

# The Voter

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

Volume 56, Number 8  
May/June 2011



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**Who:** League members and guests

**What:** Tour of Roseville Fire Stations

**Where and When**

May 24. Meet at Fire Station 1, Lexington Ave. and Woodhill St. at 10 a.m.

Contact Georgann Hall, 651-484-9057 if you plan to attend and if you want to go to lunch.

**We're on the Web!**

[www.romafh.org](http://www.romafh.org)

## MAY UNIT MEETINGS FEATURE TOUR OF ROSEVILLE FIRE STATIONS

The buildings look okay from the outside, but wait until you go inside. Roseville Fire Station 1 has a serious mold problem. Fire Station 3 does not have separate showers and bathrooms for female firefighters. Sleeping accommodations are not gender separated.

These are some of the problems that will be the focus of May 24 tour of Roseville fire stations for members of the Roseville-Maplewood-Falcon Heights chapter of the League of Women Voters.

Neither building meets standards set by the federal Occupational Safety Hazards Act (OSHA) or the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The fire stations do not even have a sprinkler system. The city of Roseville has been talking about these problems for 10 years. If a new building is constructed, that will take another three years.

(Continued on page 4)



**Roseville Fire Station 1 has a serious mold problem**

### Join us for the tour!

Members should meet at 10 a.m. May 24 at Roseville Fire Station 1, Lexington Ave. and Woodhill St. for a tour and after that we will travel to Fire Station 3 on Dale Street. If you want lunch we can go to Chianti Grill on Snelling Avenue.

Contact Georgeann Hall, 651-484-9057, if you plan to attend the tour and let her know if you plan to go to lunch.

## ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MAY 11

### Budget planning document on page 6

The LWVROMAFH Annual Meeting will be May 11 at Resources for Child Caring, 10 Yorkton Court, Little Canada. Former RoMaFH Co-President Barb Yates and her daughter will talk about their recent trip to South Africa. (Members have received an invitation with details. It contained one error. The event is **Wednesday**, May 11, not Thursday.) At this meeting, we finalize plans for coming year, review past positions, propose new local studies, support LWVMN and LWVUS proposed studies (in alternate years), AND share a festive catered meal.

Co-Presidents and board members plan the business meeting part of this event; the budget planning document is on page 6. We need your ideas. Please e-mail or call: Ann Berry, [annberry@usfamily.net](mailto:annberry@usfamily.net), 651-484-4502, or Georgeann Hall, [georgeannhall@comcast.net](mailto:georgeannhall@comcast.net), 651-484-9057. Members who need a ride or who are willing to drive others to this meeting should contact Stephanie DeBenedet@msn.com, or call 651-483-1006.

### Co-Presidents

Ann Cleland  
Karen Schaffer

### Secretary

Shari Dion

### Treasurer

Joan Stark

### Program Committee

Ann Berry  
Carolyn Cushing  
Lorraine Fischer  
Georgeann Hall  
Anne Haugan  
Teri MacNabb  
Judy Rosenblatt  
Florence Sprague

### Administrative Assistant

Shirley Bradway

### Finance Committee

Anita Mayfield  
Georgiana Sobola  
Joan Stark

### Membership

Ann Berry  
Stephanie DeBenedet  
Julianne Johnston

### Voter newsletter

Judy Berglund, editor  
Ann Berry  
Tami Johnson

### Voter Service

Andrea Brodtmann  
Linda McLoon

### Web

Jim DeBenedet

## We are off to a great start for our new year!

**Karen Schaffer**

The 63<sup>rd</sup> LWV Minnesota Convention will be May 20-22 at the Kahler Grand Hotel in Rochester, and our local league will be represented by four members! We are permitted one more delegate – so don't hesitate to call Ann Cleland or me. Three members plan to carpool and attend Saturday only – you, too, could join them (or me, for the Saturday overnight). We look forward to bringing home information and energy for the new fiscal year.

I have been called many things – but never a poet. However, thanks to the Diversity Committee, Terri McNabb and I (plus others who attended April's unit meetings) became authors of "dialogue poems," a literary form that promotes the practice of civil discourse. The activity of writing and reciting dialogue poems was an intriguing foray into the world of civil discourse. Perhaps we should challenge our political leaders to try this out!

Ann has prepared a wonderful summary of our past year that appears in the Annual Meeting Booklet, to be distributed at the Annual Meeting on May 11. She aptly summarizes the strength of our grass-roots organization, and I am proud to serve with such an energetic leader. We both look forward to seeing all of our members on May 11, as we open a new year of friendship, civic engagement, voter service, and top-notch programs.

## DeBenedets to receive Gavel Club Leadership Award

For many years, our League has nominated members to receive the Gavel Club Community Leadership Award. This year we nominated Jim and Stephanie DeBenedet as a team. We were informed on Thursday, April 14 that they will be among the recipients of this award at the Annual Gavel Club Dinner on Wednesday evening, MAY 18.

Please contact Mary Ann Palmer, our League's Representative to the Gavel Club, for tickets to this event. Palmer's number is 651-633-8140. We look forward to having many of our members able to honor these members who have given so much of their time, energy and skills to the Roseville community.

## Annual book sale set for June 4

The annual League Book Sale will be part of the Roseville Citywide Garage Sale on June 4. We will register our sale and be listed in the citywide map/flyer and online. The flyer will be available at Roseville City Hall, and online at [cityofroseville.com/parks](http://cityofroseville.com/parks) beginning May 31.

The book sale will be at Karen Schaffer's home, 2100 Fairview Ave. N., Roseville, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Please continue to save books and take them to Georgiana Sobola's home, at 1961 Hamline Ave. N., Roseville. Call her at 651-644-3337 before you go and put your donations in the breeze-way. Please donate children's books, toys, games and puzzles – they sell well! We need all kinds of books and magazines: craft, cooking, gardening, hobbies, sports, travel and cross-cultural (*National Geographic*, etc.). We need CDs, DVDs and videos.

Watch our Web site, [www.romafh](http://www.romafh), for more information.

## South Pacific

By Florence Sprague

One of the first films I can remember seeing was *South Pacific*. My father took the whole family to see this film at a downtown Pittsburgh theater one summer. I can even remember what kind of candy I got-- Jordan almonds. I don't know whether my father was eager to see this film because he had fought in the South Pacific during WWII, or if he had just heard good things about it. We also had a much played record of the original stage production and all enjoyed singing along with Mary Martin and Ezio Pinza. It was *sooo* romantic to four little girls.

At that time I didn't comprehend the deeper issues touched on in this musical. The stage production opened in 1949 and this was close enough to the end of World War II that some veterans were offended, protesting that the war in the Pacific was too horrible for such lightweight treatment. Some critics pointed out that the show was "Orientalist" and western-centric and did not portray the Polynesian people fairly. There were also protests in the South about the interracial relationships portrayed and the ultimate acceptance of those. Particularly controversial in the South was the song "You've Got To Be Carefully Taught."

As a child, just as I then thought it would be great to grow up to be a coveted "dame," I sang along with "You've got to be Carefully Taught" giving no thought at all to what it was about. Then came a time when I heard the emphasis in the song as being on the words "got to," as in he thought it was *important* that you be taught what your relatives believed. But taken in the context of the story, this song is very progressive, its message one we should remember today—you've got to be TAUGHT to hate and fear, it doesn't necessarily happen automatically. Lt. Joe Cable and Nellie Forbush were deeply distressed by the confusion and pain their racism was causing them and trying to better understand it. Lt. Cable explains to Emile de Becque in this song that their prejudice was ingrained in them as children.

Little children are wonderful, but they not angels; they are not pure and loving and perfect. They also are not blind; they notice every kind of difference between people. How they respond to those differences will depend in part on temperament and situation. However, in large measure, children reflect the attitudes of the adults with whom they grow up; they are highly receptive to the expectations of those they need or wish to please. As Lt. Joe Cable sang "You've got to be taught before it's too late... to hate all the people your relatives hate." And children learn quickly.

This also means that you can be taught to be open and accepting, taught to judge people as individuals, taught to look beyond superficial characteristics.

Today we may be amazed that when a touring stage production of *South Pacific* came to Atlanta in 1953, some offended Georgia legislators "introduced a bill to outlaw entertainment having, as they stated, 'an underlying philosophy inspired by Moscow.' State Representative David C. Jones claimed that a



song justifying interracial marriage was implicitly a threat to the American way of life."\* But, this play and movie came out at a time when there were still anti-miscegenation laws in many states, making interracial marriage illegal; the relationships that scandalized and tormented Joe and Nellie scandalized many Americans watching the show, too.

Those laws are now history, and the attitudes behind them have diminished or gone underground. We have made progress, but the mountaintop is still beyond us.

If we would like to see the United States continue to grow less racist it continues to be important to watch what we teach to children. We must model, in behavior, language and action, the beliefs and attitudes we wish to promote in our children, grandchildren, students, and neighbors. We must not allow advertisers to promote negative stereotypes and we must reward positive models. Changing a society takes generations. It also takes thoughtful action, not passivity.

**st, Andrea.** *You've Got to Be Carefully Taught: The Politics of Race in Rodgers and Hammerstein's South Pacific.* Theatre Journal - Volume 52, Number 3, October 2000, pp. 307-337. Abstract viewed online at [http://muse.jhu.edu/login?uri=/journals/theatre\\_journal/v052/52.3most.html](http://muse.jhu.edu/login?uri=/journals/theatre_journal/v052/52.3most.html)

Editor's note: The words to the song, "You've got to be Carefully Taught," are printed on page 4.

### Fire stations

(Continued from page 1)

The Fire Department Building Facility Needs Committee made a recommendation to the City Council March 21. Roseville should have one station, located on Lexington Ave. There is not enough room at the Station 3 location to expand without buying land to the south. The city council voted to hire an architectural firm for a space study and schematic design. You will hear more from our tour guides.

At Fire Station 3 there is an area to sit and ask any questions you might have. This is an important issue for the city of Roseville in the next months.



**Fire Station 3 and other Roseville Fire Stations do not have sprinkler systems.**

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### Windows and Mirrors

(Continued from page 3)

“You’ve got to be Carefully Taught”

Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II

Lt. Joe Cable singing:

You've got to be taught  
To hate and fear,  
You've got to be taught  
From year to year,  
It's got to be drummed  
In your dear little ear  
You've got to be carefully taught.

You've got to be taught to be afraid  
Of people whose eyes are oddly made,  
And people whose skin is a different shade,  
You've got to be carefully taught.

You've got to be taught before it's too late,  
Before you are six or seven or eight,  
To hate all the people your relatives hate,  
You've got to be carefully taught!

### Photo ID backers may try amending constitution

GOP backers of a plan to require photo IDs at the polls are considering an effort to seek a constitutional amendment if the bill is thwarted by a veto.

The Senate passed the bill on a 37-26 vote April 28. Supporters say it will boost confidence in state elections after two recent statewide recounts. Opponents argue there is no evidence of widespread voter fraud problems in Minnesota and emphasize that the stricter requirement will make it harder to vote for the elderly, disabled and low-income people.

Gov. Mark Dayton has said he is willing to look at the bill, he added he is a "long ways from supporting it."

GOP legislators are touting the measure as one of their signature policy proposals of the session, explaining why some lawmakers are crafting legislation that could put it on the ballot in 2012.

The so-called "voter ID" bill would require registered voters to show Minnesota photo identification to vote and would eliminate vouching as a method for Election Day registration

Representatives of the Minnesota League of Women Voters have repeatedly testified against the measure.



Above, at left and below: Members at the April 20 meeting write dialogue poems to better understand civil discourse.

## Civil Discourse: it’s not about “being nice”

Civil discourse. It’s not about “being nice” or keeping your opinion to yourself. It’s about understanding that different people have different experiences and perspectives and that democracy depends on arguments that are not only tolerated, but also encouraged.

“Civil discourse supports, rather than undermines, the societal good,” presenters told members attending unit meetings April 19-20. “It demands that democratic participants respect each other, even when that respect is hard to give or to earn.”

Members of the Diversity Committee were presenters, using a “Teaching Tolerance” curriculum. Participants wrote dialogue poems featuring opposing points of view. “Sometimes we are pushing our own perspective so hard that we cannot conceive of any other,” said Florence Sprague, chair of the Diversity Committee. “With your help, we are going to explore how we can take a first step, by placing disparate realities side by side and trying to sense what it would feel like to be in someone else’s shoes.”

Civil discourse is the theme of the Minnesota League of Women Voters state conference May 20-22 in Rochester. The event will feature Donna Rae Scheffert, an Emeritus Extension Professor at the University of Minnesota, who will discuss ways to diffuse, deflect and prevent disruptions, angry outbursts and disrespectful behavior, which have become common in today’s political discourse. For more information, contact the Minnesota League of Women Voters, [www.lwvminnesota.org](http://www.lwvminnesota.org).



**LWVRoMaFH 2011-2012 Budget Planner**

|                                      | Actual<br>2009-2010 | Budget<br>2010-2011 | YTD<br>2010-2011  | Budget Planning<br>2011-2012 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Income:</b>                       |                     |                     |                   |                              |
| Dues                                 | \$4,225.00          | \$4,560.00          | \$3,250.00        | \$4,200.00                   |
| Contributions (unrestricted)         | \$1,180.79          | \$1,000.00          | \$605.00          | \$750.00                     |
| Annual Meeting                       | \$812.00            | \$400.00            | \$168.00          | \$300.00                     |
| Misc., Incl. Voter Service Grants    | \$960.00            | \$150.00            | \$750.00          | \$500.00                     |
| Holiday Dinner                       |                     | \$450.00            | \$576.00          | \$450.00                     |
| Booksale                             | \$632.45            | \$650.00            | \$775.14          | \$600.00                     |
| Transfer from Savings                |                     | \$2,385.00          |                   | \$2,020.00                   |
| Reimbursements from Ed Fund          | \$2,002.87          |                     | \$2,125.54        |                              |
| In Kind                              | \$52.00             |                     | \$44.12           |                              |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                  | <b>\$9,865.11</b>   | <b>\$9,595.00</b>   | <b>\$8,293.80</b> | <b>\$8,820.00</b>            |
| <b>EXPENSES:</b>                     |                     |                     |                   |                              |
| <b>Program Division</b>              |                     |                     |                   |                              |
| Program                              | \$377.13            | \$75.00             | \$38.39           | \$75.00                      |
| CMAL Meeting                         |                     | \$40.00             |                   | \$40.00                      |
| Diversity and Outreach               | \$140.23            | \$100.00            |                   | \$100.00                     |
| Community Relations Division         |                     |                     |                   |                              |
| Public Relations/Advertising         |                     | \$25.00             | \$20.24           | \$25.00                      |
| Publication Purchases                |                     | \$50.00             |                   | \$50.00                      |
| Finance Committee                    | \$200.59            | \$200.00            |                   | \$200.00                     |
| Voter Service/Citizen Info           | \$212.89            | \$25.00             | \$543.78          | \$50.00                      |
| Action/Coalition                     |                     | \$10.00             |                   | \$10.00                      |
| <b>Organization Division</b>         |                     |                     |                   |                              |
| Voter Printing                       | \$651.19            | \$600.00            | \$331.10          | \$500.00                     |
| Voter Mailing                        | \$319.12            | \$350.00            | \$93.40           | \$150.00                     |
| Membership                           |                     | \$50.00             | \$7.00            | \$50.00                      |
| Unit Meetings                        |                     | \$40.00             |                   | \$40.00                      |
| <b>Annual Meeting (food/booklet)</b> |                     |                     |                   |                              |
| Catering                             | \$629.85            | \$300.00            | \$206.72          | \$300.00                     |
| Publishing/Printing/Misc.            | \$184.65            | \$150.00            | \$119.18          | \$150.00                     |
| Membership Directory                 |                     | \$75.00             |                   | \$75.00                      |
| <b>Board Expense</b>                 |                     |                     |                   |                              |
| President/Vice President             | \$15.00             | \$50.00             |                   | \$25.00                      |
| Secretary                            |                     | \$50.00             |                   | \$25.00                      |
| Treasurer                            |                     | \$50.00             |                   | \$25.00                      |
| Board Expense                        |                     | \$25.00             |                   | \$25.00                      |
| Facility Honorarium                  | \$75.00             | \$75.00             | \$100.00          | \$100.00                     |
| <b>Delegate, Travel, Affiliation</b> |                     |                     |                   |                              |
| Delegates, Convention, Workshop      | \$307.49            | \$2,500.00          | \$1,236.95        | \$2,500.00                   |
| <b>Miscellaneous</b>                 |                     |                     |                   |                              |
| Recognitions and Rembrances          |                     | \$100.00            |                   | \$100.00                     |
| Other Club Dues (Gavel Club)         |                     | \$15.00             | \$15.00           | \$15.00                      |
| Booksale Expenses                    | \$105.00            | \$100.00            | \$127.91          | \$100.00                     |
| Holiday Dinner                       |                     | \$450.00            | \$522.00          | \$450.00                     |
| Miscellaneous                        | \$781.50            | \$50.00             | \$50.00           | \$50.00                      |
| Rosefest Parade                      | \$848.87            | \$100.00            |                   | \$100.00                     |
| Website                              | \$178.04            | \$200.00            | \$72.00           | \$72.00                      |
| In Kind                              | \$52.00             |                     | \$44.12           |                              |
| To be Reimbursed from Ed Fund        | \$525.00            |                     | \$1,606.69        |                              |
| <b>Per Member Payments</b>           |                     |                     |                   |                              |
| PMP National (\$30.00/member)        | \$2,284.05          | \$2,220.00          | \$2,243.75        | \$2,011.00                   |
| PMP State (\$20/member)              | \$1,463.00          | \$1,444.00          | \$1,444.00        | \$1,340.00                   |
| CMAL Dues (\$1/member)               | \$82.00             | \$76.00             | \$82.00           | \$67.00                      |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>                | <b>\$9,432.60</b>   | <b>\$9,595.00</b>   | <b>\$8,904.73</b> | <b>\$8,820.00</b>            |

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

**Book Sale**  
Joyce Blomquist  
Le 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 – March 31, 2011**

|                                                       |                   |                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Previous Checking Balance – March 23, 2011</b>     | <b>\$1,294.76</b> |                   |
| <b>Income:</b>                                        |                   |                   |
| Finance Drive (General Operating Funds)               | \$745.00          |                   |
| In Kind, Ann Berry, <b>VOTER</b> printing             | <u>2.85</u>       |                   |
| <b>Total Income:</b>                                  |                   | <b>\$747.85</b>   |
| <b>Expenses:</b>                                      |                   |                   |
| #4322 - <b>LWVMNEF</b> , to split Finance Drive check | \$50.00           |                   |
| #4323 - Florence Sprague, VIP Meeting expenses        | 25.70             |                   |
| #4324 - Ann Berry, Guest Speaker Dinners, March       | 58.46             |                   |
| #4325 - <b>LWVMNEF</b> , to split Finance Drive check | 50.00             |                   |
| In Kind, Ann Berry, <b>VOTER</b> printing             | 2.85              |                   |
| 03/03/11 - <b>Bank Debit for check printing</b>       | <u>9.22</u>       |                   |
| <b>Total Expenses:</b>                                |                   | <b>\$196.23</b>   |
| <br>                                                  |                   |                   |
| <b>Checking Account Balance – March 31, 2011</b>      |                   | <b>\$1,846.38</b> |
| <br>                                                  |                   |                   |
| <b>Savings Account Balance – March 31, 2011</b>       |                   | <b>\$2,617.74</b> |

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**

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## 2011 Calendar of Events

### May 2011

11 -Annual Meeting

18 - Gavel Club awards dinner

20-22 - LWV State Convention, Rochester

24 - Tour of Roseville Fire Stations (see page 1)

25 - Board Meeting (old and new board members)

### June 2011

4 - Book Sale, in conjunction with Roseville Citywide Garage Sale.

22 - Board Meeting

27 - Rosefest Parade, 6:15 p.m.

### 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 Inn, 2900 Rice Street, Little Canada. A social hour and dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by a meeting at 7 p.m.

Day unit meetings are on the third Wednesday in November, February,

