



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

Also serving the communities of Little Canada and Lauderdale

VOTER

March 2008

www.romafh.org

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March Unit Meetings:

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: Are you prepared for a disaster?

SPEAKER: SUSAN GEHRZ, recipient of the State of Minnesota
Emergency Management Award

News media remind us daily that disasters happen somewhere. Tornado season is approaching we and are constantly reminded of our crumbling roads and bridges. How safe are we?

Sue Gehrz, recently mayor of Falcon Heights (1996-2008) and past-president of the Minnesota Mayors Association, served on Public Safety Communications Policy Planning Committee (Ramsey County 800 Mhz) and is nationally recognized as a leader in citizen mobilization for emergency Preparedness. Sue will talk about CERT (COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM) and Pet rescue BART (Basic Animal Rescue Training)

PLACE: MAPLEWOOD LIBRARY (a Ramsey County Library)
3025 Southlawn Drive, Maplewood, Mn

TIME: 6:30 PM (this is NOT a dinner meeting)

DATE: Tuesday, March 18, 2008

Directions: The new Library is located just west of Maplewood Mall, directly across from the upper entrance to Kohls. There is a small café (CRAVINGS) inside the library.

MEMBERS: LET'S CAR-POOL THERE.

Questions: contact Diane Nystrom--651-483-9867

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Co-Presidents' Letter

Spring is just around the corner and we are just a few months from the end of this term of office for our League officers, board members and committee members. With warmer weather just around the corner, why not step up your involvement with the League of Women Voters RoMaFH? Our nominating committee will start meeting soon to begin pulling together the list of people that will volunteer to help our league continue to be one of the strongest in the state.

If you are new to our league or haven't yet gotten involved in this capacity, please consider volunteering to serve as one of our committee chairs.

We know folks are very busy and we try to lighten the load by making sure that we have at least two people heading up each area, as well as an able slate of committee members to assist with the work. We also try to make sure that one of the committee chairs has experience with that committee and/or make a tutor available to answer questions.

It is easy, fun and takes just a little bit of your time for very important League of Women Voter work! Officers and committee chairs will be voted into office in May and most of the action mirrors the school calendar of September through June.

Please let us know if you would be willing to help out.

Teri Kysylyczyn
Barb Yates
Co-presidents



St. Paul: City of DiverCity

By Florence Sprague

I'm sure that it would not surprise you if I said that our communities are becoming more diverse, but seeing it in stark numbers can still make an impression. Census data from the 2000 census, which already feels almost out of date, shows that in our neighbor and capital city, St. Paul, the Caucasian population decreased from 81% in 1990 to 64% in 2000 while the Asian and African American populations grew to 12% and 11% respectively, and the Latino population grew to 8%. St. Paul has chosen to celebrate this diversity with the development of the DiverCity page at its website. <http://www.stpaul.gov/depts/humres/DiverCity/>

Embracing the inclusive definition of diversity as "all of the ways in which our differences make us unique," St. Paul has set a goal "to celebrate and embrace all forms of diversity within the City of Saint Paul" in its approach to its employees and its citizens. The DiverCity web page offers statistics on residents and city employees, affirms the value of all individuals, offers resources, publicizes events, and challenges all of us to try new things with an open mind.

Do you need ideas on what you can do to expand your horizons? Check out the list of about seventy, yes- **70**, "Ways to Celebrate Diversity." It covers everything from attending Rondo Days or the Hmong Sports Festival, each held in St. Paul annually, to learning about mysticism, shopping at Target from a wheelchair, or serving others by volunteering with an AIDS organization. Once you see this list your own imagination will be stimulated and you may begin to see options you haven't considered lately.

Do you want to learn more from your living room? There are book lists and movie suggestions. Do you like to cook? They offer recipes. There are also links to a variety of other websites where you can continue your exploration. Keep exploring, remembering all the while that the goal is to make inclusiveness and acceptance natural, not forced, and that the acceptance of the wide variety in the community means more than the approval of the occasional foray into the exotic.

A few pages on the internet cannot capture in full the depth and breadth of human experience embodied in the residents of a city, but it can set a tone. This site is an affirming beginning. As young people say, you've got to show the right 'tude [attitude.] St. Paul is stepping up and challenging its residents to open their eyes, minds and hearts. As a polity it is challenging itself "to tap the creative, cultural, and communicative skills of a variety of employees." We should do the same in our communities and throughout our lives and endeavors. Learn, affirm, accept, include.

KUDOS for a ROMAFAH member

In February, 2008, Ann Berry received the following announcement from Bob Waterman, our member who now lives and works in the Washington, D.C. area. Ann got his permission to share it with our broader membership.

HBEC Awards Outside Experts: At the Health Benefits Education Campaign (HBEC) seminar cosponsored with the Wyoming Department of Insurance, former HBEC Coordinator, now national Training Coordinator Nancy Marchetti of the Office of Program Planning, Evaluation and Management, presented Russell Weinheimer, General Counsel with the Internal Revenue Service, and ROBERT WATERMAN, a POLICY ANALYST with the Employment Standards Administration's Wage and Hour Division, with awards and letters of appreciation from

**CMAL Quarterly
Meeting – Pandemic
Flu**

**Speaker: Aggie
Leitheiser**

Saturday, March 15,
2008

9:30 a.m. coffee

10:00 a.m. Program

11:00 a.m. Q/A

Location:

Minnesota Women's

Building – Large

Conference Room

550 Rice Street

St. Paul, MN 55103

Just what would we, as
individuals, as members
of families, as citizens,
do if we were faced with
an outbreak of
influenza?

Aggie Leitheiser is
Director of Emergency
Preparedness for the
Minnesota Department
of Health (MDH). She is
responsible for assuring
that the MDH is ready to
respond to emergencies
that affect the public's
health.

Recognitions and Remembrances	\$150.00	\$57.51	\$100.00
Other Club Dues (Gavel Club)	\$15.00		\$15.00
Booksale Expenses	\$100.00	\$105.00	\$100.00
Misc.	\$50.00		\$50.00
Rosefest Parade	\$75.00	\$34.99	\$75.00
Website	\$650.00		\$500.00
In Kind		\$103.50	
To be Reimbursed from Ed.Fund			
Per Member Payments			
PMP National (\$26/member)	\$2,367.00	\$2,368.86	\$2,392.00
PMP State (\$20/member)	\$1,620.00	\$1,752.65	\$1,840.00
CMAL Dues (\$1/member est.)	\$91.00	\$92.00	\$92.00
Total Expenses	\$9,850.00	\$8,408.96	\$10,054.00

**THE WONDERFUL
ROMAFH BOOK
BOOK SALE IS COMING!!!**

**Sunday April 20th from 7:30
AM to 1:30 PM**

Fairview Community Center

Call Joyce Blomquist (651-631-0688) or Nancy Irsfeld (651-633-4741) if you miss signing up at units, if you have any items to loan for display, if you have questions, 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!!!!**

Joyce Blomquist, Nancy Irsfeld, co-chairs
2008 LWV Book Sale

ROMAFH BOOK SALE

We need your books and we need your help. We have a schedule for shifts at the Book Sale on Sunday, April 20th. We will pass them again at March units, so check your calendars and be ready to offer your help.

Before Friday, April 18th – bring your books, magazines, CDs, DVDs, videos, games and puzzles to Georgiana Sobola's home at 1961 Hamline Avenue, Roseville.

Friday, April 18th – 3 to 5pm – meet at Georgiana's house to load up vans with boxes, and transport to Fairview Community Center, Room 100. You can also bring other display bookcases and shelves, and décor items such as flowers and stuffed animals, and LWV items for display.

Saturday, April 19th – 8 am to 3 pm – meet at Fairview Community Center, Room 100, to set up tables and bookcases, arrange books, signs and LWV displays. We will provide lunch to helpers.

Sunday, April 20th – 7:15 am to 3 pm; choose a shift time that works for you:

- 7:15 to 9:45 am – we need 4 more helpers;
- 9:30 to 11:45 am – we need 2 more helpers;
- 11:30 am to 1:45 pm – we need 1 more helper
- 1:30 to 3 pm – we need 4-5 more helpers to pack boxes, and at least 3 vans to move boxes
- and bookcases back to Georgiana's home.

League of Women Voters of Roseville,
Maplewood and Falcon Heights
Diane Nystrom
VOTER Mailing Coordinator
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