

The Voter

The official publication of the League of Women Voters of Roseville Area
FALCON HEIGHTS, LAUDERDALE, LITTLE CANADA, MAPLEWOOD, ROSEVILLE

Volume 63, Number 6
March 2018



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Find us on our website and other social media sites!

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www.lwvrosevillearea.org

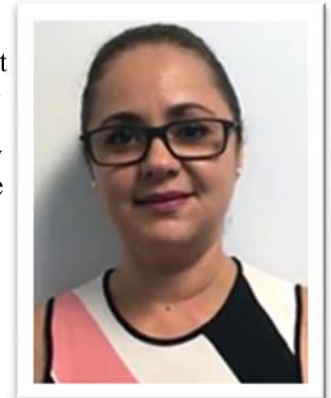
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Redistricting, Democracy, and the Census

What is redistricting and how does it affect me? How does it impact democracy? Will Minnesota lose a congressional district in the upcoming 2020 census? Speaker Anastacia Belladonna-Carrera, Executive Director of Common Cause Minnesota will address these questions and more at a program co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters (LWV) of Roseville Area and the Roseville Public Library on Tuesday, March 20th, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m., in the Roseville Public Library Community Room, 2180 Hamline Ave. N., Roseville.



Anastacia Belladonna-Carrera

Concerned that gerrymandering undermines representative democracy by allowing officials to select their voters rather than voters electing their officials, LWVUS adopted a redistricting position through concurrence at the 2016 national convention. It states in part, "The League of Women Voters believes responsibility for redistricting preferably should be vested in an independent special commission, with membership that reflects the diversity of the unit of government, including citizens at large, representatives of public interest groups, and members of minority groups."

Redistricting reform was a priority of LWVUS in the 2017 legislative session. We advocated against a provision in the Government Finance Bill that would have prevented the legislature from appointing a redistricting commission of non-legislators and testified in support of bills that would have the legislature appoint a nonpartisan advisory redistricting commission.

Using the League position, LWVUS and various state leagues have rallied, worked with coalitions to encourage non-partisan state redistricting processes, and engaged in litigation through amicus briefs and their own lawsuits. If you would like to learn about the full position statement and background, view <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/book/election-process>.

There will be no Wednesday morning sessions showing a recording of the meetings in March or April. The meetings will be recorded and available on our website.

Viewing/Discussion of U.S. Healthcare Documentary

The Roseville Area Advocates for Minnesota Health Plan will host a viewing of the documentary "Fix It: Healthcare at the Tipping Point" on March 8. The hour-long film makes a business case for major health care reform. League member Mindy Greiling will lead discussion afterwards. LWVUS's health care position includes support of the single-payer approach. The event will take place at 6:30 p.m. at the Roseville Public Library, 2180 Hamline Ave. N., Roseville.

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Democracy is not a spectator sport. Tag! You're it!

When I initially saw this sign, I continued scrolling, thinking, "Cute!" However, I went back to ponder the reality of the message and soon felt the pangs of personal guilt. Too easily I justify my inactivity as time-based, however, LWV provides ample opportunities to "Think Global...Act Local." Our foremothers quickly realized that they were not going to automatically get that right to vote and subsequently the right to have some control over their lives in the legislatures without action at the grassroots level.

Opportunities abound for all of us as will be noted in future "Help Wanted" sections of *The Voter* and League emails.

- **Observer Corps:** Take advantage of single opportunities to sit in on meetings held by school board and city-elected officials while watching for opportunities for League input using out positions. (Read the Nancy Bruggeman interview on [page 6](#) of this newsletter.)
- **Candidate Forums:** Attend training and learn how candidate forums are run. (Read Linda McLoon's article on [page 4](#) of this newsletter with further explanation on the League website (<http://lwvrosevillearea.org/content/how-run-successful-candidate-forum-linda-mcloon>.)
- **Leadership:** Attend the LWV State Council meeting (see <https://lwvmn.org/news-events/lwv-minnesota-council-2018> for details) or a LWV national convention (see <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/countdown-convention-2018> for details).
- **Voter Registration:** Register new voters at citizenship ceremonies throughout the Twin Cities metro area.

If it all seems very overwhelming, I suggest starting out by studying the websites of our local league (<http://www.lwvrosevillearea.org>), state league (<https://www.lwvmn.org>), and national league (<https://www.lwv.org>) levels to get a feel for how League can assist you in becoming more active in the democratic process.



Rita Mills

Special Offer: State LWV Council and LWV National Convention Registration Fee Assistance

The LWV of Roseville Area Board approved monies to assist in registration fees at the State LWV Council meeting to be held in St. Cloud on April 28 (<https://lwvmn.org/news-events/lwv-minnesota-council-2018>) and the LWV National Convention to be held in Chicago on June 28 – July 1 (<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/countdown-convention-2018>). Both are wonderful opportunities to meet and interact with like-minded people and observe and be part of LWV policy-making decisions, thus becoming more involved in leadership. Please email League President Rita Mills or other League Board members at lwvrosevillearea@lwvmn.org if you are interested in this offer. We will continue to remind you of this opportunity to be more than a spectator!

Attitude

By Florence Sprague

The most disabling thing in our lives is the thing we can do the most about: our attitude.

–Jeff Smith, aka Amazing Jeffo, blind magician

You may have seen the athletic wear t-shirts exhorting the wearer to get “attitude” so as to be a winner. We always have an attitude. It can be good or bad, positive or negative, kind or cruel, but we always have an attitude.

Everyone faces challenges. Some are physical and more obvious than others, but as advice columnist, Amy Dickinson, has noted, “Life does not evenly distribute its hardships and joys, and so you should stop keeping score.” We all have challenges and can hopefully seek support and guidance in working through them and respect the choices others make in dealing with theirs.

Being gifted with a strong body and a clear and able mind can be a type of disability. It lulls one into complacency and dulls one’s creativity because the world is set up for those able of body and mind. But if you are seeking a dose of inspiration look to the phenomenal accomplishments of so many people with major physical disabilities, some congenital and others due to the traumas of war or accident. Where the able-bodied might think, “How could I go on without my ___?” Those who have lost their ___ often think, “How can I optimize my use of what I have and adapt activities and equipment to open up opportunities?” You need go no further than the 2017 British Arrow Awards Commercial of the Year promoting the 2016 Paralympics for a jaw-dropping collection of accomplishments. View the commercial here: <https://www.britisharrows.com/british-arrows-2017/winners/award/special/were-the-superhumans-2017-commercial-of-the-year/>. Physical disability doesn’t stop these athletes, musicians, and performers. They have the will, the attitude, to find a way.

Bias, pro or con, is an attitude. Being open to humor in any situation is an attitude. Creatively seeking solutions is an attitude. Fear creates an attitude. What attitude do you have? What one would you like to have?

Our attitudes can limit or disable us on a daily basis. For example we may:

- Not try new experiences because we fear looking foolish.
- Miss out on knowing wonderful people just because they are not just like us.
- Sell ourselves short and give up dreams when faced with a roadblock.
- Discriminate against others and miss out on their talents and contributions.
- Perpetuate unfounded stereotypes or just not step up to break the cycle.
- Suffer despair and depression alone because we think we are flawed or not worth help.
- Isolate others and fail to help them overcome mental illness or addiction because we judge them.
- Be uncooperative and unsympathetic as we try to get our fair share of things.

We can disable ourselves and our communities through our attitude.

Life can get you down. We all need a helping hand from time to time. Don’t be afraid to seek the help you need and may your attitude be with you and not against you.



LWV of Roseville Area: Help Wanted

Moderator Training – Moderators are needed for candidate forums. Anyone interested should contact Karen Lake, Voter Services director, at karen.r.lake@comcast.net if you’re interested in attending moderator training. Training will take place on Saturday, March 24, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., in the Women’s Building at 550 Rice Street, St. Paul.

League Police Study Recommendation Realized

By **Bonnie Koch**

Four of our five local police departments have begun collecting more data, one of the important recommendations from League's recent police study. In the 2015-2016 year, League interviewed Maplewood, Roseville, and St. Anthony Village Chiefs and the Ramsey County Sheriff and found that race and ethnic information were not recorded in the statewide uniform traffic citation system. At the local level, this meant there was no way to track patterns in traffic stops and stop and searches as they related to race unless a search was done in digital files.



In January 2017, all Ramsey County agencies that use dispatch services through the Ramsey County Emergency Communication Center began voluntarily collecting data on every traffic stop. Agencies include the Maplewood and Roseville Police Departments as well as the Ramsey County Sheriff that contracts with Little Canada. As of January 1, 2018, Falcon Heights switched contracts from St. Anthony Village to the Ramsey County Sheriff so the city is now also collecting data. Lauderdale continues to contract with the St. Anthony Village Police Department.

Traffic stop data includes perceived race and gender of the driver, whether driver and/or vehicle was searched, reason for the stop, and if the driver was warned or cited.

Maplewood and Roseville Police Departments have also prioritized publishing annual traffic stop data on their websites complete with charts showing population demographics as well as stop information. Maplewood's data can be found at: <http://www.ci.maplewood.mn.us/460/Police>. Click on "Analysis of 2017 Enforcement Action" and scroll down to Traffic Stop Information on page 25. Roseville data can be found at <https://www.cityofroseville.com/17/Police>. Click on 2017 Traffic Data Report. Additionally, in a recently released posting, the Roseville Police Department announced that it is partnering with Hamline University to analyze the data collected.

The League police study also supported diversity training for all officers and effective crisis intervention training for mental health crises and domestic abuse. We recommended advocacy by LWVMN for additional monies for training, mental health facilities, and community services. Since then, the League has presented our findings to other local Leagues, participated in a panel discussion on Models for Community Policing, and advocated with state representatives and senators representing our area for support of a bill for additional funding in the last legislative session. See the Event Calendar on [page 7](#) for more information on the Imagine Roseville community discussion with the Roseville Police Department regarding the traffic stop initiative on March 14.

How to Run a Successful Candidate Forum

By **Linda K. McLoon** (adapted from a longer article available at <http://lwvrosevillearea.org/content/how-run-successful-candidate-forum-linda-mcloon>)

The motivation for a candidate forum is to provide the public a chance to meet candidates, face to face, and hear their answers to questions about issues that are important to the public. This requires several things to fall into place: the agreement of candidates to participate, a sufficient audience to generate relevant questions, and a good moderator.

The first item on the agenda is for the Voter Services Committee to determine which entities are holding elections, and after the filing deadlines for each race, identify the candidates. Next you need to pick a day, time, and venue for the candidate forum. It is best held in a facility, such as city council chambers, with sufficient seating and where the forum can be recorded easily by the local cable company. The other critical piece is securing a trained moderator who does not live in the jurisdiction of that particular race. The moderator ensures that the candidates follow forum rules and sets the pace and tone of the forum. In addition, a good moderator makes sure that the questions asked allow the voter to differentiate the candidates from one another, so that they can make an informed decision about how to vote.

The next step after venue, date, and time is to invite the candidates. This can be done by direct mail or the internet. One also needs to send them the forum rules and a response form for indicating their attendance. It is often necessary to do follow-up phone calls to ensure that you have heard from all the candidates. Current League policy is that forums do not require 100% candidate participation. It is important that you let the candidates know this. Once the logistics have been decided, the Voter Services Committee has the responsibility for spreading the word. You cannot advertise the event too much. It is very disconcerting for the candidates when there is a small audience.

The final responsibility is the candidate forum itself; it is important to have a checklist. You need volunteers to staff the forum: a moderator, individuals to hand out index cards and collect questions, a person to sort questions and get them to the moderator, and you need a person to time. Our League has nice LWV signage, which we put in strategic locations. It is worth the investment, as it gives a more professional look to the candidate forum.

The candidate forum is a critical event for many voters. More than ever, the public needs to have information about what candidates really think, how they will vote on specific issues that matter to the community, and how they will interact and respond to their constituents. These candidate forums do a tremendous public service for our communities and can make a substantive difference in the voting decisions community members ultimately make on Election Day.

February Meeting: Five Cities' Comprehensive Plan Updates

By Barb Anderson

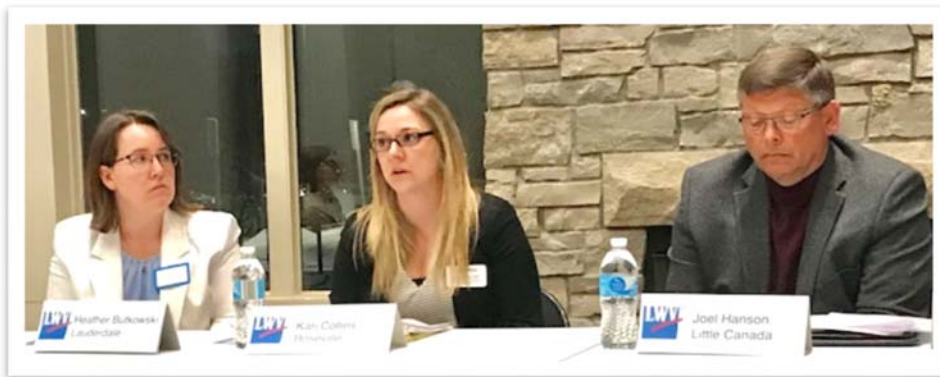
Although our five League cities are all in different developmental stages of their Comprehensive Plans, panelists at the Feb. 20 League panel presented many similarities in their city's goals for affordable housing. Speaking on behalf of their cities were Heather Butkowski, City Administrator from Lauderdale; Kari Collins, Community Development Director in Roseville; Joel Hanson, City Administrator of Little Canada; and DuWayne Konewko, Environmental and Economic Development director in Maplewood. The city of Falcon Heights was not represented.

All representatives emphasized a goal of preserving and enhancing current housing stock, including affordable housing. They said that they are not approaching this Comprehensive Plan as a mere demographic update, but as an opportunity to focus on the development of affordable housing when possible. One obstacle the representatives found to be difficult to overcome is misperceptions of neighbors that affordable housing brings safety and social problems. All representatives agreed on the difficulty in providing 3+ bedroom housing units for larger families and in finding funding partners and fiscal agents to meet the goals set by the Metropolitan Council to increase affordable housing.

To learn more about each city's Comprehensive Plan, or to provide input, go to each city's dedicated website.

- Falcon Heights: [Falcon Heights Comprehensive Plan](#)
- Lauderdale: [Lauderdale Comprehensive Plan](#)
- Little Canada: [Little Canada Comprehensive Plan](#)
- Maplewood: [Maplewood Comprehensive Plan](#)
- Roseville: [Roseville Comprehensive Plan](#)

The full video of the discussion can be found on the LWV Roseville Area [YouTube channel](#). The video of the meeting is split into two parts.



Heather Butkowski (Lauderdale), Kari Collins (Roseville), Joel Hanson (Little Canada), DuWayne Konewko (Maplewood)
(photos by Gladys Jones)

Conversations with Constituents Video Feature on CTV

CTV15 created a short video for the January 29 North Suburban Beat covering the Conversations with Constituents League event from January 20, 2018. The feature includes video of the event and interviews with some of the representatives who attended the meeting.

Watch the video at <https://vimeo.com/253335672>. The feature on the League event begins at the 6:57 mark.

League Member Interview: Thinking Globally, Acting Locally

New League member, Nancy Bruggeman, attended the September Observer Corps training organized by Mindy Greiling and Gladys Jones (Action Team chairs) and has become a faithful observer.

Nancy, what made you interested in joining the League of Women Voters?

Shortly after moving to Roseville in January of 2017, I attended a couple of LWV meetings that were advertised in our local newspaper. I joined the Roseville Area chapter shortly thereafter. Many years ago, after college, I was a League member and enjoyed meeting others who were interested in politics, civic issues, and efforts to preserve democracy. This time, participating in voter registration motivated me to become involved.

What inspired you to become involved in observing as part of our League?

The concept of the Observer Corp appealed to me, and after attending the training in September 2017, I committed to observing the ISD 623 Roseville Area School Board meetings. Observing provides an opportunity for one to become knowledgeable about issues, policies, and procedures the local governing body implements. Attending the meeting puts the decision makers on notice that there are citizens watching, which, I think, encourages accountability and transparency on the part of the elected officials.



Why did you chose to observe the school board?

I wanted to become familiar with my community. Having been a member of a LWV chapter in the past, I knew this organization would provide those opportunities. As a grandparent of a student attending Parkview Center School, I wanted to learn more about the school district, especially in view of a \$144 million school bond referendum proposed for November 2017.

What has been the most surprising or most interesting about the meetings you have attended?

Most surprising has been the lack of citizen attendance; generally I am the only person attending a meeting who is not slated to address an agenda item or who is a member of the school district administration. The meetings are webcast so this may account for lack of physical attendance by citizens, but it definitely underscores the importance of having a LWV observer presence. Most interesting is how transparent I find the board and how thoughtfully they discuss issues. The online meeting packets are filled with detailed documents, fully accessible by the public. There is also time given at each meeting for public comment and civil discourse is encouraged.

Do you have any recommendations for other League members who might be interested in this action/activity?

Learn more about the Observer Corps on-line at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B5iBaEqQQFUBOFNTbUFnOVZoQUU/view>.

Choose a board of interest and go for it! Attending the meetings is much more interesting than watching the webcast. The meetings are a great source of the information to become an informed citizen. Also, attending the meetings provides one an opportunity to meet the elected officials and decision makers. There is a reporting form available which makes reporting on the meeting very streamlined. Find it on the League website at <http://www.lwvrosevillearea.org/sites/lwvrosevillearea.org/files/Observer%20Corp%20form.pdf>. And wear your button to promote the League of Women Voters!

Carpooling to LWV Day at the State Capitol

Are you attending the LWV Day at the State Capitol? Gladys Jones will coordinate carpooling to the event, from different locations as needed. If you are interested in carpooling, call Gladys Jones at 651-341-5179 for more information.

Future League Events

LWV Roseville Area Events

Check the calendar carefully because not all evening meetings are on a Tuesday. Evening meetings will be recorded and available on our website: www.lwvrosevillearea.org.

- **April 17 – Minnesota’s Next Steps to Grow Renewable Energy.** Speaker: Janet Drake Hamilton, Fresh Energy; 6:30 p.m., Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 2561 Victoria St., Roseville.
- **May 1 – Annual Meeting.** Little Canada City Hall, 515 Little Canada Rd. E., Little Canada.
- **June – Field Trip.** Tour to coordinate with housing study.

Find the LWV Roseville Area Calendar at <http://lwvrosevillearea.org/content/calendar>

Find the LWV Roseville Area Events page at <http://lwvrosevillearea.org/tags/events>

Council of Metropolitan Area League of Women Voters (CMAL) Events

- **April 21 – CMAL 2018 Annual Convention.** All current and past CMAL delegates **and** all current Twin Cities metro-area League members are invited to a presentation of a special CMAL history project and recognition of current and past CMAL delegates with lunch provided by CMAL. The annual business meeting for current delegates will take place after the lunch. For reservations or questions, email Karen Schaffer at schafferka@gmail.com or call her at 651-636-7359; 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., St. Louis Park City Hall, 6731 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley.

LWVMN Events

- **April 28 – LWV State Council.** A day filled with valuable trainings, technical assistance, networking, and social opportunities for all LWV members who attend. Further details available at <https://lwvmn.org/local-leagues/lwv-minnesota-council-2018>; 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Courtyard by Marriott St. Cloud, 404 West St. Germain St., St. Cloud.

Find the LWVMN Events Calendar at <https://www.lwvmn.org/media-and-events/events>

March League events are detailed on [page 8](#).

League Interest-Related Events from Other Organizations

- **March 6 – Homeless Day on the Hill (Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless).** Registration is required, but free (<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07eey8f0lfa12f9ec1&oseq=&c=&ch=>). Contact Eden Fauré at 651-645-7332 or eden@mnhomelesscoalition.org, <https://www.mnhomelesscoalition.org/advocate/>; 8 a.m.-3 p.m, Central Presbyterian Church, 500 Cedar St. / Minnesota State Capitol, 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Blvd, St. Paul.
- **March 8 – Fix It: U.S. Healthcare at the Tipping Point (Roseville Area Advocates for Minnesota Health Plan).** See the event description on [page 1](#).
- **March 14 – Roseville Police Department Traffic Stop Initiative Discussion (Imagine Roseville).** In 2017, the Roseville Police Department began collecting driver information on all traffic stops. Join Police Chief Rick Mathwig and Lt. Erika Scheider for a community meeting where they’ll review the data, talk about what it means for policing in Roseville and respond to questions. Visit <https://www.cityofroseville.com/3204/Traffic-Stop-Data-Collection-Initiative> for more information on the data collected and to review the data collected and to review the data; 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Roseville Skating Center, 2661 Civic Center Dr., Roseville.

Rachel Geiser, editor
1223 Duluth Ct.
Maplewood, MN 55109

March LWV Events Calendar

- **March 5 – LWV Day at the State Capitol.** Day for all local League members to attend with scheduled visits to legislators, opportunities to attend key hearings and meetings, and tours of the Capitol. You needed to register for the event by January 30 for LWVMN to attempt to set up meetings with your legislator. If you missed the registration deadline, you can still register to attend the event, though no meetings will be set up for you; 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., State Capitol, 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Blvd., St Paul.
- **March 20 – Redistricting, Democracy and the Census.** Speaker: Annastacia Belladonna-Carrera, CEO Common Cause Minnesota. See the full event description on [page 1](#); 6:30 p.m., Roseville Library; 2180 Hamline Ave., Roseville.

The full event calendars are on [page 7](#).

The Voter Article Submission Deadline

Submissions for the next issue of the Voter are due 10 days before the end of the month. If you have any questions about or information to submit for the newsletter, contact Rachel Geiser at rachelsoup@gmail.com.

