



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS - RoMaFH
ROSEVILLE, MAPLEWOOD, FALCON HEIGHTS

Also serving the communities of Little Canada and Lauderdale

VOTER

September 2007

www.romafh.org

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 fall "KICK OFF" Meeting

Presentation by representatives from school board members from School Districts 621, 622 and 623 covering the effects of the past legislative session, changing demographics and graduation rates. We have invited the Chair of each of those boards to do this presentation.

A question and answer period will follow.

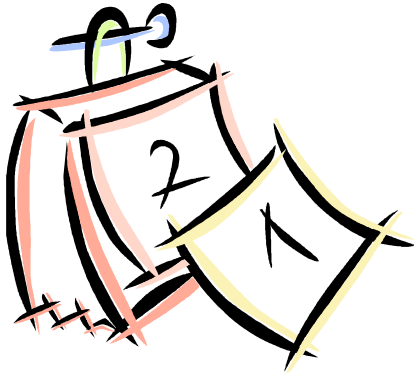
- 6:30PM Social time,
- 7:00PM Welcome,
- 7:10PM Presentation by Board members
- 8:15PM Question and answer time

We will meet at Roseville City Hall, 2660 Civic Center Drive, Roseville, in the Willow Room, lower level.

League members, please invite a friend and neighbor to join us. This meeting is open to the public, and what is happening in our public schools affects all of us! This is a good opportunity to give neighbors and friends a look and listen at the kinds of things we do in League! Help our membership co-chairs, Gale Pederson and Karen Schaffer attract new members!

Program committee hopes to see you all there..

Questions?? Call Ann Berry 651-484-4502 or Georgeann Hall, 651-484-9057



Calendar of Events 2007-2008

September 2007

- 18 - General Meeting at Roseville City Hall in Willow Room (lower level)
"2007 Education Legislation; the good and bad, graduation rates for minorities, demographics for School Districts 621, 622, 623".
- 26 - Board Meeting

October 2007

- 10 - Host LWVMN Statewide Workshop at Roseville City Hall, 5:30 - 9pm
- 16 - Evening Unit Meeting, "Immigration National Study"
- 17 - Day Unit Meeting
- 24 - Board Meeting

November 2007

- 13 - Evening Unit Meeting, "Immigration Concensus"
- 14 - Day Unit Meeting
- 28 - Board Meeting

December 2007 (no meeting)

TBD—Holiday Party and Judiciary Study consensus

January 2008

- 15 - VIP General Meeting
- 23 - Board Meeting

February 2008

- 19 - Evening Unit Meeting, "Diversity Committee Update"
- 20 - Day Unit Meeting
- 27 - Board Meeting

(February and March programs may be switched, if Judiciary is ready)

March 2008

- 18 - Evening Unit Meeting, TBD
- 19 - Day Unit Meeting
- 26 - Board Meeting

April 2008

- 15 - General Meeting, "Wetlands/Lakes" at Maplewood Library
(perhaps with other Leagues)
- 16 - Day Unit Meeting
- 20 - Booksale
- 23 - Board Meeting in Fireside Room at the Roseville Oval

May 2008

- ? - Annual Meeting
- 28 - Board Meeting

June 2008

- 23 - Rosefest Parade
- 25 - Board Meeting

Note:

All board meetings will be held on the fourth Wednesday at the Roseville Oval at 7:00pm.

Evening unit meetings will be at Majors restaurant at 7:00pm with an opportunity for social hour and dinner at 5:30pm.

Day unit meetings will be held at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church at 9:30 am.

Ed Funds Available

Education Funds are available for special projects, and RoMaFH committees are encouraged to make use of these funds. Applications (Form A-2 or A-3) must be approved by LWVMN Ed Fund before projects are undertaken. Please send a copy of submitted applications to Joan Stark, Treasurer.

Save the Date: Oct. 20
CMAL "Computer 101"
Brown Bag: Emergency Preparedness

2006-7 Board of Directors

Teri Kysylyczyn
Barbara Yates
Co-Presidents

Anne Haugan
Secretary
Joan Stark
Treasurer

Ann Berry, Georgeann Hall, Diane Nystrom, Judith Rosenblatt, Florence Sprague
Lorraine Fischer CMAL
Program Division

Ann Cleland
Public Relations

Angela Robinson
Action Chair

Michael Garelick (Roseville)
Lorraine Fischer (Maplewood),
Barbara Lehn (Little Canada)
Jill Lund (623 School Board)
Observer Program

Patricia DeFrancis
Sandi Lutz, Linda McLoon
Voter Service

Karen Schaffer
Gale Pederson
Membership

Georgiana Sobola
Units/ Admin. Asst

Laura French, Diane Nystrom
Newsletter

Joan Stark
Betty Harper
Finance Committee

LWVUS Immigration Study at October and November Unit Meetings

During October and November, LWV RoMAFH units will be discussing and taking consensus on the national study of immigration policy adopted in 2006. This is the first national study since 1992 (Health Care), in part because no single issue has had such widespread interest and attention until this last biennium, when immigration sparked interest in Leaguesnationwide (that came about partially because of Minnesota's state study of the issue).

League members are exploring the underlying values and principles regarding immigration, reasons for it, current federal policy, and the impact of immigration in American society. Other related topics covered include:

- business and economic effects and impact
- diversity
- effects of global interdependence on migration
- motivation of refugees, asylees, and other immigrants

This is a complex set of issues, and the consensus is rather detailed. If you haven't been following the news about immigration or reading other material about it, NOW is the time to begin. The LWVUS Web site and the *National Voter* have a great deal of information (including background papers and the consensus questions at the Web site, www.lwv.org/). The questions will be printed in the October RoMAFH *Voter* as well.

This is an important issue of our time and it is critical that LWVUS have a sensible, well-thought-out consensus with which to lobby the federal government. Because of the urgency, the time frame for the study was shortened, and our answers are due back to LWVUS by February 1, 2008. It is up to us to "do our homework" and help provide the guidance LWVUS needs to offer a reasoned, workable solution to what many call a broken system of immigration policy and procedures. Be sure to attend October and November units.

Judy Rosenblatt, Immigration Study Coordinator
Questions? 651-631-0022 rosen015@umn.edu

**League of Women Voters
Crystal/New
Hope/EastPlymouh
Celebrating Constitution
Day's 220th Anniversary**

**Monday, September 17, 2007,
7:00 p.m.**

**Robbinsdale Armstrong
Auditorium
10635 36th Ave. N., Plymouth,
MN**

Speakers:

Justice Paul Anderson –
Minnesota Supreme Court
Judge Cara Lee Neville –
Hennepin County Court
Mary Vasaly – attorney with
Maslon Edelman Borman and
Brand

This program provides an opportunity to increase your understanding of the importance of an independent judiciary by looking at our nation's system of separation of powers and the checks and balances provided by the U.S. Constitution.

Justice Anderson will speak about the Constitution, Mary Vasaly will speak of the Constitution's impact on the separation of powers, and Judge Neville will address the importance of an independent judiciary. Questions of all three panelists will follow.

The C/NH/EP League received a grant from the LWVUS campaign **Safeguarding U.S. Democracy: Promoting an Independent Judiciary by Protecting the U.S. Constitution.** This meeting provides an opportunity to get a little background, and ask questions. We hope you will join us.

Questions? Call Sherry Tyrrell
763-546-8449 or email
ThreeBTS@aol.com

Bylaws Changes

At the 2006 LWVUS convention in Minneapolis, two bylaws changes within the opening articles of the national bylaws were approved. League policy is that the first three articles of all local and state League bylaws must be consistent with those of LWVUS in order to define and maintain the unity of the organization and the powers and privileges of members. The changes below were read at the May 8, 2007, RoMaFH Annual Meeting and are now incorporated in the local bylaws.

The first change strikes the words "of citizens" from Article II, Sec. 1, which now reads:

Article II - Purposes and Policy

Sec. 1. Purposes. The purposes of the LWVUS are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

The second change relates to the definition of types of members. It deleted the "lifetime membership" category, which has not been offered by LWVUS for many years. It was often confused with "honorary member," a designation for individuals who have been members for 50+ years. The latter category has not changed

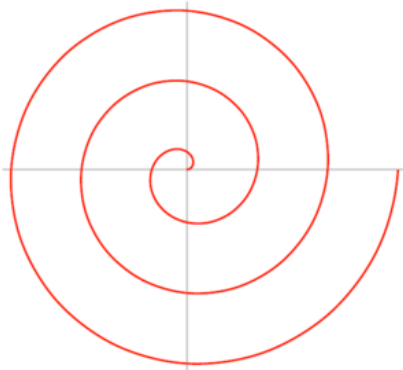
Article III, Sec. 2, now reads:

Article III - Membership

Sec. 2. Types of Membership

1. Voting Members. Citizens at least 18 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues and of the LWVUS:
2. (1) individuals who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League;
3. (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large;
4. (3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be honorary life members excused from the payment of dues.

The complete LWVUS Bylaws are available on the LWVUS Web site, at www.lwv.org. Navigate from "For Members" to "Tools for Leaders," then to "Secretary," then to "Essential League References" and scroll down to "LWVUS Bylaws."



Spiral Review

By Florence Sprague

We live in a throwaway society. Youth is revered over age and for youth the motto is often “Been there, done that” as if once something has been tried it has been exhausted, sending people searching for something newer, bolder, more exciting. While I see no point in sticking with stale or nonfunctional things when a better option exists, I think most good things in life benefit from being revisited, perhaps many times. Who has not reread a novel, seen a play or movie again, or become reacquainted with a person at a different stage in life only to see them in a new light and perceive new insights or connections that were not apparent before? or revisited an old problem and found new solutions or options?

DID YOU KNOW

Judicial candidates can now take positions on political issues when running for judge? Judicial candidates can now identify themselves as members of political parties? Candidates for judge can now attend and speak at political gatherings such as political conventions? Judicial candidates can now solicit and accept financial contributions?

All of these things are now possible in Minnesota because of two recent court decisions.

In January of 1998, the Republican Party of Minnesota initiated a lawsuit challenging limits on the way candidates run for judge. The resulting court decisions set aside limits intended to make judicial campaigns nonpolitical. The Minnesota League of

The problem sets in the middle school math books with which I work routinely contain a section called Spiral Review. This means that even though today’s lesson, and hence most of the homework, is about adding fractions, there will be several problems on complementary and supplementary angles and the correct order of operations. The goal of such spiral review problems is to reinforce concepts and improve retention. It also gives students a chance to see what may have been a challenging and confusing new concept with fresh eyes and, hopefully, come to understand it better.

Adults can use spiral review, too. Just as this year’s math lessons build upon the ones you were supposed to learn last year, our exploration of diversity issues can build upon earlier explorations. This is a particularly useful approach when dealing with a complex or controversial topic like racism, classism, sexism etc. It can be hard to understand different points of view, and one may feel threatened by changes in the world or challenged by the need to change oneself, but if you revisit the topic after a period of time has passed you may have had time to develop a fresh perspective. It would be nice if people could just go “Aha, now I get it!” and never have to worry about difficult ideas again, but it isn’t so. Some ideas are either so threatening or so different, that we cannot fully grasp them in one sitting. We can only strive to build up our understanding over time and not quit. We must chip away at old notions gradually over time to make room for the new ones. We need to do it, and we need to see to it that the spiral of understanding keeps going upward, not downward.

Then there is the question of how to incorporate belief into daily life. This may take regular reconsideration. How do internal discussions manifest themselves? How does it affect your behavior to affirm to yourself that you do not want to behave in a racist way? What do you need to do differently to not be classist? Or sexist? Or ageist? Or....? This also needs to be reconsidered periodically.

Women Voters

agreed at last summer's State Convention to take a look at what these changes may mean to our state and to restudy our position on the selection of judges from 1998. We are among several organizations, such as the Minnesota State Bar Association and the Quie Commission, that have been looking at these changes.

There has been great concern about these kinds of changes across the country. In several states, contests for judicial seats have begun to resemble legislative and executive branch races, with negative ads, increased TV spending, and ads produced by special interest groups. In Alabama \$8.2 million was spent for the Chief Justice seat and 17,830 television spots were aired in total for all the Supreme Court races. In Georgia, one ad accused a candidate of being sued by his own mother and taking her money. Interest groups are now sending questionnaires to judicial candidates asking that they divulge their attitudes on contentious issues. In Alabama such a questionnaire asked candidates' opinions about issues such as if an unborn child is a human being, home schooling tax credits, gambling, voter identification, state acknowledgement of God, and same sex marriage.

Ideas which conflict with how we have experienced the world for much of our lives may make us feel threatened and when threatened people experience a fight or flight response. While some thrill seekers go out of their way to repeatedly experience ever greater rushes of adrenaline, most of us do not. When faced with a threat to our self concept we are more likely to slam the door and retreat for comfort in a bowl of mashed potatoes. No one wants to feel like a bad person, especially when he or she has worked hard to be a good person. Rethinking questions of what constitutes racism? who benefits from classism? have I been guilty of stereotyping? are difficult enough to send most of us scurrying for the meatloaf or macaroni and cheese. The trick is not to stay in the kitchen. Retreat, comfort yourself, square your shoulders and reconsider—don't slam the door and say "My prejudices, right or wrong!" and close the topic. We don't get a grade for personal growth, but there is a reward.

So, head out to a lecture, an exhibit, the library or the bookstore and continue to spiral onward. Big topics are never exhausted.

In September you might check out:

Aid workers from Doctors Without Borders will guide visitors through "**A Refugee Camp in the Heart of the City**," September 27-30, 2007, in Loring Park in Minneapolis. This exhibit, made up of actual materials used by Doctors Without Borders is free and open to the public from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. No reservations necessary for groups under 20. This is a chance to gain a better understanding of the refugee experience of the estimated 33 million people around the world who have been forced to flee their homes and live in temporary shelter. For more information visit their website at www.doctorswithoutborders.org/education/refugeecamp/home/

Fiction: Khaled Hosseini ([The Kite Runner](#)) has a new book out [A Thousand Splendid Suns](#), sure to be a good read.

[Jasmine](#), by Bharati Mukherjee offers a different twist on the life of an illegal immigrant.

Non-fiction: [Nine Parts of Desire, The Hidden World of Islamic Women](#), by Australian journalist Geraldine Brooks.

The possibilities for reading are nearly endless. I'd love to hear about your finds.

Aside from recent court decisions dictating how candidates run for judge, the courts have found themselves under attack from ballot measures that seek to alter how they function. Examples of this are measures that would set retroactive term limits, lift mandatory retirement ages so Governors can't make new appointments, enable judges to be recalled for any reason, and repeal judicial immunity.

What is the best way to choose judges who will have the qualities we want?

Updates from the Judicial Study Committee are available at www.lwvmn.org under Member Resources.

Treasurer's Report January 2007



League of Women Voters-RoMaFH Treasurer's Report August 22, 2007

Previous Checking Balance - June 27, 2007	\$1,259.33
Income:	
Dues 1 @ \$50	50.00
LWVMN Ed Fund Reimbursement (Voter)	60.20
Total Income:	\$110.20
Expenses:	
#4156 Ann Berry, Park Permit (Diversity Picnic)	80.00
#4157 LWVUS 1st Quarterly PMP Payment	596.80
Total Expenses:	\$676.80
Checking Account Balance August 22, 2007	\$692.73
Savings Account Balance July 31, 2007	\$3,858.64
Education Fund Balance July 12, 2007	\$4,963.45

League of Women Voters of Roseville,
Maplewood and Falcon Heights
Diane Nystrom
VOTER Mailing Coordinator
996 Glen Paul Court
Shoreview, MN 55126