



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

*Also serving the communities of Little Canada and Lauderdale*

# VOTER

January 2007

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

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## Conversations With Constituents

What: Our annual V.I.P. event

When: Tuesday, January 15, 2008

Where: Falcon Heights City Hall

Time: 6:30 Social Hour

7:00-8:30 Conversations

8:30 Legislative Interviews

Who: You and your representatives

Invited Guests: 2 Metropolitan Council representatives,  
5 MN representatives and 3 MN senators

What to bring: Your questions, your ears and your input  
(And your goodies)

**VIP**



Questions: contact

Florence Sprague (651) 779-0349 or

Lila Recksiedler (651) 484-7782

**Come Join the Conversation!**

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## Co-Presidents' Letter

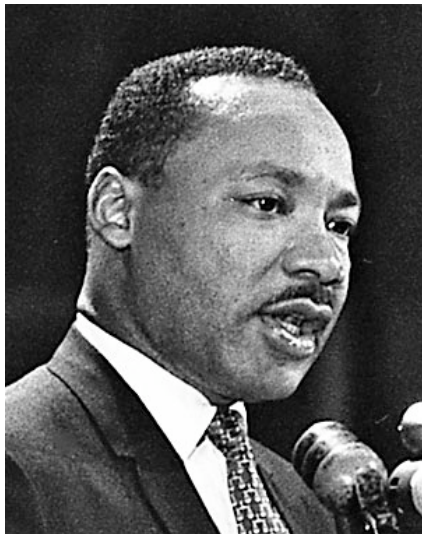
Happy New Year! Our league held a very successful Holiday Party in December. Thanks all of you that came out and thank you for the many donations to Women's Advocates. Unable to "just party" we also came to consensus on the Judiciary Study. Never let it be said that we aren't efficient!

By the time that you read this our country will have already experienced the Iowa caucus and maybe the New Hampshire primary. This is undoubtedly one of the earliest starts to a Presidential campaign that we have experienced. 2008 promises to be an action packed political year!

Our league will begin the year's activities with our VIP meeting on Jan. 15. This is a general meeting and you can find more information elsewhere in the Voter. Please join us to begin another action-packed year!

Co-Presidents  
Barb Yates  
Teri Kysylyczyn





**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**  
Monday, January 21, 2008  
Make it more than just another  
day off.

Are you looking for a good way to join others in honoring the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. this January? Consider joining others at one of the free breakfasts held at four sites in St. Paul in conjunction with the major General Mills and United Negro College Fund sponsored event at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

These breakfasts are sponsored by the St. Paul Area Council of Churches, but they are not religious events. They are free and open to the public, though reservations are required. You will share a hearty breakfast with a diverse group of people, may have a local presentation from the local charitable

## Still

**By Florence Sprague**

*"Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it." -- Thomas Paine:  
The American Crisis, No. 4, 1777*

I begin this article with the quotation above with some trepidation. While I feel that it is appropriate for the bulk of those I anticipate being the readers of this column, it is not universally appropriate. My focus here is on the second clause, overcoming fatigue, and I can easily see how many people would question that they had yet fully received the blessings of the first clause.

Black History Month may not be until February, but January, as the anniversary month of the birth of the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. seems to me to be a good time to remind ourselves that goals of the Civil Rights movement have neither been fully achieved nor fully assimilated into the attitudes of the (current) majority population. Our news is replete with examples of unfair, discriminatory, or threatening actions.

Last year a well dressed African American man was harassed, abused and questioned by the police when he happened to be in a gas station near the scene of a bank robbery, even though the reported suspects were said to be white. Black students at St. Cloud State University and the University of St. Thomas have experienced harassment and intimidation. White students at Hamline caused a furor by dressing in blackface for Halloween, claiming ignorance of the reason for offense. These are but a few of many incidents which pepper the news and damage lives.

Some say that these are the acts of a radical fringe. Perhaps some are, but not universally, and a radical fringe must be actively monitored rather than ignored. Some say that often the insult perceived was not intended. Yes, perception can vary, but perception is usually an extrapolation based on experience. The reality of that experience needs to be recognized.

You've probably seen on TV shows a time when someone attempts to comfort the wife or mother of the murder victim and says something to the effect "I'm sorry for your loss. I know how bad you must feel," only to be met with an angry reply. "No, you can't know how I feel. This hasn't happened to you." Have you felt the affront of discrimination? Have you been unjustly targeted? Probably not. Perhaps you have been offended by

organization selected to receive the free will donation and see a large screen broadcast of the keynote speech from the convention center. This year's keynote speaker is Tavis Smiley, Public Television talk show host and author.

In past years this has been followed by a rally at St. Paul Central High School and a march down the street to Concordia University where there were speeches at Gangelhoff Center. I have not located information about this year's rally yet.

Breakfast 7:00-9:00 (or 9:30) a.m.

Locations for the January 21, 2008 breakfasts include:

Downtown: First Baptist Church, 499 Wacouta

Eastside: St. Pascal Baylon Catholic Church, 1757 Conway St.

Westside: Augustana Lutheran Church, 1400 S. Robert St.

Summit University: House of Hope Presbyterian Church, 797 Summit Ave.

Reservations can be made from Dec. 27, 2007 through January 15, 2008.

Online: [spacc.org](http://spacc.org)

Phone: (651) 789-3877

I (Florence) usually go to the eastside event, if you don't want to go alone.

jokes about women which men have insisted were innocent.

Start there and build.

Forty years have passed and entire generations have grown up since the height of the Civil Rights movement and the riots and marches of the 1960s. Opportunities for African Americans have increased, college attendance is up, the number of black elected officials is up, and participation in the professions is up, but too many black Americans still live in poverty, go to prison, don't get an education, and feel deeply disaffected and fearful of the dominant community.

Now is not the time to look the other way. Now is not the time to feel fatigue. Now is the time to reach out, to talk and listen. Open doors and windows. Seek opportunities to quash disparate treatment. Speak up when you hear prejudice.

At the League of Women Voters sponsored summit for cross-cultural dialogues last spring I was saddened to hear a young immigrant woman from Africa learning the same lessons of fear that African Americans learn. Fear the police. If you are stopped, don't get out of your car, don't reach for anything, keep your hands on the wheel, and don't try to explain too much. I didn't have to grow up fearing the police, did you? I would be embarrassed to be stopped, but not afraid.

This same young woman noted that she and her friends were acutely aware that in some stores they were watched with suspicion when they shopped and not treated with the same respect as other customers. Every stereotype has its roots in a limited truth. A store may have caught a Black shoplifter, but have they never had a White shoplifter? Of course they have.

We all benefit when society is fair. We must all work to ensure fairness. And those of us who benefit first need to work the hardest to extend the benefits to the rest. So look around you. Where can you contribute? Can you speak to the store clerk in defense of a teen? Can you write letters to the newspaper and your elected officials? Can you volunteer to tutor a student? Start with yourself. Monitor your own attitudes and behavior. Then work out into the community.

Tired just doesn't cut it when you already have it made.

# League of Women Voters-RoMaFH

Treasurer's Report - November 28, 2007



Previous Checking Balance – October 24, 2007 \$424.47

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## Income:

Box Lunch Reimbursements-LWV Workshop	\$110.00	
Dues 3 @ \$50	150.00	
Total Income:		<u>\$260.00</u>

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## Expenses:

#4166 - (Joan Stark) Finance Comm. Mailing Postage	\$14.76	
#4167 - (Florence Sprague) Major's Meeting Room Chg.	22.62	
#4168 - (Diane Nystrom) Voter Printing and Mailing	97.56	
Total Expenses:		<u>\$134.94</u>

Checking Account Balance November 28, 2007 \$549.53

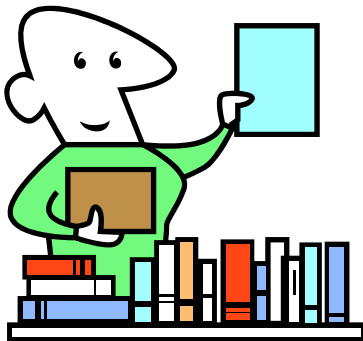
Savings Account Balance October 31, 2007 \$3,866.42

Education Fund Balance November 8, 2007 \$5,225. 95

## BOOK SALE BOOK SALE BOOK SALE

**SAVE THE DATE:  
BOOK SALE APRIL  
20<sup>TH</sup>**

We are already leaping ahead into 2008!! This pun IS intended - 2008 is LEAP YEAR!! Please leap ahead to April on your calendar and mark the 20th for the monumental LWV BOOK SALE. As in the past, it will be held at Fairview Community Center jointly with the Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast.



It's NOT TOO EARLY to start saving items for our Book Sale. As you reorganize after the holidays, start a box or bag for LWV items. Besides books, we also need magazines, CDs and DVDs, videos, cassettes, games and puzzles of all kinds. Georgiana Sobola has again generously offered to store everything at her home, at 1961 Hamline Avenue. Call her at 651-644-3337 before you bring items, to make sure it's convenient for her.

The Book Sale last year was a HUGE success! We made more in sales than ever before, and we had more than 30 members and several husbands helping us. So this coming year we are hoping for a MONUMENTAL success! And we can do it, with lots of books and many helping hands.

Joyce Blomquist (651-631-0688), Nancy Irsfeld (651-633-4741),  
co-chairs 2008 LWV Book Sale

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