



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS – RoMaFH
ROSEVILLE, MAPLEWOOD, FALCON HEIGHTS
Also serving nearby communities, including Lauderdale & Shoreview

VOTER

October 2008

Web site: www.romafh.org

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Candidate Forums for Communities Served by LWV RoMaFH

Linda McLoon & Julie Hellwich, Voter Service Committee, Coordinators
All forums are free and open to the public
Hear the candidates and ask written questions—then vote November 4

State Representative District 55A & B Forum

Date: Monday, October 6, 2008
Time: 7-9:30 p.m.; videotaped and replayed on cable channels 16 & 19
Location: *Note: Location changed to* Maplewood Community Center, 2100 White Bear Ave.
Candidates: 55A: Christine Jacobson, Leon Lillie, Bob Zick
 55B: Nora Slawik, Joel Wellman
Moderator: Linda McLoon

Roseville City Council Forum

Date: Wednesday, October 8, 2008
Time: 7 p.m.–8:30 p.m.
Location: Roseville City Hall Council Chambers
Candidates: Jeff Johnson, Tim Johnson, Tammy Pust, Karen Schaffer
Moderator: Florence Sprague

State Representative District 54 A & B Forum

Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2008
Time: 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Location: Roseville City Hall Council Chambers, 2660 Civic Center Drive
Candidates: 54A: Mindy Greiling, Mark Laliberte
 54B: Paul Gaston, Julie Johnson, Bev Scalze
Moderator: Sigrid Johnson

Ramsey County Commissioner and District Judge seat 21 Forum

Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2008
Time: 7 p.m.–9:30 p.m.
Location: Roseville City Hall Willow Room, 2660 Civic Center Drive
Candidates:
 Ramsey County Commissioner District 1: Tony Bennett, Jim Schottmuller
 Ramsey County Commissioner District 2: Richard Moses, Jan Parker
 Ramsey County Commissioner District 7: Dennis Dunnigan, Victoria Reinhardt
 Ramsey County District Judge 21: Gail Chang Bohr, Howard Orenstein
Moderator: Sandra Lutz

(cont’d on p. 3)

**2008-09 Board
& Off-Board Positions**

Co-Presidents

Teri Kysylyczyn & Ann Cleland

Secretary

Anne Haugan

Treasurer

Joan Stark

Program Division

Ann Berry, Georgeann Hall,
Diane Nystrom, Florence Sprague
(& coordinator of Diversity Subcom-
mittee), Judy Rosenblatt, *ex officio*

Lorraine Fischer, rep. to Council of
Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL)

Public Relations

Volunteer still needed

Action Chair

Volunteer still needed

Observer Program

Unit volunteers observe at city
council & school board meetings.
Sign up.

Voter Service

Linda McLoon & Julie Helwich

Membership

Karen Schaffer & Gale Pederson

Units / Administrative Assistant

Nancy Browne

Newsletter

Judy Rosenblatt, editor
Diane Nystrom, mailings

Finance Committee

Georgiana Sobola, Anita Mayfield,
& Joan Stark

Off-Board Responsibilities

Nominating Committee

Carolyn Cushing, Georgeann Hall,
& Julianne Johnston

(cont'd on page 4)

Co-president's Letter



It's another election year—and a particularly momentous one, time for us to again roll up our sleeves and get involved! Kudos to the Program and Membership committees for a great start to the League year with the interesting and informative city administrators forum in September (*see a report on that meeting starting on page 4*).

One way we can build on that start is by energizing our observers program, with members attending city council and school board meetings wearing our League buttons and listening to what is going on. Observers report back to the local League board on issues that are discussed at these meetings that the League might want to act on, whether they relate to something we have studied and have a position on (in which case we might testify at a meeting, write a letter to the editor, support a plan, lobby for a legislative change, etc.) or are issues we might want to study.

The board is asking that each unit take responsibility for covering these meetings, with unit members signing up to attend one or more meetings and reporting back on what they observed. This is a way of sharing this task so that no individual has to attend every meeting all year (unless you want to!).

I just spent a Monday evening observing the Maplewood City Council. It was a long and issue-filled evening, with business ranging from street re-openings to the hospital expansion, to park improvements and early retirement incentives. It was a good way for me to catch up on my city's activities, which affect me and my neighbors.

The board still needs Public Relations and Action chairs. These positions are vital for fulfilling our League purposes, but so far nobody has come forward to fill them. Are you interested?

Our Voter Service Committee has lined up a series of candidate forums to help members and the public decide on their votes knowledgeably (*see pages 1 and 3 for the schedule*). We deliberately did not plan unit meetings or other League activities for October, so that members can be free to volunteer for and participate in these meetings and other nonpartisan election activities, such as distributing LWVMN Voters Guides (coming soon; look for one in your mail or online at the LWVMN Web site, <lwvmn.org>).

Volunteers are needed to help prepare/present the unit meeting programs in March (local code enforcement) and May (bicycle transportation). Are you interested in helping with either of these topics?

All of these activities are ready for volunteers to help make them successful. What can you do for our League and your community?

- Contact one of the co-presidents if you would like to volunteer for an open board position (anncleland@juno.com or tkysylyczyn@knutson-cpa.com).
- Sign up as an observer at your next unit meeting, or e-mail one of the co-presidents to volunteer.
- Contact Linda McLoon (linda.mcloon@gmail.com) to help as a timer or question card collector/sorter at a candidates forum.
- To help with the March or May unit topic, contact Georgeann Hall, gdhall96244@q.com or 651-484-9057.

Looking forward to seeing you at one or more of the forums in October,

Ann Cleland, Co-president

Candidate Forums (*cont'd from p. 1*)

Little Canada Mayoral and Council Forum

Date: Monday, October 27, 2008

Time: 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Location: Little Canada City Hall Council Chambers, 515 E. Little Canada Rd.

Candidates: Bill Blesener (Mayor); Michael McGrew (City Council 4 yrs); Rick Montour (City Council 4 yrs);
City Council 2 yr seat: Shaun Walker, Shelly Boss

Moderator: Linda McLoon

For St Paul & RoMaFH combined

U.S. House of Representatives District 4 Forum

Date: Monday, October 13, 2008

Time: 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Location: Hamline University's new Klas Center, 1537 Taylor Ave. (just east of Snelling Avenue), St. Paul

Candidates: Ed Matthews, Betty McCollum

State Representative District 66 A & B Forum

Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2008

Time: 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Location: Saint Anthony Park Library, , 2245 Como Ave., St. Paul

Candidates: 66A, Gibert A. Higuera, John Lesch
66B, Alice Hausman, Mark Roosevelt

Sponsors: The League of Women Voters and Saint Anthony Park Library

Moderator: Vicki Gee Teft

Web address: <http://www.stpaul.lib.mn.us/locations/stanthony.html>

These forums are also listed at the LWV RoMaFH Web site, at: <www.romafh.org>. Refer family, friends, and neighbors in RoMaFH area communities to the list.

Discussion on Constitutional Amendment: Clean Water, Land and Legacy

Date/Time: Saturday, October 25, 2008, 9:00.-9:30 p.m.

At: Channel 45

Sponsored by: KSTP - 5 EYEWITNESS NEWS

Broadcast Information: Webcast will be available later

Additional Information: Participants include the Minnesota Taxpayers League and Vote Yes.

US Senate candidates for MN

Live audience and live broadcast

on KSTP, Sunday, October 19,

6:00 p.m., followed by 7:30 p.m.

Web debate. Cosponsored by

LWVMN

Remember, complete voter information is available for anyone in the country at the LWVEF site <VOTE411.org>, recently redesigned to make the site even more voter-friendly.

Voter information specifically for Minnesota residents is at <vote.lwvmn.org>.

Pre-registration in Minnesota ends October 14, but voters here may register at the polls. Check the RoMaFH, LWVMN, or LWVEF Web site for information on ID needed to register on election day.

Tell your friends:

The free state League Voter Guide 2008 will be available in Target stores as of October 13.

**Kickoff meeting:
cities' challenges explained**

by Judy Rosenblatt

The RoMaFH League's fall kickoff meeting at Roseville City Hall, featuring city administrators from five local communities, was a big success. They spoke about challenging issues facing their cities in the near future to an audience of about 30 Leaguers and guests.

Some of the challenges mentioned were similar in all the cities, particularly the need to upgrade infrastructure. In the question period following the presentations, all administrators noted that their cities have experienced few foreclosures during the current mortgage crisis. Here is a summary of each official's remarks, in the order in which they spoke.

- 1. Joel Hanson, Little Canada—**
Mr. Hanson has spent 19 years in his position. He noted that the licensing of rental property is sometimes a problem. He cited a high number of police calls at multi-family complexes, including the recent murder that was in the news. The city will have to address licensing issues. As an almost fully developed area, the city faces redevelopment deci-

(cont'd on next page)

Off-Board *cont'd from p. 2*

**Coordinator for Rosefest Parade /
Rep. to Gavel Club**
Barb Yates

Records / Directory / Web site
John Kysylyczyn

Book Sale Coordinators
Joyce Blomquist & Nancy Irsfeld

Annual Meeting Coordinators
Carole Erickson & Mary Ann
Palmer

Coordinator for VIP Meeting
(discuss issues with legislators)

Volunteers needed

Treasurer's Report, September 2008

Joan Stark, treasurer



Previous Checking Balance –August 27, 2008

\$1,320.88

Income:

Dues: (6) Individuals @ \$55.00 \$330.00
Martin and Brown Foundation Grant (Voter Service) 700.00

Total Income: \$1,030.00

Expenses:

#4198 – Office Depot, \$66.16
September 2008 Voter printing/stapling
#4199 – GSA Troop #52775,
Flag Distribution – 2008 RoseFest Parade 50.00
#4200 – LWVMNEF, Transfer of North Suburban
Community Fund Grant to Ed Fund 1,000.00
#4201 – CMAL, 2008–2009 Dues 92.50
#4202 – LWVMNEF 2008 Voter Guides 745.50

Total Expenses: \$1,954.16

Checking Account Balance September 24, 2008

\$396.72

Savings Account Balance August 29, 2008

\$2,988.10

Education Fund Balance September 9, 2008

\$7,227.45

Membership

Individual 64
Family 9
Intro./Friend 2
Total : 75

Contributions always welcome

Just make out a check to *LWVRoMaFH* (for the operating fund, not tax deductible) or to *LWVRoMaFH Education Fund* (tax deductible), and send it to:

Joan Stark, Treasurer
LWVRoMaFH
1009 Parker Ave.
Roseville, MN 55113-6458



Membership Dues

To join or renew, make your dues check payable to LWVRoMaFH

Individual membership – \$55/year
Household membership (two or more) – \$80/year
New member, special 1st year discount – \$40/year

Send to:
Karen Schaffer
LWVRoMaFH Membership Co-chair
2100 Fairview Ave. N
Roseville, MN 55113-5452

sions, including eliminating blight and enhancing the tax base. He cited a good development, the fact that St. Jude Medical is expanding. With regard to taxes, LC was once the highest tax city, but it is now the seventh or eighth lowest. As a smaller city, LC shares services with other, larger cities nearby. With regard to infrastructure improvements/transportation, the city has two key bridges that will have to be reconstructed in the near future, one at Hwy 36 and one at Hwy. 694. It has received \$2 million for bridge design.

2. **Justin Miller, Falcon Heights**—Mr. Miller has been in his position for two years. The #1 issue for the city is the budget, because 2/3 of the city is tax exempt (the State Fairgrounds and the St. Paul campus of U of MN). FH has a small staff and shares services provided by other cities, including Roseville. Historically, FH got 25% of its budget (\$450,000) from state funds to local governments. When state funds were cut back, the city kept taxes the same and drew down reserves. They need new ways to raise money. With Roseville, FH is working on pedestrian access through bike and walking trails from Rosedale to downtown Minneapolis. (see #5 for more on this). Population and housing stock are turning over. FH is seeing more younger families, and it needs new recreational services for young people.
3. **Terry Schwerm, Shoreview**—Mr. Schwerm has been on the job for 15 years. One of the things citizens complain about is vandalism to the city's sign. Keeping up infrastructure, including maintenance of properties, is a big concern. The city has a 50-year plan for replacements. Owners are not assessed for the second or

(cont'd on next page)

Do You Know Your Own Mind?

by Florence Sprague, Diversity Subcommittee Coordinator

Women and men who join LWV tend to be interested in, and have opinions on, a wide variety of issues. One might think that LWV members, more than many, do indeed know their own minds; but perhaps we don't know them as well as we think we do.

A fascinating and very lucid article by Siri Carpenter in the May 1, 2008, issue of *Scientific American*, "Buried Prejudice: The Bigot in Your Brain," reviews a number of studies that reflect aspects of buried prejudice, how it occurs, how researchers have attempted to measure it, and what we can do about it. These studies are worth examining because they indicate that "ideas that we may not endorse...lodge themselves in our minds and, without our permission or awareness, color our perceptions, expectations and judgments." You may think that you know your own mind and that you decide what to believe. That may not be entirely true.

Hot! When your finger touches a hot surface, do you pause and think, "Hmm, that is hot. If I leave my finger there it will be burned. I think I should pull it away," before moving your hand? No, your brain signals your muscles to move your finger away without conscious thought or decision. It turns out that your brain can make snap decisions/judgments about situations and people just as quickly. Images flashed before viewers too briefly to be consciously recognized (30 milliseconds) can still cause activity in the area of the brain correlated with vigilance and sometimes fear.

Implicit biases are those lodged in our subconscious; ones of which we are not consciously aware. Implicit biases develop at an early age. An Italian study found that "subtle sociocultural signals carry particularly insidious power." Young children were observed to reflect their mothers' implicit biases even when they differed from the mothers' explicit attitudes. The children could read the subtle signals being sent unconsciously by their mothers. "Many of our implicit associations about social groups form before we are old enough to consider them rationally," another study states, and are set by age six.

Implicit biases are related to the many associations our brains make that are beneficial to survival (stay away from that snake!) or to our socialization (scowling people are more threatening than smiling people), and they help us to get along more comfortably in our world. As Carpenter notes, however, many racial, ethnic, and gender stereotypes "undermine values such as fairness and equality that many of us hold dear." They also can undermine our very efforts to improve communication.

One very telling and troubling study from 2002 by John F. Dovidio looked at both implicit and explicit racial attitudes for the 40 white college student participants. The students were then observed while conversing with both black and white individuals. The researchers found a correlation between a subject's explicit attitudes and his or her conscious behavior during the conversation. Nonverbal behavior, such as body language and eye contact, correlated with implicit attitudes, however. The feedback from the blacks and whites after the conversations was also telling. Whites and blacks had very different feelings about the conversations, whites being more positive. Blacks picked up on negative nonverbal cues and this colored their feelings about the interaction. Dovidio said "Our society is really characterized by this lack of perspective. Understanding both implicit and explicit attitudes helps you understand how whites and blacks could look at the same thing and not understand how the other person saw it differently."

(cont'd on page 6)

more times when street, water, or sewer projects are needed. Many streets have not yet been upgraded, and the city has a 30-year plan to accomplish this. They are also engaged in an expensive meter replacement project for the water system. Other priorities are dealing with storm water, refurbishing city buildings, and maintaining neighborhoods. They are trying to be pro-active with inspections for code enforcement. Shoreview licenses all rentals and inspects them regularly. They have contracted with Housing Resources to help residents. The city just created an economic development authority for housing-related needs. Residents have expressed their strong interest in "green" property initiatives.

4. **Chuck Ahl, acting administrator, Maplewood**—This is Mr Ahl's eighth year, but he is the city engineer and only temporarily in his current position while the city searches for a new administrator. A number of top staff have left recently due to the city's financial problems, which has highlighted the need for a succession plan for staff. Maplewood is a large, long city, stretching from Hwy. 694 to Hwy. 494. It has 10 other cities as neighbors. 3M company pays 12% of the taxes collected by the city. Newer development is concentrated in the area south of 3M, rather than in the north part of the city. Redevelopment is needed in both parts of Maplewood, however. One improvement is that storm water runoff is back to what it was earlier, partly due to the city's 496 rain gardens, but also because Lake Pepin is dying, despite a federal mandate to improve it. Measures taken have added 25% to the city's costs. Although the headlines have been focusing on Maplewood's financial
- (cont'd on next page)

Implicit bias on the part of persons in authority can affect medical treatment, hiring decisions, and other discriminatory actions, as well as just poisoning the social environment of a community.

So, can we do anything to bring our implicit and explicit attitudes into alignment and eliminate the thoughtless stereotyping and unspoken messages? Well, it isn't easy. Recent research, however, does offer some hope. Greater interaction of groups in positive contexts can reduce negative associations, conscious reformation of language can reduce implicit biases, self examination of biases and subsequent application of willpower may work for some people. But the reality is that we are all products of our society, and "Growing up in a culture where some people are valued more than others is likely to permeate our private orientations, no matter how discomfiting the fact" (Rudman and Ashmore, quoted in the *Scientific American* article). We need to work on ourselves; we need even more to work on our society. The challenge is great; the need, greater.

* * *

I have only skimmed the surface of the ideas in the article highlighted here. I encourage you to read the full text at your public library or online at <www.sciam.com>. Type "buried prejudice" in the "Search" box on the home page and you should find this article. It is very well written and easy to read and only five pages long. Don't be scared off if you don't think of yourself as a scientist.

I learned about this article when listening to an interview on public radio last summer. If you would like to hear the archived interview go to <www.npr.org>, find *Talk of the Nation* in the programs list and call up July 31, 2008. That site also has links to the *Scientific American* article and the Implicit Bias tests. Explore!

Check out your own implicit biases online. Project Implicit offers tests on a wide range of biases from linking men and women with math, linking political candidates to good or bad, to racial biases. You can take demonstration tests or allow your results to be included in their multinational research. Each test involves categorizing images flashed on the computer screen. The rapidity with which you categorize different combinations of things is used to measure your implicit bias. Check it out at <<https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit>>.

Each test takes only 10 or 15 minutes and only requires you to click on "e" or "i" to place each image into a category. Whether or not you agree with their premise, the process can be thought-provoking and worthwhile. You are given their assessment and the data on all test takers when you are done.

Thank You to Caroline Czarnecki, Lorraine Fischer, Mary Ann Palmer, Florence Sprague and David Misemer for the LWVROMaFH Education Fund. The LWVUS Annual Appeal solicited these funds.

Applying for local League Education Fund money

Education Fund money from contributions is available for LWVROMaFH committee projects that educate the public. The local League funds are administered by the state LWV Education Fund. In order to receive any of this money, an "Approval To Do A Project" application (Form A-2) must be submitted to the LWVMNEF office. This form needs to be approved before the project is initiated. Contact Treasurer Joan Stark for more information and an application form to initiate the process, at 651-488-4966 or andrewstark@gmail.com.

Cities' challenges (cont'd from page 6)

troubles, the city has "good financial controls" and passed the audits of its spending. For infrastructure repair, the city is debating how much debt to take on. They are increasing property taxes 1.2%.

With regard to public safety, the city has its own police and fire departments and ambulance service. Over four years they have added 13 people for daytime responses and paid for response to calls at night. The number of ambulance calls is up, due to an aging population. Other new projects: Maplewood Mall has added a Costco. White Bear Avenue is being expanded from two to three lanes each way. The city is also working on encouraging pedestrians.

5. Bill Malinen, Roseville—Mr. Malinen has been at his job for 20 months. Aging infrastructure is the city's biggest challenge. The city is developing a two-year budget for outcomes, which involves prioritizing services. For the longer term, Roseville is 60 years old, and streets, water, sewer, parks all need upgrading. They are looking at 10-year models of capital needs. The city is replacing the refrigeration unit at the skating oval with geothermal energy, to refrigerate the ice and heat/cool the building. Some expensive services provide revenues to offset the costs: water, sewer, the golf course. Interest on an endowment fund is used to improve streets, \$25 million over 10 years.

All facilities are aging; park improvements are needed. For a new master plan to enumerate changes and assess costs, the list of needs comes to \$20 million. There is a shortage of \$27 million with regard to plans to upgrade/replace buildings, and \$10.5 million will be needed in the next 10 years to replace vehicles—with a \$7 million shortfall. Other needs in the next few years are new voting equipment and Zambonis for ice sheets (not considered vehicles). With regard to housing stock, Roseville uses the SHINE program, that Shoreview also has, for visiting properties to inspect them and instruct owners on city codes to keep property values up.

To protect the environment, the city is promoting taking phosphorus out of fertilizers, dealing with storm water by filtration through the ground before it reaches ponds (rain gardens and other measures so the first inches of rain infiltrate the ground, rather than running into streets), home improvements done in a "green" way (Falcon Heights has a program for providing a rebate on fees for energy-efficient home improvements).

Deb Bloom, city engineer for Roseville and Falcon Heights, is in charge of the bikeway project mentioned above in #2. The cities have received a grant to implement this plan, and construction is scheduled to begin next year.

Note: We will hear more about this project at RoMaFH's unit presentations in May 2009 on biking for transportation.

FYI Announcements

Discussion on Creating a Welcoming Community

The Roseville Human Rights Commission, with other government and organization cosponsors, will hold a discussion exploring how the community is changing, how our backgrounds shape our current attitudes about others, and what it means to be a good neighbor. The meeting will be held **Tuesday, October 14, 6–9 p.m., in the Olympic Room at the Roseville Skating Center, 2661 Civic Center Drive.**

The evening begins with a light meal of multicultural foods, and will continue "with dialogue to promote peace, cooperation, and unity in our community by bringing together people who live, work, shop, visit, attend school and/or worship in Roseville," using an award-winning United Way model to help build greater understanding.

The meeting is free of charge, but registration is required by calling 651-792-7026 or e-mailing <human.rights@ci.roseville.mn.us>.

Transportation Forum:

What should be done about traffic congestion?

Another option for **Tuesday, October 14:** A meeting presented by the Roseville Citizens League, **7–8:30 p.m. in the Willow Room (downstairs) at Roseville City Hall** to learn about future transportation plans and express your opinion. Speakers will be State Rep. Alice Hausman, Mn/DOT staffmember Chris Roy, Ramsey County Commissioner Jan Parker and Traffic Engineer Ken Haider, and Roseville City staffmembers Deb Bloom and Duane Schwartz.

Metro Council foundation formed to fund new parks in the region

This June the Metropolitan Council voted to establish a nonprofit foundation to raise private funds to acquire 17,000 acres of land for seven new parks and 700 miles of trails by 2030. The state legislature authorized the Metro Council to allocate up to \$500,000 to establish the foundation, which will be managed by the Parks and Trails Council of Minnesota, with a 16-member board. Peter Bell, Metro Council chair, said "Our parks system is this region's crown jewel. This will allow us to build out our parks system consistent with the projected growth of the metro area."

(From the July-August 2008 metro council.org, print digest of online NEWS from the Metropolitan Council. See the Web site for more news. To subscribe to a monthly e-mail newsletter, contact <data.center@metc.state.mn.us>.

Metro Council meetings are now streamed live on the Web site at 4 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month, and the videos are also archived for later viewing.

Revised 2008–09 LWVROMaFH Calendar

October 2008

LWVROMaFH-sponsored candidate forums. *See schedule on pages 1 and 3.*

No general or unit meetings are planned so members can concentrate on nonpartisan forums and other election activities.

Be sure to contact Linda McLoon to volunteer your help (*see page 2 co-president's column*).

November 2008

Tue, 18, Unit – David Paxson, World Population Balance. *More information on page 9.*

Wed, 19, Unit – (same topic and speaker)

Wed, 19 – Board Meeting. Note: moved up one week because of Thanksgiving

December 2008

Sun, 7 – Holiday Dinner at Little Venetian, Little Canada, 4:30 p.m. (designated charity: Women's Advocates).

Details and registration form on page 9.

January 2009

Tue, 20, Unit – Presentation & Consensus, LWVUS mini-study on National Popular Vote Compact and Lively Issues: suggestions for LWVMN Program (items to study, current positions to act on)

Wed, 21, Unit (same topics)

Wed, 28 – Board Meeting

February 2009

Tue, 17 – VIP General Meeting, “Questions & Answers with Elected Officials,” location TBA

Wed, 25 – Board Meeting

March 2009

Tue, 17, Unit – “City Code Enforcement: Single Family and Rental Housing”

Wed, 18, Unit (same topic)

Wed, 25 – Board Meeting

April 2009

Sun, 19? – Fund-raising Book Sale, 7:30am – 1:30 p.m., at Fairview Community Center, accompanying Golden Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast.

Tue, 21, Unit – Meeting Diverse Needs for Health Care (panel discussion)

Wed, 22, Unit (same topic, videotaped Tuesday)

Wed, 22 – Board Meeting in Fireside Room at the Roseville Oval

May 2009

Thu, 7? – Annual Meeting at Falcon Heights City Hall

Tue, 19, Unit – “Alternative Transportation: Biking”

Wed, 20, Unit – (same topic)

? “Do your own thing” unit activity?

Wed, 27 – Board Meeting

June 2009

Mon, 22 – Rosefest Parade

Wed, 24 – Board Meeting

NOTE:

Board meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the 4th Wed at the Roseville Oval, Raider Room (except in April, in the Fireside Room).

Third Tuesday evening unit meetings in Nov, Jan, Mar, April, and May will be at Grumpy's Bar and Grill Restaurant (formerly Major's & Lido's), Snelling Avenue north of County Road C, at 7:00 p.m.; social hour and dinner optional at 5:30 p.m. Minimum dinner cost is \$15.00 (to cover private room).

Third Wednesday day unit meetings are held at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 2561 N. Victoria, Roseville, at 9:30 a.m.

Speaker at November units discusses sustainable world population

David Paxson, president of World Population Balance (WPB), a nonprofit organization headquartered in Minneapolis, will speak at both RoMaFH unit meetings in November. WPB's mission is to educate "the general public, policymakers, and the media about current population facts and trends, the consequences of population growth, and the benefits of stabilization."

The organization publishes a newsletter, *Balanced View*, and invites membership of individuals and groups. Its Web site, if you'd like to check it out before the meeting, is <www.worldpopulationbalance.org>.

WPB argues that while world population has more than doubled between 1960 (3 billion) and 1997 (6.6+ billion), a sustainable population at a European standard of living is 3 billion or fewer. An article in its August 2007 newsletter points out that the 6.6+ billion people in the world are consuming about 25% more resources than the Earth is producing during any given time period. The average American consumes over 25 times more than a person in a developing country. This much consumption is not sustainable.

According to the organization, population growth "is a driving force behind most major problems: traffic jams and congestion, air and water pollution, increasing garbage, urban sprawl, water shortages, vanishing species, toxic waste, oil spills, rain forest destruction, desertification, loss of freedoms, increasing violence and crime, political instability, border disputes and wars."

Read, think, and bring your questions—and your friends—to your November unit meeting.

**LWVRoMaFH Holiday Dinner
Sunday, December 7, 2008, 4:30–7:30 p.m.
Little Venetian Restaurant
2900 Rice Street, Little Canada**

Buffet Dinner Menu

- Bread & Butter
- Italian Salad
- Vegetable Lasagna
- Meat Ravioli (with red sauce)
- Chicken Parmesan
- Spumoni Pie

There will be a cash bar and we will have the entire restaurant for our event. The cost will be \$18 per person (includes tax and gratuity), and guests are welcome. The League needs at least 35 reservations to hold this price.

A short program will be presented by two women from Women's Advocates, designated by the RoMaFH board as the charity to support for the second year in a row (these women will join us for dinner, so you may talk to them about their program during the meal). This is another way to support our broad-based diversity project.

Women's advocates has suggested the following items for our members to contribute. Bring your contribution with you to the dinner, unwrapped.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| baby wipes | infant nail clippers |
| diapers, assorted sizes | assorted colored bath towels |
| Similac advanced infant formula | hand towels |
| baby bottles | wash clothes |
| baby lotion | used cell phones |
| Desitin | cash donations are always welcome |

Clip and return the form below with your check **payable to LWV R0MaFH** to: Georgeann Hall, 385 Transit Ave., Roseville, MN 55113

If you are interested in carpooling/getting a ride to the restaurant, please contact Georgeann at <gdhall96244@q.com> or 651-484-9057.

If you are unable to attend but would like to make a cash donation, send a check, payable to Women's Advocates, to Georgeann.

Reservation for LWVRoMaFH Holiday Dinner, December 7, 2008

Name(s) _____

Number of Reservations _____ @ \$18.00 each.

Total enclosed \$ _____

Absentee Ballot Request Tool Available Online

LWVUS recently added an absentee ballot request tool to the LWV.org and VOTE411.org Web sites. Through this tool, voters can learn specifically about their state's absentee ballot regulations; the system also helps them fill out an absentee ballot request form. Once they have completed the form, voters need to print it out, sign it, and mail it to their local board of elections.

League-Branded Overseas Voter Tool Available Online

The League and Overseas Vote Foundation have collaborated to create a League-branded tool for overseas voters. It assists military and overseas citizens with their specific voter registration and absentee ballot request needs. Go to <https://vote411.overseasvotefoundation.org/overseas/home.htm> for the new tool.

Share this information with individuals and other organizations that might benefit from it.

(info from the 9/11/08 LWVUS Leaders' Update)

Quarterly Meeting: Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues

Saturday, October 18, 2008, 9:30 a.m.–12 noon

Minnesota Women's Building, Large Conference Room (downstairs)

550 Rice St., St. Paul

Everyone Welcome

9:00 Coffee

9:30 Speaker: Carol Becker, Metropolitan Council, on "Public Transit in the Twin Cities," including funding implications of the opening of the new I35W bridge, the increase in sales tax in five of the seven metro counties (what the funding is likely to be used for), and the Met Council's new transportation plan. Q & A to follow.

noon: Computer help for League members

**League of Women Voters of
Roseville, Maplewood & Falcon Heights**
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