

The Voter

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

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's column	2
New Committee Chairs	2
Windows/Mirrors for All	3
Voter Services Activity	3
April Recap: Clean Energy	4
April Recap: Why I Run	5
Annual Meeting Recap	6
CMAL Recap	7
Event Calendars	7

Find us on our website and other social media sites!

Website:
www.lwvrosevillearea.org

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/lwvRosevilleArea

Instagram:
www.instagram.com/lwvrosevillearea

YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjWhyaOul7m9LEgYY8IMPfg>

What's Possible in Housing?

LWV of Roseville Area (MN) is taking a housing field trip. On Wednesday, June 13, 11 a.m., members will visit Prior Crossing, a 44-studio apartment facility on University Avenue for homeless youth. Built by Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative and managed by CommonBond, it is one of many Beacon residences for homeless and low-income individuals and families throughout the area. We will tour the facility and participate in a presentation that explores all of the housing options Beacon provides including a future development for men re-entering the community after incarceration, a group that has a particularly difficult time finding homes.



Prior Crossing

If you would like to attend please send your contact information to Bonnie Koch, toouray@aol.com. Specific information about the meeting and parking will be sent out just prior to the date. Those who are interested may carpool from the Roseville Oval parking lot. Interested Leaguers will have an opportunity to lunch together after the meeting.

League of Women Voters' Housing Positions

By Bonnie Koch

The LWV at the national and state level have long-held housing positions, as does Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL). LWVUS has prioritized fair housing legislation going back to 1980. To read specific advocacy, visit the LWVUS website at forum.lwv.org/member-resources/book/meeting-basic-human-needs. Scroll down to *Criteria for Housing Supply*.

LWVMN's position corresponds with LWVUS. It can be found under Social Policy Issue Positions in their *Program for Action 2017-2019*, downloadable at www.lwvmm.org/sites/default/files/Program_for_Action_2017-2019.pdf.

Additionally, CMAL's housing position supports: "The Metropolitan Council as the Housing and Redevelopment Authority acting as an administrative agency providing technical assistance to communities requesting service."

LWV of Roseville Area Marching in Rosefest Parade

The LWV of Roseville Area has an entry in the Rosefest parade in Roseville on June 25. Members are encouraged to join the League in the parade and march. For more information and to RSVP for participating in the parade, contact June Stewart at juneret@comcast.net or 651-636-4188.

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Now the Challenge: Getting All of These Newly Registered Voters to the Polls!

I admit that it feels as if the work of League never lets up! We all know that there is simply no time to kick back and take a few months off. The above challenge must stay in the forefront of our minds, conversations, and gatherings, no matter what group or organization with which we affiliate.

Questions prevail:

- Where do we begin?
- What's the most effective strategy?
- How do we convince registered voters of the importance of making their voices heard?

"You can either VOTE by voting or VOTE by not voting. If you don't vote, someone else's vote counts more. It's math." — Salina Horsley

With the closing of the LWVMN Annual Meeting on May 1, members on our League's five committees (**Membership, Program, Action, Communication, and Voter Services**) immediately began setting up meetings to plan for the 2018-2019 League year which begins June 1. Currently the Program committee has a long list of suggestions for the coming year... enough to last 36 months! *The Voter* newsletter issues and *E-Blasts* will continue this summer, and of course you can always stay up-to-date with our local League events, past and future, by consulting the website: www.lwvrosevillearea.org/.

So, if you have an hour here or a couple of hours there, please contact any Board member, past or present, or one of the committee chairs with your ideas or potential time commitment. Those extra hours could assist our communities and nation in the challenge of "Getting all these newly registered voters to the polls!"

These Shoes Are Made for Voting!....and Marching!

And we never want to underestimate the value of getting the LWV brand out there as a strong voting reminder. A great way to accumulate some "steps" is to lace up those shoes, contact June Stewart at juneret@comcast.net, and participate in the Rosefest Parade on June 25 with fellow League members!

New Committee Chairs for 2018-2019 Year

There are new committee chairs for the 2018-2019 year, beginning in June. If you're interested in helping with a committee, contact one of the following people.

Committee	Contact person
Voter Services	Karen Lake: karen.r.lake@comcast.net Cecilia Warner: cawarner@iphouse.com Judy Stuthman: jastuthman@aol.com
Programming	Bonnie Koch: touray@aol.com
Communications	Barb Anderson: blanderson7@msn.com
Action/Advocacy	Priscilla Morton: prismorton@comcast.net
Observer Corps	Wayne Groff: waynegroff@edinarealty.com
Membership	Beth Reinhart: bethreinhart@yahoo.com



Rita Mills

Let's Get Graphic, Or: Reading Across the Generations

By Florence Sprague

Millennials aren't only more "wired" than many of their elders, they also often read different types of works. One popular option is books combining creative illustrations with smaller amounts of text: graphic novels. This is a different way to look at literature, ideas, and the world. Exploring these books can connect generations. Recently I have begun to dip my toes into the unfamiliar waters of these image-based books written for adults, with help from younger friends and relatives, and I have been intrigued by many of the offerings.



- Check out *Becoming/Unbecoming* by Una. With simple drawings and stark clarity of storytelling, this British offering explores the long-term damage of sexual assault and abuse via the “four horsemen of gender violence — shame, isolation, disbelief, and ridicule.” This is a voice full of pain and a yearning to be heard. Don't skip the Afterword where Una expresses tenuous hope that society is beginning to see that “there is something embedded deep within the culture that produces eruptions of gendered violence and allows them to flourish,” a perfect tie-in to this era of #MeToo.
- If you can tolerate some crude language and images of female nudity along with the rest of a story, try *Habibi* by Craig Thompson. It touches upon the bartering of sex for food and necessities, slavery, interracial love, pollution, environmental degradation for profit, and many more topics of contemporary relevance.
- If you are up for pensive rumination coupled with doses of a memoir try *What It Is* by Lynda Barry. The collage-like collections of words and images on every page are an adventure. Barry is asking herself questions that pop into my head, too. The unexpected questions make the reader look at the most mundane things in a different light. Read and digest this book in small pieces as you stop to let your thoughts develop.
- In *Marbles: Mania, Depression, Michelangelo, and Me* by Ellen Forney, Forney chronicles her journey living with and learning to optimally medicate her bipolar disorder and sort out the relationship between creativity and mania while dealing with the social stigma still attached to mental illness. It contains some images that you may find disquieting; flip past those that disturb you to wrestle with the meat of her story.
- History buff? Two Vietnamese perspectives on the war are in *Vietnamerica* by G.B. Tran.
- Pondering identity? Check out *American Born Chinese* by Gene Luen Yang, written for youth.

This is a sampling of books in a very diverse genre that may stimulate thinking, move you to tears or to action, or open conversations. While reading, consider how the style of the artwork connects to the words. How did the author choose it? What would the story be like without the images? Since these books read more quickly, consider reading once for story and a second time to explore the images.

Graphic books are a fine complement to your other reading materials, with the added bonus that you will have a new topic of conversation. And if you just want superheroes or science fiction, those are out there, too, in abundance.

[Note: All books referenced are available through the Ramsey County library system.]

Recent Voter Services Committee Activity

By Karen Lake

The Voter Services Committee has conducted voter registration in several area high schools this spring: Mounds Park Academy, Academy of Science and Agriculture, Fairview Alternative High School, and Roseville Area High School. All high schools in the five cities served by LWV of Roseville Area have been contacted and offered onsite voter registrations.

In addition, plans are underway to participate in the Rosefest Parade on June 25 and to explore having a League presence at other summer community events. Registering voters and encouraging people to get out the vote are continuing areas of focus! The announcement of recipients of the Martin and Brown Foundation Grant monies, for which LWV of Roseville Area applied, are expected June 1.

April Meeting Recap: Minnesota's Next Steps to a Clean Energy Economy

On April 17, J. Drake Hamilton, the Science Policy Director of Fresh Energy, spoke at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in a presentation titled, "Minnesota's Next Step to a Clean Energy Economy." After Anne Haugan introduced her, Hamilton started by describing the group she represents. Fresh Energy is a Minnesota non-profit made up of climate energy policy experts with 25 years of experience; they are working to "shape and drive realistic, visionary energy policies that benefit all."

After that introduction, participants were given a refreshingly optimistic view of where we are as a state in our goal to move towards clean energy. Hamilton states that Minnesota has nation-leading growth in renewable energy and decarbonization of electricity. Just in 2017, solar costs dropped 30% in one year and Minnesota added enough solar utilities to power 53,000 homes.

She went on to prove her point that, "we don't have to choose either a clean environment or a strong economy." Between 2007 and 2016, the Minnesota gross state product continued to climb as electricity use stayed even and the electricity emission rate steadily declined.

Hamilton ended her presentation with ideas that individuals could follow to help transition to clean energy use. One of the examples she gave was to invest in solar farms if you can't install your own solar panels. The combined community that makes these solar farms possible improves the environment and starts to quickly give back to investors. She also gave several other benefits these solar farms provide to the environment including the native plants around some of the new solar farms to help the pollinator populations.

For more information on Fresh Energy, go to their website at: fresh-energy.org/. You can sign up as a member or just watch for more information regarding clean energy and the policies being debated in the Minnesota legislature.



J. Drake Hamilton



April Meeting Recap: Why I Run—Women Finding Their Political Voice

On April 24, LWV of Roseville Area in partnership with Do Good Roseville held a panel at the Roseville Area High School titled, “Why I Run: Women Finding Their Political Voice.” It was a panel, moderated by Marquita Stevens, of women of color from our local communities sharing their stories from campaigning and running for public office. They discussed what motivates them toward civic engagement; the challenges they faced as women, particularly women of color; and advice they had for others who want to be involved in the political process in the future.



(L-R) Clare Verbeten, Melanie Leehy, Lila Eltawely, Marquita Stevens, Alberder Hawkins-Gillespie

The panelists were Melanie Leehy, a member of the Falcon Heights City Council; Alberder Hawkins-Gillespie, who ran for District 53A and is now a mentor for others who want to run; Lila Eltawely, who ran for House District 53A and is a mentee of Hawkins-Gillespie; and Clare Verbeten, deputy political director of the Walz-Flanagan gubernatorial campaign. While not all panelists had been elected to the position they ran for, and some were working on other people’s campaigns, they all considered the experiences they had and the inroads they made as a woman of color to be a re-definition of what victory looks like. Lila Eltawely reflected that, “I didn’t win, but I believe it was a win just entering the space.”

The panelists detailed the many challenges they faced. The challenges included fighting those within their own political party to prove to them that they could be a viable candidate. They said that as a person of color, they need to work ten times harder than their Caucasian peers just to get to the point of running. They described how as a woman and a person of color, they didn’t have access to the same paths to candidacy, access to knowledge of the political system, and political resources during their run that many of their more traditional male or white counterparts had available to them.

Speakers from the audience, both those who had run in the past, are currently running, or ruled out ever running due to the challenges they encountered, related hard personal stories and asked weighty questions of the panelists. Their advice was powerful and clearly inspiring to all who attended. They advised seeking out guidance and support to help with the struggle they will face as they enter the political spaces where they aren’t necessarily welcome. They said that people should make the decision to work within a flawed system to make the system better. They stressed not waiting for an invitation to run, but seeking out and running for a role within government. They counseled that educating women of color about the political process helps make them successful. They stated that building trust with the public is a key factor to being successful and that it takes time. Something that everyone could take away was that women of color need true allies to support them as candidates and to tell others that this person is a good candidate, even if people question their ability to win an election based solely on their gender or race.

For another recap of this moving event, read the article submitted by Keely Vandredre, a leader of Do Good Roseville, on the LillieNews website: www.lillienews.com/articles/2018/05/08/%E2%80%98why-i-run%E2%80%99-panel-discussion-success. Further reading on the large increase of the number of women running for political office in the upcoming elections can be found on the Politico website: www.politico.com/story/2018/03/08/women-rule-midterms-443267.



2017-2018 LWV of Roseville Area Annual Meeting Recap

The 2017-2018 LWV of Roseville Area Annual Meeting was well attended. Many attendees arrived early to the Little Canada City Hall to attend a social hour and enjoy a catered meal. Several others arrived after dinner to attend the program.



Rita Mills

President Rita Mills started off the meeting with a great speech about her 2 years as the LWV of Roseville Area president. She thanked those who “made her do it” and reflected that the time had been one of the best professional experiences she’s ever had. She went on to discuss the changes that LWV has experienced nationwide, the expansion of the LWVMN staff and resources they provide, and the upcoming events to celebrate the League’s centennial. She went over challenges that our local league faces, but reiterated that she knows that we are all doing our best. Next, Rita recognized the committee chairs who had served and worked hard this year. Finally, she introduced our two newest lifetime members, those who have been in League for 50 years, to thank them for their service: Mary Ann Palmer and Lila Recksiedler.

The Secretary and the Treasurer’s Report were presented and approved. The Committee chairs (see the left sidebar on [page 2](#)) each spoke about the year they had and thanked their committee members for all of the work done this year.

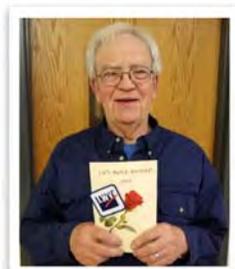
The budget was presented. Some discussion was had about using some reserved money toward our push toward voter services this year. The idea was put on hold to determine if a grant will be given to the League that would help with that goal. Later, a direction was given to the board to use the grant money, if given, toward that goal or then look into the reserves. The budget was then approved after the discussion.



June Stewart with Mary Ann Palmer (left) and Lila Recksiedler (right)

The Summary of the LWV of Roseville Area positions were adopted and the Nominations Committee Report was approved. Those who had already paid their membership dues were placed into a drawing and Teresa Wernecke, Karen Schaffer, and Nancy Irsfeld each won a prize from the drawing.

The 2018 LWV Rose Awards, presented to members who exceeded expectations in their service to League this year, were also given out. The recipients were: Mary Peterson, Joyce Briggs, Jim DeBenedet, Nancy Bruggeman, Rachel Geiser, and Karen Lake. For more information about the Annual Meeting reports and agenda, see the 2018 Annual Report on the LWV of Roseville area website: lwwrosevillearea.org/content/2018-annual-report.



2018 LWV Rose Award Recipients: Joyce Briggs, Mary Peterson, Jim DeBenedet, Nancy Bruggeman, Rachel Geiser, Karen Lake

CMAL Annual Meeting Recap

By Karen Schaffer

Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues of Women Voters (CMAL) Elects New Board, Sets Program; History Project Highlighted.

The April 21, 2018, annual program and meeting were attended by CMAL delegates and local League members from 13 local leagues as well as LWVMN Executive Director Michelle Witte.

In a program before the meeting, Karen Schaffer presented highlights from the CMAL history project, starting with CMAL's founding in 1962 (5 years before the Metropolitan Council) and its activities in the early 1960s conducting original research and outreach regarding regional issues of the day (e.g., failing sewage plants, failing septic systems, failing private bus company, tax base competition among hundreds of local governments). The CMAL history project also detailed how CMAL educated League members to think regionally and participated with other public and private entities to develop a regional solution to problems that competing local governments could not. For the next 50 years, CMAL produced an extraordinary volume of publications, studies, newsletters, and specialty papers; advocated on issues respecting regional governance; and educated its members and the general public at quarterly events where leading public and private sector figures shared their insights on regional issues.

During the meeting, CMAL delegates elected a full Board of Directors: Karen Schaffer, Chair (Roseville Area); Ardyth Norem, Vice Chair (Wayzata/Plymouth Area); Marti Micks, Secretary (Golden Valley); Cheryl Felix, Treasurer (Crystal/New Hope/East Plymouth); Susan Anderson, Director (Anoka/Blaine/Coon Rapids); Sue Butler, Director (Anoka/Blain/Coon Rapids); Lynne Markus, Director (Woodbury/Cottage Grove area). Lynn Gitelis (Golden Valley) continues as a Director and Holly Jenkins (Dakota County) was appointed as a one-year Director. The new board holds its organizing meeting on June 16.

In addition to continuing the history project and co-sponsoring educational events on metropolitan issues with local leagues and other partners, the delegates directed the Board to develop an electronic platform for communicating directly with local League members regarding CMAL projects and programs. Any contract for ongoing professional services will require delegate approval. Delegates also directed the Board to develop a program focused on metropolitan governance issues and/or affordable housing, including the potential for an on-site meeting at the Metropolitan Council.

CMAL intends to complete a written history of CMAL 1962-2019, to participate in the LWVMN centennial, and to donate its archive to the Minnesota Historical Society.

Future League Events

June League events are detailed on [page 1](#) and [page 8](#).

2018-2019 LWV of Roseville Area events will be planned and posted later this summer.

League Interest-Related Events from Other Organizations

- **May 20 – Michael Eric Dyson (The House of Hope Presbyterian Church).** Dr. Michael Eric Dyson, an American Book Award recipient and NAACP Image Award winner, will be speaking. He recently published *Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America*, a book hailed as a provocative analysis of modern-day race relations, and will release *What Truth Sounds Like: Robert F. Kennedy, James Baldwin, and Our Unfinished Conversation About Race in America* later this year. 2 p.m., The House of Hope Presbyterian Church, 797 Summit Ave., St. Paul.
- **May 22 – U.S. Citizenship: An Overview of the Process & How to Apply (Ramsey County Law Library).** This one-hour informational session will describe how to apply for citizenship and where to get help to do so. Some referrals may be to agencies that provide free help. Presented in partnership with the Volunteer Lawyer's Network and the Ramsey County Law Library. 7-8:30 p.m., Roseville Public Library, 2180 Hamline Ave. N., Roseville.
- **May 29 – March for Science 2018 Rally (March for Science Minnesota — Rescheduled from April due to inclement weather).** Speakers include Karen Diver, Former Advisor to Pres. Obama on Native American Affairs; Ticia Fletcher, Community activist on lead safety; J. Drake Hamilton, Science Policy Director, Fresh Energy; and Christopher Pennel, Geneticist. Minnesotans are encouraged to rally to show solidarity in support of the importance of science and evidence-based decision making. The rally will include family activities, speakers on public health and environmental stewardship, information tables, and opportunities to speak with neighbors and public officials. More information can be found on the March for Science Minnesota website: march-forsciencemn.org/events/2018/4/14/march-for-science-minnesota. 12-2 p.m., Mears Park, 221 E. 5th St., St. Paul.

Rachel Geiser, editor
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June LWV Events Calendar

- **June 11 – LWV of Roseville Area Field Trip to Prior Crossing.** See the full event description on [page 1](#); 11:00 a.m., RSVP for carpooling and parking information.
- **June 25 – LWV of Roseville Area in Rosefest Parade.** See further information on [page 1](#). RSVP to June Stewart.
- **June 28 - July 1 – LWV 53rd National Convention.** The theme for the convention is “Creating a More Perfect Democracy.” Further convention details available at forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/council-and-convention/convention-2018; Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL.



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.