

The Voter

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

Volume 57, Number 1
September 2011



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Co-president's column</i>	2
<i>Windows and Mirrors</i>	3
<i>Bios of speakers</i>	4
<i>Among Fair planned</i>	5
<i>Contributors</i>	6
<i>Calendar</i>	8

Who: League members and guests

What: General membership meeting

When and where:

Sept. 20, Fireside Room,
Roseville Ice Skating Oval,
2661 Civic Center Drive,
Roseville.

Reception and music at 6:30
p.m. Meeting begins at 7
p.m.

**Bring a food shelf
donation!**

We're on the Web!

www.romafh.org



Rep. Mindy Greiling



Kitty Gogins



Laura Wang

Fall general meeting focuses on building leaders

How did three of Minnesota's women leaders become leaders? Did the League of Women Voters play a role in their ascension to leadership roles? Do they attribute their success to hard work, or luck, or both? What advice do they offer to other women seeking leadership roles?

These questions and others will be the focus of a presentation at the Sept. 20 general membership meeting of the Roseville-Maplewood-Falcon Heights chapter of the Minnesota League of Women Voters. The meeting will feature Minnesota Rep. Mindy Greiling, District 623 School Board Director Kitty Gogins, and Laura Wang, executive director of the Minnesota League of Women Voters. A brief bio of each is on page 4.

The meeting, which kicks off a new year for the chapter, will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room at the Roseville Ice Skating Oval, 2661 Civic Center Drive, Roseville.

The event is open to the public. Bring a friend and a food shelf donation.

We'll even have music!

Be sure to join us at the Sept. 20 general membership meeting of the Roseville-Maplewood-Falcon Heights Chapter of the Minnesota League of Women Voters.

We'll even have music, provided the Accidental Trio, a group of Roseville musicians. They are David Hopstock, accordion; Aija Ronis, viola; and Linda Owen, violin. Music will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room at the Roseville Skating Oval, 2661 Civic Center Drive, Roseville. Bring a friend and a food shelf donation.

Co-Presidents

Ann Cleland
Karen Schaffer

Secretary

Shari Dion

Treasurer

Joan Stark

Program Committee

Ann Berry
Carolyn Cushing
Lisa Edstrom
Georgeann Hall
Anne Haugan
Teri MacNabb
Judy Rosenblatt

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
(Continued on page 7)

League faces many challenges in 2011-12

Karen Schaffer

Warm greetings to my fellow League members. After an interesting summer, we embark upon a new season of programs, voter service, fellowship and outreach. The program committee and voter service director have been busy this summer, and we will see the fruits of their labor unfold between now and next spring.

In May, I had the opportunity to attend my first LWV Minnesota state convention. Highlights included presentations on the threats associated with the "photo id" movement across the county and in Minnesota. We should rename this movement the "voter suppression" movement. Our local League will host an event in April 2012 on this important issue. Beware the myth of voter fraud! Another highlight was hearing from our new state president, Stacy Doepner-Hove, who said that she intends to visit all of the local Leagues. If she makes it to our neck of the woods, be sure to attend and meet her.

She looks to be a great successor to Judy and Vivian. **Stacy Doepner-Hove**



The convention also voted to prepare three "briefing papers," which are more streamlined than full-fledged studies. (1) Impact of U.S. Supreme Court decision giving corporations and unions the same political speech rights as individuals; (2) status of public campaign funding in Minnesota; and (3) missing and exploited children in Minnesota. The State office is still accepting volunteers to work on these papers.

Delegates were also caught up in the kerfuffle resulting from the television ads purchased by LWVUS against Senators Claire McCaskill (D.Mo.) and Scott Brown (R.Mass.), taking them to task for votes to limit the regulatory power of the Environmental Protection Agency. Delegates met informally in the evening and heatedly debated whether the ads were "League-like." LWVUS board member Judy Duffy defended the ads on the ground that more conventional methods were not working when it came to clean air issues. The New York Times had an article on May 26, 2011.

Interested in redistricting? LWV Minnesota is partnering with others in Draw the Line Minnesota, a grant-funded independent citizens redistricting commission, which is gathering public input to use in preparing congressional and state legislative redistricting maps to submit to the redistricting panel appointed by the Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court. Check out their website at www.drawthelineminnesota.org. Or, check DrawMinnesota.org (run by Common Cause) to submit your own redistricting map.

I look forward to a busy and interesting year for our local League.

I Love TED

By Florence Sprague

Now some of you may know that my husband's name is David...but no, I am not confessing to anything untoward. TED stands for Technology, Entertainment, and Design: Ideas Worth Spreading.

TED conferences bringing together provocative and creative minds in those areas have been held since 1984 at different sites around the world. Attendance at many TED conferences is by invitation only, but now that the TED folks post the talks online they are available to all of us, and what an ever-growing treasure trove the TED website is! <http://www.ted.com/> At TED you can find intriguing presentations on just about any topic of interest many of which are totally new and fascinating. Some are challenging and thought provoking, others entertaining, others offer new information and perspectives on botany or cosmology. They are no longer limited to things directly T, E or D, but cover politics and social sciences, and just about anything about which someone is thinking creatively. At TED, one can explore one's interests or delve into uncharted ideas. I get a weekly email link to some of the newest postings at TED, but you can explore new and older offerings any time at the website.

Perhaps you saw the incredible puppet horse created for War Horse during the Tony Awards. I saw it earlier at TED. http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/handpring_puppet_co_the_genius_puppetry_behind_war_horse.html

Perhaps you have seen Liza Donnelly's cartoons in The New Yorker or other publications. Her lovely and funny talk about using humor to make changes in the lives of women, illustrated with her cartoons, can be seen at TED-Women.

http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/liza_donnelly_drawing_upon_humor_for_change.html

Perhaps you are interested in improving the lives of those with physical disabilities. You can watch a paraplegic take steps wearing a human exoskeleton, an amazing innovation with a real Wow factor.

http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/eythor_bender_demos_human_exoskeletons.html

None of the talks are more than 20 minutes long and many of them are only six minutes long. Anyone has time for six minutes. (Though truth be told, one six minute talk usually leads me to another and another.) You say you don't have a computer. Well, the public library has many, and yes,

they do have headphones so that you can listen to your choice of TED talk without disturbing others.

Exploring TED talks is always so interesting. But it can be more than just interesting; it can help you to think

You may recall that I sent you to TED once before, to listen to Chimamanda Adichie's talk on "The Danger of a Single Story," reminding us that there is never just one story about any group, place, or individual.

http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story.html Or, What is forgiveness?

Learn about an amazing friendship born of grief; friends Phyllis Rodriguez and Aicha el-Wafi, are two mothers whose lives were changed forever by 9/11, one whose son died, another whose son was one of the terrorists. They can teach us a lot. Brene Brown studies vulnerability, courage, authenticity and shame. Her talk on "The Power of Vulnerability" will also move you.

http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/brene_brown_on_vulnerability.html Most of us are uncomfortable admitting that we are wrong about something, but Kathryn Schulz gives us a new perspective in "On Being Wrong."

http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/kathryn_schulz_on_being_wrong.html Are you interested in women's issues? Check out TED Women. Want a more global perspective? Look into TED India or TED Global.

Alisa Miller's book, Media Makeover, is reviewed in a TED blog. There Ms. Miller says "Make sure that you don't personalize your news so much that you cut yourself off from the unexpected." This is a good rule for all news consumption; it is too easy to only hear perspectives with which you agree, which is not a recipe for understanding. TED will always bring you to many unexpected things, and that is a good thing. So yes, I love TED. I hope you will, too. Go exploring and tell me about what you find.



Phyllis Rodriguez and Aicha el-Wafi have a powerful friendship. Rodriguez' son was killed in the World Trade Center attacks on September 11, 2001; el-Wafi's son Zacarias Moussaoui was convicted of a role in those attacks. Learn more at www.ted.com.

About this month's speakers

Three of Minnesota's women leaders will be the featured speakers at this month's general membership meeting (see page 1). The following is biographical information about each.



Mindy Greiling

Twin Cities political reporter Betty Wilson once wrote that Rep. Mindy Greiling is a “classic League of Women Voters product.” Indeed, Mindy's civic involvement began when she joined the League of Women Voters. She was Board President and served as the Minnesota League's Legislative Chair. In 1987, she was elected to the Roseville Area School Board. She served until 1992, when she was elected to the Minnesota Legislature, where she has won numerous awards for her service. Mindy graduated Magna cum Laude from Gustavus Adolphus College with a B.A. in Education. While teaching elementary school and serving as a team leader in the St. Paul Public Schools, she obtained her Master's Degree in Education from the University of Minnesota. Mindy and her husband, Roger, have lived in Roseville since 1970.



Kitty Gogins

Kitty Gogins has served on the District 623 School Board since 2005, and has spent 25 years leading strategic change in Fortune 500 companies and non-profits. Her accomplishments include a \$150 million profit growth in business initiatives, dramatic gains in organizational effectiveness, and achievement of strategic goals. She is a published author of a book about refugees and new Americans. Kitty's mother (pictured at left with Kitty) was extremely active in the League of Women Voters in the 1960s and 70s, and Kitty strongly supports the work of the League today.

Kitty holds a BS in Food Chemistry from the University of Minnesota, and has completed extensive coursework in marketing, leadership, sales, finance, quality, and communication. She and her husband have lived in Roseville since 1983.



Laura Wang

Laura Fredrick Wang is the Executive Director of LWV Minnesota. She has been with the organization since 2006. Prior to becoming the Executive Director, Laura served as the Public Policy Coordinator. Laura is a graduate of Metropolitan State University and is currently a Masters in Public Affairs candidate at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute. Her MPA degree concentration is in non-profit leadership and civic engagement, and she is interested in studying how the League of Women Voters model of promoting civic engagement and women's leadership can be applied globally. She has worked previously in public policy and community organizing in the non-profit sector, for federal, state, and city government, as well as managing political campaigns.

10th Annual**Hmong Resource Fair**

**Saturday, October 1, 2011
10am-2pm**

Aldrich Arena
1850 White Bear Avenue North
Maplewood, Minnesota 55109



For the third year, the Roseville-Maplewood-Falcon Heights chapter of the League will sponsor a table at this event. We will share information about voter registration, local candidate forums and other issues, as well as about LWV, with people of all ages. The most popular LWV publication last year was “Immigration in Minnesota.”

The mission of the Hmong Resource Fair is to focus on providing resources assistance to members of the Hmong community and to those who work with them. Through strong partnerships and sponsorships, and the support of our community, Hmong Resource Fair works to make many informational resources free and accessible to the Hmong community and the public. Be sure to volunteer! Contact Florence Sprague, misemer@msn.com.

Revised language for the local League position on the Roseville Fire Department

Below is revised language for the local League position on the Roseville Fire Department (Social Policy section, position #2, 2003), with out-of-date language deleted. Nothing has been added. The language deletions should be approved by the membership, printed in the *Voter*, and substituted for the old language in the full Program on the League's Web site. For comparison, the 2003 language may be seen in the *Voter* preceding the 2010 Annual meeting, in the 2010 Annual Meeting booklet, or on the League's Web site, www.romafh.org.

This revision was made by Georgeann Hall (member of the original study committee) with assistance from Judy Rosenblatt.

SOCIAL POLICY

2. Support the following items, which relate to the Roseville Fire Department:
 - A. Increase wages for firefighters, for staffing and fire calls.
 - B. Reduce vesting period from ten years to between five and seven years.
 - C. Other recommendations for recruiting firefighters are as follows:
 - Design a brochure explaining the duties and benefits of becoming a Roseville firefighter, to be used for recruiting. Marketing and publicity could include distributing the brochure to new homeowners through realtors.
 - In general, the city should do more marketing and publicity of the job and benefits.
 - D. The LWV supports the current arrangement of the police department as the first responder for fire calls and emergency medical services.
 - E. The LWV does not support a fee for service for the fire department.
 - F. The LWV does not support the hiring of a fire prevention specialist.

(The preceding consensus statement is based on the materials in the LWV-published report, “Roseville Fire Department 2003 and Beyond,” November 2003. The publication was validated by the city manager, fire chief, and finance director.)

Thanks to 2011 Fund Drive contributors

The Roseville-Maplewood-Falcon Heights chapter of the Minnesota League of Women Voters thanks the following League members and Friends of the League for their generous contributions to the 2011 Finance Drive. Contributions dedicated to the *Citizen Education Fund* (tax deductible) total \$975 and contributions for *General Operating Expenses* total \$1,290 for a grand total of \$2,265.

Berry, Ann
Blank, Ellen
Blomquist, Joyce
Bradway, Shirley
Brodtmann, Andrea
Brown, Dwight and Helen
Ciernia, Kathleen
Cleland, Ann
Community Resource Bank
Cushing, Carolyn
DeBenedet, James and Stephanie
Dion, Shari
Erickson, Carole
Ernst, Betty J.
Fischer, Lorraine
Gogins, Kitty
Greiling, Mindy
Hall, Georgeann
Harper, Elizabeth
Haugan, Anne
House, Janelle
Irsfeld, Nancy
Kimble, Lynette

Klehr, Jane
Matts, Le Hutchins
Nephew, John
Palmer, Mary Ann
Price, Beverly
Recksiedler, Lila
Rempel, Leola
Richardson, Antona
Rog, Frank and Janet
Rosenblatt, Judith
Rosene, Robert and Joyce
Rourke, Mary Jo
Santoro, Michael and Shirley
Schaffer, Karen
Signorelli, Norma
Smith, Lois Ann
Sobola, Georgiana
Spartz, Jane
Sprague, Florence
Stark, Joan
Stuthman, Judy
Warner, Cecilia

Pay your dues!

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

Fifty-six members had paid their dues at the Voter deadline. We need your dues as well. If you have not yet paid, please do so immediately.

Mail your dues to Stephanie DeBenedet, 808 Millwood Ave., Roseville, MN 55113. Make checks out to LWV ROMAFH.



League's annual book sale yields more than \$500

Joyce Blomquist, book sale coordinator

This year we tried a new venue. We combined our book sale with the Third Annual Roseville Garage Sale on June 4. The sale was held in Co-President Karen Schaffer's garage, 2100 Fairview Ave. N. Roseville, which was a very good location.

We had a super crew of 23 volunteers, who contributed a total of 77 hours. We also had the biggest crew of scouts and leaders from Troop #297 that we have ever had. We had three adults and five boys who got the job done in record time. Our proceeds from the book sale: gross \$574.75, net \$500.35. A big THANK YOU to all who helped! Pictured at right are Georgiana Sobola, Judy Berglund and Karen Schaffer. (Photo by Ann Cleland)



**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
Joan Stark

Records and Directory

Julianne Johnston

**Treasurer's Report – August 24, 2011
Joan Stark, Treasurer**

Previous Checking Balance – June 22, 2011 **\$3,617.74**

Income:

<i>Roseville Community Fund Grant,</i>	\$1,000.00
Flags, 2011 Rosefest Parade	
Ed Fund reimbursement, 2010-2011 VOTER	128.00
Ed Fund Voter Service Grant , 2 nd Installment	259.50
Dues, (1) Individual	<u>60.00</u>

Total Income: \$1,447.50

Expenses:

#4333 – Judith Rosenblatt, 2011 LWVMN Convention	76.00
#4334 – Joan Stark, 2011 LWVMN Convention	76.00
#4335 – Ann Berry, May VOTER mailing	17.60
#4336 – LWVRoMaFH , transfer to Savings Acct.	100.00
#4337 – LWVMN , 2011-2012 PMP	1,368.00
#4338 – GSA Troop #52775 , assisted Rosefest Parade	50.00
#4339 – Richard Smith, provided car Rosefest Parade	50.00
#4340 – LWVUS , 1 st Qtr. PMP	540.00
#4341 – CMAL Dues , 2011 – 2012	<u>51.50</u>

Total Expenses: \$2,329.10

Checking Account Balance August 24, 2011	\$2,736.14
Savings Account Balance July 29, 2011	\$2,719.04
Education Fund Balance June 13, 2011	\$4,605.23

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**

2011-12 Calendar of Events

September

20 – General Meeting, 6:30 p.m. @ the Roseville Oval in the Fireside Room

Topic: *Inspiring and Growing Leaders, the LWV Way*

28 – Board Meeting, Fireside Room, Roseville Oval

October

LWVRoMaFH will sponsor City and/or School Board Candidate Forums as needed.

1 – 10th Annual Hmong Resource Fair, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. @ Aldrich Arena, White Bear Ave. N., Maplewood

18 – Evening Unit Meeting

Topic: *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly of City Sewer and Water Systems Maintenance* (Cities of Roseville, Maplewood, and Falcon Heights)

19 – Day Unit Meeting (same topic)

26 – Board Meeting

November

15 - Evening Unit Meeting

Topic: *What is Redistricting and Why Should You Care about It?*

16 – Day Unit Meeting (same topic)

30 – 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 meeting 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