



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS - RoMaFH
ROSEVILLE, MAPLEWOOD, FALCON HEIGHTS

Also serving the communities of Little Canada and Lauderdale

VOTER

April 2008

www.romafh.org

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April Unit Meetings:

SPEAKER: Paul Gardner(DFL) Shoreview
Chairman of the (new) Drinking Water Subcommittee

How sustainable is our drinking water supply? Are we doing a good job as a state in protecting our ground water? Representative Paul Gardner will share some of his extensive research into protecting Minnesota's drinking water. Also, the Drinking Water Committee has put together a bill HF3238 which will encourage water conservation across Minnesota. At this meeting, we will be updated on the progress of this bill.

Working for cleaner water and environmental action have long been Paul Gardner's passion. He has served on the Shoreview Environmental Quality Committee, two years as the committee's chair.

When: Tuesday, April 15
Social hour and Dinner 5:30, Program 7:00

Where: Grumpy's Restaurant (formerly Majors)
Snelling Ave. (just South of County Rd C2)
Roseville

Wednesday, April 16
9:30 a.m. Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Victoria and County Rd.C
Please bring your own beverage

2006-7 Board of Directors

Teri Kysylyczyn
Barbara Yates
Co-Presidents

Anne Haugan
Secretary
Joan Stark
Treasurer

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

It is April in Minnesota, so by the time you get this newsletter it may be snowing or the sun may be shining! Let's hope for sun! And if you are spring cleaning around your house, remember the ROMAFH Book Sale on April 20th. We need your books! Find the info in the newsletter and help us out and make room on your shelves at home.

Other upcoming events include our annual meeting on May 1. This is when we overview the year and vote on officers for next year. Come join us for a fun evening of catching up on the work of LWV ROMAFH. Also, mark your calendars for the parade. The 18th Annual Rose Parade will be held on Monday, June 23. We gather at 5:30 and the parade begins at 6:15. This is a great time to bring children, grandchildren and anyone that would like to march with us and hand out flags. A little exercise (or a car ride for some), a little sun and a whole lot of fun.

Finally, a reminder about a unique volunteer opportunity-- if you have never volunteered to be an election judge, please consider doing so. Election judges help oversee our elections and help people through the voting process on election day. Volunteering takes just a little time for training and time to work a shift on election day. It is a great way to get involved and your help is much needed. Our local cities are starting to prepare for the fall election and now is the time to get your name on the list. Just call your local city hall and tell them you would like to volunteer to be an election judge.

Thanks for all you do,
Teri Kysylyczyn
Barb Yates
Co-presidents



**League of Women Voters-RoMaFH
Treasurer's Report – March 26, 2008**



Previous Checking Balance – February 27, 2008 **\$830.31**

Income:

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Transfer from Savings Account | \$300.00 |
| Finance Drive | 475.00 |
| Total Income: | <u>\$775.00</u> |

Expenses:

| | | |
|-------|---|---------|
| #4175 | LWVM Ed Fund, Finance Drive Split Donation, (Polly Franke) | 15.00 |
| #4176 | <i>K Solutions LLC</i> , Website, Domain Registration, Directory, Misc. Labels and Paper | 1135.00 |
| #4177 | Joan Stark, Voter Postage | 82.00 |
| #4178 | <i>Office Depot</i> , Printing March Votr | 82.30 |
| #4179 | <i>Café Cravings</i> , Refreshments March General. Mtg. | 50.06 |
| #4180 | Joan Stark, Printing Finance Drive “Thank You’s” | 18.22 |

Total Expenses: **\$1382.58**

Checking Account Balance March 26, 2008 **\$222.73**

Savings Account Balance February 29, 2008 **\$2,976.20**

Education Fund Balance March 26, 2008 **\$6,055.95**

Windows and Mirrors



Oh, Henry Higgins!

By Florence Sprague

"I'll get a terrace apartment."

"Better get rid of your accent!"

"America," *West Side Story*, movie lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

I recently attended a charming production of "My Fair Lady." You probably recall that in this show we all get to watch as Professor Higgins trains the poor flower-girl, Eliza Doolittle, to speak with the accent and diction of an upper-class woman and win his bet that he could fool everyone about her background. In addition to teaching, he had analyzed the speech patterns of many groups and regions. Henry Higgins could identify precisely from what locale a person hailed, and in doing so he also assigned a class to the person. "It's 'Aooooow' and 'Garn' that keep her in her place, not her wretched clothes and dirty face," he asserts. Accent determined where each person was able to fit in and what roles they could have in the community.

Even before seeing "My Fair Lady" recently, I had been thinking about the assumptions associations we all have connected with accent. Many Americans today move enough that they lose any particular regional accent, but I posit that we still stereotype people based on how they speak. As soon as someone opens his or her mouth, we make assumptions, which hold until proven otherwise. It happens unconsciously, but it happens.

Immigrants, like the Puerto Ricans in *West Side Story*, are familiar with the downside of having an identifiably non-native-speaker accent. African Americans are taught that they need to speak standard English, not ebonics, to get ahead in business. And even among white native English speakers accent can be an issue. Listen in your mind to someone who speaks with a Texas twang or a southern drawl, a New Yorker from "Long Gisland", or someone who pahks the cah in Hahvahd Yahd. If you heard each one recite the same set of phrases do you think you would assign each person the same level of intelligence? of education? of income? What assumptions would you have about their appearance, religion, occupation, date of immigration, race, or politics based solely on their accent?

An accent can put you in your place, get you into a place, or help you fit into a place. My husband and I went to college with many students from the metropolitan New York region, many of whom had some strong variant of the New York accent. My husband grew up moving around in Texas and Oklahoma and Georgia. He had a mild southern/southwestern accent when he arrived at college in upstate New York. The New York/New Jersey crowd in his freshman dorm, oblivious to their own accents, razzed him intensely about his accent,



Connecting Members Through LWVMN Email Lists

What's happening in the League of Women Voters? We can keep each other informed through email lists. LWVMN has created a variety of email lists for you to learn what's happening in your area of interest. The most popular list is lwvmn-share, where we post programs and other announcements. Many board positions have an email list, such as the ll-presidents for all Local League presidents. It is up to you to Join or Drop a list; you do so on the www.lwvmn.org website in the Member Resources section.

To login to Member Resources, just enter your email address and password. If you've never signed into Member Resources, or forgot your password, please click the Forgot Password link. A password will be emailed to you. If you have any problems, please contact Ady Wickstrom at webmaster@lwvmn.org.

Once you've logged in, click the E-mail Lists heading in the middle of the left-side menu.
(Email Lists cont'd)

often including derogatory terms for white southerners in their commentaries. He retrained himself and now speaks with a neutral, non-regional accent.

Our ears are tuned to a certain frequency. We expect to hear certain patterns of pronunciation, intonation and idiom and our brains notice when we hear something outside of the range of the ordinary. No problem yet. The problem arises when we have too little information about the owner of the unusual speaking voice and fill in the gaps with stereotypes and unfounded assumptions. Northerners may misestimate those with Southern accents and vice versa, ascribing certain personality traits, attitudes and education to strangers based solely upon accent. I've caught myself doing a double take upon hearing a radio interview with a prominent scientist with a "hillbilly" accent. The accent "told" me one thing, the content of the speech another. Disconnect. So what difference does this make? Is it avoidable? Do we want to homogenize speech?

Our manner of speaking can be a matter of pride. It can be a source of group identity. Life is also just more interesting when we don't all sound the same. At the same time, when it becomes a basis for bias or bigotry it is definitely problematic, just as with any type of stereotyping. Do you place others by their accents? We need to take care to listen to **what** each person is saying, not just what he or she sounds like.

Y'all have a nice day now, y'all.

The lists are all displayed, with a button by each to Join or Drop your name from the list. In addition to the LWVMN options, the bottom has links to get information from LWVUS.

Email is quick and convenient, and doesn't use up natural resources.

If you don't have a computer, check out your local library.

Most offer free computer training and have computers available for your use.

You can also get an email address free from companies like Yahoo and Google (mail.yahoo.com and mail.google.com). I invite you to join LWVMN email lists and connect with each other!

Peggy Kvam
LWVMN Communications
Chair



BOOK SALE FAIRIES ARE READY TO ALIGHT!!!

The Book Sale fairies will be landing at Fairview Community Center on Saturday, April 19th at 8 am to help us with setting up the wonderful LWV Book Sale. We will be “flitting around” setting up tables and all kinds of books, magazines, DVDs, games and puzzles, and LWV signs and displays.

The fairies have promised to provide us with lunch, snacks, and beverages if you bring your helping hands. As the fairies tell us, “many hands make light work”. The fairies will be there to help us until we have everything arranged for our Book Sale. Hopefully we will finish by 3 pm or before.

As your Voter arrives and you read this, it will be less than two weeks to our Book Sale. There is still time to volunteer your help if you haven't already signed up! We also need your bookcases and other display cases and baskets. You should bring these items to Fairview Community Center on Friday, April 18th from 3 to 5 pm, or as early on Saturday as you can.

Our greatest need is for help on Sunday, April 20th, from 1:30 until 3 pm to box up all the books, pack up supplies, and return tables to classrooms. We need 3 or 4 vans to return books to Georgiana's home. All donated bookcases must be picked up about 2:30 pm.

Please call Joyce Blomquist (631-0688) or Nancy Irsfeld (633-4741) if you can help. **IF YOUR PLANS CHANGE AND YOU CAN'T COME FOR THE TIME YOU SIGNED UP, CALL US ASAP.**

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