not updated. I encourage you to make a date with Dan and Kent. The conversation will not be dull.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS BOOK SALE

APRIL 29, 2007 - 7 AM to 1:30 PM
Fairview Community Center
910 West County Road B



We will need all kinds of books: hard cover and soft cover, big books and little books, books for women, books for men, books for girls and boys. We'll need magazines: craft, cooking, gardening, travel, and cross-cultural (i.e., *National Geographics*, etc.). We'll need CDs, DVDs, videos, cassettes, games, and puzzles of all kinds. The more the better! Check all your bookshelves, your spouse's bookshelves, your kid's bookshelves, your friend's bookshelves and anyone else's bookshelves who might be ready to donate for a very worthy cause!

In order to make our books more inviting and visible to those who browse over our offerings, we will need bookcases, small shelves or crates, tablecloths, stuffed animals, bouquets of flowers or anything that will enhance our presentation and add dimension to the "set up". If you have any of these items, please contact Joyce Blomquist or Nancy Irsfeld ASAP to let us know what you are willing to loan - and whether you can bring items to Fairview early on Saturday. If not, we can arrange for pick-up on Friday afternoon or Saturday morning.

Water Facts

Common pollutants include:

- Sediment
- Nutrients
- Mercury (from power generation)
- Bacteria
- Pesticides
- Personal care products

Source: Barbara Liukkonen,
Water Resource Educator for
University of Minnesota Water
Resource Center

PLEASE DONATE YOUR SALE ITEMS BEFORE APRIL 27TH. WE CANNOT ACCEPT ANYTHING ON FRIDAY OR SATURDAY WHEN WE ARE SETTING UP FOR THE SALE.

Drop-off Site:

Georgiana Sobola
651-644-3337
1961 Hamline Avenue, Roseville
Leave in the breezeway entrance

Coordinators:

Joyce Blomquist 651-631-0688 1980 W. Skillman Roseville	Nancy Irsfeld 651-633-4741 1754 Maple Lane Roseville
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Then mark your calendar for the weekend of APRIL 27-29 so that we can have a fun time working together for a great book sale.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

* Fri. 4/27, 1 pm to 5 pm - transporting donations from Georgiana's home to Fairview Community Center, where we will sort them into the different categories.

* Sat. 4/28, 8 am to 2 pm - setting up the tables and bookcases, and arranging everything.

• Sun. 4/29, 7 am to 2 pm - selling and rearranging, and then packing up what we don't sell and returning everything to Georgiana's home.

Sign up sheets (made by Julianne Johnston - thanks!) will be available again at March unit meetings so you can let us know when you'll be able to help out. Call Joyce Blomquist or Nancy Irsfeld to volunteer if you miss signing up at units, if you have any items to loan, if you have any questions or ideas to share, or IF YOU HAVE A CHANGE IN YOUR PLANS AND CAN'T COME FOR THE TIME WHEN YOU SIGNED UP.

HELP US MAKE THIS THE BEST BOOK SALE WE'VE EVER HAD!!!

Treasurer's Report

January 2007



Previous Checking Balance, January 24, 2007	<u>\$2,804.19</u>
Income:	
Dues 1 @\$50	\$50.00
LWVMNEF reimbursement-Sheriff's Forum expenses	\$145.00
Finance drive	\$490.00
Total Income	<u>\$685.00</u>
Expenses:	
----Transfer back to Savings	\$800.00
#4124 Diane Nystrom Voter postage (Jan.)	\$56.70
#4125 Ann Berry Program postage	\$7.80
#4126 LWVUS 3 rd Qtr. PMP	\$578.46
#4127 Diane Nystrom Voter postage (Feb.)and speaker meal	\$45.65
Total Expenses:	<u>\$1,488.61</u>
Balance in Checking, February 25, 2007	<u>\$2,000.58</u>
Fund Balances:	
Checking	\$2,000.58
Savings	\$3,643.54
Education Fund	\$4,243.46
Paid Members: 91	4 family of 2, 1 family of 3, 80 individual

Water Facts

Individuals in developing countries use 2-5 gallons of water a day. Individuals in the U.S. use 100-120 gallons of water a day.

The U.S. consumes 408 billion gallons of water per day:

Power generation	48%
Public water	11%
Irrigation	34%

Texas, California and Florida use 25% of all water consumed in the U.S.

It takes 4 gallons of water to make one gallon of ethanol.

Source: Barbara Liukkonen,
 Water Resource Educator for
 University of Minnesota Water
 Resource Center

2007 – 2008 Proposed LWV RoMaFH Officers and Directors

Water Facts

What can you do to improve Minnesota's water quality?

1. Mow smart
2. Pick up grass cuttings
3. Test soil before applying fertilizer
4. Use salt sparingly
5. Use downspouts
6. Restore shoreline
7. Ask candidates their position on water quality
8. Advocate

Source: Barbara Liukkonen, Water Resource Educator for University of Minnesota Water Resource Center

Blue Thumb is an outreach program of Rice Creek Watershed District that helps people plan, purchase and plant native gardens, raingardens and shorelines. Visit www.BlueThumb.org for how-tos. Or call 763 398 3070.

Officers:

Co-Presidents Teri Kysylyczyn, Barbara Yates
Secretary Anne Haugan
Treasurer Joan Stark

Directors:

Program Georgeann Hall, Ann Berry, Diane Nystrom
Judith Rosenblatt, Florence Sprague

CMAL Lorraine Fischer; alternate, Marilyn Ulrich

Community Relations

Public Relations Ann Cleland
Action Chair Angela Robinson
Observer Program Michael Garelick (Roseville)
Lorraine Fischer (Maplewood)
Barb Lehn, (Little Canada)
Jill Lund (623, Roseville Schools)

Voter Service Pat DeFrancis, Sandi Lutz, Linda McLoon

Organization

Membership Gale Pederson, Karen Schaffer
Admin. Asst. Georgiana Sobola
VOTER Editor Laura French
VOTER mailing Diane Nystrom
Finance Betty Harper, Joan Stark

Off-board Responsibilities:

Nominating Committee Carolyn Cushing, Michael Garelick,
Julianne Johnston,
Donna Peterson, Joan Regal
Records & Directory John Kysylyczyn
Website John Kysylyczyn
Book Sale Joyce Blomquist, Nancy Irsfeld
Annual Meeting Carole Erickson, Marty Everest
Parade Event Marty Everest, Shirley Bradway
VIP Lila Reckseidler, Florence Sprague
Gavel Rep Mary Ann Palmer

Submitted in accordance with Article VIII, Sect. 2 of the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of RoMaFH by the nominating committee.

Shirley Bradway, Marty Everest
Lila Reckseidler, Georgiana Sobola

Questions for LWVMN Study: Examining a State Agency

Reference the LWVMN Education Fund publication Examining a State Agency: Agency and other resources for discussion of the following questions.

Does the MPCA fulfill its purpose?

Structure

1. Is the agency structured so that it can best accomplish what its charter requires of it?
2. Has the current structure adequately protected the environment? Could the environment be protected better with a different mandate or setup?
3. Is having a Citizens' Board beneficial?
4. Are changes needed in the way the board (or the commissioner) is chosen? [see proposed state legislation]
5. How would you promote "political stability"? (See p. 19)
6. What changes would you like to see?
7. How should they be made?

Funding

8. Is funding for the agency adequate?
9. Are the sources of funds the right ones?
10. If more funds are needed, where should they come from (taxes; fees for permits, etc; penalties on polluters; other sources)?
11. Is too much money spent on documenting problems and not enough on eliminating them? (See p. 20, "Efficiency.")
12. Should funds/assistance be available to Minnesota residents for disputing MPCA (and other state agency) decisions (a la Wisconsin)? (See p. 23.)

Relationships

13. Are improvements needed in MPCA's relationship with other state agencies?
14. Does the organization's responsibilities need to be different with regard to emerging complex issues (such as ethanol plants)?
15. Should responsibility for traditional purviews of MPCA be shared with other agencies?
16. Are the lines of authority/responsibility clear to citizens?
17. Do citizens have confidence in the agency's decisions?

Does MPCA model good government?

Operations/decisions

A March 9, 2005 letter to former Commissioner Corrigan from the Environmental Working Group, a national team of scientists, policy experts, and lawyers who work on health and environmental issues, states, "Your refusal to test for PFCs in Minnesota water adds to an apparent, disturbing trend in your Agency to make decisions influenced more by politics than science, to the detriment of public health."

18. Are MPCA decisions based on solid objective evidence?
19. Is the operation efficient?
20. Are regulations applied equitably?

Public access to information

21. Is information about the agency and its project/deliberations readily available?
22. If you are concerned about a proposed project, can you easily find out which governmental agency is the “responsible government unit” (RGU)?
23. Are meetings sufficiently open to all?
24. Is citizen input taken seriously?
25. Is the decision-making transparent?

Responsibility to stakeholders

26. Is the agency responsible to all stakeholders?
27. What is the relationship between the economy and the environment?
28. Should the agency try to balance competing interests?
29. If changes are needed, what should they be?

