



VOTER

September 2009

Web site: www.romafh.org

In this issue...

Page

- 1 General Meeting 9/15
- 2 Co-President's Letter;
Food shelf project
- 2-3 Board & Off-board
Positions, '09-'10
- 3 *Windows & Mirrors:*
Thoughts on diversity
by Florence Sprague;
2010 Census
- 4-5 Treasurer's Reports;
membership;
- 5 Principles for
Redistricting
- 6 Local LWV Calendar;
Volunteers needed for
LWVMN Phonathon;
Women's suffrage
collection online;
Letter to Polly Franke's
family
- 7 Results of LWVUS study
on national vote compact;
Statement to Roseville
Council supports Neigh-
borhood Enhancement
Project;
CMAL meetings

LWVRoMaFH General Meeting *Fall Kick-Off*

The State of Parks & Recreation in Our Cities

Tuesday, September 15, 2009

6:30 p.m. – Social Time
(refreshments provided by board members)

7:00 p.m. – Panel Discussion

Roseville Skating Center, Fireside Room
2661 Civic Center Drive

Parks & Recreation directors from Roseville, Falcon Heights, Maplewood, Little Canada, and Shoreview will discuss how budget constraints during this economic downturn have affected park maintenance, improvements, and programs in their respective communities

Each panelist will speak for 10–15 minutes. A question and answer period will follow the presentations

*Bring a friend and/or neighbor who is interested
in this subject or in the LWV in general*

Bring a food shelf contribution: see article on page 2

Open to the Public

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

Co-Presidents

Ann Cleland & Barbara Yates

Secretary

Anne Haugan; Mary Ann Palmer,
alternate

Treasurer

Joan Stark

Action Chair

Angela Robinson, acting
Volunteer needed

Membership

Stephanie DeBenedet, Julianne
Johnston, Gale Pederson, & Karen
Schaffer

Newsletter

Judy Rosenblatt, *Voter* editor

Program Division

(including unit administration and
some event planning))

Ann Berry, Carolyn Cushing (after
January), Georgeann Hall, Teri
Kysylczyn, Judy Rosenblatt,
Florence Sprague (& coordinator of
Diversity Subcommittee),
Lorraine Fischer, rep. to Council of
Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL)

Public Relations

Volunteer needed

Voter Service

Linda McLoon, Andrea Brodtmann

'09–'10 Off-Board Responsibilities

Annual Meeting Coordinators

Carole Erickson & Shirley Bradley

Book Sale Coordinators

Joyce Blomquist & Le Matts

(cont'd on page 3)

Co-president's Letter



In May, I had the opportunity to represent LWVRoMaFH at the MN-Powered: Sustainable, Renewable-Food, Energy, and Economy state League convention in Willmar. Thank you! It was my first time!

I attended informative workshops on training, membership, and resources. LWVMN is now creating briefing papers rather than do a two-year study. After much discussion, three briefing paper subjects were adopted:

- 1-Redistricting,
- 2-Comprehensive Education Funding, and
- 3-Election Law (absentee ballots).

Secretary of State Mark Ritchie was the main speaker for the weekend, discussing Minnesota's election results. We also heard from U of M professor Don Wyse, on "Laws of the Land: Impact on Human and Environmental Health." A wonderful dinner and awards presentation were held at the Prairie Woods Environmental Center. I had a chance to meet many new League members. It was an impressive and inspiring weekend!

This summer, LWVRoMaFH made its presence known by being in the Rosefest parade, having a booth at both the Roseville Community Showcase and the Taste of Maplewood, and staffing an information table at the National Civic Summit in Minneapolis.

Please note that the Tuesday evening unit will be holding its meetings at the Little Venetian restaurant in Little Canada this year. That is the place we held our very enjoyable holiday/charity dinner last December (and will again this year).

Enjoy the rest of the summer. Our fall program begins September 15 with a discussion from our local Parks & Recreation directors. See all the details on page 1. This is the perfect opportunity to bring neighbors and friends! We are trying hard to attract new members and can use everybody's help. See you there!

Co-President Ann Cleland

LWVRoMaFH to support local food shelf: Donations needed

At the August 12 board meeting, LWVRoMaFH board members voted to support a proposal by Stephanie and Jim DeBenedet to collect non-perishable foods for the Roseville Food Shelf. The food shelf is located at the Fairview Community Center, 1910 W. County Road B, phone 651-917-3939.

Please bring your contribution to any of the League's scheduled meetings, either unit meeting or general meeting. The DeBenedets will provide grocery bags for your donations and will take them to the food shelf each month.

Thank you for participating in this project. Your donation will provide assistance to needy community members.

'09-'10 Off-Board Responsibilities
(cont'd from p. 2)

Budget Committee

To be named; Joan Stark, *ex officio*

Diversity Subcommittee (of the Program Division)

Andrea Brodtmann, Sandi Lutz, Judy Rosenblatt, Florence Sprague, Joan Stark, Judy Stuthman

Finance Committee

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

Nominating Committee

Ann Berry, Carolyn Cushing, Georgeann Hall, & Julianne Johnston.

Observers

Unit volunteers observe at city council & school board meetings.

Sign up at your unit meeting or contact Ann Cleland to volunteer. One time commitment okay.

Records / Directory

Julianne Johnston

Representative to Gavel Club

Barbara Yates

Rosefest Parade Coordinator

Volunteer needed

VIP Meeting Coordinators

Program Committee

Voter distribution

Ann Berry

Web site

John Kysylyczyn; Jim Debenedet (as of end of 2009)

Windows and Mirrors for All

White privilege at 35,000 feet

by Florence Sprague, Diversity Subcommittee Coordinator

Undoubtedly people who by appearance or name might be thought to be either Muslim or of Middle Eastern descent have met with the greatest number of indignities and frustrations due to the airport security screenings of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), but in my travels in recent months I have sensed a remarkable level of caution in the face of the authority of the TSA expressed by whites of assorted ages and genders. This has given me a fresh perspective from which to consider the concept of white privilege. Fear and mistrust of those with power over one has long been the purview of blacks; whites in airports are getting a small taste of that bitter fruit.

I was brought up to respect and trust people in authority and anyone in public service, like police officers or fire fighters; and my interactions with them have never seriously damaged this trust. I have always believed that I would be treated fairly, given help when it was needed, and listened to. On the other hand, I have heard that children of color are taught to be cautious in all dealings with authority, taught not to voice objections or opinions, for fear of making a situation worse.

Last spring, a TSA official looked at me and allowed a rolling pin I had packed in my carryon luggage when heading for an out of town wedding shower to pass, even though it is similar, though a fraction the size, to a forbidden baseball bat. For this I am **very** grateful; who wants to have to pay to check luggage for a weekend trip? I also expect that being a middle-aged white woman helped me. Other times I have spoken with TSA employees while having my ID checked only to have my husband hiss at me afterwards not to make waves.

I have observed and heard of numerous instances of caution and irritated submission within airports by whites of diverse levels of power outside of an airport. The heightened security has increased fear in everyone, not so much fear of terrorism but fear of random, unwarranted abuse of power that will cause inconvenience, embarrassment, extra expense, or worse.

And this is when it hit me—even this low level of fear is new to most white people in America. White privilege looks like the absence of fear of authority.

As a woman, I learned to fear many things: leering men, dark alleys, penury, but if a white person in America is taught to fear anything, it is “the underclass,” not persons in authority, and this *is* a great privilege. Think about it.

LWV to help educate about 2010 Census

United States Census 2010 is coming. The constitutionally mandated decennial count routinely occurs in the opening year of each decade. The U.S. Census Bureau has invited nonprofit organizations across the country to work with it in hopes of achieving the most accurate count of all subsets of the population, and the League of Women Voters has signed on as a partner with a particular interest in historically undercounted groups. At the local level, the Diversity and Outreach Committee has selected census outreach as its focus for the 2009–10 year. There will be opportunities for you to participate, too (including a unit meeting in November).

The census was first ordered to enable the allotment of representatives among the states for the US House. This function continues to be important; the 435 seats in the House are allocated evenly among the states by population, and the states obtain the needed information for setting their district boundaries. Today the population information gathered is also used to allocate funds for a wide variety of federal programs, set boundaries for state House and Senate districts, help communities plan for infrastructure, education, and health care needs, and help businesses identify opportunities. We all benefit from an accurate enumeration.

Florence Sprague for the Diversity Subcommittee

**Contributions to the
2009 Finance Drive**

(final report, Aug. 12, 2009)

Two contributions came in after the reports in the May *Voter* and the Annual Report. Thank you to Carolyn Cushing and Kathy Ciernia for their contributions.

Totals	
General Fund (operating expenses)	\$1,255
Education Fund	1,140
Total	\$2,395

Thank you again to everyone who contributed.



**Membership Dues— New
fiscal year began April 1**

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

Individual –	\$55/year
Household (two or more) –	\$85/year
New member, 1st year discount –	\$40/year

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

Treasurer's Reports

Joan Stark, Treasurer

May 27, 2009



Previous Checking Balance – April 22, 2009 **\$1,358.82**

Income:	
Dues	\$2,825.00
Book Sale	602.45
City of Falcon Heights, Key Deposit (Returned)	200.00*
VOTER Reimbursement (Ed Fund)	204.00
Annual Meeting Dinner and Booklet, (30 @ \$27.00)	812.00**
Donation to finance drive	50.00
Total Income:	\$4,693.45

Expenses:	
#4227 – BSA Troop #297 , Helped w/LWV Book Sale	\$30.00
#4228 – Maureen Anderson, A/V Support at April 21st Diversity Program	50.00
#4229 – City of Falcon Heights , Key Deposit for April 21st Diversity Program (Council Chambers)	200.00*
#4230 - Lee Graczyk, Honorarium, Senior Federation Speaker at April 21st Diversity Program	50.00
#4231 – MN Visiting Nurse Agency , Honorarium, Speaker at April 21st Diversity Program	50.00
#4232 – Xiaoying Chen, Honorarium, Asian-Amer. Coord. MN Dept. of Health , Speaker at April 21st Diversity Program	50.00
#4233 – Roseville Area Schools , Facility Charge LWV Book Sale	75.00
#4234 – LWVUS , 4 TH Quarter PMP	631.50
#4235 – Barb Yates, March – May VOTER mailings, (printing - \$242.50, postage - \$99.12)	341.71
#4236 – Taste & Co. Catering, Annual Meeting	629.83
#4237 – Florence Sprague, April 21st Diversity Pgm.	63.46
#4238 – Carole Erickson, Annual Mtg. Expense	62.89
#4239 – Mary Ann Palmer, Annual Mtg. Expense	121.76
Total Expenses:	\$2,356.15

* check voided ** \$2.00 overpayment

Checking Account Balance May 27, 2009	\$3,696.12
Savings Account Balance April 30, 2009	\$2,553.44
Education Fund Balance May 17, 2009	\$6,204.14

Total Membership: 57 (51 individual, 3 introductory, 2 family, 1 scholarship)

(Treasurer's Reports cont'd on next page)

Treasurer's Report – June 18, 2009

Previous Checking Balance – May 27, 2009 \$3,696.12

Income:

Dues: (5) Individual @\$55.00 \$275.00

Total Income: **\$275.00**

Expenses:

#4280 – Barb Yates, May *Voter* (printing) \$88.50

#4281 – Ann Cleland, 2009 LWVMN Convention, Willmar (lodging) 93.49

#4236 – *Taste & Company*, Adjustment per May 2009 Bank Statement .02

#4282 – *Prince of Peace* Lutheran Church, Facility Honorarium 75.00

#4283 – Barbara Yates, U.S Flags (2,000) *Rosefest* Parade 748.87

Total Expenses: **\$1,005.88**

Checking Account Balance June 18, 2009 \$2,965.24

Savings Account Balance May 29, 2009 \$2,555.06

Education Fund Balance May 17, 2009 \$6,204.14

Treasurer's Report – August 12, 2009

Previous Checking Balance – June 18, 2009 \$2,965.24

Income:

Dues \$190.00

Ed Fund Reimbursements: 550.00

April 2009 Diversity Health Care Forum - \$300

Web site Management - \$250

Total Income: **\$740.00**

Expenses:

#4284 – LWVMN, 2009-2010 PMP \$1,463.00

#4285 – George Bednar, *RoseFest* Parade (Car) 50.00

#4286 – GSA Troop 52775, *RoseFest* Parade (Flags) 50.00

#4287 – Ann Cleland, 2009 LWVMN Convention, Willmar, MN (lodging \$180.00, mileage \$34.00) 214.00

#4288 – Hmong Cultural Center, *Census 2010* Project, Diversity Committee (Ed Fund) 125.00

#4289 – LWVMNEF, 2009 Finance Drive transfer from General Fund to Ed Fund (Polly Franke \$15.00) (Stephanie DeBenedet \$20.00) 35.00

#4290 - LWVUS, 1st Quarter Per Member Payment 550.85

Total Expenses: **\$2,487.85**

Checking Account Balance August 12, 2009 \$1,217.39

Savings Account Balance July 31, 2009 \$2,557.59

Education Fund Balance June 25, 2009 \$5,654.14

Statement on Essential Principles on Redistricting

as formulated at Pocantico Redistricting Conference, July 2009

The statement below was agreed upon by attendees of the Pocantico Redistricting Conference on July 22–24, 2009, including LWVUS. Additional organizations and individuals have signed on as well. Some of the signatory organizations are listed below. The essential principles are:

1. An accurate and complete count in Census 2010 is an essential building block for all redistricting efforts.
2. The process used for redistricting must be transparent to the public.
3. The redistricting process, at all levels of government, must provide data, tools and opportunities for the public to have direct input into the specific plans under consideration by the redistricting body.

In order to achieve representative democracy, redistricting plans must be drawn in a manner that allows elected bodies to reflect the diversity of the populace, especially racial and ethnic diversity.

Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund; Brennan Center for Justice, NYU School of Law; Chicago Appleseed Fund for Justice; Common Cause; FairDistrictsFlorida.org; Illinois Campaign for Political Reform; National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials; Ohio Citizen Action; Southern Coalition for Social Justice; TakeAction Minnesota; Wisconsin Democracy Campaign

RoMaFH Calendar for 2009–2010

All Tuesday evening units will meet at the Little Venetian Restaurant in Little Canada at 5:30 p.m.

All Wednesday units will meet at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Roseville, at 9:30 a.m.

All Board meetings will be at the Raider Room, Roseville Skating Center, at 7:00 p.m.

September

Tue, Sept 15, **General meeting**, Parks & Rec Directors
on effects of budget constraints

Wed, Sept 23, **Board**

October

Tue, Wed, Oct 20, 21, **Units**, New Minnesota Miracle &
Early Childhood Education

Presenters: Mindy Greiling & Barb Yates

Wed, Oct 28, **Board**

November

Tue, Wed, Nov 17, 18, **Units**, Census/redistricting
Presenters: Diversity Subcommittee

December

Wed, Dec 2, **Board**

Sun, Dec 6, **Holiday Event** at Little Venetian, 5:00 – 8:00
charity: Women's Advocates

January 2010

Tue, Jan 19, **General meeting**, VIP (officials)

Wed, Jan 27, **Board**

Volunteers needed for LWVMN Annual Appeal Phonathon; Earn \$ for LWVRoMaFH by making calls

Earn dollars for the RoMaFH treasury and credits to its Education Fund by assisting with follow-up calls to members and friends of LWVMN during its annual appeal. Sessions are scheduled Monday through Thursday evenings or Sunday afternoons between October 4 and December 20. Amount earned depends on how many phone calls are completed. For all the details and to reserve your preferred date, contact LWVMN at 651-224-5445 or Mary Santi, e-mail: <msanti@lwvmn.org>.

National Woman's Party digital collection online

August 26 was Women's Equality Day, the 89th anniversary of the day that the U.S. Constitution was amended to grant women the right to vote. Material at <www.nwpcollection.org/NWPArchWeb/index.jst> and at the Sewall-Belmont House and Museum on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, showcase the National Woman's Party (NWP) collection of historic records and artifacts, documenting the mass political movement for women's full citizenship in the United States and throughout the world in the 20th century. The physical and digital collection of the NWP consists of suffrage banners, the *Suffragist* magazine, political cartoons, and historical objects of women important to the suffrage movement. (LWVUS Leaders' Update, 8/13/09)

February

Tue, Wed, Feb 16, 17, **Units**, Lively Issues (program planning) and Code Enforcement

Wed, Feb 24, **Board**

March

Tue, Wed, Mar 16, 17, **Units**, Health Care

Wed, Mar 24, **Board**

April

Tue, Wed, Apr 20, 21, **Units**, Climate Change

Wed, Apr 28, **Board**

May

Annual Meeting, TBA

"Do your Own Thing," TBA

Wed, May 26, **Board** (new and old)

June

Wed, June 23, **Board**, Calendar Planning

Letter to family of the late Polly Franke recognizes her contributions to LWV and Roseville

The following letter was sent in May 2009 to the family of Polly Franke:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of Roseville, Maplewood and Falcon Heights we wish to inform you that we plan to place a brick at the Muriel Sahlin Arboretum at the Roseville Central Park in honor of Polly Franke who was a member of the original League of Women Voters of Roseville [brick since put in place]. She was one of approximately 250 women who more than 55 years ago made a major contribution of leadership to planning for policy, growth and development of the Village of Roseville, later to become a City. And we remember her also as a very effective member of the Roseville City Council in more recent years.

Indeed, some of our members believe that Polly was one of the Founders of the Roseville League of Women Voters at that earlier time. She was a regular supporter of our League and we are proud and pleased to honor her memory in this way.

Sincerely,

Ann Berry, Program Committee (for the Board)

LWVRoMaFH

News from National

Results of LWVUS study of National Popular Vote Compact: No position

Two criteria were established by LWVUS for a successful consensus study (done locally in 1/09): 1) participation by 1/3 of local Leagues, met with participation by 390 of 766 Leagues (51%), 2) 2/3 of participating Leagues to achieve consensus on the use of the National Popular Vote NPV Compact, not achieved, although strong support for the NPV Compact was shown (about 50% of responding Leagues in favor). However the remaining 50% were split almost equally between not favoring the NPV Compact and not being able to reach consensus.

Comments from many Leagues reflected: 1) concerns about bias in the questions (about half the Leagues complained about the questions or bias, primarily bias against the NPV Compact), 2) the misunderstanding that a choice had to be made between advocating for abolition of the electoral college OR supporting the NPV Compact, and 3) statements which seemed to contradict a given League's responses to the questions.

Based on an analysis of the responses and comments, the NPV Compact Committee and Program Planning Committee recommend that the LWVUS continue to examine opportunities to achieve the goal of direct election of the president in addition to the unlikely opportunity of abolishing the Electoral College by constitutional amendment. Options could include examination of other plans similar to the Compact, proposing a concurrence at Convention 2010 on the Compact, or continued examination of the NPV Compact itself. The committees also discussed an option for an extension to the study to take a direct online survey of members who attended consensus meetings with a question up or down on the NPV Compact.

In considering the experience of this "quick" study, the committees recommend that:

1. If we do a "quick" study again, then we should carefully reconsider the process to achieve maximum member understanding of the issue(s).
2. Any consensus questions for any study be tested, before approval by the Board, for understandability, suitability, and non-bias by League members who are not part of the study committee, the staff, or the Board.
3. A task force be formed to examine the study and consensus process.

In conclusion, the committees recommend a statement of our position based on the consensus reports from local Leagues: "The LWVUS affirms its support for the direct election of the president and abolition of the Electoral College, but the LWVUS has no position on the National Popular Vote Compact as currently proposed."

LWV statement to Roseville City Council supports Neighborhood Enhancement Project

by Ann Berry

On June 29, 2009, LWV Program Committee members Georgeann Hall and Ann Berry presented to the Roseville City Council the following resolution, which had been passed unanimously at the 56th Annual Meeting of our local League, on May 13, 2009. We were graciously received by the Roseville City Council

"The League of Women Voters RoMaFH wishes to encourage the City of Roseville to continue budgeting for the Neighborhood Enhancement Project. We believe it to be important to complete the current project, and at the end of four years it will be important to start again. The funding should be from the general fund or the HRA as is currently the case."

We prefaced the statement by describing the local League Code Enforcement Committee as being made up of residents of Roseville only, with the understanding that the project is in the second year and that to cover the entire city will take four years, adding that curb appeal is very important as Roseville has an aging housing stock. Appropriate maintenance is crucial for the future quality of housing in the community. We believe that the project, as structured, will encourage all residents to be attentive to the upkeep/maintenance and general appearance of their properties.

CMAL Meetings

The **Orientation Meeting** for delegates from local Leagues to the Council of Metro Area Leagues and other interested members will be held on Saturday, **September 12**, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Shoreview City Hall (4600 Victoria Avenue), City Council Chamber. As usual, the first half hour will be for coffee and social time. Come for coffee, treats, and conversation. CMAL delegates, alternates, LL presidents and interested members are encouraged to attend. Please e-mail CMAL chair Ady Wickstrom at ady@adywickstrom.com if you plan to attend so the planners can have enough coffee and treats.

Directions: From I-694 take the Rice Street or Lexington Avenue exit. Turn onto 96 (E from Lexington; W from Rice) and go to Victoria, then turn N. The entrance is just past the Library on the right. The meeting is in the City Hall side of the building,

Ady will bring a computer or two if anyone is interested in asking computer/Web site/e-mail questions after the meeting (she is LWVMN's Webmaster). And she will be happy to give a quick tour of the Community Center.

The CMAL Fall Quarterly Meeting will be held on Saturday, **October 17**. Details are still being finalized, but it will be held in St. Paul on a housing-related issue to start off CMAL's look at housing in the metro area this year. For more information before the October *Voter*, contact Ady or call LWVMN, 651-224-5445.

Upcoming LWVROMaFH Calendar

September 2009

Tue, 15 – General Meeting, Parks & Recreation Directors, Roseville Skating Center, 6:30 p.m.. *See page 1.*

Wed, 23 – Bd. of Directors meets

See 2009–2010 calendar on page 6

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.

NOTE:

Board meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the 4th Wed at the Roseville Skating Center, Raider Room.

Third Tuesday evening unit meetings are held at Little Venetian Restaurant, 2900 Rice St., Little Canada, at 7:00 p.m.; social time and dinner optional at 5:30 p.m. (No minimum cost for dinner.)

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

League of Women Voters of
Roseville, Maplewood & Falcon Heights
and nearby communities
Ann Berry
1059 Woodhill Drive
Roseville, MN 55113-2017