



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

January 2010

Web site: www.romafh.org

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LWVRoMaFH January Meeting

**LWV RoMaFH Annual VIP Evening
“Conversations with Constituents”**

**Come discuss the state of our communities
with state representatives and senators
and county commissioners over dessert.**

Tuesday, January, 19, 2010

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Fireside Room

John Rose Oval

2661 Civic Center Drive, Roseville

Bring a friend, a question, and an open mind.

Questions? Contact Florence Sprague
(651) 779-0349 or misemer@msn.com

*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

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Co-presidents' Letter



Happy New Year! Many thanks go to Georgeann Hall for putting together another festive holiday party for us at the Little Venetian. This year we again chose the Womens Advocates as our charitable recipient, and our members came through with generous donations (see excerpts from letter on page 4).

Our eight legislators and four Ramsey County Commissioners have been invited to the January VIP meeting. A few questions to them will be provided for each table by program committee, but members should come prepared with questions to be asked of both legislators and commissioners.

This event always provides a lively exchange between our members and our elected officials. Plan to attend and bring a friend and/or neighbor!!!

On tap in February will be

- our annual "Lively Issues" review of positions and proposals for areas for future study or action, and
- an update on current initiatives concerning uniform trash hauling contracts.

This is the 90th year for the League of Women Voters. It brings a good time for new resolutions. What can you do for your League and your community? Consider joining the board in the Public Relations, Action, or Observer position. The January VIP meeting is an excellent opportunity to bring a guest and let her/him see what the League can offer!

See you there!

Ann Cleland and Barb Yates, Co-Presidents

More about uniform trash hauling contracts (February unit subject)

The Program Committee plans to invite a member of the Roseville Public Works Commission to speak to us about organized garbage collection. 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 Appendices with complete consensus statements for local program, updated May 2005 (see on our Web site).

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

During the month of November LWVRoMaFH members donated 29 pounds of foodstuffs to the *Keystone Community Services Foodshelf* located at the Fairview Community Center. Many members who attended the December 6 Holiday Dinner also brought food shelf contributions. 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.

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

Jim Debenedet

Windows and Mirrors for All

No More Bad Hair Days, Please

by Florence Sprague, Diversity Subcommittee Coordinator

Hair. It has always seemed that no woman is ever truly satisfied with her hair, and changing trends mean that if someone is pleased, such pleasure is sure to be temporary. I remember college friends with wavy hair draping it across the ironing board, trying to iron out any sign of a curl, while others braided their wet hair to create squiggles and poufiness. Hairstyles can be considered youthful or dowdy, trendy or modest. My hairdresser says that she will do almost anything that a youth requests that she do to hair, because it grows out, whether you want it to or not. The "in" colors, streaks, and cuts morph from season to season, leaving me to bob baffled in their wake. You know that how your hair looks can make you feel elegant or inadequate, but did you know that it is also a political statement?

On average, white women and black women have hair of different textures. The texture influences what styles can be achieved by a given woman, and therein lies the political rub. Within the African American community there is a divide between those who feel that a black woman's hair should be as natural as possible to affirm both identity and self worth. That camp feels that straightening nappy hair, with hot combs and chemicals is just being a white wannabe who is letting the standards of beauty be defined by one cultural group, the whites. Others say, hair style should be strictly a matter of personal choice. Black women who want to weave in long locks or straighten their own hair should be able to. Both camps are keeping a close eye on the hair of white women, one to confront it, the other to strive toward it. The debate even carries over to whether the gradually increasing selection of Black dolls reflects the full range of human hair. We live in a culture obsessed with outward appearance, and how one maintains one's hair is helping to maintain the racial divide in this country.

This is not just someone else's problem.

❖ Many blacks will tell you that employers, and whites in general, are more comfortable with blacks whose hair styles more closely parallel those of whites. "If your hair is relaxed, white people are relaxed," says comedian Paul Mooney." [In Chris Rock's documentary movie, "Good Hair."]

❖ On the other side, I read in *It's the Little Things* about the resentment that the author felt towards white women who could/would toss their long hair. Her hair wouldn't do that and she felt that they were flaunting their hair.

❖ This summer a conservative Web site criticized Malia Obama as a poor representative for the country when she wore her hair in twists while the family traveled abroad.

Phew! Makes you want to shave your head. Well... not really... unless everyone did. Our hair is part of our identity.

I am a member of the minimal effort club, yet I sported chemically induced curls for a decade so that I could avoid limp, bland tresses (with a minimum of effort.) I watch coworkers and friends color, streak, style, and cover their gray in endless variations. My choices are connected to the amount of effort I am willing to expend more than politics, or so I say, but perhaps a reluctance to fully buy into the beauty culture is also a political statement. Our preferences and habits are often determined early in life. When we look at others, what do we see? Genetics? Pride? Sloth? Vanity? The Familiar? The Other? I wouldn't have wanted someone to tell me not to toss my hair over my shoulder when I had long hair, or to tell me off for being able to do that. Nor did I intend to offend anyone, and I would have been totally unprepared for the resentment. But is hair the real issue? The hair divide is symbolic of feelings of lack of acceptance, inclusion, and

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**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

*Windows and Mirrors for all
Hair* (continued from p. 3)

approval. A resentment of who is seen to define “normal” or “fashionable.” So how does one show respect for all and avoid adding to the problem.

What is troubling about all of this is the depth of judgment inherent in the good hair/bad hair discussion and the way that it continues to divide and subdivide us. We all cherish our individuality, and yet unconsciously we may want others to fit within “acceptable” boxes. Try to observe yourself, how do you respond to people in a variety of different hairstyles? What vibes might you (unintentionally, perhaps) be giving off. Think about it. Be aware. As always, try to see the person, not the hair. You may have already had to learn to do this for the teenagers in your life. Now just expand it to everyone. Black or white, let the beauty within trump the hair without.

**Treasurer’s Reports
Joan Stark, Treasurer**



Previous Checking Balance – September 23, 2009 \$2,400.12

Income:

Finance Drive \$50.00

Total Income: \$50.00

Expenses:

#4293 – LWVMNEF, Transfer Finance Drive Funds, \$50.00
(Shari Dion)

#4294 – LWVUS, 2nd Qtr. PMP 550.85

#4295 – CMAL, 2009 Dues 82.00

Total Expenses: \$682.85

Checking Account Balance October 28, 2009 \$1,767.27

Savings Account Balance September 30, 2009 \$2,559.85

Education Fund Balance October 14, 2009 \$4,965.27

Membership: 69

- 1 - Scholarship
- 4 – Introductory
- 4 – Household
- 60 - Individual

Have you paid your dues? See column at left.

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Excerpts from Women’s Advocates Thank You Letter

We have received a long thank you letter from Women’s Advocates, in part::

“Dear Friends at League of Women Voters;

On behalf of all the women and children who stay with us at Women's Advocates, I'd like to thank you for your recent donation of diapers, towels, blankets, sheet sets, bottles, bag of baby items and gift wrap—as well as many checks and gift cards. These items make a real difference in the lives of those who are taking the courageous step to leave violent relationships.”

The letter goes on to describe the services Women's Advocates provides and was signed by the executive director, Raeone Loscalzo, as well as Kate Suchomel, who spoke to us on December 6 at the holiday dinner..

Treasurer's Reports (continued)

Joan Stark, Treasurer



Previous Checking Balance – October 28, 2009 **\$1,767.27**

Income:

Dues: (1) Introductory	\$40.00
Contribution (David Misemer)	68.00
Ed Fund Reimbursement, Polly Franke Memorial	100.00

Total Income: **\$208.00**

Expenses:

#4296 – Ann Berry, <i>Voter</i> Printing	\$130.59
#4297 – Linda McLoon, Candidate Forum Supplies	21.09
#4298 – Mayer Arts, Inc., (1) year Website Hosting	72.00
#4299 – Georgiana Sobola, Fall Finance Flyer, Stamps	22.00
#4300 – Anita Mayfield, Fall Finance Flyer, Printing/Seal	25.59

Total Expenses: **\$271.27**

Checking Account Balance December 2, 2009 **\$1,704.00**

Savings Account Balance October 30, 2009 **\$2,560.67**

Education Fund Balance November 6, 2009 **\$4,865.27**

Census 2010 Update

- ✓ The year is here and activity around Census 2010 is picking up. Radio and television public service announcements in English, Hmong, Spanish, and Somali have been released for use in MN.
- ✓ The Census has released fact sheets containing general information and frequently asked questions about the 2010 Census in over a dozen different languages.
- ✓ Remember- there is no long form this time. Everyone gets a short form (10 questions). Quick, easy and important! Minnesota loses an estimated \$1,200 in federal funding per year for each uncounted person.
- ✓ Snowbirds—please be counted in Minnesota. The Census counts residents at their *primary* address. You decide which is your *primary* address. By using a Minnesota address, you benefit your home state of Minnesota.
To be counted in MN you must not use a form mailed to another address, only the one sent to your MN address or one requested from the Census Bureau and sent to the MN address..
- ✓ Minnesota may lose a seat in the U. S. House of Representatives. Every person matters.
- ✓ Census forms should be received between March 15 and 17. April 1, 2010 is the official Census Day (no fooling).

2010 Census (continued on p. 6)

Council of Metro Area Leagues (CMAL)

January Quarterly Meeting

Title: "Housing is a Human Right?":

Saturday, January 16, 2010

10:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

Augsburg Park Library, 7100 Nicollet Avenue, Richfield, MN

There will be three speakers:

Mikkel Beckmen is executive director at St. Stephen's Human Services, whose mission is to end homelessness. Believing that housing is a human right, he has worked with those experiencing homelessness and extreme poverty by developing and managing housing and support programs for the past 20 years. Since 2005 he has been responsible for leading all programming and development activities at St. Stephen's Human Services.

Monica Nilsson, Director of Street Outreach for St. Stephen's Human Services, is our second speaker. She has worked in direct service with homeless adults and youth since 1993. She works with those who are sleeping outside or in a substandard setting. She believes there is one reason we have homelessness; it is the public's will.

Our third speaker will be **Elizabeth Hinz**, Liaison for Homeless and Highly Mobile Students for the Minneapolis Public Schools. She will speak on the impact of homelessness on children and youth in general and specifically to Minneapolis Public Schools.

The questions for our mini-study will be distributed at this meeting.

Please RSVP in Facebook (click on the group icon in the lower left corner of the screen, select Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL), then click on the event in the menu on the left side of the group page)

CMAL meetings open to all Leaguers

Remember, CMAL meetings are open to ALL LWV members! You do not need to be a delegate to attend. In addition to the terrific speakers, meetings offer a great opportunity to share with LWV members from all over the area. Please encourage other

CMAL (cont'd on p. 6)

RoMaFH Calendar for 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.

January 2010

Tue, 19, **General meeting**, VIP (meet with officials)

Wed, 27, **Board**

February

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

Wed, 24, **Board**

March

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

Wed, 24, **Board**

April

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

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)

members of RoMaFH to attend—especially new members!

Agenda:

10:00–10:30 Coffee, treats and social time

10:30–noon Program

noon–1:00 CMAL Orientation make-up (for those who were not at the September meeting)

New Member Orientation Tea

CMAL is planning a LWV New Member Orientation Tea for Saturday, February 13, in Woodbury. It will cover 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).

More information to follow. Call the state office or check the CMAL Web site.

2010 Census (continued from p. 5)

- ✓ Young men 18–25 are among the most difficult groups to count. They tend to be unattached, move often, and are less likely to have a permanent address. They may also not feel positive toward the government.
- ✓ For the first time, same sex couples can be counted as spouses.
- ✓ Census data is private. It is not shared with law enforcement agencies, immigration officials, or anyone else.
- ✓ The U S Census Bureau will hire thousands of people throughout Minnesota between now and next spring. These are good paying, temporary jobs.
- ✓ The first census was in 1790. Aren't you glad you didn't have to do the door to door follow-up then?

Florence Sprague, Diversity Subcommittee

News from National

(adapted slightly from 12/3/09 LWVUS press release)

LEAGUE DELEGATION TO ATTEND UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE

Caps on Emissions of 25 Percent Below 1990 Levels by 2020, Says League

Washington, DC – The League of Women Voters announced that a delegation of eight League leaders traveled to Copenhagen, Denmark, as official non-governmental organization delegates to the UN’s Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP15). The delegation attended general and special conference sessions and reinforced the League’s efforts and positions on curbing global climate change.

“We are thrilled to be sending this dedicated group of members to Copenhagen for this historic conference,” said national League President Mary G. Wilson. “The League believes that global climate change is one of the most serious threats to the environment, health and economy of our nation and our world.”

“President Obama’s participation in the COP15 meetings and discussions is a clear signal of the seriousness of global climate change, both domestically and internationally, and we applaud his commitment,” Wilson stated. “The League is calling on U.S. and world political leaders to cap emissions at 25 percent below 1990 levels by 2020. We hope that the United States will move beyond its current negotiating position and work for an international agreement that will truly address this critical issue.”

“The 192 countries of the world need to produce an effective international agreement based on the best available science. In addition, it is critically important for our nation to agree to provide substantial assistance to needy nations in adapting to climate change,” according to Carole Conors, who is heading the League’s delegation.

“Our delegation will move the League’s agenda forward while at COP15,” Wilson said, “focusing on 1) achieving a broad international agreement with commitments, implementation and oversight, 2) cutting emissions to safe levels, and 3) providing critical adaptation and associated assistance to countries most in need.” “Here at home, our members will continue their work reminding elected leaders that they need to make the responsible and tough choices that will curb global warming and speed the transition to clean energy alternatives,” Wilson concluded.

Openness in Government: LWVUS Executive Director Appointed to Advisory Panel

LWVUS Executive Director Nancy Tate has been appointed to an advisory panel to help the U.S. General Services Administration manage an online collaborative dialogue to solicit public feedback on <USA.gov>, an online portal designed to quickly connect Americans with government offices and services. This task fits in well with other open and collaborative government activities at the federal level in which LWVUS has become engaged since the Obama administration increased efforts to improve government openness, participation, and collaboration.

Elections: VOTE411 Is One of Ten Ways to Change the World

We recently learned that **VOTE411.org** is featured in a new book, *Ten Ways to Change the World in Your Twenties*. VOTE411.org and the League are featured in Chapter 3, “Ways to Be the Life of Your Party” (p. 60). Literature like this is a great way to get young people excited about political awareness and the great work of the League! Don’t forget to check out our free downloadable voter outreach publications located in the LWVUS library.

Elections: Celebrate with Voter Outreach

The holidays are upon us, and families and friends are gathering from all over the world to celebrate. If you are traveling or hosting a party, use your holiday plans as an opportunity to spread voter outreach! Major senatorial and congressional elections are approaching across the nation, and you can help ring in the New Year by reminding people to register to vote, learn more about their local candidates and find their state’s election information on <www.VOTE411.org>. (And remind them to fill in their census forms, too.) You can also download some of our voter outreach publications located in the LWVUS Library; click for free download.

Advocacy: 2010 LWVUS Advocacy Priorities: Time to Submit Your Suggestions

The LWVUS Board will be determining Advocacy Priorities for 2010 at the Board Meeting in late January. If you would like to submit suggestions, please send an email to jduffy@lww@aol.com by January 15. Please indicate whether your suggestion is submitted as an individual or the result of a committee or League meeting. All suggested advocacy priority topics will be compiled into a report to the Board for consideration.

(all items in this column from 12/17/09 Leaders’ Update)

Upcoming LWVROMaFH Calendar

Happy New Year!

January 2010

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

Wed, 27, **Board Meeting**

February 2010

16, 17 – Units, Lively Issues (program planning) and Code Enforcement (uniform trash collection)

24, Board meeting

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