

The Voter

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

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Who:

League member Karen Schaffer

What:

CMAL history and issues

Where and when:

March 17: Little Venetian Restaurant, 2900 Rice St., Little Canada. 5:30 p.m. social hour; program at 7 p.m.

March 18: Resurrection Lutheran Church, 910 County Rd. D, Roseville, 9:30 a.m.

We're on the Web!

www.romafh.org

And Facebook!

www.facebook.com/romafh.lwv

March unit meetings will focus on Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues

Metro issues are front and center at the Legislature this session, says League member Karen Schaffer. She will present recent developments on issues involving the Metropolitan Council and how our League regional watchdog group, the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL) is keeping League members and the public informed at the League's March 17-18 unit meetings. Current issues concern transportation, including transit, regional parks, housing, water and sewer and the structure of the Metropolitan Council itself.

CMAL was established in the 1960s at the same time that the Metropolitan Council was established by the Minnesota Legislature. Schaffer will present some history of the Metropolitan Council and CMAL as well as information about current developments.



Karen Schaffer

The March 17 meeting will be at the Little Venetian Restaurant, 2900 Rice Street, Little Canada. A social hour will begin at 5:30 p.m.; the program will begin at 7 p.m. The March 18 meeting will be at 9:30 a.m. at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 910 County Road D, in Roseville. **Call Stephanie DeBenedet at 651-483-1006 by March 16 if you plan to attend the March 17 meeting.**

Annual meeting set for May 5

The annual meeting of the Roseville-Maplewood-Falcon Heights chapter of the League of Women Voters is set for May 5 at Falcon Heights City Hall. A social hour will begin at 5 p.m. and dinner at 6 p.m. The business meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

The report of the ROMAFH Nominating Committee is printed on page 6 of this issue; the proposed budget on page 7.

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Be thankful we have the freedom to speak out



In the US, we have the freedom to speak out on public issues. Our national, state and local Leagues study issues and sometimes decide on a position. We then can speak out and try to influence public policy.

I sometimes forget that this right was hard-won and not true everywhere.

Our guides on a trip to Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia were open about their countries' histories and shared stories about their own lives. But when it came to government or politics, they were careful to say that wasn't something that it was very safe or smart for them to talk about.

Our guide in Cambodia said people did not read much and just watched television for escapism. When we asked about TV news, he said stations there mostly covered traffic accidents. He said any station that tried to air a story about government was quickly shut down. He said there were elections but candidates really just moved from one job to another.

I'm going to try to remember to exercise my right to study issues and then to speak out on them, and I encourage my fellow League members to do the same.

Invite your friends to join League now!

Now is the time to renew your League membership. Our membership year begins April 1. This year the membership committee has a special incentive for members who pay their dues on time – a drawing for door prizes at the May 5 annual meeting.

Also, be sure to invite friends and neighbors to visit League meetings and to join. Thanks to so many of you who have been doing just that.

Stephanie DeBenedet and Mindy Greiling, co-chairs

Membership Committee

Yes! I want to join today! My check is enclosed,

Name _____

Address _____

E-Mail _____

Phone _____

Member Categories

\$45	New Member
\$60	Individual
\$90	Household
\$30	Low Income

Make check payable to ROMAFH. Mail to Stephanie DeBenedet, 808 Millwood Ave., Roseville, MN 55113.

At the Core

By Florence Sprague

Sometimes when I listen to the news on the radio or read the newspaper I am filled with despair. The depths and duration of trauma and crises are so great—recession, terrorism, epidemics, bigotry, gun violence, anti-abortion, anti-women, anti-this-that and the other violence. Extremists to the left and right, for one religion or philosophy or another. Everywhere you look you see human greed and the lust for power. Cyberbullying, sexting, predators haunting social media and uncontrolled technology magnifying human foibles and meanness. Our natural world is hyper-stressed by environmental degradation, global climate change, water pollution and water shortages. It all all seems to say that we have unleashed forces that are bringing out the worst of human nature and empowering it and that we are at risk of a multi-faceted downward spiral. Just when we have the greatest ability to reach one another electronically we seem to have the least actual communication and understanding.

Down yet?

Once again I wish that I were a more knowledgeable historian. The world has gone through troubled times in the past and ultimately emerged, not unscathed, but able to function with greater decency and having learned some things about itself. But it doesn't take a very deep knowledge of history to see that these swings from troubles to recovery cover at least decades and generations, not months or years; no short term optimism is encouraged there. The place where I can find a smidgen of not very immediate hope is in the core, the best kernel, within most major philosophies influential today. We have to wait for these who hold these cores dear to arise and overcome the negative forces.

For example, within Christianity lie the concepts of beating your swords into plowshares, turning the other cheek, blessed are the peacemakers, feed and clothe the poor, love your neighbor. Are these the precepts by which historically dominantly Christian peoples are operating? Hmm.

Islam is also a religion of peace and respect at its core and one of the five pillars of Islam, zakat, is the giving of alms to the poor. Communism contains the familiar-from each according to their abilities, to each according to their need concept. I have heard that most major world religions contain a version of the principle that people need to treat others as you would like to be treated. Judaism, Hinduism, capitalism, and more, all have elements of goodness and kindness. But all religions and philosophies also seem subject to interpretations which are less noble, more human and highly destructive. We need those who value the positive core to speak and work to make that positive value, the powerful, rewarding and dominant facet of that belief system, whether a religion or political/economic philosophy, to enable us to become our better selves and regulate our societies for the greater good.

I used to wonder why the Sunni and Shia fought and killed one another. After all, they are all Muslim. But then I recognized the parallels to Northern Ireland where Protestants and Catholics did just that for decades. In Ireland Americans are more likely to be able to see the historical roots of that conflict in colonialism, class bigotry, job and education discrimination, and other factors, because we are more familiar with the history and the culture and the language and the religions. The conflict in Ireland had less to do with religion than with all of these other factors often done in the name of religion and belief. These factors appear around the world. Then add all of the economic and social dislocation that so many experience and...



(Continued on page 4)

ROMAFH's work on organized trash collection continues



Several of our League members have been meeting this past year to work on strategies to promote organized trash collection in Roseville. (For those of you new to the League, organized trash collection means the city contracts with one hauler or several to collect our trash, just as it contracts to have recycling collected from residences.) Our local league has supported action for recycling and organized trash collection since 1985. Curbside recycling has been in place for many years. All of us can quickly think of its benefits.

Kudos to Maplewood. There an organized trash collection system has been in place for two years. During the first year the contract was in place, over 8,000 tons were processed to produce energy. More recently, St Anthony has also developed an organized trash collection system.

Minnesota state legislation to make it easier for a city to implement an organized trash collection passed in 2013. This has provided a good reason for our League to focus on this again. A small committee of our League has done research on reasons to support organized trash collection. Some of what we have learned has been incorporated in letters you have probably seen in the Roseville Review. Our president, June Stewart, has recently sent a letter to the Roseville City Council asking them to move forward and vote on this issue.

Such a contract for trash would require that the trash go to a resource recovery facility, presumably the one in Newport. The trash that now goes to the resource recovery facility in Newport, when converted to energy, supplies the energy needs of over 22,000 homes a year.

-by Donna Peterson

TOUR OF RESOURCE RECOVERY FACILITY IN NEWPORT

A tour has been set up for May 13 at 10 am at the facility in Newport. Donna Peterson needs to confirm this with a specific number by March 18. The tour will be 45 minutes and requires the ability to climb two business flights of stairs. Everyone on the tour needs to be able to manage the stairs as there is no place to sit or wait. And no children five and under are allowed. We will plan to carpool from the Roseville Oval. If you can go, please RSVP to Peterson at peter080@umn.edu or by phone at 651-633-0923 by **March 18**.

Windows and Mirrors

(Continued from page 3)

We decry violence done today in the name of Islam, but we know of the Crusades, the Inquisition, the Holocaust, genocide of Native Americans, and slavery (in North America and elsewhere). People do violence in the name of lots of ideologies, but also for very human reasons. Religion and politics feed on and support one another and when lower traits of either or both is in ascendancy—disaster.

To address racism, or religious intolerance, or economic inequity we need education not threats. So please, focus on the core good in whatever you believe and keep nudging the world in the more positive direction. We need the pendulum back in the center.

Editor's note: Florence Sprague is a member of the Roseville-Maplewood-Falcon Heights chapter of the League.

"Windows and Mirrors for All" has been a regular column in the Voter since 2004. The title is derived from an essay by Emily Style, "Curriculum as Window and Mirror," found in Seeding the Process of Multicultural Education. Style states that "education needs to enable the student to look through window frames in order to see the realities of others and into mirrors in order to see her/his own reality reflected." People of all ages need both mirrors and windows with which to view the world, but too often we only have mirrors.



Ryan O'Connor and Mary Jo McGuire

At February unit meetings:

McGuire, O'Connor outline challenges facing Ramsey County in the coming decades

Ramsey County Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire, a member of the county's policy and planning team and Ryan O'Connor, policy and planning director, discussed the county's plan to eliminate concentrated areas of poverty at February League unit meetings. "Our county has the highest number of poverty concentrations in Minnesota," O'Connor stated. Ramsey County is working multi-jurisdictionally with a three-pronged approach.

First, a big challenge is to eliminate disparities in education and training in our dense, racially diverse population. Ramsey County is already as diverse as the entire seven-county metro area is projected to be in 2030. We have fewer people with high school degrees which leads to disinvestment; people have to work two or three jobs, making them less available to participate in the community, which affects all outcomes. This is not just an urban issue. One hundred percent of the growth in poverty over the last ten years has been in the suburbs.

Second, we're the odd man out in having only five percent of the region's land, but 20 percent of the population. Our land is highly developed and heavy on non-taxable land and residential use, so we must change the way we develop the development-able land we do have, e.g., the cleaned up land in Arden Hills and at the old Ford plant site. We need to think commercial industrial taxable land. We also need to recognize that putting affordable housing in impoverished areas will not help address concentrations of poverty. "This isn't rocket science," O'Connor quipped.

Third, we are one of two major employment centers in our region and have the highest density of jobs per square mile. We must use this fact to promote transit, connecting workers with jobs. Fifty percent of the people who ride the bus are 100 percent transit dependent, which impacts things like who can work overtime.

Both McGuire and O'Connor stressed that we're in a better place than we've ever been in terms of engaging our communities on transit. O'Connor, however, said, "We've never gotten out of our own way," regarding transit. "Our biggest challenge is to convince the east metro legislative delegation to be for transit."

"We all need to speak loud and clear to keep this conversation going. We've made over 200 presentations - to every city council and school board in the county, plus to churches and community groups. We at the county level can't do this alone. Help us spread the word," McGuire concluded.

By Mindy Greiling
(Photo by Gladys Jones)

League hosts "A Home for Everyone" program March 21

The League of Women Voters, through the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues, will host a presentation entitled "A Home for Everyone: the Future of Metropolitan Area Housing" on March 21 at the Brookdale Library, 6125 Shingle Creek Parkway, Brooklyn Center. The event will be from 10 a.m. until noon.

Panelists will be Columbia Heights Community Development Director Joe Hogeboom; Brooklyn Park Planning Director Cindy Sherman and Tara Bead, housing policy analyst at the Metropolitan Council. Beard will present information about the Council's proposed 2040 Housing Policy Plan.

The event is free and open to the public.

Nominations Committee recommends June Stewart for fourth term



The Nominations Committee has recommended June Stewart for a fourth one-year term as RoMaFH president. Bonnie Koch has been recommended for a second term as vice president. Members will vote on the positions as well as other officers, board members, and members serving in other leadership positions at the annual meeting May 5 at Falcon Heights City Hall. Other officers recommended are: Marge Stanwood, secretary; Teri MacNabb, treasurer; Shirley Bradway and Beth Salzl, to share the position of administrative assistant. Other board positions recommended are Stephanie DeBenedet and Mindy Greiling, co-chairs of the Membership Committee; Teri MacNabb, Program/VIP; Gwen Willems, public relations; Judy Berglund, Voter editor; Linda McLoon and Cecelia Warner, Voter Services; Jim DeBenedet and Kim Zaiman, Web site.

Other leadership positions recommended by the committee:
Action: Jim DeBenedet and Gladys Jones

- Annual meeting: Joyce Blomquist
- Budget: Mary Ann Palmer
- CMAL: Karen Schaffer
- Finance Committee: Joyce Briggs, Faith O'Neill and Joan Stark
- Gavel Club: June Stewart
- Membership Committee: Judy Berglund, Mary Duddleston, Beth Salzl and Jo Waldron
- Nominations Committee: Mary Jo Rourke, chair, Mary Duddleston, Jackie Hays and Florence Sprague
- Program Committee: Carolyn Cushing, Carrie Dickson, Mindy Greiling, Ann Haugan, Kathy Juenemann, Diana Menanteau
- Data: Karen Gill-Gerbig
- Membership Directory: Dawn Mathers
- Voter Service Committee: Judy Stuthman
- Voter Registration: Rochelle Peleska
- Voter (newsletter) Distribution: Mary Jo Rourke

Our program is airing on Cable TV

Veteran League members and those who have joined the League in recent years explain the benefits of membership in two programs that are currently airing on cable TV.

Membership Committee members Mindy Greiling and Judy Berglund worked with CTV Executive Director Coralie Wilson and CTV volunteers Maureen Anderson, Lynn Redinger and John Rusterholz to record the programs, which began airing in early March.

Veteran members featured in Program 1 are Carolyn Cushing, Mary Ann Palmer, Georgeann Hall, Ann Berry, Judy Stuthman and Mary Duddleston.

New members featured on program 2 are Beth Salzl, Peter Lindstrom and Kaying Thao.

The schedule, subject to change, is at right.

Part 1	Part 2
3/10/2015 at 5:56 AM	3/10/2015 at 6:29 AM
3/10/2015 at 1:56 PM	3/10/2015 at 2:29 PM
3/11/2015 at 4:00 PM	3/11/2015 at 4:32 PM
3/12/2015 at 12:00 AM	3/12/2015 at 12:32 AM
3/12/2015 at 8:00 AM	3/12/2015 at 8:32 AM
3/14/2015 at 8:00 PM	3/14/2015 at 8:32 PM
3/15/2015 at 6:00 AM	3/15/2015 at 6:32 AM
3/15/2015 at 1:00 PM	3/15/2015 at 1:32 PM

LWV RoMaFH 2015-2016 Proposed Budget

	Budget 2014-2015	YTD March 2014-2015	Proposed Budget 2015-2016
INCOME:			
Dues (93 pd members/\$60 dues)	4,600.00	3,885.00	5,580.00
Contributions (unrestricted)	2,000.00	2,510.00	2,500.00
Annual Meeting	0.00		600.00
Misc., Incl. Voter Service Grants	250.00		0.00
Holiday Dinner	450.00	536.50	600.00
Reserves	1,341.00		228.00
Combine savings into checking		2,421.34	
Education Fund payout		9,090.21	
In Kind	0.00	40.00	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	8,641.00	18,483.05	9,508.00
EXPENSES:			
Program Division			
Program	100.00		100.00
CMAL Meeting	0.00		0.00
Community Relations Division			
Public Relations/Advertising	25.00		25.00
Publication Purchases	100.00		100.00
Finance Committee	100.00	194.38	250.00
Voter Service/Citizen Info	50.00		50.00
Memoir Book		3,917.50	
Organization Division			
Printing	450.00	297.65	450.00
Voter Mailing	100.00		50.00
Membership	150.00	1,383.59	300.00
Unit Meetings	Incl. in program		Incl. in program
Annual Meeting (food/booklet)	Incl. in Printing		Incl. in Printing
Catering	Incl. in other areas		Incl. in other areas
Publishing/Printing/Misc.	Incl. in Printing		Incl. in Printing
Membership Directory	Incl. in Printing		Incl. in Printing
Board Expense			
President/Vice President	25.00		25.00
Secretary	25.00		25.00
Treasurer	25.00	365.90	25.00
Board Expense	100.00		100.00
Facility Honorarium	150.00	200.00	200.00
Delegate, Travel, Affiliation			
Delegates, Convention, Workshop	2,500.00	1,928.88	1,500.00
Miscellaneous			
Recognitions and Remembrances	100.00		100.00
Other Club Dues (Gavel Club)	15.00	15.00	15.00
Holiday Dinner	450.00	672.00	600.00
Annual Meeting		71.79	600.00
Miscellaneous	150.00		150.00
Website	100.00		100.00
In Kind	0.00	40.00	0.00
Per Member Payments			
PMP National (\$30.00/93 members)	2,280.00	2,216.50	2,790.00
PMP State (\$20.00/93 members)	1,520.00	1,358.50	1,860.00
CMAL Dues (\$1.00/93 members)	76.00	52.10	93.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	8,591.00	12,713.79	9,508.00



**League of Women
Voters, Roseville,
Maplewood, Falcon
Heights**

**Judy Berglund, editor
2075 Farrington St.
Roseville, MN 55113**

Calendar

March 2015

17-18 Unit Meetings: Karen Schaffer will focus on the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL) park plan.

25 Board meeting

April, 2015

21-22 Unit Meetings. Professor Myron Orfield,, director of the Institute on Metropolitan Opportunity and Professor of Law at the University of Minnesota, will discuss the current state of segregation/ integration in metropolitan schools.



The Roseville-Maplewood-Falcon Heights chapter of the League of Women Voters offers members the choice of evening or morning meetings, called “unit meetings” in February, March and April of 2015. Evening meetings are on the third Tuesday of the month at Little Venetian Restaurant, 2900 Rice Street, Little Canada. A social hour and dinner begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by a meeting at 7 p.m. Day unit meetings begin at 9:30 a.m. at Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, 910 W. County Rd. D, Roseville.