

The Voter

The official publication of the Minnesota League of Women Voters
Roseville, Maplewood, Falcon Heights and surrounding communities

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Clarification

Information about candidate forums sponsored by the St. Paul League of Women Voters published in the September Voter may no longer be accurate. Contact our Web site for more information. www.romafh.org.

We're on the Web!

www.romafh.org

LEAGUE SPONSORS CANDIDATE FORUMS FOR NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION

Linda McLoon

Want to know more about candidates for local and state elections? Be sure to attend at least one of four candidate forums in October sponsored by the Voter Service Committee of the Roseville-Maplewood-Falcon Heights League of Women Voters.

I. School board candidates for School District 622

Oct. 12 at 7 p.m.
District 622 Education Center
2520 12th Ave. E.
North St. Paul

II. Mayor and City Council of Roseville

Oct. 14 at 7 p.m.
Roseville City Hall council chambers
2660 Civic Center Drive
Roseville



Learn more about local candidates at League forums.

III. Minnesota House of Representatives Districts 54A and 54B, Minnesota Senate District 54

Oct. 20 at 7 p.m.
Roseville City Hall council chambers
2660 Civic Center Drive
Roseville

IV. Minnesota House of Representatives Districts 55A and 55B, Minnesota Senate District 55

Oct. 28 at 6:30 p.m.
Maplewood City Hall council chambers
1830 County Road B East
Maplewood.

VOLUNTEER FOR CANDIDATE FORUMS

The committee is seeking volunteers to help set up the forums, make candidate place labels, hand out and collection question cards before and during the forum, time the candidates during the forum, sort questions for the moderator, and help clean up at the end of the candidate forum. We also would appreciate help with advertising, to include getting press releases to all local newspapers, and to the St. Paul Pioneer Press. We also need help placing advertisements everywhere and anywhere, and getting copies of the forum flyer to all the local libraries, community centers, and city halls. Please contact either Andrea Brodtmann at brodt001@msn.com or Linda McLoon at linda.mcloon@gmail.com if you can help.

CO-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Board of Directors

Co-Presidents

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Karen Schaffer

Secretary

Shari Dion

Treasurer

Joan Stark

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Voter newsletter

Judy Berglund, editor
Ann Berry
Tami Johnson

Voter Service

Andrea Brodtmann
Linda McLoon

Web

Jim DeBenedet

Honor our forebears: get involved!

Karen Schaffer

It is with great pleasure that I author my first co-president's letter on the 90th anniversary (August 20, 1920) of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, the "Susan B. Anthony" Amendment, giving women the constitutional right to vote and hold elective office. Such a debt we owe to our forebears, who endured



Susan B. Anthony

arrest, brutality, infamy, recrimination and all manner of personal loss – so that we may simply walk into our polling places and cast our ballots, without hesitation or fear. Let's honor their sacrifice by continuing to do our part to promote participation in our democracy: encouraging and helping the unregistered to register to vote, attending and helping at our own candidate forums, and bringing our friends, neighbors and relatives to our local forums.

Kudos to Carolyn Cushing and Judy Rosenblatt for their discerning yet comprehensive presentation on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (a/k/a federal health care reform). Regardless of one's position on specific elements of this legislation, we all benefitted from Carolyn and Judy's understandable roadmap for understanding the multitude of regulations and pilot programs that constitute this multi-year program of changes in federal health care policy. If you read the newspaper or logged on to the internet the day after their presentation, didn't you already feel that you better understood what's really happening? I know that I did. My guess is that we will call upon them in the future regarding developments in this area.

Finally, thanks to Ann Berry for presenting Ann and me with a "repurposed" gavel (complete with decorative ribbon) retrieved from a past award squirreled away in her closet. Ann and I pledge to use it to keep our board meetings moving along!

Riches from Rags

Florence Sprague

I have heard that print media will soon vanish. They cannot compete with the explosion of electronic media and communication options. Before they vanish, take advantage of the wonderful window that magazines provide into the lives and thoughts of others.

Yes, magazines may be trying to shape opinion on fashion, products, or behavior, but they also reflect the interests and concerns of a special community, their readers. When do you read magazines? On airplanes? At the hairdresser? In the doctor's waiting room? The next time you pick up a magazine, either to purchase or just to peruse to pass the time, step outside your usual choices and choose a magazine targeting a group with which you do not identify.

I often raid my hairdresser's recycling box for copies of gossip magazines and fashion rags to take to school. Students who wouldn't think of cracking a news magazine will flock to Teen Vogue and People and such leisure reading can be used as a reward. I have students from five continents, so I make a point of picking up magazines like Essence or Ebony when they are available, too. The other day, while flipping through a magazine to see if it would be appropriate for middle-schoolers, I paused to read an opinion piece. I quickly realized that I should make time to read unfamiliar magazines more often.

Within a few minutes I read a feature on Maya Angelou, a profile of Surgeon General Regina Benjamin, a column exploring the angst of successful black women raising children without partners when successful black men marry white women, an exploration of what middle class black parents need to do to take responsibility for their children's education, a report on mothers raising babies within prison, and an op/ed piece on the troubles of Haitian women in the aftermath of the earthquake. I noticed in the movie reviews how many movies are giving white

stars Black BFFs, learned that the first Black duo to compete in Olympic pairs skating came from France, noted that Black models don't have to look anorexic, and discovered an entire range of unfamiliar beauty products-- all to my enrichment.

A magazine can be a safe, inexpensive foray into a new culture, whether it is African American culture or NASCAR. It may raise questions you had not thought about or answer questions already on your mind. It can give you a new vocabulary for discussions, or help you to recognize the names and positions of your opponents. You can learn why people enjoy an unfamiliar activity or where an interest group is coming from. What is on the minds of the



people down the block or across the country? You may gain insight into the logic of a position or see how logic gets distorted. What you read may broaden your mind and make you more open to other positions or it may confirm you in your attitude, but offer a new way of explaining why you believe what you do. It can be entertaining and give you fodder for conversations around the water cooler with coworkers of diverse interests.



General meeting

Thirty-eight members attended RoMaFH's kick-off meeting Sept. 21, which focused on the new federal Health Care law.

Top row, from left, are: Carolyn Cushing and Judy Rosenblatt, presenters; Rep. Mindy Greiling and Judy Stuthman. Below: membership chair Julianne Johnston, right, greets members Jackie Hays, Norma Signorelli and Lois Smith.

(Photos by Ann Cleland)

Reliable Resources for more information on the new health care law:

www.lwv.org – background information on health care reform (written before the law passed). Look for papers written last year by members of the LWVUS Task Force on Health Care.

www.healthcare.gov – federal health care law Web site, updated daily. You can subscribe to receive e-mailed information as often as daily.

www.kff.org – Kaiser Family Foundation

www.nchc.org – National Coalition on Health Care

<http://www.hhs.gov/ociio/index.html> and <http://www.hhs.gov/ociio/gatheringinfo> (the latter is a Web portal that will be constantly updated) – Department of Health and Human Services

www.smallbusinessmajority.org – Small Business Majority

A new day for American consumers

Judy Rosenblatt

From <www.healthcare.gov>, a federal government Web site managed by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. Much more information is available at the Web site. Particularly for those readers who were unable to attend the local League program on Sept. 21, here is a brief summary of the health care provisions that took effect on Sept. 23.

September 23, 2010, represents a new day for American consumers in our health care system. This is the day that a series of new rights, benefits, and protections under the Affordable Health Care Act begin to bring to an end some of the worst abuses of the insurance industry. Combined, these new provisions will put consumers, not insurance companies, in charge of their health care. Below is a brief summary of the new restrictions for insurance companies and new rights for consumers beginning to take effect:



Insurers can no longer deny coverage to children with pre-existing conditions

Insurers Will No Longer Be Able To:

- **Deny coverage to kids with pre-existing conditions.** Health plans cannot limit or deny benefits or deny coverage for a child younger than age 19 simply because the child has a pre-existing condition like asthma.
- **Put lifetime limits on benefits.** Health plans can no longer put a lifetime dollar limit on the benefits of people with costly conditions like cancer
- **Cancel your policy without proving fraud.** Health plans can't retroactively cancel insurance coverage – often at the time you need it most - solely because you or your employer made an honest mistake on your insurance application.
- **Deny claims without a chance for appeal.** In new health plans, you now have the right to demand that your health plan reconsider a decision to deny payment for a test or treatment. That also includes an external appeal to an independent reviewer.

Consumers in New Health Plans Will Be Able to:

- **Receive cost-free preventive services.** New health plans must give you access to recommended preventive services such as screenings, vaccinations and counseling without any out-of-pocket costs to you.
- **Keep young adults on a parent's plan until age 26.** If your health plan covers children, you can now most likely add or keep your children on your health insurance policy until they turn 26 years old if they don't have coverage on the job.
- **Choose a primary care doctor, ob/gyn and pediatrician.** New health plans must let you choose the primary care doctor or pediatrician you want from your health plan's provider network and let you see an OB-GYN doctor without needing a referral from another doctor.
- **Use the nearest emergency room without penalty.** New health plans can't require you to get prior approval before seeking emergency room services from a provider or hospital outside your plan's network – and they can't require higher copayments or co-insurance for out-of-network emergency room services.

Dialogue on Diversity set for Oct. 25

RoMaFH League members will participate in a community dialogue on diversity Oct. 25 at the Roseville Skating Center, 2661 Civic Center Drive, Roseville.

The event, “Creating a Welcoming Community,” will begin with a light supper at 5:30 p.m. League members Ann Berry and Stephanie DeBenedet will stress the importance of including persons with disabilities in the dialogue about diversity.

The event is free, but registration is required. Call 651-792-7026, or e-mail human.rights@ci.roseville.mn.us. RSVP by Oct. 22.

RoMaFH supports the dialogue. Sponsors include the Roseville Human Rights Commission, JC Penney, Roseville Area School District 623, Roseville Rotary, Northwestern College, Roseville Visitors Association, Rose Hill Alliance Church, and Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender North Suburban Friends and Folk.

Orientation and Membership Handbook now available

Copies of the newly revised Orientation and Membership Handbook, which details the history, process and purpose of the League of Women Voters and the Roseville-Maplewood-Falcon Heights chapter, are now available at our Website, www.romafh.org. If you would like a hard copy (don't have e-mail), please contact Julianne Johnston at 651-486-7120.

On July 29, the Membership Committee sat down at Stephanie DeBenedet's dining room table with six of our newest members and one visitor for an orientation to the League. Each new member received a copy of the handbook. The newest members include Shari Dion, Judy Berglund, Marcella Jerome, Lisa Edstrom, Jane Klehr and Pat Orcutt Baker. Welcome to the League!

CMAL meeting will focus on affordable housing

Guy Peterson, director of development for the Metropolitan Council, will discuss the council's 2011-2020 study of affordable housing in the metro area at an Oct. 16 meeting of the Coalition of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL). The event will be at Minnetonka United Methodist Church, 17611 Lake Street Extension, Minnetonka.

Peterson will focus on “Definitions of Affordability,” groups of people in most need, and projections and planning for the future. The meeting will begin with a 9 a.m. social hour, followed by a mini-orientation for new members at 9:30. The program will begin at 10:30 a.m.

**Board of Directors
(Off board positions)**

Book Sale

Joyce Blomquist
Lee Matts

**Diversity Subcommittee of
the Program Committee**

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

Records and Directory

Julianne Johnston

Treasurer's Report — September 22, 2010

Joan Stark

Previous Checking Balance – August 25, 2010 \$2,030.94

Income:

Dues 180.00

2010 Voter Service Grant (1st Installment) 350.00

Book Sale 8.00

Total Income: \$538.00

Expenses:

#4253 – CMAL, 2010-2011 Dues 82.00

Total Expenses: \$82.00

Checking Account Balance – September 22, 2010 \$2,486.94

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.



**League of Women
Voters, Roseville,
Maplewood, Falcon
Heights**

**Ann Berry
1059 Wood hill Drive
Roseville, MN 55113**

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

2010 Calendar of Events

October

(No unit meetings. League members will be volunteering at Voter Service-sponsored Candidate Forums, encouraging participation of all candidates, and publicizing forums.)

2 - 9th Annual Hmong Resource Fair. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Aldrich Area, Maplewood.

27 - Board meeting

November

16 - Evening unit meeting

Topic: Roseville Wildlife Rehabilitation Center – general education and local impact of BP oil spill.

17 - Day Unit Meeting (same topic)

No Board Meeting

December

1 - Board Meeting

5 - Holiday charity party, 5 p.m., Little Venetian Restaurant, Little Canada

Note:

All Board meetings are at 7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of the month in the Raider Room at the Roseville Oval, unless otherwise noted.

Evening unit meetings are on the third Tuesday in November, February, March and April at the Little Venetian Restaurant, 2900 Rice Street, Little Canada. A social hour and dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by a meet at 7 p.m.

Day unit meetings are on the third Wednesday in November, February, March and April at 9:30 a.m. at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 2561 N. Victoria Ave. Roseville