



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

VOTER

April 2009

Web site: www.romafh.org

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LWVRoMaFH Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

6:30 p.m.

Roseville Skating Center
2661 Civic Center Drive

In addition to the usual social time and business meeting:
electing a new board of directors, adopting the 2009-2010
budget and program, presenting awards—
and enjoying a delicious catered dinner:

Special Speaker

Deb Bloom

City Engineer for Roseville and Falcon Heights

will tell us more about the
North East Suburban Campus Connector bike path
This continues LWVRoMaFH's study
of alternative transportation for our area

(See Co-President's Letter on page 2 for further explanation)

*Send reservation with check for \$27 payable to LWVRoMaFH
to Carole Erickson, 2925 Mildred Drive, Roseville, MN 55113.
Reservation must be received by May 7.*

**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

vacant

Action Chair

Angela Robinson, acting

Observer Program

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

Voter Service

Linda McLoon, Julie Helwich

Membership

Karen Schaffer & Gale Pederson

Units / Administrative Assistant

Nancy Browne

Newsletter

Judy Rosenblatt, *Voter* editor
Barbara Yates, mailings

Finance Committee

Georgiana Sobola, Anita Mayfield.
Joan Stark, *ex officio*

(cont'd on page 3)

Co-president's Letter



Well, another League year has quickly gone by. Thanks to everyone on the Diversity Subcommittee (listed in the April *Voter*) for putting together the very interesting panel discussion on diverse needs in health care. The meeting was well attended, and the evaluations were very positive. A special thanks to Sandi Lutz for moderating the panel and to Florence Sprague, who took the lead in organizing the event.

By the time this *Voter* goes out, the book sale will be completed. Thanks to Nancy Irsfeld and Joyce Blomquist for organizing this fundraiser. As usual, many members helped set up and conduct the sale. This is always a well-attended and profitable event (unfortunately the weather didn't cooperate this year). See the report on page 5.

The annual meeting is coming up on Wednesday, May 13, when we adopt program and budget and elect our new Board of Directors for 2009–2010—and, of course, we will also have a wonderful catered dinner. I hope to see you all there. We need your ideas for the future of our League.

A special feature this year is guest speaker Deb Bloom, talking about the bike trail proposal we first heard about when the local city administrators spoke at our general meeting last September. Falcon Heights and Roseville have received a grant to implement pedestrian access through bike and walking trails from Rosedale to downtown Minneapolis, and Deb is in charge of the project. You will want to hear about it.

And don't forget the "Do Your Own Thing" opportunity on May 20 to see the energy-saving system that heats and cools the Roseville city buildings. See the notice below.

Co-President Teri Kysylyczyn

"Do Your Own Thing" May Event

Energy Savings from Geothermal Heating and Cooling of Roseville City Hall Campus

Wednesday, May 20, 11 a.m.

Skating Center, 2661 Civic Center Drive

The Wednesday Unit invites all members and guests to join them for a 30–45-minute tour. Park near the south entrance and meet at the information booth inside the building. No reservation required; just come. Restaurant for optional lunch following the tour to be determined.

Nominating Committee

Carolyn Cushing, Georgeann Hall,
& Julianne Johnston. Ann Berry, *ex officio*

**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

Windows and Mirrors for All

The Flip Side of History

by Florence Sprague, Diversity Subcommittee Coordinator

“History is written by the winners.” This is a well known truism. The public television series *American Experience* seeks to deepen our understanding of this country’s past. Now it has put together an impressive set of detailed historical vignettes highlighting five key moments in the interaction between Native Americans and European Americans, called “We Shall Remain.”

The programs begin with the relationship between the Wampanoag and the Pilgrims in Massachusetts and continue through Wounded Knee. Each 90-minute film gives a nuanced exploration of the motivations and perspective of the Indians that often does not jibe with the saccharine image of the first Thanksgiving in textbooks or the wild cowboy and Indian vision of the West.

The programs were made with Native and non-Native actors, directors, writers, and crew, working hand in hand; there was not just a token Native consultant. The stories are powerful and poignant. They began on Monday, April 13, and run through May 11, so by the time you read this, they will be mostly over; but fear not, they can be viewed online and will be available to purchase. There is also an extensive Web site (<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/weshallremain/>), with background information and tons of data on the lives of contemporary individuals and communities.

A wonderful thing about these programs is that they are not preachy. The format is the one so familiar to public television viewers: narration, reenactments, historical documents, interviews with experts. The scholarly style and tone mirrors that of all of the other documentaries in the *American Experience* library as it explores the actions of key individuals, their motivations, and the historical context in which events took place; what is unique is the perspective, the point of view, and persons of focus. The viewers’ sympathies are gently trained on the losers instead of the winners, and that makes all the difference.

Programs such as this series are important and useful. History is messy, but it doesn’t have to also be one-sided. The world is not a static place; for better or worse, things change. The atlas of my childhood is very different from that in my classroom today. Some of the differences can be seen as positive, such as name changes due to the independence of former colonies; some, more ambiguous, such as the creation of a handful of countries out of Yugoslavia; some deeply troubling, as rebels overthrow elected governments or dictators cement power and rename fiefdoms. The challenge is to record and remember ever more fully how and why a group came into ascendancy at a certain time. Historical changes are not god-given, they are human made.

It’s not about guilt. It is about understanding and remembering. There always has been and always will be competition for finite resources, and land is a finite resource. Many wars have been fought for hegemony in a region. Must the interactions between competing groups always be violent or destructive? Must there always be so much loss? It is worth thinking about.

Another saying tells us that if we forget history we are bound to repeat it. It is not enough to remember the dates and changes to the map. We must remember the impact on the people on both sides. We must remember the motivations and emotions that led them to feel justified in acting as they did.

I often wonder how Native American cultures would have evolved if Europeans had not learned that the world is not flat for another few centuries. While historical revisions make interesting fiction, that is all they can be, fiction. But this should not stop us from trying to put a more accurate valuation on who and what they were before being overrun. Programs like “We Shall Remain” help us to have a more accurate picture of the past and stop sugarcoating or idealizing the monumental changes required to create a nation of European Americans in North America.

History may be written by the winners, but it is lived by us all. Would you want to be minimized or forgotten?

Please make the following change to your **2009 Member Directory**:

p. 7 – Remove the name of Patricia O’Connor from the list of National Members. She is deceased.

Contributors to the 2009 Finance Drive (as of April 22, 2009)

Many thanks to:

- Betty Ahn
- Ann Berry
- Ellen Blank
- Joyce Blomquist
- Shirley Bradway
- Andrea Brodtmann
- Nancy Browne
- Ann Cleland
- Community Resource Bank
- Stephanie DeBenedet
- Mary Duddleston
- Carole Erickson
- Betty Ernst
- Marty Everest
- Lorraine Fischer
- Polly Franke
- Susan Gehrz
- Kitty Gogins
- Mindy Greiling
- Georgeann Hall
- Betty Harper
- Nancy Irsfeld
- V. Lynette Kimble
- John Marty
- Le Matts
- Diana Menanteau
- John Nephew
- Faith O’Neill
- Mary Ann Palmer
- Beverly Price
- Tammy Pust
- Lila Recksiedler
- Joan Regal
- Leola Rempel
- Antona Richardson
- Janet Rog
- Judy Rosenblatt
- Joyce Rosene
- Karen Schaffer
- Lee Schreurs
- Norma Signorelli
- Lois Ann Smith
- Georgiana Sobola
- Jane Spartz
- Joan Stark
- Judy Stuthman
- Dorothy Walz

Contributions to General Fund and Education Fund so far: \$2,190

Treasurer’s Reports

Joan Stark, Treasurer

March 31, 2009

Previous Checking Balance, March 25, 2009



\$1,448.37

Total Income

\$00.00

Expenses

- #4222 – Florence Sprague, VIP Meeting \$ 14.95
- #4223 – Joan Stark, Membership Brochures 27.45
- #4224 – Roseville Central Park Foundation., Polly Franke memorial brick* 100.00

Total Expenses

142.40

Checking Account Balance, March 31, 2009

\$1,305.97

Savings Account Balance, March 31, 2009

\$2,551.76

Education Fund Balance, March 31, 2009

\$6,263.14

Membership: 80

April 22, 2009

Previous Checking Balance, March 31, 2009

\$1,305.97

Income

- Finance Drive (partial) \$85.00
- Book Sale (partial) 30.00

Total Income

\$115.00

Expenses

- #4225 – Georgiana Sobola, Stamps for Finance Drive 8.40
- #4226 – City of Falcon Heights, Room Fee, April 21 program 53.75

Total Expenses

62.15

Checking Account Balance, April 22, 2009

\$1,358.82

Savings Account Balance, March 31, 2009

\$2,551.76

Education Fund Balance, April 10, 2009

\$6,298.14

See Fiscal Year 2008–2009 Balance Sheet in the Annual Meeting Booklet

*The Board decided to purchase a memorial brick for the Roseville Arboretum walkway to honor the late Polly Franke, one of the founding members of the Roseville LWV.

Membership Dues— New fiscal year began April 1

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



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

or bring to the Annual Meeting

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).



LWVRoMaFH Book Sale Brings in \$; many members helped

Although the number of pancake eaters (at the Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast) and book buyers was down slightly this year,

member participation was outstanding, despite the rainy weather. Many members donated books and other items and also their time and muscle power for set-up, sales, and take-down over three days, April 24–26.

Members of Boy Scout Troop 297 assisted with unloading books from vans and transporting many more books out of storage into more cars and vans. What a big job!

Income topped \$600, with expenses of \$100 for space rental at Fairview Community Center and payment to Scouts. A big thank you to all who helped!

Joyce Blomquist and Nancy Irsfeld, co-chairs

Why Border Controls Can't Keep Out the Flu Virus

By Bryan Walsh , Thursday, Apr. 30, 2009—*Time* Health & Science online

(excerpted and adapted from article at <http://www.time.com/time/health/article/0,8599,1894786,00.html>)

...[In response to demands to close borders] Health officials argue that because the H1N1 swine flu virus is already present in so many countries, and readily capable of spreading from person to person, it's far too late to try to isolate one or two countries. Uninfected countries... would not likely be able to stave off the virus for good — and the economic losses resulting from the travel ban may far outweigh any benefits. One 2007 study by the Brookings Institution estimated, for example, that a 95% reduction in U.S. air travel would cost the economy \$100 billion a year.

“Once the virus has spread beyond its initial focus, travel restrictions just aren't effective,” says Ira Longini, a biostatistician at the University of Washington. With 4,000 flights a day between the U.S. and Mexico, “it's not worth the social disruption it would cause.”

That's not to say that very strict restrictions wouldn't have some effect on slowing the virus. A 2006 study

2010 Census a Vital Civic Count of All Americans *League of Women Voters Is 2010 Census National Partner*

Washington, DC, April 1, 2009 – The League of Women Voters today announced its role as a national partner in the 2010 U.S. Census. The decennial count takes place one year from today.

“The 2010 Census is an enormously important government effort that sets out to count all Americans,” said Mary G Wilson, national President of the League of Women Voters. “The League is joining this effort as a national partner to enable our local, grassroots members to help achieve this goal.”

“We join with the U.S. Census Bureau and other organizations in emphasizing the importance of every single resident being counted in the community in which they live,” Wilson stated. “Many Americans may not be aware of how important Census data is to almost every aspect of their lives. This data is used as the basis for most federal funding to states and communities as well as for determining the number of representatives to the U.S. House of Representatives and to state legislatures. Since Leagues around the country are well-known and trusted sources of civic information, they can play an important role in educating the public that the 2010 Census is important, easy, and fair.”

“Our goal is to work with others to eliminate the ‘undercount’ that occurs, particularly within low income and minority populations,” said Wilson. “We have been fighting to protect the rights of underrepresented communities in many arenas including voting and elections, and immigration and health care reforms. The Census influences so many public policy decisions, we all must do our part to see that it is as accurate and inclusive as it can be.”

“Officials have worked hard to plan this Census, but they cannot reach into every community without the help of grassroots organizations like the League,” Wilson said. “It is our hope that thousands of League members nationwide will do our part to make the Census a success, by helping Americans reach a comfort level with the process and a willingness to participate in this important civic process. Our approach to the Census is similar to that of voting—we want everyone to count!”

For additional information on the 2010 Census, go to www.2010.census.gov/2010census.

Please note that all 12 Census 2010 regional offices are offering partners, including the LWV, funds to purchase t-shirts, mugs, cups, hats, and key rings with the Census logo. For more information, please contact zarguedas@lwv.org.

(cont'd on p. 6)

Why Border Controls Can't Keep Out the Flu Virus

(cont'd from p. 5)

examining the effect of the sharp reduction in air travel after the 9/11 attacks on that year's flu season found that the initial flight ban and general decline in air travel in the weeks after [the attack] delayed the onset of the flu season but did little to reduce the overall number of infections and deaths that year.

The data matches computer models run by biostatisticians like Longini, who found that even the strictest limits on air travel would only slow the start of a flu pandemic, not stop its spread. But, again, while that strategy may benefit countries that have not yet been infected with swine flu, there's still no way to know when it would be safe to lift those restrictions. ...As far as the U.S.-Mexico border is concerned, attempting to actually close it would be futile, since countless illegal migrants cross over to the U.S. daily. Trying to stop movement may just push travelers, and the spread of the swine flu, underground. It would create a diplomatic headache as well — the Mexican government has already expressed its concern over travel restrictions.

What works better are social-distancing actions on a local level — closing schools, having employees work at home and limiting public gatherings, where the flu can spread easily. Such methods worked during the deadly 1918 Spanish flu — cities that acted quickly to close schools and theaters early in the pandemic had peak death rates 50% lower than cities that acted more slowly. Today doctors could also prophylactically administer antiviral drugs to the close contacts of any swine flu patients, a strategy that has been shown to help prevent the spread of the flu. “Until you start to see really massive clusters, that can be a really effective method,” says Longini.

Ultimately, however, in a world as truly interconnected as ours, we can no more cloister a single country than we could cut off a limb. The world has become increasingly one — as the rapid spread of the swine flu virus from country to country shows. “It is really all of humanity that is under threat during a pandemic,” says the WHO's [director-general Margaret] Chan. Whatever happens next with the swine flu — whether it burns out or sharpens — we're in this together.

— *With reporting by Massimo Calabresi / Washington*

News from National

Your E-mail Address: The Key to Being an Informed LWV Member!

In order to effectively communicate not only within the organization, but also with those outside the League that we want to educate and involve in our activities, LWVUS needs to be able to operate with what technology offers us! And so, more and more Leagues are conveying important information via electronic means, from local Voters to legislative action alerts, from program planning materials to board reports! And why not? It's quick, inexpensive, timely, and helps information be easily transferred to others!

In order not to be left out of important information streams, LWVUS is encouraging two things:

1. Members share their e-mail address with the League and keep it current in the national database, and
2. Leagues are mindful and prudent about how much e-mail is sent each month to our members so as not to wear out our welcome!

For example, LWVUS does not sell or trade member e-mail addresses! It also sends one e-mail each month with its online newsletter, the LeaguE-Voice, to all members with e-mail addresses. LWVUS also sends occasional national action alerts to those on the grassroots lobby list and leaders receive a regularly timed update once a week. E-mail is also easily deleted if you don't want to read it. But if you don't receive it, you may miss out on important League materials!

Be sure the League has your e-mail address! Individual members can add their own e-mail address to the national database through the national Web site, www.lwv.org, and then go to “For Members” and then “Update Your Information.” Or local and state Leagues can also update your information or add your e-mail address to the records. Be sure to let RoMaFH know you want to receive electronic information and give us your e-mail address! *Read on.*

Update Your LWVUS Membership Record

League members, you can now update your own member records (e.g., enter address changes, e-mail addresses) after logging in to the LWVUS site. Individuals need to create a personal password to do so. Step-by-step instructions for creating a password are available at <<http://lwv.org/909698/4143006/702/0/>>. Personal passwords also can be used to gain access to a very limited number of documents that are “locked” in the members' sections (e.g., budget documents and contact information for LWVUS Board members).

(From the 4/16 LWVUS Leaders' Update)

Reform Groups Strongly Praise President Obama's Government Integrity Reform Measures during First Hundred Days

Statement Issued by Common Cause, Democracy 21, League of Women Voters, Public Citizen, and U.S. PIRG

April 28, 2009

Our organizations strongly praise President Obama for the unprecedented steps he has taken during the first hundred days of his Administration to strengthen ethics, lobbying and transparency rules for the Executive Branch.

Equally important, we believe, is the larger effort by President Obama embodied in these initial actions to challenge the way business is done in Washington and the special interest, lobbying culture that influences government decisions at the expense of the American people.

We recognize that this is a long term battle and that the toughest fight to change the way Washington works still lies ahead – the need to address the role of influence money in Washington by repairing the existing presidential public financing system and creating a new congressional public financing system.

Nevertheless, we believe the President has demonstrated in his first hundred days through words and deeds that he is serious about changing the rules of the game in Washington and increasing the voice of citizens in the governing process.

Our organizations believe President Obama deserves great credit and recognition for the groundbreaking government integrity reforms he has put in place during the first hundred days of his Administration. We look forward to working with President Obama on future government integrity reform efforts and, most importantly, on the essential battle to fundamentally reform the nation's campaign finance laws.

See the remainder of the statement at <http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=13416>.

(LWVUS Leaders' Update, 4/30/09)

Two Additional Climate Change Papers Now Online at LWVUS Web site

Read

“Cap-and-Trade versus Carbon Tax: Two Approaches to Curbing Greenhouse Gas Emissions”

by Eleanor Revelle, LWVIL and LWVUS Climate Change Task Force member, at

http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Global_Climate_Change&CONTENTID=13417&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm

and

“Positive Feedbacks and Climate Runaway: The Need to Act Without Delay”

by Chad Tolman, LWVDE and LWVUS Climate Change Task Force member, at

http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Global_Climate_Change&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=13409.

LWVUS supports Proposal to Rescind Bush Administration Regulation:

“Ensuring That Department of Health and Human Services Funds Do Not Support Coercive or Discriminatory Policies or Practices in Violation of Federal Law”

The League supports the Obama Administration proposal to fully rescind the HHS regulation in quotation marks above that would negatively impact patient access to health care services and information, particularly in the area of reproductive health care, by allowing providers to refuse to supply information, care, or pharmaceuticals if they did not agree with such provision.

Conclusion of joint letter:

“The Rescission Proposal will help protect patient access to health care services and full and complete information, eliminate the confusion created by the HHS Regulation, and remove onerous requirements the Regulation imposed on health care providers. With 45 million Americans uninsured, the Department should prioritize the expansion and protection of health care access for women, their families, and all Americans. We fully support the Rescission Proposal because we believe it will move us closer towards that goal.”

Read the full letter supporting rescission from a long list of US organizations, including LWVUS, to the Dept. of Health and Human Services at

<http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=13374>.

LWVRoMaFH Calendar

May 2009

Wed, 13 – RoMaFH Annual Meeting, Roseville Skating Center. *Final date for reservations to be received by Carol Erickson is May 7. See page 1.*

Wed, 20 – “Do Your Own Thing”: The Wednesday Unit invites all members and guests to join them for a tour of the geothermal energy state-of-the-art installation for heating and cooling on the Roseville City Hall campus. The 30–45 minute presentation by city hall gurus begins at 11 a.m. Park near the south entrance to the Skating Center, and meet at the information booth inside the building. No reservation required; just come. Restaurant for optional lunch following the tour to be determined. *Announcement on page 2.*

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, and March 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