



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

# VOTER

March 2009

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

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## March Unit Meetings

*Open to the Public*

### City Code Review Update: Housing Maintenance

Guest Speaker at Tuesday unit (recorded for Wednesday replay)

**Dan Roe**

Member of Roseville City Council & LWVROMaFH,  
on the history of the property maintenance code—  
how we got where we are

Guest speaker at Tuesday & Wednesday units

**Brian Coughlin**

Roseville Neighborhood Enhancement Program inspector,  
to talk about his experience in 2008

Report from the LWVROMaFH Study Committee

### Third Tuesday Evening Unit

**Tuesday, March 17, 2009**

**5:30 p.m. – Social Hour & Dinner (optional)**

**7:00 p.m. – Program**

at

**Grumpy's Restaurant**

**2801 N. Snelling Ave. (off Lincoln Drive), Roseville**

**Dinner Reservations to:**

**Stephanie DeBenedet, <[jdebenedet@msn.com](mailto:jdebenedet@msn.com)> or 651-483-1006**

### Third Wednesday Morning Unit

**Wednesday, March 18, 2009, 9:30 a.m.**

**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**

**2561 N. Victoria Ave., Roseville**

*Bring a friend!*

**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 Subcommittee),  
Judy Rosenblatt, *ex officio*

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

**Public Relations**

*Volunteer still needed*

**Action Chair**

Angela Robinson, acting

*Volunteer still needed*

**Observer Program**

Unit volunteers observe at city  
council & school board meetings.

*Sign up at your unit meeting..*

**Voter Service**

Linda McLoon

**Membership**

Karen Schaffer & Gale Pederson

**Units / Administrative Assistant**

Nancy Browne

**Newsletter**

Judy Rosenblatt, editor

Barbara Yates, 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



Another successful Annual VIP Event! Thank you to Florence Sprague and the Program Committee for giving us the opportunity to meet with our county commissioners and school board members. The conversation was informative, and I believe we all came away with new insight on their duties. Also see Florence's report on page 6.

The 62nd Convention of the LWV Minnesota will be held in Willmar on May 15-16. This year's theme is "MN-Powered Sustainable, Renewable Food, Energy, Economy" and will focus on power produced in Southwestern Minnesota. There will also be workshops, networking opportunities, speakers, awards, and lots of opportunities to learn about the LWV. Our League is entitled to three delegates, plus the president.

Please consider participating with League members from across the state, either as a delegate or an observer at convention. A bus will leave St. Paul for Willmar on Thursday afternoon, returning back to the Twin Cities by 6:30 p.m. Saturday. This is an option if you do not want to drive. Contact Teri (651-226-6223) or me (651-490-5038) for all the details if you are interested. The deadline to sign up for the bus is March 20.

I am sure the March unit meetings on city housing code enforcement will be lively; bring a neighbor!

**Ann Cleland**, co-president

## March units:

### City Code Enforcement: Housing Maintenance

In Roseville and most other cities there are two methods of reporting R1 (residential area) code violations. They are *reactive* or *proactive*.

Reactive is when a person walking or driving notices a violation and calls city hall. The call is referred to the city code official. The code official or some other designee checks at the address for the violation. These violations must be seen from the right-of-way. A notice is mailed to the address of the violation, along with a date for completion of fixing the problem. If the violation cannot be seen from the right-of-way, reporting of it must be in writing and given to the city's code official. The code official is hired by the city manager. This is an administrative position.

Proactive: **NEIGHBORHOOD ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM.** Under the city's new Neighborhood Enhancement Program, areas in Roseville are selected at random. The city hires a person to walk the area during May through October. There are no areas in Roseville in which a series of violations have been found. In 2008 (pilot project funded by city HRA), 1,900 homes were observed, and 144 violations were found, most involving debris or paint/repairs needed to fences or outbuildings. Eighty-seven percent were remedied within 20 days; 96%, within 60 days.

For the year 2009, funding for the program is in the budget. A neighborhood will be selected at random and the program will again run May through October, with inspectoin of 2,500-3,000 homes. A letter will be mailed to the selected area's homeowners introducing the program. (The letter is being revised and should be ready during the first part of March. I will get copies if it is ready before our unit meetings.) According to the March/April Roseville *City News*, the goal is to "protect our property values and continue to keep Roseville a desirable place to live, work and play."

### HEALTH and SAFETY

A police call or fire call may instigate health and safety issues. This situation is referred to the county. Health and safety issues may be referred to the city in

*(March Units, cont'd on p. 3)*

writing if the situation needs to be observed.

### **CODE ENFORCEMENT PROCESS**

After the property owner has complied by correcting the code violation, there is a re-inspection. If there is non-compliance, the property owner may appeal to the city council, based on code interpretation only. Other options the city has:

1. The city may give the homeowner a cost for repair of the problem. The property owner has the option to have the city contract for the work, or the homeowner may agree to do it. If the city does the work and is not paid, a lien will be placed on the owner's property tax. If the owner agrees to do the work but does not complete it, another option is available for the city.

2. A court order is sought. Several steps must be taken:

- A. City code official meets with Community Development Department and City Attorney.
- B. City code official goes to city council with a recommendation to go to court. City council must approve.
- C. This would be a misdemeanor. If found guilty, the homeowner would be assessed a fine of \$500 and sentenced to three days in jail. Cases are usually resolved before a fine and jail are necessary.

The March meeting should have a lot of good discussion. Bring your observations, suggestions, and questions. If you have seen violations, bring the street addresses at which they are occurring; and we will turn them in to the city.

**Georgeann Hall**, for the City Code Enforcement Study Committee, including **Shirley Bradway**, **Carolyn Cushing**, **Carole Erickson**, **Nancy Irsfeld**, **Barbara Lehn**, and **Norma Signorelli**

### **Windows and Mirrors for All**

#### **Bored? Never Again!**

by Florence Sprague, Diversity Subcommittee Coordinator

We are all too aware of the negatives of getting older. Most of them involve loss—loss of professional identity, loss of health, loss of loved ones. We are at one and the same time bombarded with early retirement packages and layoffs and the news that people will need to work longer before becoming eligible for federal benefits. It seems that we can't have our cake **or** eat it. So you'll be glad to hear that I've found something positive about getting older.

The longer you live, the more experiences you have. You learn at least a little bit about an awful lot of things as well as a lot about a few things. You come to see how interconnected and interesting just about everything is, and from this springs the positive thing: you need **never** be bored.

What makes something interesting? It helps to know enough about it to be able to see beyond the surface and envision the challenges and intricacies. What makes it tick? What makes it unique? What problems did someone have to understand and overcome to develop it? Thus, the way to make something interesting is to learn about it. Then you can see the complexity and subtlety that fascinate.

I'm not saying you will like everything you learn, but that just about anything can be interesting, from engineering to human nature, from beekeeping to global warming—and that as we get older we have the perspective to tap that wealth of interesting matter and indulge an ever-growing curiosity about the world. Be curious. Explore and learn. There is so much information out there, in books, recordings, lectures, on the radio, and even on television. I didn't always find everything so interesting, but now my pile of unread books and articles just keeps growing; I can't keep up with it.

Indulging one's healthy curiosity can also serve to keep one connected with a world that is changing at an incomprehensible speed. Dabble in contemporary technology. Sample and enjoy; don't reject it all. Don't underestimate your ability to learn and ask questions. I'm not expecting anyone, myself included, to master a new profession, just encouraging us all to escape into the world, not out of it. The way I see it, since everything is interesting, you have no choice but to keep on learning...forever.

#### **Competition between generations?**

Ours is not a society that automatically venerates elders. Youth is queen. We also struggle with the age-old belief in a generational divide. The world may change, but the archetypal relationship between generations does not.

You may perceive, and resent, ageism. It makes you feel invisible in some environments, unwanted in others, phased out. Ageism exists. In the workplace it is illegal, yet the perception of many is that it persists. More widely it may be mostly subconscious, but no less real in impact. At the same time, the lives of the generations are getting more segregated. Young families and their elders often live in self-segregated micro-communities. These areas have definite benefits, but one of them is not promoting understanding of the needs and value of others.

Politically there is another kind of divide between young and old. There is competition for limited resources. Funding for government programs for seniors often competes with funding for programs for children. How do we vote? Seniors vote and children cannot. Do we vote for the future or for ourselves?

We began thinking about the depth of experience and curiosity we have as we get older. You **are** wise elders, whether or not our culture recognizes it. The

(cont'd on p. 4)

## Bored? Never Again!

(cont'd from p. 3)

challenge is to stay connected. We have the wisdom, experience, and curiosity to narrow the divide, to be the wise elder, not the crotchety curmudgeon, and connect. Tap the curiosity born of experience to explore some of the endless interesting possibilities out there, and share your knowledge and experience. Not with arrogance or dismissiveness, but coupled with learning about the challenges that today's youth face, their fears, losses, needs, and hopes. You'll never be bored again.

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

### Coordinator for Rosefest Parade / Rep. to Gavel Club

Barbara Yates

### Records / Directory / Web site

John Kysylyczyn

### Book Sale Coordinators

Joyce Blomquist & Nancy Irsfeld

### Annual Meeting Coordinators

Carole Erickson & Mary Ann Palmer

### Coordinators for VIP Meeting

Georgeann Hall, Florence Sprague

### Corrections to the RoMaFH Membership Directory

Please make the following changes to your 2009 member directory:

**p. 2** – delete Ida J. Davies, a long-time member, who died in fall 2008. Our condolences to her family.

**p. 3** – correct e-mail for Georgeann Hall to gdhall96244@q.com; correct e-mail for Anne Haugan to ahaugan@usfamily.net.

**p. 4** – delete home phone number for John Kysylyczyn;

delete home phone number for Teri Kysylyczyn;

correct phone number for Barbara Lehn to (651) 486-8274.

## Treasurer's Report, February 25, 2009

Joan Stark, Treasurer



### Previous Checking Balance – January 28, 2009

\$1218.45

#### Income:

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Transfer from Savings Account                        | \$450.00 |
| (1) Household Dues                                   | 80.00    |
| Reimbursement for volunteer hours (Election Hotline) | 40.00    |

**Total Income: \$570.00**

#### Expenses:

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| #4215 – LWVUS, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Qtr. PMP                    | \$631.50 |
| #4216 – Anita Mayfield, Printing (Finance Drive)           | 14.09    |
| #4217 – Georgiana Sobola, Printing/Postage (Finance Drive) | 99.42    |
| #4218 – Barb Yates, Voter Printing, 248.99, Mailing, 54.28 | 303.27   |
| #4219 – K Solutions LLC, Webmaster Services, Directory     | 575.00   |

**Total Expenses: \$1,623.28**

### Checking Account Balance, February 25, 2009

\$165.17

Savings Account Balance, January 30, 2009

\$2,998.21

Education Fund Balance, December 12, 2008

\$5,303.14

### Finance Drive on now; contributions welcome

Members and supporters received a mailing recently, asking for your contribution to the League's annual drive. Use the return envelope you received or send a check payable to LWVRoMaFH (for the operating fund, not tax deductible) or LWVRoMaFH Education Fund (tax deductible) to:

Georgiana Sobola, Finance Committee  
LWVRoMaFH  
1961 Hamline Ave. N  
Roseville, MN 55113-5815

### Membership Dues

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

Individual membership – \$55/year

Household membership (two or more) – \$85/year

New member, special 1st year discount – \$40/year



**For anyone who joins now, membership extends through the '09-'10 fiscal year!**

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

### Help recruit new members

If you know someone who might be interested in joining our League and to whom we can send information and a copy of the *Voter*, please give the person's name, address, and telephone number/e-mail to membership committee co-chair Karen Schaffer, 651-636-7359 (address above). Bring a friend/neighbor to one of our upcoming meetings. See page 1 or the calendar on the last page.



## The spring LWV Book Sale is coming!

Sunday, April 26  
7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
Fairview Community  
Center  
1910 W. County Road B  
Roseville

As this is written, the Book Sale is still two months away, but it's time to take out your calendar and circle the weekend of April 26 (if you haven't already done so). Last year, 30 Leaguers and several spouses helped on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday to make our sale a big success.

This is a group effort and we need your help! Please sign up at a unit meeting in March or April. If you miss the meetings, give Joyce Blomquist or Nancy Irsfeld a call to volunteer (phone numbers below).

Books and other items are beginning to come in. Check your book shelves and ask your friends to donate their books to a very worthy cause. We especially need children's books, as well as games, puzzles, CDs, DVDs, and videos. Magazines for crafts, cooking, gardening, travel, and cross-cultural information are favorites.

Take all your donations to Georgiana Sobola's house, at 1961 Hamline Avenue, Roseville; leave your bags and boxes in her breezeway. (If you can, call her before you come, at 651-644-3337.) Don't wait until the weather warms and it feels like spring; get into the Book Sale mood now. Maybe that will help hurry spring along.

### We need volunteers for the following times:

**Friday, April 24, 3 to 6 p.m.** – load up vans and SUVs to transport boxes from Georgiana's home to Fairview Community Center, set up tables, and arrange bookcases.

**Saturday, April 25, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.** – help arrange displays, books, signs; come when you can. Lunch will be served! You get first dibs for your choice of books!

**Sunday, April 26, 7:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** – sell and rearrange books; need five volunteers per shift. You get time off to eat pancakes!

**1:30 p.m. until done** – need eight or more people to box up books, return tables and bookcases, bring and drive vans to return boxes to Georgiana's home.

This is a good way to raise money for RoMaFH and have fun, too. We need your help to make this a great book sale!

**Joyce Blomquist** (651-631-0688)  
and **Nancy Irsfeld** (651-633-4741),  
co-chairs, 2009 LWV Book Sale

## CMAL March Quarterly Meeting *Clean and Sustainable Water for the Metropolitan Area*

Saturday, March 21, 2009

Southdale Library, 7001 York Avenue South, Edina

No registration necessary; just show up. Free and open.

9:30 – 10:00 Coffee

10:00 – 11:00 Program

11:00 – 11:30 Q/A

For discussion of clean water resources in the Greater Metropolitan Area, the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL) welcomes two speakers who will describe what two local government agencies are doing to provide clean and safe water for the metro area.

The first speaker is Lanya Ross, who joined the Metropolitan Council Water Supply Planning staff as Senior Environmental Scientist in 2006. Her focus is the development and implementation of the Metropolitan Area Master Water Supply Plan, initiated in 2005 in response to the Minnesota Legislature's mandate to the Metropolitan Council. As required under Minnesota Statute 473.1565, the goal of these efforts is to guide sustainable water use in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. Water supply planning becomes an integral component of long-term regional and local comprehensive planning. She believes improving water literacy among our residents and decision-makers is critical for success.

Ms. Ross will provide the following:

- How water supply has been incorporated into Metropolitan Council Activities
- A summary of existing and projected regional water demand
- Brief discussion of analytical tools (such as ground water flow modeling and resource mapping)
- A summary of anticipated water availability issues (such as well interference, impacts to surface water features, excessive aquifer drawdown, risk of contamination, etc)
- A summary of responses to water availability issues

The second speaker, Geoffrey Nash, P.G., Groundwater Specialist/Geologist, joined the Ramsey Conservation District in June 2008. He has 29 years of geological experience, mostly in environmental consulting. He will highlight details of the DRAFT Ramsey County Groundwater Protection Plan. This revised plan will be out for public comment soon. It recommends programs to:

- Monitor groundwater quality and elevation in Ramsey County
- Expand a program to seal abandoned wells
- Map known groundwater contaminant plumes

Mr. Nash will also address funding for this type of program.

(cont'd on next page)

## CMAL March Meeting

(cont'd from p. 5)

Each of us takes clean water from the faucet for granted. Come and learn how this is achieved and prospects for the future. For background information, see <[www.metrocouncil.org](http://www.metrocouncil.org)> and <<http://co.ramsey.mn.us/cd/projects.htm>>. Investigate what your community is doing.

This article was slightly adapted from the February CMAL newsletter article by Geneva MacMillan. See CMAL news at <[www.lwvmn.org/CMAL](http://www.lwvmn.org/CMAL)>. Sign up at the LWVMN Web site for the CMAL e-mail list if you would like an occasional e-mail about CMAL meetings and activities. See <[www.lwvmn.org/members/emaillists.asp](http://www.lwvmn.org/members/emaillists.asp)>.

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### Report on February VIP meeting

## Conversations with Constituents

by Florence Sprague

Whether you wanted an update on recycling options, an inside look at changing demographics in our schools, a sneak preview on where the economic stimulus funds might go in Ramsey County, or an explanation of Q-Comp, you wouldn't have been disappointed if you were among the almost 30 members and friends of LWV RoMaFH who attended the annual VIP event, "Conversations with Constituents" on February 18.

Five elected officials: Jon Tynjala, chair, ISD 621 School Board; Lisa Edstrom, member, ISD 623 School Board; and Ramsey County Commissioners Jan Parker, Tony Bennett, and Janice Rettman were gracious enough to spend an evening discussing current challenges, changes, and opportunities in Ramsey County and our local schools.

We learned about efforts to keep youth out of the judicial system, not just punish their transgressions, declining enrolment coupled with increasing racial and ethnic diversity in our schools, and the budget crunch everywhere. The small group format gave each attendee the opportunity to meet and talk with each VIP. Leaguers provided a variety of tasty treats to sustain one and all through an evening of lively conversation. There was also the added entertainment of Florence ringing her bell in a vain attempt to wrest the VIPs from engrossing discussions so they could move to another table of eager Leaguers.

We are deeply grateful to our VIPs for sharing the evening with us, knowing how many demands there are on their time. They are clearly a group of knowledgeable and dedicated individuals. We have been pleased to receive positive feedback from the VIPs, who also enjoyed the evening. As Jon Tynjala put it, such conversations are "exactly the tonic we need to replace sound bite politics."

Be there next year!

## News from National

The **District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2009** is moving through Congress. The Senate passed the bill, S 160, late on February 26. The House of Representatives was slated to vote on the bill (HR 157) March 5, but debate in the House has been postponed. Opponents of DC voting rights are attempting to derail the bill using an amendment that would repeal DC's gun laws. LWVUS wrote to members of the House urging them to support the bill, and the LWVUS Lobby Corps visited House members urging passage without amendments.

LWVUS posts new alerts and information on its Web site regularly. **To see if ACTION is still needed:** Go to the "take action" page, <<http://capwiz.com/lwv/home/>> to contact Rep. Betty McCollum. Check back often so you can be sure Congress knows you support DC Voting Rights!

From a LWVUS Press Release, February 24, 2009, congratulating the US Senate for invoking cloture (allowing the body to consider the bill):

"For two hundred years, Americans living in our nation's capital have been denied their right to elect a voting member to the body that taxes them, makes their laws, and sends them to war," concluded [LWVUS president Mary] Wilson. "Citizens living in our nation's capital are treated uniquely and the League has been working tirelessly to end this discrimination."

(From 2/26 LWVUS Leaders' Update, 2/27 & 3/5 e-mails.)

### Sunshine Week is March 15–21; see the Webcast 3/20

On Friday, March 20, 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. (CT), the LWV Education Fund will co-host the 4th Annual Sunshine Week National Dialogue, a nationwide cooperative initiative to draw attention to the importance of open government and freedom of information. The event, "Opening Doors: Finding the Keys to Open Government," will be held at the Center for American Progress in Washington, DC, and is available via Webcast.

For more information, including a list of confirmed panelists, visit <[www.openthegovernment.org](http://www.openthegovernment.org)>. To register to participate in the Webcast, go to <[www.openthegovernment.org/otg/2009Registration%20Form.pdf](http://www.openthegovernment.org/otg/2009Registration%20Form.pdf)> by March 13.

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### FYI: Women with Vision 2009: Dimensions

#### Walker Film Festival, Minneapolis, March 6–21

The Walker Art Center's 16th annual Women with Vision International Film Festival recognizes the perspectives women bring to the art of filmmaking, and situates viewers in a world interconnected by politics and global economics. This year's festival includes regional premieres from Iran, Nepal, Korea, France, Holland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Israel, plus the U.S. premiere of Claire Simon's *God's Offices* (French), and new work in 3-D. Find more info and purchase tickets at the Walker's Web site, <<http://calendar.walkerart.org/canopy.wac?id=4895>>, or call.

# UN Wrap-Up 2008—A Summary of 2008 at the UN

Prepared by Doris Schapira, UN Observer for the League of Women Voters

*“Across the world, in countries rich and poor, women are being beaten, trafficked, raped and killed. These human rights violations do more than harm individuals; they undermine the development, peace and security of entire societies... All of us—men and women, soldiers and peacekeepers, citizens and leaders—have a responsibility to help end violence against women. States must honour their commitments to prevent violence, bring perpetrators to justice and provide redress to victims. And each of us must speak out in our families, workplaces and communities, so that acts of violence against women cease.”* — Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

Due to space constraints, this report covers only a small fraction of the work and accomplishments of the UN. Many links to Web sites have been included so that LWV members can find further information.

**Secretary General** – In February 2008, during the UN Commission on the Status of Women Meeting, Secretary General Ban launched his campaign to end violence against women. The whole UN system is involved in this effort. For some background information on this violence see <<http://www.un.org/women/endviolence/docs/VAW.pdf>> and <<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/launch/english/v.a.w-exeE-use.pdf>>.

**Climate Change** – For a detailed overview report on some of the UN work on climate change, please see: <<http://www.un.org/climatechange/pdfs/Acting%20on%20Climate%20Change.pdf>>. To avoid confusion, here are some definitions of abbreviations that are used by the UN in regard to climate change:

- **IPCC** - *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*: They produce reports and won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007.
- **UNFCCC** - *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*: This treaty has been ratified by almost every country (192) in the world, including the United States.
- **Kyoto Protocol**: 184 parties have ratified this optional protocol to UNFCCC. The United States has not yet ratified it. This protocol sets binding targets for industrialized countries.

The meeting of parties next year will be COP 15 and CMP 5. See below.

- **COP**- *Conference on Parties to the Convention*,
- **CMP** - *Meeting of Parties*
- **REDD** - *Reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries*
- **UNEP** - *The United Nations Environment Programme*

The last United Nations Climate Change Conference

was held in Pozna, Poland, December 1–12, 2008. The conference was considered an important half-way mark in the two-year negotiating process to reach a post-2012 climate change agreement in Copenhagen in 2009. (2012 is the year the Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC ends.) Among the decisions made in Pozna were agreements on technology transfer both for mitigation and for adaptation technologies.

The United Nations Environment Programme’s (UNEP) mission is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment. Some of their resources that might be helpful to League members may be found here: <<http://www.unep.org/tools/default.asp?ct=clim>>.

**General Assembly** – Climate change, reform of the United Nations Security Council, and the global food crisis were top priorities for the General Assembly during its 62nd session, according to H.E. Srgjan Kerim, President of the 62nd session of the United Nations General Assembly. (He is from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.) H.E. Miguel d’Escoto Brockmann from the Republic of Nicaragua is President of the 63rd session of the United Nations General Assembly, which began in September 2008. When the 63rd session met in September it decided to focus on the following issues for the next year:

- Democratization of the United Nations, including evaluations of the work of the Security Council and of the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as revitalization of the General Assembly
- Financing for development to end hunger, poverty and lack of access to clean water and basic health services
- Climate change in a divided but ecologically interdependent world
- Achieving the goals of the United Nations Decade: “Water for Life”(2005–2015)
- Implementation of the Counter-Terrorism Strategy, with full respect for human rights
- Human security as a part of international peace and security, including disarmament and nuclear control

The General Assembly will also examine these issues from a gender perspective and will continue to consider issues relating to system-wide coherence, sustainable development and HIV/AIDS.

In December, the General Assembly adopted two resolutions on violence against women: Resolution 63/155 on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women; and Resolution 63/156 on trafficking in women and girls.

As some League members know, the General assembly has six main committees that do much of the work of the General Assembly before bringing items to the full session. (It is something like the committees of the US Congress.) The six main committees are:

(cont’d on next page)

## UN Wrap-up, cont'd from p. 7

- First Committee (Disarmament and International Security Committee) is concerned with disarmament and related international security questions
- Second Committee (Economic and Financial Committee) is concerned with economic questions
- Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee) deals with social and humanitarian issues
- Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization Committee) deals with a variety of political subjects not dealt with by the First Committee, as well as with decolonization
- Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary Committee) deals with the administration and budget of the United Nations
- Sixth Committee (Legal Committee) deals with international legal matters

**UN Peacekeepers Sixty-Year Anniversary** – More than 2,400 United Nations peacekeepers from some 118 countries died while serving under the UN flag during the past 60 years. Today, more than 110,000 men and women, in uniform and civilians, are serving in 20 peace operations managed by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO). Since 1948, 63 peacekeeping operations have been deployed by the United Nations, 17 in the past ten years. Over the years, hundreds of thousands of military personnel, as well as tens of thousands of UN police and other civilians, from more than 120 countries, have participated in UN operations.

**Millennium Development Goals (MDG)** – At the High-Level Event on the MDG, held in New York on September 25, 2008, money was raised for the MDGs. Secretary Ban summed up the results this way. “The gathering exceeded our most optimistic expectations” and noted that it generated an estimated \$16 billion, including some \$1.6 billion to bolster food security, more than \$4.5 billion for education and \$3 billion to combat malaria. It was noted at the conference that both the current financial crisis and problems caused by climate change can endanger reaching the Millennium Development Goals. To see US commitments look at <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2008highlevel/pdf/commitments/Commitments%20compilation%20ENGLISH.pdf> and search for United States.

In the 2008 report on the MDGs, Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, says: “It is only in the past few years that MDG-related data for the period since 2000 have become available. Encouragingly, for many variables, the data show accelerated progress since that date. This suggests that the Millennium Declaration and related undertakings did make a difference to development accomplishments.” See

<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/>. Also, the following Web site allows you to look at goals by location or by goal: <http://www.mdgmonitor.org/>.

**Human Rights** – The UN and the world celebrated the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was drafted under the leadership of former League member and former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt. For current information, see the Web site of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Pages/WelcomePage.aspx>.

**US and UN Treaties** – Watch for Senate action on The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). A push by many organizations is afoot to have them ratified by the US Senate in 2009. The League supports these treaties. Some other UN treaties might also be considered.

In November, the General Assembly decided to establish the office of a **Special Representative to the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children**. This was in response to a special study and report on violence against children. See <http://www.violencestudy.org/r25>. To date, no appointment to this position has been made.

**US Funding for UN** – It is estimated that the US is \$1.5 billion to \$2.2 billion in debt to the UN (estimated because the US and the UN calculate the amount differently). See <http://www.betterworldcampaign.org/issues/funding>.

**Special Representatives of Secretary General** – The Secretary General appoints many experts as special representatives to help him with his work. See a list at <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/SRSG/table.htm>. Note that the bottom of the list contains special representatives for particular issues, rather than for countries. Of special note are:

- Dr. Edward C. Luck as Special Representative on Proposals on Responsibility to Protect. Some long-time League members might remember when Dr. Luck spoke at a LWVUS Convention.
- Two new Special Envoys on Climate Change: Festus Mogae, former President of Botswana; and Srgjan Kerim, former President of the United Nations General Assembly (62d session), former Foreign Minister of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
- Radhika Coomaraswamy, appointed in a previous year, is the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Children and Armed Conflict.
- Yakin Ertürk, also appointed in a previous year, serves in the post formerly held by Dr. Coomaraswamy, Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women.

## News from LWVMN and LWVs in our area

### “Progress toward Clean Energy” at LWV WB/NO/M Area Public Forum 3/12

J. Drake Hamilton, science policy director for Fresh Energy, a St. Paul nonprofit working for a clean, efficient and fair energy system, will talk about progress toward a clean energy economy at a free public forum sponsored by the White Bear/North Oaks/Mahtomedi Area League of Women Voters. The program is at **7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 12, at White Bear Lake City Hall, 4701 Highway 61.** Hamilton will give an update on action in the Minnesota legislature and in Congress on getting more energy from renewable sources.

Hamilton has undergraduate and graduate degrees from Dartmouth College and the University of Minnesota, with an emphasis on climatology and water resources. She was awarded the International Leaders fellowship in 2005 by the European Union and used that award to study global warming policy solutions. She serves on the board of the US Climate Action Network.

She joined Fresh Energy's staff in December 1995. Her responsibilities include scientific analysis, policy development, and advocacy of clean energy solutions to global warming that will maximize economic opportunities for the Midwest. Each year she gives more than 100 invited presentations on climate change science, impacts, and solutions to the problem.

For more information contact Judy Ottman, 641-426-0159, <dick.ottman@usfamily.net>, or Janet Callahan, 651-429-0554, <janpcal@hotmail.com>. [e-mail notice]

### LWVMN's CAPITOL LETTER available online

The latest issue of the *Capitol Letter* has been posted on the LWVMN Web site at <<http://www.lwvmn.org/capitolletter.asp>>. This report on League lobbying at the State Legislature and issues being discussed by legislators is published approximately every two weeks during the legislative session. Read it to find out what's happening on issues of concern to LWV members.

Areas covered in the February 27 issue include:

- Education
- Election Law
- Reproductive Health
- Environment
- Sulfide Mining
- Trails and Off-Highway Vehicles
- Clean Air
- State Government Finance
- Judicial Selection
- Land Use and Transportation
- Health Care
- Immigration
- Firearms

If you are not already signed up to receive e-mail messages from the state League through lwvmn-share, join at <[www.lwvmn.org/members/emallists.asp](http://www.lwvmn.org/members/emallists.asp)> for *Capitol Letter* or any of the other lists.

If you are interested in helping with action at the legislature, contact the LWVMN office, at 651-224-5445 or <[e-mailoffice@lwvmn.org](mailto:e-mailoffice@lwvmn.org)>.

### LWVMN Action Alert: Attempt to weaken local power to enact temporary moratoriums on major developments; constituents should contact Sen. John Marty

LWVMN hereby forwards an Action Alert from the Land Stewardship Project, one of the League's allies in lobbying its Agriculture position in St. Paul. Again this session, we have an attempt to take away local control over major developments. SF 859 says that once a county has approved any "development, including but not limited to, feedlot construction or expansion," that project is exempt from a township interim ordinance. This puts townships at a disadvantage when unexpected and unwanted development is proposed.

Some members of LWVRoMaFH live in the district of Sen. John Marty (contact at 651-296-5645), one of the members of a key committee (Senate State and Local Government Operations), to which the legislation has been referred. Tell him we hope that this pernicious bill will not receive a hearing; if it gets a hearing, we hope it will be killed in committee. This is an important issue as we try to manage massive developments. The bill has not been scheduled for a hearing yet (as of 2/28). SF 859 is online at: <<https://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/bin/bldbill.php?bill=S0859.0.html&session=ls86>>.

[condensed from e-mail from Gwen Myers, LWVMN Action Chair]

**LWVMN Position:** (Agriculture) Support a system of sustainable agricultural production which provides safe, healthful food and which preserves and protects the state's human and natural agricultural resources and enhances the environment; research and technical assistance in farming practices and rural economies that improve the economic viability of family farms and their community.

(Land Use): Support an overall land use plan with maximum cooperation and implementation at the regional and local levels, with state help in developing and exercising land use management, with opportunity for maximum local decision making, and with regional planning and regulation for matters of more than local control.

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### FYI: Documentary Film Public Premiere

#### *Genocide Again: Darfur*

Monday, March 16, 2009, 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Temple Israel, 2324 Emerson Ave. S, Minneapolis

Free and open to the public

*Genocide Again: Darfur* is a new documentary that focuses on four individuals who are working to end the genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan, now in its sixth year. More than 500,000 people have died and millions have been displaced from their homes and villages.

The documentary was produced by Twin Cities Public Television and sponsored by the following Minnesota organizations: the Minnesota Interfaith Darfur Coalition; the Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, University of Minnesota; STAND-UMN; Genocide Intervention Network-Minnesota; United Nations Association of Minnesota; and the Rotary Club of Edina.

## LWVRoMaFH Calendar

### March 2009

**Tue, 17**, Unit – City Code Enforcement Update: Housing Maintenance. *More info on pp. 1 & 2*

**Wed, 18**, Unit – same topic

**Wed, 25** – Board Meeting; deadline for *Voter* items

### April 2009

**Tue, 21**, General Meeting – Panel Discussion on How to Meet Diverse Needs for Health Care, Falcon Heights City Hall, 6:30 p.m. social time, 7:00 p.m. program. Videotaped for cable broadcast.

**Wed, 22**, Unit – DVD presentation of Tuesday meeting

**Wed, 22** – Board Meeting; deadline for *Voter* items

**Fri, 24 & Sat, 25** – Set up for Book Sale. *See p. 5.*

**Sun, 26** – Book Sale, 7:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Fairview Community Center, coordinated with Golden Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast. *More info, p 5.*

### May 2009

**Wed, 13** – RoMaFH Annual Meeting, Roseville Skating Oval

### NOTE:

**Board meetings** are held at 7:00 p.m. on the 4th Wed at the Roseville Oval, Raider Room (except in April 2009, in the Fireside Room).

**Third Tuesday evening unit meetings** in Nov, Jan, March, April, and May will be at Grumpy's Bar and Grill Restaurant (formerly Major's & Lido's), 2801 N. Snelling Ave. (off Lincoln Drive), Roseville, 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 morning unit meetings** are held at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 2561 N. Victoria Ave., Roseville, at 9:30 a.m.

*All meetings are public*

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages.

League of Women Voters of  
Roseville, Maplewood & Falcon Heights  
and nearby communities  
Barbara Yates  
3057 Wheeler St. N.  
Roseville, MN 55113-1436