

# The Voter

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

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- **What:** General meeting.
- **When:** 7 p.m. Sept. 21
- **Where:** Falcon Heights, City Hall, 2077 Larpenteur Ave. W., Falcon Heights
- **Why:** Meet friends, learn something new!
- **Bring a friend and a food shelf contribution!**

## SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING TO FOCUS ON HEALTH CARE LAW

### Judy Rosenblatt and Carolyn Cushing

Several decades ago, a LWVUS convention voted down adoption of a study on health care because members believed it was too late to study and act—a new health care policy for the country would be adopted very soon. How wrong we were! But we now have a new law, and it is a complex one. We will try to take some of the mystery out of it at our Sept. 21 general meeting. The meeting is at 7 p.m. at Falcon Heights City Hall, 2077 Larpenteur Ave. W., Falcon Heights.

### From the LWVUS Web site (written pre-passage of the new law)

“The League believes that quality, affordable health care should be available to all U.S. residents. Other U.S. health care policy goals should include the



### What will the new health care law mean for families?

equitable distribution of services, efficient and economical delivery of care, advancement of medical research and technology, and a reasonable total national expenditure level for health care. Furthermore, the League believes that all Americans should have access to a basic level of care

that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute care, long-term care and mental health care.

(Continued on page 6)

## QUESTIONS TO BRING TO SEPT. 21 MEETING

Here are some questions for you to think about before our general meeting discussion:

- What factors have led to the need for reform?
- What are your main concerns about the new law?
- What has most surprised you about the health care law? pleased you? disappointed you?
- What should we do as citizens and LWV members about health care now?

Bring your opinions and questions to the Sept. 21 meeting.

### Board of Directors

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Jim DeBenedet  
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## LWVUS sets national agenda in Atlanta

### Ann Cleland

Happy dog days of summer!

In June, I spent four fascinating days in Atlanta at the League of Women Voters National Convention. I attended caucuses ranging from criminal justice to sustainable water and food supplies to lifting the travel ban to Cuba.

The programs adopted by delegates include a study of the federal role in public education, and a study on privatization. Also adopted by concurrence was an updated Arms Control Position, an addition to the LWVUS position on selection of the president supporting the use of the National Popular Vote Compact, and an addition to the LWVUS Equality of Opportunity position to same-gender couples.

The convention supported the following resolutions:

- lifting the travel restrictions for Americans going to Cuba;
- strengthening of regulation associated with the development of fossil fuel resources;
- calling upon the Senate to limit the use of the filibuster;
- adding the principle of transparency to the SARA Resolution (Security, Accuracy, Recountability, Accessibility and Transparency);
- advocating for bills that legislate for improved Medicare for all;
- highlighting the need for those responsible for the oil spill to be held accountable.

Bylaws were changed to read “those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.”

Financial Administration was amended to provide that a biennial budget would be adopted at Convention, starting in 2012.

The proposed PMP rate of \$29.60 was increased to \$29.70 for 2010-2011, and to \$30 for 2011-2012.

Unfortunately, our league did not win any of the convention award projects-maybe 2012!

It wasn't all business – there was a fun panel of former LWVUS presidents. I enjoyed meeting at the end of each day with other Minnesota delegates in Judy Stuthman's hotel room. A few of us went to the Jimmy Carter Library.

Use our website, [www.romarh.org](http://www.romarh.org), to link to the LWVUS for more Convention details.

The board had a busy summer. In June, Anita Mayfield and I manned a booth at Rosefest. The membership committee hosted a new member gathering in July. The website committee is working on updates. The board has applied for voter service grants.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the September kick-off meeting. Don't forget to bring a friend!

# Candidate forums set for November election

**Linda McLoon and Andrea Brodtmann**

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**

Candidates for school board in District 622

Tuesday, Oct. 12 at 7 p.m.

District 622 Education Center

2520 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. E.

North St. Paul

## **II. Mayor and City Council of Roseville**

Candidates for Mayor and City Council for the City of Roseville

Thursday, Oct. 14 at 7 p.m.

Roseville City Hall council chambers

2660 Civic Center Drive

Roseville

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

Candidates for House Districts 54A and 54B and Senate District 54

Wednesday, 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**

Candidates for House Districts 55A and 55B and Senate District 55

Thursday Oct. 28 at 6:30 p.m.

Maplewood City Hall council chambers

1830 County Road B East

Maplewood.

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](mailto:brodt001@msn.com) or Linda McLoon at [linda.mcloon@gmail.com](mailto:linda.mcloon@gmail.com) if you can help.

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## St. Paul League sponsors forums affecting RoMaFH

The St. Paul League of Woman Voters is also sponsoring a number of candidate forums. Those that overlap with our chapter's elected officials are:

- 1) Senate District 66, Oct. 5, Hillcrest Recreation Center, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.;
- 2) Ramsey County Attorney and Sheriff, Oct. 7, Cornelia House (Episcopal Homes), 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.;
- 3) House Districts 66A and 66B, Oct. 13, Rondo Community Outreach Library, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.;
- 4) Congressional District 4, which is tentatively scheduled for Oct. 21 at the Roseville library on Hamline Ave. and County Road B from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.. This is subject to change.

This will be a busy year for candidate forums. They are always interesting and informative, and we are hoping for 100% candidate participation!

# Let's talk trash

## City of Maplewood sets Oct 4 hearing on organized trash removal

Do you ever sit on your front porch and ponder at all the trash hauling trucks driving down your street? Maplewood has an open trash hauling system. This system allows you to select any hauler to pick up your trash and pay for their services, as long as they are licensed in the city. Maplewood currently has nine residential trash haulers licensed in the city. This means that on any given morning when you are out on your front porch enjoying your coffee, you might see nine different trash hauling trucks driving down your street and picking up trash.

One of the city council goals for 2010 is to continue strengthening environmental planning efforts in Maplewood. A priority associated with this goal is the review of the city's trash hauling system. The city council wants to determine the effects multiple trash haulers have on the environment, safety, and pricing and to review the feasibility of organizing the trash hauling system. In an organized trash hauling system the city would create a trash removal system with specific service standards and rate control measures. The system could limit the number of days haulers can pick up trash or limit the number of haulers. The city currently has an organized system for our recycling, with only one recycling vendor contracted to service all residents in Maplewood.

In the city's preliminary review of organized trash hauling systems, the city has found that there are a number of long-term benefits to an organized system. Benefits include greater efficiency, competitive bidding, control or limit of annual rate increases, more rate options for a wider range of container sizes, reduction in vehicle emissions and fuel consumption, reduced noise, increased safety, longer life for our city streets, reduced litter and increased aesthetics.

Additionally, it will reduce illegal dumping because all residents would participate, even those who are currently not participating in open trash removal. All of these benefits will result in lower rates, less noise and truck traffic, less environmental damage, and streets that do not need to be repaired or replaced as frequently. This means a savings for all taxpayers in the short and long term.

State law dictates the process cities must follow when initiating an organized trash hauling system. The process includes the city council adopting a resolution of intent to organize, followed by a 180-day planning and negotiation period. The city council will take public testimony on the process during a public hearing at 7 p.m. Oct. 4 in the Maplewood City Council Chambers, 1830 County Road B East. In the meantime, the city is committed to informing and educating the public on the pros and cons of an open trash hauling system versus an organized system. For more information visit the city's website at [www.ci.maplewood.mn.us/trash](http://www.ci.maplewood.mn.us/trash) or contact Shann Finwall, Environmental Planner at 651-249-2304 or [shann.finwall@ci.maplewood.mn.us](mailto:shann.finwall@ci.maplewood.mn.us).

*Editor's note: The article above, which originally ran in the August issue of Maplewood Monthly, the city's monthly newsletter, is reprinted with permission.*

*The Roseville-Maplewood-Falcon Heights chapter of the League of Women Voters supports organized trash hauling systems. The chapter's March meeting featured a presentation on the issue by Dwayne Stenlund, of the Office of Environmental Services in the Minnesota Department of Transportation. Stenlund serves on the Roseville Public Works, Environment and Transportation Commission.*



# “I don’t think of you as black”

**Florence Sprague**

Last spring, I had the good fortune to hear Naomi Tutu, daughter of South African archbishop Desmond Tutu, speak. She was both inspiring and entertaining – living proof that it is possible to be passionately anti-racist and still very funny. One of her pet peeves is white people who sound proud as they say to a person of color some version of “You know, I don’t think of you as black.” Feeling uncomfortable yet?

Pet peeve? Say what? What is she talking about? No matter how liberal a white person feels when saying this, it isn’t usually what a black person wants to hear. Do we really believe that skin color is not noticed? Do we need to pretend that someone is other than who they are to take them seriously? One may not care about color in a particular instance, but of course skin color is observed. Being black is not something to be ignored. It is something to be respected and valued, as much as being white, but ultimately every person must be judged on traits more substantial than skin color. Let our differences be the starting point for conversation, not a roadblock. We must talk, not be silent, until there is no more racism, no more race-based fear.

Naomi Tutu used several examples to help people see this comment in a different light. She said that her mother is an avid gardener who loves to create a garden full of a wide variety of beautiful flowers. How do you think her mother would feel if you walked into her lovely garden and just saw “flowers?” Not red flowers, gold flowers, orange flowers, lilac flowers, blue flowers, white flowers...just flowers. Diversity makes a wonderful garden. Why can’t we see that it makes a wonderful community?

We must honor our differences not ignore them. Inherent in the need of the speaker to not see the skin color of the person to whom he or she is speaking is a devaluation of that skin color. It is as if the white speaker is saying that this person is different, better than others of similar skin color and hence can be accepted as if white. There is an inherent negative judgment about persons of color and an assumption that the listener will feel complimented. There may also be a bit of self congratulation on the part of the speaker. At the least it can make the hearer feel not seen.

A statement like “I don’t think of you as black” may be a first step in the direction of greater acceptance, a first attempt to acknowledge the gifts of a person different from the speaker. It may reflect the speaker’s recognition in one individual of certain abilities or interests which are shared. Maybe the speaker generally feels uncomfortable around people of color but this person is sufficiently unthreatening that the speaker is not uncomfortable. Whose accommodation created this greater level of comfort?

Accommodation must be a two way street. The next step needs to include seeing that we don’t all have to be alike to be valuable and what is valuable is not usually on the surface.

Naomi Tutu and Rose Bator are writing a book with the title *I Don’t Think of You as Black: Honest Conversations on Race and Racism*. It promises to be an interesting read.

As you go through this week, seek to honor our differences. They make our community stronger, more creative, and more beautiful. Then look more deeply at each person to make our community more just.

To hear Ms. Tutu’s speech, go to [www.blip.tv/file/3682014](http://www.blip.tv/file/3682014).

### Census officials honor RoMaFH efforts to address undercount

U.S. Census officials honored the Roseville-Maplewood-Falcon Heights chapter of the League of Women Voters last month for its efforts in collecting data for the 2010 Census.

“It is through the work of local chapters such as Roseville-Maplewood-Falcon Heights that Minnesota counted a large portion of our population,” said Allie Moen Wagstrom, program director for Minnesota League of Women Voters. “RoMaFH reached out to organizations and communities that helped address the undercount. Through this work, Minnesota will continue to receive the federal funding it needs and maintain the political representation in Washington.”

RoMaFH’s Diversity and Outreach Committee led the census effort, said committee member Florence Sprague. “We focused on making Census 2010 inclusive of all sectors of our community, from snowbirds to immigrants,” she said.

Members of the committee hosted a table at the annual Hmong Resource Fair and displayed census forms in both Hmong and English. They distributed bilingual information sheets, pens, pencils and other items promoting participation in the census.

They also distributed fliers to snowbirds, explaining what those who winter in warmer climates need to remember in order to participate in the census in Minnesota. Many thanks to volunteers Joan Stark, Sandi Lutz and Florence Sprague.

### Pay your dues!

**Julianne Johnson**

If you haven’t paid your dues, it’s time to do so. Dues for new members are \$45, renewing members \$60.

Almost all members have paid their dues, thanks to the efforts of the Membership Committee, made up of Ann Berry, Stephanie DeBenedet, and Julianne Johnston. We started with a reminder in a spring issue of the Voter. This was followed by e-mails to the membership followed by letters and then phone calls. Almost all members responded.

If you have not yet paid your dues, please do so immediately. Mail your dues to Stephanie DeBenedet, 808 Millwood Avenue, Roseville, MN 55113. **Make checks out to LWV ROMAFH.** Thank you, thank you, thank you.

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### Health Care

*(Continued from page 1)*

Through decades of work in their communities, League members have learned that Americans believe that fairness and responsibility, as well as access, are important values for any health care system. We believe that health care reform can only succeed if it takes all these values into account.”

The Web site [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) contains many articles on health care issues written by members of the LWVUS Health Care Task Force, most written in 2009, but providing excellent background for understanding the new law. Take a look at some of these. There are articles galore in the newspapers, magazines, and online about the new law. Read some of them. A federal government Web site dedicated to the new law is available at [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov) and updated every day. It is the source of much of the information the RoMaFH committee has gathered. One of its resources is a timeline showing when each part of the new law takes effect. We will have for you a handout based on the timeline, just slightly abbreviated (it is still quite long, since it covers 2010–2015). We think it will be a handy resource for you to keep.

*Judy Rosenblatt and Carolyn Cushing are co-chairs of the Committee on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Law*

**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

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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 – August 25, 2010**

**Joan Stark**

Previous Checking Balance – 6/23/2010 **\$1,878.50**

**Income:**

Dues 1,290.00  
Ed Fund Reimbursement (*Rosefest* Parade) 795.69  
Finance Drive 25.00

**Total Income: \$2,110.69**

**Expenses:**

#4247 – Ann Cleland, Delegate, 1,161.95

**2010 LWVUS Convention**

#4248 – LWVMN, (50) Membership Brochures 7.00  
#4249 – GSA Troop #52775 (*Rosefest* Parade) 50.00  
#4250 – George Bednar, (*Rosefest* Parade) 50.00  
#4251 – *Hmong Education & Resources Today*, 125.00

(2010 Annual Resource Fair)

#4252 – LWVUS, 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr. PMP 564.30

**Total Expenses: \$1,958.25**

Checking Account Balance – 8/25/2010 \$2,030.94

**Savings Account Balance - 7/30/ 2010 \$2,614.42**

Education Fund Balance - 7/22/2010 \$4,516.05

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

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## 2010 Calendar of Events

### September

**21** - General meeting: Federal Health Care Reform. 7 p.m., Falcon Heights City Hall

**22** - Board meeting

### October

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

**2** - 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Hmong Resource Fair. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Aldrich Area, Maplewood.

**27** - Boar 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

### 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.