



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

February 2010

Web site: www.romafh.org

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**DVD on trash disposal—from our archives
and
“Lively Issues”
Program planning for the local and
national levels of the League**

Tuesday, February 16, 2010

5:30 p.m. - Dinner; 7:00 p.m. - Program

Little Venetian Restaurant

2900 Rice Street, Suite 240, Little Canada

Contact Stephanie DeBenedet for dinner reservations:
jdebenedet@msn.com or 651-483-1006

Wednesday, February 17, 2010

9:30 a.m.

**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Victoria & County Road C, Roseville**

(Please bring your own beverage)

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

Bring a food shelf contribution

Open to the Public

**2009-10 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
Kyslyczyn, 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-presidents' Letter



In January, nine of our elected officials from the house, senate, and county spoke at the League's annual VIP event.

We heard the challenges, opportunities, and pet projects facing each of our representatives. Thank you to Florence Sprague and the Program Committee for a successful evening!

The briefing papers prepared by LWVMN instead of the usual study materials are now complete and on the state Web site for your viewing. You can access this with the link from our wonderful Web site (great job, Webmaster Jim!)

We are looking for someone to take over organizing our participation in the **Roseville Rosefest parade** this summer. Please contact us—we'll help! It has always been a wonderful community activity that brings lots of attention to our League. Let's continue the tradition! Contact one of the co-presidents by mid-March. If no one steps up to take on this responsibility, we won't be able to be in the parade handing out flags to the kids.

The legislative interviews with state elected officials are being put together now. There is a template provided. If you would like to help discuss the positions on issues of officials in our area, please contact Ann at 651-490-5038.

Mary Ann Palmer, Carolyn Cushing, and Faith O'Neill are working on updating our bylaws and will have the results to you at the annual meeting.

See you at the February meeting,

Ann Cleland and Barb Yates, Co-Presidents

More about uniform trash hauling contracts (February and March unit subject)

The Program Committee has invited a knowledgeable speaker to talk about organized garbage collection at both unit meetings in March. At the February units, we will see a DVD on the subject compiled from photos taken the last time our League looked at the topic. Roseville and several nearby cities are discussing this, including Maplewood. This subject has been of special interest to our League since 1985, when we arrived at consensus under Natural Resources: to support organized refuse collection, curbside collection of recyclables (additional wording as provided in the complete consensus statements for local program, updated May 2005 (see on our Web site, <www.romafh.org>).

"Support the establishment of organized refuse collection to be supervised by the municipality and source separation of recyclables, with the city contracting with haulers for curbside collection." [Cities are encouraged to support source separation of recyclables by variable charges for refuse collection.]

LWVRoMaFH Food Drive

On December 6 LWVRoMaFH members donated 63 pounds of foodstuffs at the Holiday Party. In January the total donations were 40 pounds. All went to the **Keystone Community Services Foodshelf** located at the Fairview Community Center. Keystone serves residents in Ramsey County. It is a **Basic Needs Program** for families in economic crisis, serving more than 4,000 individuals each month.

Please bring food or cash donations to any **RoMaFH unit meeting or general program** for distribution to Keystone. Thank you to all the donors.

'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, Tami Johnson

Web site

Jim Debenedet

Windows and Mirrors for All

Tell Me a Story

by Florence Sprague

Everyone loves a story. Whether in a book, a film, a ballad, or at the dinner table from Uncle Frank, a good story will capture the imagination or tug at the heartstrings. Some stories inspire, like the story of your great grandmother who immigrated at age 18—all alone; some help us to set goals: she's going to be a doctor like her father and grandfather before her; some motivate us; you could be the first one in your family to go to college. Sometimes they turn out to have... changed, with many generations of retellings, like the story of my great-great-grandparents who established the farmstead [on the remaining portion of which my sisters, cousins and I still gather each summer.] Some stories can entertain children over and over, like the story of waiting for a long freight train on the way to the hospital when I was in labor with son number two. What stories does your extended family tell? I hope you can write some good stories with your life for your grandchildren.

Family stories are part of our identity and help mold and motivate us more than we may realize. We may accept them or reject them, but either way they help to shape our worldview. So what does it feel like if your family story about your great-great-grandmother was not that she [may have] helped her brother to run an inn on the first National Pike crossing western Pennsylvania, but that she was raped by her master, creating your great grandmother. What if the story about Uncle Jake was not that he was a laconic Norwegian bachelor farmer, but that he was lynched by the KKK. What if instead of inheriting a small share of an ancestral farm; your ancestors were sharecroppers? Hope and ambition may be hard to come by.

One week the minister at my church based her sermon around three different works of art. One of them was a strong black and white image of two human figures. This picture exudes rich, strong emotion—but just which emotion could be open to interpretation. It captured my imagination. I was curious what stories others would see in it. I presented it to a small group of teachers, giving it a different title for each, and asked them to write a scenario, a story, about what they saw in this picture, how it spoke to them. I anticipated that the stories might follow the slant of the title they were assigned. To a certain extent the stories did follow the lead of the title; however, it was fascinating how much each person's personal situation at that moment influenced the story they felt in that picture. We bring our own stories to the larger story of our world.

The next day my co-facilitator in that class used the same image with a high school class. She divided the large group into three small groups and gave the picture to each group, again giving it very different titles. They wrote group stories. She told me that their stories were very strongly guided by the title. Perhaps the group nature of the activity influenced them, or perhaps it was their age and the school setting, making them feel more bound to the title and less able to insert their own feelings than the adults.

When we see people we do not know, I think we unconsciously write our own scenario about them. What assumptions does it include? What judgments? If we know only a little about them, how is our perception of them colored by where we are in our lives? Do we feel bound by how our group would see them?

Stories can divide us. Stories can also unite us.

**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
- Scholarship – negotiated

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

Changes to Membership Directory

New Members

Georgia Heisserer
1869 N Albert Street
Falcon Heights, MN 55113

Gary Grefenberg
94 Mid Oaks Lane
Roseville, MN 55113
651-645-6161
ggrefenberg@comcast.net

Additions to membership

Jackie Hayes-Tuesday
2039 Farrington Street
Roseville, MN 55113-6643
651-489-5447
Jackie.hays@ysblakesarea.org

Gale Pederson - Tuesday
929 Roselawn Ave West
Roseville, MN 55113
651-489-7900
pedersongale@msn.com

Dorothy Waltz
1666 Coffman Street #313
Falcon Heights, MN 55108
651-917-0930
dwaltz@isd.net

**Treasurer's Report
Joan Stark, Treasurer**



Treasurer's Report –January 27, 2010

Previous Checking Balance – December 2, 2009 \$1,704.00

Income:

- Holiday Dinner Reservations, plus donation to *Women's Advocates* \$486.00
- (4) Additional Holiday Dinners 74.00
- In Kind – Joan Stark (Treasurer's supplies) 10.00
- In Kind – Linda McLoon (Voter Service supplies) 40.00
- In Kind – Ann Berry (Program supplies) 2.00

Total Income: \$612.00

- #4301 – Ann Cleland, LWV Fall Workshop 15.00
- #4302 – *Women's Advocates* donation 18.00
- #4303 – Sandra Lutz, *Census 2010* printing 140.23
- #4304 – *Little Venetian*, Holiday Dinner 478.50
- #4305 – *Little Venetian*, Room Rental 200.00
- #4306 – Linda McLoon, Voter Service 5.95
- #4307 – Ann Berry, *VOTER* (postage 44.00, printing 58.17) , 111.80
(program hosting 9.63)
- #4308 – *LWVUS* , 3rd Quarter PMP 550.85

- In Kind – Joan Stark (Treasurer's supplies) 10.00
- In Kind – Linda McLoon (Voter Service) 40.00
- In Kind – Ann Berry (Program supplies) 2.00

Total Expenses: \$1,572.33

Checking Account Balance - January 27, 2010 \$743.67

Savings Account Balance - December 31, 2009 \$2,561.59

Education Fund Balance - December 6, 2009 \$4,915.27

**Change in Membership
Directory Information**

Carolyn Cushing
cushing@tc.umn.edu

Sandra Lutz
Sandilutz59@gmail.com

Lively Issues

Local and National Program Planning

It's time to review the issues that have been adopted by the LWVRoMaFH over the years, through study and consensus or by concurrence with the position of another League. Following are the current program items in brief. The full text of these positions can be read at the local Web site, <www.romafh.org>. LWVUS positions may be found on the national Web site

GOVERNMENT

1. Support opportunities for citizen participation in city government and open appointment for advisory committees. (1988)
2. Support City Manager form of government for Maplewood and Roseville (Plan B). Evaluate provisions of any proposed Charter in relation to Plan B. (1986, 1987, 2002, 2009)

SOCIAL POLICY

1. Support emergency medical services in Roseville with user fees. (1978, 1981, 2003)
2. Support volunteer fire fighters with attractive wages and benefits, but not cross training as paramedics; oppose fees for fire department services. (2003)
3. Support transportation options that serve the needs of the area. (1983) Continue attention to transportation alternatives.
4. Support safe non- motorized pathways with costs assessed area-wide. (1983)
5. Support equal opportunity for all students in public schools with use of unbiased textbooks and computer materials free of stereotypes. (1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 2000)
6. Support electing School Board members-at-large for Districts 621, 622, 623. (1985, updated 1988)

NATURAL RESOURCES

1. Support organized refuse collection, curbside collection of recyclables (1985)
2. Support individual composting and government support for community composting (1982)

LOCAL STUDY ITEM

GOVERNMENT

Review Roseville city ordinances; housing and maintenance enforcement procedures; and compare with those of cities in our area (2000, 2001–present). Review in process.

Be ready to vote to keep, drop, update, or restudy any of these issues or suggest a new issue to study at your February unit meeting.

We are also looking at the LWVUS program to make similar choices for the national level. Check <www.lwv.org> for *Impact on Issues* to see it.

CMAL March Quarterly Meeting

Thank you to Ann Pugliese and Geneva MacNamara for lining up the March Quarterly Meeting. It should be very interesting. All League members are encouraged to attend. Remember, CMAL meetings are not just for delegates!

What is “Housing with Services”?

LWV members have recently learned about shelters and homelessness. The goal is to get people into permanent housing. Come and learn about a program that combines low-income housing with needed social services.

CommonBond Communities operates apartments for thousands of residents in the metro area. Several facilities have Advantage Centers that offer a range of on-site services. Come and learn more.

Saturday, March 20, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

9:30 Begin with coffee

10:00 Meeting with presenters from CommonBond: Kelly Matter, V.P. of Advantage Services, Deb Sakry Lande, Dir. of Community Relations

11:00 Tour the facility

The program will be held at Seward East Tower (formerly Borson), 2910 E. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis.

Directions: I-94 to Riverside Ave. exit, South two blocks to Franklin Ave. Building is on that corner, on the left. (There are three high-rises in the area; you want the one furthest east.)

Go east one block, then north to enter the parking and the building, on the north (back) side. Signs will direct you to the Advantage Center. Ignore the no-parking signs. They are meant for overnight only.

For more information about this subject, go to <www.commonbond.org>.

(cont'd on p. 6)

RoMaFH Calendar for 2010

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

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

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

February

Sat., 13, CMAL New Member Orientation Tea

Tue, Wed, 16, 17, **Units**, Lively Issues (program planning) and a video compiled from photos taken when the local League last studied collection of waste.

Wed, 24, **Board**

March

Tue, Wed, 16, 17, **Units**, speaker on uniform trash collection

Wed, 24, **Board**

April

Tue, Wed, 20, 21, **Units**, Health Care

Wed, 28, **Board**

May

Annual Meeting, TBA

“Do your Own Thing,” TBA

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

June

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

CMAL (continued from p. 5)

CMAL Sponsors New Member Orientation Tea

CMAL is planning a LWV New Member Orientation Tea for Saturday, February 13, in Woodbury. It will cover introductions to LWVUS, LWVMN, and CMAL (leaving the local level to each individual LWV). At least one experienced member of each LWV should attend with the new member(s). Call Ady Wickstrom at the state office (224-5445) or check the CMAL Web site (reached through the LWVMN site, <www.lwvmn.org>), for more information..

LEAGUE BOOK SALE

Plans for the Book Sale this year are still uncertain. As you know, the past several years we have held our book sale at the same time as the North Suburban Kiwanis has their Pancake Breakfast at Fairview Community Center. After speaking with their president, I learned they had lost money on their breakfast last year, so they are uncertain whether they will have another one this spring. They may decide to have it at another time of year when there is less competition from other organizations. I won't know about their decision for a few more weeks. Meanwhile, we are thinking about contacting the Lions Club, which has their Pancake Breakfast at Roseville Area High School. Keep tuned for further information.

But, in the meantime, please keep selecting your books and other media for a future Book Sale. You can deliver them to Georgiana Sobola's home, as in the past, located at 1961 Hamline Avenue North, in Roseville. Please call to let her know you're coming, at 651-644-3337.

Joyce Blomquist, Book Sale Chair

Le Matts, Book Sale Co-chair

In Memoriam — Gloria Froelich

Long time League member Gloria Froelich died January 6 at the age of 70 after battling cancer for several years.

League member, teacher of special education in St. Paul for many years, active in Swedish church and community activities, she led an active life. She enjoyed her Swedish heritage, traveled many times to Sweden, hosted Swedish relatives and friends, and participated in activities at the American Swedish Institute and her church.

Gloria was copresident of LWV of Roseville from 1979 to 1981. She attended League meetings whenever she could through much of 2009, accompanied by dear friend and next door neighbor Georgeann Hall.

After studying to be a nurse for several years, Gloria received a degree in education and special education from the U of M. She and husband Roger celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in September 2008.

Georgeann Hall (LWVRoMaFH board member and former president) helped care for Gloria in her last year. Gloria also had care during 2009 from the Fairview Hospice staff and volunteers. She is survived by her husband, Roger, three children, two grandchildren, a brother and sister, and many other relatives and friends.

Later this year RoMaFH plans to purchase a memorial brick for Gloria to add to the Roseville Arboretum memory walk.

Poll: Nearly 1 in 5 may not fill out census form

January 20, 2010

Washington (AP) — With the decennial census just weeks away, nearly 1 in 5 people say they aren't sure they will participate in the high-stakes head count, citing mostly a lack of interest but also a broader distrust of government. A poll released Wednesday by the Pew Research Center highlights the challenges as the Census Bureau prepares to launch its tally in March. The findings come as some groups question whether the agency's \$300 million outreach effort is doing enough to reach hard-to-count communities.

"The big picture message is they've got a lot of work to do in terms of informing people," said Andrew Kohut, president of the Pew Research Center. He cited young people in particular, as well as those with less education and Hispanics who have had less exposure to the census or government.

Overall, 90 percent of those surveyed called the population count "very important" or "somewhat important" for the country. Many were also familiar with the value of the census in redistributing U.S. House seats every 10 years and distributing billions of dollars in federal aid.

Still, 12 percent of U.S. residents said they weren't sure if they would fill out the government form, and another 6 percent said they were unlikely to or definitely would not do so. These people were more likely to be young adults 18-29 and lower-income people.

Asked why they were unlikely to participate, more than half said it was because they were too busy, not interested or weren't familiar with the census. One-fourth cited distrust of government or concerns about privacy. Nearly one-third said they believe the data could be used to locate illegal immigrants or said they weren't certain if it could. Census director Robert Groves has repeatedly said the information would be kept confidential.

"In today's America, you can't reach everybody with one or two ads on two or three television networks," said Marc Morial, president of the National Urban League and chairman of the 2010 Census Advisory Committee. "It is the depth and breadth, who delivers the message, where it's placed and the frequency."

Last month, his group, along with the NAACP and the Revs. Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson, called for more paid advertising in black community newspapers, because blacks historically have been undercounted.

They're not alone in their complaints. The National Coalition of Latino Clergy and Christian Leaders is urging millions of illegal immigrants to boycott the census to protest inaction on immigration reform. The group said it appeared even less unlikely Congress would act after Republicans won in the special Massachusetts Senate election.

The Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund says it has yet to receive government assurances that census data would be kept confidential under the Patriot Act. It plans to release a report later this month on notable gaps in outreach in communities with sizable Asian populations, such as Chicago, northern Virginia, and San Jose, Calif.

In response, the Census Bureau has been touting its \$133 million advertising campaign, which include television spots in 28 different languages, to convey the 10-question census form is safe and easy to complete. As the nation's top advertiser in the coming weeks, the agency estimates it will reach the average person 42 times with slogans such as the "2010 census - it's in our hands."

The ad campaign began this week, after the Pew poll was conducted. The survey asked people about their plans to mail in census forms but did not specifically ask whether they would respond to census takers visiting their homes. In 2000, about 67 percent of U.S. residents mailed back their forms, with the remainder counted by door-to-door canvassing. This year, the Census Bureau is bracing for a mail return rate that is roughly the same, if not lower, and is hiring nearly 1 million temporary employees to locate hard-to-find residents.

Among the Pew findings, nearly half, or 46 percent, of people incorrectly believe that participation in the census is not required by law, and another 23 percent said they weren't certain. In fact, federal law imposes a fine of up to \$5,000 for failure to respond, although the agency rarely seeks to enforce it.

The Census Bureau officially launches its head count Monday in rural Alaska, and the count for the rest of the nation begins in March. The stakes are high, with several states, including California, New York, Illinois, Massachusetts and Ohio [and Minnesota], at risk of losing U.S. House seats, depending on how fully their residents are counted.

Pew interviewed 1,504 adults by cell or home phone from Jan. 6-10. The poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

(1/20/10 Minnesota Public Radio online; by link from an LWVMN newsletter)

LWVMN Council 2010, the biennial chance to transact any business that cannot wait until the next Convention and for members around the state to connect, will be held Saturday, May 1, at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in Chaska, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Every local League is entitled to two voting delegates. An LWV 90th birthday celebration will be held Friday night, April 30, at the Chanhassen Country Inn and Suites. The gate fee to the arboretum is included in the registration fee and plenty of time is allowed after Council business to explore it. Look for more information about Council and the birthday celebration soon. Questions? Contact Barb Person at 224-5445.

Upcoming LWVROMaFH Calendar

February 2010

13 - CMAL New Member Orientation Tea

16, 17 – **Units**, Lively Issues (program planning) and Code Enforcement (uniform trash collection) video of photographs taken when our League studied trash collection before

24, Board meeting

March 2010

16, 17, Units, speaker on uniform trash collection at both units

Wed, **24, Board**

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