



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS - RoMaFH

ROSEVILLE, MAPLEWOOD, FALCON HEIGHTS

*Also serving the communities of Little Canada and Lauderdale*

# VOTER

February 2008

[www.romafh.org](http://www.romafh.org)

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In this VOTER you will find lists of local LWV positions (of our own League, ROMAFH) and LWVUS positions, from the national office, for our review.

If you have comments about any of these positions such as "keep, drop, update" or suggestions for a new study on the local or national level, please mail them to: Ann Berry, 1059 Woodhill Drive, Roseville, 55113, Email: [annberry@usfamily.net](mailto:annberry@usfamily.net), or call Ann at: 651-484-4502 by FEBRUARY 21, 2008. Thank you! Ann Berry, Program committee

### February Unit Meetings:

## Health Care and Democracy

Speaker: Liz Doyle

Policy Director--TakeAction Minnesota

How do we achieve quality, affordable health care for all Minnesotans? Who has access to health care and who does not? Minnesotans? Who has access to health care and who does not? Are our health care dollars being wisely spent? Is the health care system accountable to the right stakeholders? TakeAction Minnesota is building a grassroots movement for quality, affordable health care for all in Minnesota. Come learn about their work and share your ideas for a more equitable health care system.

**Tuesday, February 19**

Social hour and Dinner 5:30, Program 7:00

Grumpy's Restaurant (formerly Majors)

Snelling Ave. just south of County C2

Reservations help us plan—please call or e-mail

Stephanie DeBenedet (651) 483-1006 [jdebenedet@msn.com](mailto:jdebenedet@msn.com)

**Wednesday, February 20**

9:30 a.m. Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Victoria and County Rd. C

Please bring your own beverage.

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## Co-Presidents' Letter

### 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  
Lorraine Fischer CMAL  
**Program Division**

Ann Cleland  
**Public Relations**

Angela Robinson  
**Action Chair**

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

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**

Thank you to those that assisted with the VIP meeting and those that stayed a little longer in order to complete the legislative interviews. It is always nice to have informal discussions with our elected officials.

Another new change with our League is the update of our Website. Our hope is that things will get updated quicker and more efficiently. Hopefully this will be a one stop shop for the upcoming busy election season (including dates of candidate forums that we host) and other informational items that our League has to offer to the general public throughout the year. Please check out the new format at [www.romafh.org](http://www.romafh.org).

Teri Kysylyczyn  
Barb Yates  
Co-presidents



## Windows and Mirrors

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### **Hear Ye! Hear Ye! THE WONDERFUL ROMAFH BOOK SALE IS COMING!! Sunday April 20<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 AM to 1:30 PM Fairview Community Center**

We will need all kinds of books: hardcover, softcover, big books, little books, books for men, books for women, books for boys, and books for girls. 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! Bring your items to Georgiana Sobola's home at 1961 Hamline Avenue, Roseville. Please call her at 651-644-3337 before you drop off your things. Check all your bookshelves, your friend's bookshelves, and

## **Am I Myself Today?**

By Florence Sprague

Former Missouri Senator and one-time Vice Presidential candidate Thomas Eagleton died in March of 2007. He was a man of great intelligence, accomplishment and public service and so I was rather sad to realize that the first thing that came to mind when I heard his name was how quickly the world shrank from him upon learning that he had been hospitalized for clinical depression and had received electroshock therapy as a part of his treatment. A man of many abilities was tossed aside and shamed. The fear was almost palpable. As an article in the New York Times noted a few years after his death "Few ambitious politicians now dare seek out professional help for psychological, marital, alcohol or drug problems for fear they will be labeled 'mentally unbalanced.'"

What is it about mental illness that frightens us so? Physical illness can be scary, frustrating, saddening, contagious and life-threatening, but rarely does it cause us to judge a person so harshly and unfairly as does mental illness. (The exception, perhaps, being sexually transmitted diseases.) Whacko. Loopy. Fruitcake. Nut case. There are so many colorful ways to describe a person whose behavior is outside the range of normalcy, and so few respectful ways. Sometimes that extreme behavior is harmless, though unconventional; sometimes it may be dangerous, to the individual or to others, but in either case, we tend to be afraid of it rather than compassionate. Why?

I think it may have to do with two things, a lack of knowledge and protection of identity. In many arenas, humans exhibit fear of the unknown and most of us really don't know all that much about the different types of mental illnesses. We don't know what causes them, how they are treated, or why people get them. When behavior outside the norm is attributed to malfunction of the brain we feel especially vulnerable because it threatens our sense of who we are. Where do "you" reside? Not what is the address of your home, but the locus of your self, that something that makes you you. We tend to identify our selves with our minds, or our brains. "She isn't herself today," might be heard if a friend behaves out of character. If a medical problem resides in the mind or brain, it is not just life threatening, but identity threatening.

I recently read a fascinating personal narrative of a life lived with manic depressive illness. Kay Redfield Jamison's book *An Unquiet Mind* gives one a remarkable view into the myriad pluses, minuses, and challenges of one mental illness. It is a memoir, but also has so much information, honesty and compassion that it seems much more. This is a woman of huge intelligence and ability, but one whose life has been complicated by a powerful illness. I highly recommend it.

Medical science does not yet fully understand either the human brain or all the ways in which it can malfunction, but treatment options for mental illnesses are improving all the

bookshelves belonging to anyone else who might be ready to donate for a very worthy cause! Please donate your books and sale items BEFORE THE BOOK SALE set-up days. Also, check your bookcases and storage racks or boxes, and decide whether we can use them to display the books at the sale. They really add dimension to the "setup". These things, and any decorative flowers or toys for display, should be brought to Room 100 at Fairview Community Center, on Friday April 18<sup>th</sup>. Then mark your calendar for the weekend of April 18-20<sup>th</sup> so that we can have a fun time working together for a great book sale:

**Fri. 4/18, 3 pm to 5 pm** – transporting boxes from Georgiana's home to Fairview Community Center, where we will sort them into different categories;

**Sat. 4/19, 8 am to 3 pm** – setting up the tables and bookcases, arranging books and displays and signs, setting up LWV displays;

**Sun. 4/20, 7:30 am to 3 pm** – selling and bagging, then packing up and returning every thing to Georgiana's house. Sign-up sheets will be available at the unit meetings, so you can let us know when you can help with set-up and with the sale. Please help us make this BOOK SALE a monumental success!! Call either Joyce Blomquist or Nancy Irsfeld to volunteer if you miss signing up at units, or if you have any questions or ideas to share.

**Joyce Blomquist (651-631-0688),  
Nancy Irsfeld  
(651-633-4741), co-chairs  
2008 LWV Book Sale**

time. We know today that depression can be treated and managed successfully. We also know that people with no known disease can make bad decisions. We know that the refusal to seek treatment for fear of being ostracized is more dangerous than having a monitored and treated mental illness. We must remember that mental illnesses are just that, illnesses. They are not character flaws. They are not contagious. They are more widespread than we might think. We can learn more about them, and should.



**League of Women Voters-RoMaFH  
Treasurer's Report – January 23, 2008**

Previous Checking Balance – November 28, 2007 \$549.53

**Income:**

Dues (3) @ \$50 \$150.00

(1) Pro Rated LWVAH/SHVW Membership Transfer 12.55

Total Income: \$162.55

**Expenses:**

#4169 - (Georgiana Sobola) Unit Meeting name tags \$8.46

#4170 – LWVUS PMP, 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr. 596.80

Total Expenses: \$605.26

**Checking Account Balance January 23, 2008 \$106.82**

**Savings Account Balance December 31, 2007 \$3,871.59**

**Education Fund Balance November 8, 2007 \$5,225.95**

**Total Membership: 93**

Regular – 71

Introductory – 9

Family – 12

Scholarship - 1

**League of Women  
Voters of the United  
States  
Public Policy Positions  
2008**

If you have comments about any of these positions such as "keep, drop, update" or suggestions for a new study on the local or national level, please mail them to: Ann Berry, 1059 Woodhill Drive, Roseville, 55113, Email: [annberry@usfamily.net](mailto:annberry@usfamily.net), or call Ann at: 651-484-4502 by FEBRUARY 21, 2008.

**LOCAL  
POSITIONS AT  
A GLANCE  
Approved May 2005**

**GOVERNMENT**

1. Support opportunities for citizen participation in city government and open appointment for advisory committees (1988)

2. Support City Manager form of government for Maplewood and Roseville (Plan B). Evaluate provisions of any proposed Roseville Charter in relation to Plan B. (1986, 1987, 2002)

**REPRESENTATIVE  
GOVERNMENT**

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.

**Voting Rights**

Citizen's Right to Vote. Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote. DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation. Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and full voting representation in both houses of Congress.

**Election Process**

Apportionment. Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.

Campaign Finance. Improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process.

Selection of the President. Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct-popular-vote and work to abolish the Electoral College. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates.

**Citizen Rights**

Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation. Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision making. Individual Liberties. Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights. Public Policy on Reproductive Choices. Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

**Congress and the Presidency**

Congress. Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision-making capability and effective performance. The Presidency. Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

(Local positions  
cont'd)

## **SOCIAL POLICY**

1. Support emergency medical services in Roseville with user fees.(1978, 1981,2003)
2. Support volunteer fire fighters with attractive wages and benefits, but not cross training as paramedics; oppose fees for fire department services. (2003)
3. Support transportation options that serve the needs of the area (1983)
4. Support safe non-motorized pathways with costs assessed area-wide (1983)
5. Support equal opportunity for all students in public schools with use of unbiased textbooks and computer materials free of stereotypes.(1984,'85,'86,'87,'88,2000)
6. Support electing School Board members-at-large for District 621, 622, 623. (1985, updated 1988)

## **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations.

### **United Nations**

Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic and humanitarian needs of all people.

### **Trade**

Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers, expand international trade and advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental and social goals.

### **U.S. Relations with Developing Countries**

Promote U.S. policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.

#### **Arms Control**

Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

#### **Military Policy and Defense Spending**

Work to limit reliance on military force. Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

### **Natural Resources**

Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems.

### **Resource Management**

Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.

### **Environmental Protection and Pollution Control**

Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integ-

(Local positions cont'd)

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

1. Support organized refuse collection, curbside collection of recyclables (1985)
2. Support individual composting and government support for community composting (1982)

## **LOCAL STUDY ITEMS**

### **GOVERNMENT**

A. Review Roseville city ordinances; housing and maintenance enforcement procedures; and compare with cities in our area. (2000, 2001)- Study in process

### **SOCIAL POLICY**

B. Review educational materials in public schools for additional possible biases: ex: ethnic, cultural, (approved at annual meeting-2004) - Proposed

rity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

**Air Quality.** Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources.

**Energy.** Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources.

**Land Use.** Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship.

**Water Resources.** Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water.

**Waste Management.** Promote policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes.

**Nuclear Issues.** Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment.

### **Public Participation**

Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.

### **Agriculture Policy**

Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.

### **SOCIAL POLICY**

Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.

### **Equality of Opportunity**

**Equal Rights.** Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.

**Education, Employment and Housing.** Support equal access to education, employment and housing.

### **Fiscal Policy**

**Tax Policy.** Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax.

**Federal Deficit.** Promote responsible deficit policies.

Funding of Entitlements. Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability and health insurance.

### **Health Care**

Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs.

### **Meeting Basic Human Needs**

Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

**Income Assistance.** Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter.

**Support Services.** Provide for essential support services.

**Housing Supply.** Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.

**Child Care** Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.

#### **Early Intervention for Children at Risk**

Support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development and safety of all children.

#### **Violence Prevention**

Support violence prevention programs in communities.

#### **Gun Control**

Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

### **Urban Policy**

Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.

### **Death Penalty**

The LWVUS supports the abolition of the death penalty.

Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement and well defined channels for citizen input and review.

December 20, 2007

Dear Friends at League of Women Voters,  
Thank you very much for your recent donation of towels, linens, hats, children's coats, personal financial contributions, and one anonymous Target gift card. Your generous support means we can continue providing shelter, advocacy, education, and resources for the nearly 1,000 women and children who come to us every year to escape the violence in their lives.

Every woman who comes to our shelter has a unique story, and we thought you might enjoy hearing about one of our recent residents, Beth. Beth endured years of abuse from her husband, until together with her two children, she left her home in Minneapolis after her husband strangled her one night. Beth found family to stay with, however, within days her husband found her, so she fled for her and her children's safety to Women's Advocates. After eating a warm meal, Beth tucked Michael and Melanie into bed; they felt safe for the first time in years.

Over the next few months, Beth met daily with her advocate who helped her find a job, an apartment, get her children enrolled in school and provided her with the legal resources she needed to keep herself and her kids safe. After three months, Beth was ready to move on from the shelter and to begin a new life, free from violence and full of hope.

Thank you for partnering with us to help women and kids like Beth, Michael and Melanie break the cycle of domestic violence. Together, we can make the Twin Cities a more caring, safe and peaceful community.  
Sincerely,

Raeone Loscazo  
Executive Director  
Women's Advocates, Inc.

League of Women Voters of Roseville,  
Maplewood and Falcon Heights  
Diane Nystrom  
VOTER Mailing Coordinator  
996 Glen Paul Court  
Shoreview, MN 55126