

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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Conversations with Constituents

How are our state, county, and city governments dealing with the rising cost of housing and healthcare, transit and infrastructure needs, the 2020 Census, public safety, the environment, and other challenges that impact us all? Invite your friends and neighbors to our annual "Conversations with Constituents" on January 16 at Roseville City Hall. On hand will be mayors from Falcon Heights, Little Canada, Lauderdale, Maplewood, and Roseville; Ramsey County commissioners; and Minnesota House and Senate legislators for timely and thoughtful conversations. We'll break into small groups to ask questions that interest you and your neighbors. This popular event will give us an up-close chance to interact with officials who represent us.

When: Thursday, January 16

Where: Roseville City Hall, 2660 Civic Center Dr., Roseville

Time: 6:30 p.m. refreshments and meet & greet; 7-8:30 p.m. event

All are welcome! Carpooling is encouraged.

A flier for the event is attached to the Voter newsletter email. Please post it everywhere you can think of! To receive a color copy of the flier if you can't print yourself, contact Gladys Jones (651-341-5179 or gjones70@gmail.com).

Also, please contact Gladys to sign up to share a treat. We need three more sweet treats (e.g., cookies, bars, cake) and four more savory treats (e.g., cheese/sausage, crackers, fruit) Thank you!

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>



Pictured: Some of the officials who attended the 2019 event

Did you know?

Census information is used for planning for public transportation services.

Peering Into the Future of the Metro Area

Metropolitan Council Principal Forecaster Todd Graham will present past, present, and future trends for metro area population, immigration, workforce, employment, household formation, housing, land use, and more on January 11, 9:30-12 p.m. at the Autumn Grove park building. The presentation is sponsored by the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues of Women Voters (CMAL) and all League members in the seven-county metro area are invited.

Graham's presentation (and Q&A session) will set the table for CMAL's committee review of CMAL's Program for Action (found at lwvmn.org/our-positions website's LWV Program for Action (2019-2021) on pg. 42-43). Graham will lead members in a short prioritization session to guide CMAL's program in the coming years. The CMAL committee suggests that CMAL focus on housing, land use, environmental quality, and/or county government as CMAL's studies on these issues are dated and may deserve updating. However, League members may suggest other updates or issues where CMAL currently has no position.

Agenda:

- Saturday, January 11, Autumn Grove park building, 1365 Lydia Ave. W., Roseville
- 9:30 a.m.: Coffee and conversation
- 10 a.m.: Presentation by Todd Graham, Metropolitan Council Principal Forecaster
- 11-11:45 a.m.: CMAL Committee presentation and prioritization for CMAL's focus for coming years

Contact Karen Schaffer if you have any questions (schafferka@gmail.com). RSVPs are appreciated by January 9 to kate.redden@yahoo.com.

History Theater League Event: Not for Sale

The LWV of Roseville Area is organizing another History Theatre play outing as a group on Thursday, March 26 at 7:30 p.m. The play is the drama, *Not for Sale*, which takes place in the 1950s and 1960s in the Twin Cities as families of color face discrimination buying houses in all white neighborhoods.

This play provides a historical background to the LWV of Roseville Area's affordable housing study and current advocacy activities. The play tells the story of Arnold Weigel, real estate businessman, who came to the aid of families of color at peril to his career. It also highlights the effects to the community with the destruction of the Rondo neighborhood of St. Paul. For more information about the play, see the History Theater website: historytheatre.com/2019-2020/not-sale

Further details about payment will be coming soon. If you would like to attend and get your name added to the ticket list, please email Sharon McCord (sjmccord@comcast.net).

Save the date for an enriching night at the theatre!



Affordable Housing Forum

LWV of Edina and the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL) are co-sponsoring an affordable housing forum on Thursday, February 13, at 7 p.m. at the Edina City Hall Council Chambers. The event is free and open to the public. Panelists will be Stephanie Hawkinson (City of Edina), Lisa Barajas (Metropolitan Council), and Mindy Greiling (LWV of Roseville Area). Panelists will speak and take questions on affordable housing in Edina and the metropolitan area. If you'd like to carpool, contact Karen Schaffer (schafferka@gmail.com).

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

LWV of Roseville Area Board Members

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Stephanie DeBenedet

Rachel Geiser

Karen Schaffer

"The experience of democracy is like the experience of life itself - always changing, infinite in its variety, sometimes turbulent and all the more valuable for having been tested in adversity" - Jimmy Carter, President of the United States, 1976-1980.

Our country is being tested to the fullest limit of adversity in this new year of 2020. This year is one of the most challenging times in our 244-year old democracy. We are being tested to our fullest measure. God forbid if it gets worse!

This is some of what is ahead this year.

1. The impeachment and trial of the current President.
2. The 2020 US Census. For our League, this will also include the national League's Fair Maps Redistricting campaign implemented to fight against gerrymandering by both major political parties. Minnesota's redistricting right now is politically-based through the legislature and governor. The League wants to change this to an independent commission.
3. Foreign interference in our elections.
4. The challenge of disinformation being disseminated in our social media.
5. Polarization as we have never seen before.

Our League will need your support this year. Our various committees will be asking for help on different occasions throughout 2020 and we hope you volunteer beforehand. For example, you may be interested in Voter Services that includes volunteering opportunities relating to candidate forums in our five-city area, help with voter registrations, education support in our schools, implementation of our new adventure into Vote 411, and more. You may have an interest in the Action/Advocacy Committee's support in the Fair Maps Re-districting campaign. Or the Environmental Subcommittee may interest you with working on our URGENT global warming problem.

There are so many reasons and ways to help. To quote Edmund Burke, 1729 - 1797, Anglo-Irish statesman and philosopher: "Nobody makes a greater mistake than he who does nothing because he could only do a little." If you know what you what your interest is, email me at sherryhood@icloud.com or lwvrosevillearea@lwmn.org.

Happy New Year to all!



Sherry Hood

Presidential Primary Voting

Early primary voting starts January 17 and in-person voting is on Super Tuesday, March 3.

LWVMN has detailed information about voting in the presidential primary on their website under their Picking the President: Part 1 — The Presidential Nominating Primary page (lwmn.org/picking-the-president-part1).

Sections of particular interest on that site regarding primary voting include:

- What Happens When I Vote In Person In the Presidential Nominating Primary?
- What If I Want to Vote Absentee By Mail?
- What and Who Will Be on My Ballot?

Please also see the November/December Voter issue for a review of the information from the Minnesota Secretary of State Flyer regarding the new presidential nomination primary in the state: lwvrosevillearea.org/content/novemberdecember-2019-voter

Again, if you have questions, review the MNVotes.org website or contact your county election office (contact information is on the MNVotes.org website) or the Minnesota Secretary of State office (elections.dept@state.mn.us or 651-215-1440).

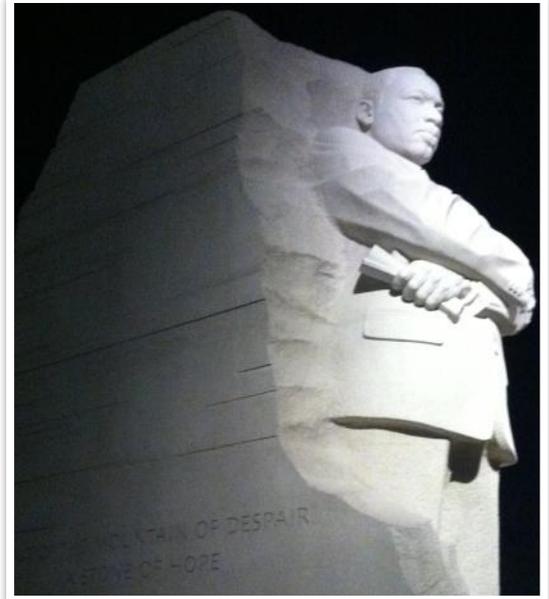
The Words of Someone Wiser

By Florence Sprague

“It takes two to speak the truth: one to speak and another to hear.” Henry David Thoreau

It is January and we enter a new year still burdened with old challenges. This month I turn most of my space over to someone far more eloquent than I, The Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. The six principles of non-violence grace the wall surrounding the entry plaza of the King Center. Principle number 3 reads “Nonviolence seeks to defeat injustice, not people.” That’s worth remembering.

One of Dr. King’s most well-known writings is his Letter from Birmingham Jail. He was imprisoned for participating in nonviolent demonstrations against segregation and wrote this in response to the public expressions of concern about such demonstrations by a group of white Southern religious leaders who urged caution. Here are some of Dr. King’s words in that Letter to ponder as we enter the new decade.



“... I am cognizant of the interrelatedness of all communities and states... Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. Never again can we afford to live with the narrow, provincial ‘outside agitator’ idea. Anyone who lives inside the United States can never be considered an outsider...”

“You deplore the demonstrations that are presently taking place in Birmingham. But I am sorry that your statement did not express a similar concern for the conditions that brought the demonstrations into being. I am sure that each of you would want to go beyond the superficial social analyst who looks merely at effects and does not grapple with underlying causes. I would not hesitate to say that it is unfortunate that so-called demonstrations are taking place in Birmingham at this time, but I would say in more emphatic terms that it is even more unfortunate that the white power structure of this city left the Negro community with no other alternative...”

“You may well ask, ‘Why direct action, why sit-ins, marches, and so forth? Isn’t negotiation a better path?’ You are exactly right in your call for negotiation. Indeed, this is the purpose of direct action. Nonviolent direct action seeks to create such a crisis and establish such creative tension that a community that has consistently refused to negotiate is forced to confront the issue. It seeks so to dramatize the issue that it can no longer be ignored... I am not afraid of the word ‘tension.’ I have earnestly worked and preached against violent tension, but there is a type of constructive nonviolent tension that is necessary for growth... we must see the need of having nonviolent gadflies to create the kind of tension in society that will help men to rise from the dark depths of prejudice and racism to the majestic heights of understanding and brotherhood. So, the purpose of direct action is to create a situation so crisis-packed that it will inevitably open the door to negotiation.”

Powerful words penned in 1963 and still relevant in 2020. Read the rest. It is only 6 pages long. (web.cn.edu/kwheeler/documents/Letter_Birmingham_Jail.pdf)

Volunteering: Open Positions

The Nominations Committee will soon be actively seeking members to fill a variety of jobs, large and small, to keep our beloved LWV of Roseville Area chapter strong and vibrant. However, if you are looking for a position for which to volunteer, you don’t have to wait for us to call you! If you have a particular area of interest, such as voter services, program planning, membership, event planning, action/advocacy, etc., contact Florence Sprague (misemer@msn.com or 612-839-4360) to talk about options. If you don’t call her, don’t be surprised if someone from the Nominations Committee calls you. Each of you are valuable to this organization and we hope to find a niche that fits your time, interests, and skills as the League moves into its second century of education and service.

Thank you for your consideration, the Nominations Committee (Florence Sprague, Mindy Greiling, Mary Duddleston, and Lisa Schribner)

New League Additions

By Rita Mills

Celebrating the centennial of the 19th Amendment ratification and founding of LWV has spurred League members throughout the state and nation to raid Target shelves for wide-brimmed, white straw hats, and search Amazon for the ubiquitous white shirts, skirts, and “Votes for Women” banners. Thus, our local Centennial Team charged a sub-committee with the task of coming up with a graphic to represent the long local League history and community activism to be included in the state centennial exhibit.

Mary Peterson chaired the sub-committee of Cathy Croghan, Lisa Scribner, Teresa Wernecke, and Rita Mills (see an image of the group with the panel in the event recap on [page 6](#)). This team began working in August, scouring our League’s local history booklet, “Meddlers, Activists, and Watchdogs,” as well as the recently discovered Maplewood League scrapbooks, to pull out key action items from the past 60 years. How to communicate so much in a 7’x3’ panel was a conundrum! With guidance from Kristin Smith, LWVMN Communications/Art Director, the panel came to fruition in time for the Centennial dinner theater at Gulden’s Restaurant and Bar (see the recap on [page 6](#))!

This panel will be part of the LWVMN display at the Roseville and Maplewood libraries in April. However, the display panel can be used at a variety of events, educating the community about the mission of LWV for many years to come. In addition, a tablecloth for LWV of Roseville Area is also now available, keeping the League’s name front and center during all of our community events.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ROSEVILLE AREA
Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Little Canada, Maplewood, Roseville

Educate. Advocate. Empower.

Voter Services and Civic Activities

- Register voters at citizenship ceremonies and in the community
- Conduct candidate forums
- Monitor government meetings
- Support complete census count
- Conduct conversations with elected officials

Nonpartisan Studies and Action

Since 1953, League members have studied local issues, educated communities and elected officials, and recommended action.

Community Services

- Advocated for police crisis training and avoiding racial profiling
- Supported a new Roseville fire station
- Fought for organized trash collection
- Advocated for local emergency medical services
- Initiated Northeast Youth and Family Services

Local and Regional Government

- Advocated for open government and appointments
- Instrumental in initiating Met Council
- Advocated for professional, city manager governments

Human/Civil Rights

- Fought against gender bias in school textbooks and educational materials
- Advocated for city Human Rights Commissions

Housing

- Fought for affordable housing for everyone

Environment/Parks

- Advocated for parks, bike trails and non-motorized pathways

Learn More & Join Today!
www.lwvrosevillearea.org

*Empowering Voters.
Defending Democracy.*



Above: New LWV of Roseville Area Informational Panel

Left: New LWV of Roseville Area Tablecloth
(photo by Madeline Hansen)

December Event Recap: LWV Centennial Holiday Party

By Rachel Geiser

The LWV of Roseville Area Holiday Party, at Gulden's Restaurant in Maplewood on December 12, was no ordinary social event. This year, our League chapter celebrated the 100-year anniversary of LWV. The night started with a social hour with beautiful music played by the Ta-Ta Quartet, a group of four fabulous women: Miriam Zien (violin), Emily Spear (violin), Julene Flink (viola), and Sara Given (cello). The new LWV of Roseville Area panel (see description on [page 5](#)) was displayed for review at this time along with other chapter memorabilia. Also, a copy of the second edition of the "Meddlers, Activists, and Watchdogs" booklet was unveiled. The updated booklet was recently produced by Judy Berglund and Mindy Greiling. After the attendees sat down to a delicious buffet, LWV of Roseville Area President Sherry Hood gave a short talk to acknowledge the history of our League chapter and highlight many of the women who have made this group so successful in their mission. Finally, Madeline Hansen presented her *From Seneca Falls to South St. Paul* talk, a slideshow of images about the history of the suffragette movement reminding attendees of the many people who have fought for women's rights throughout history.

As member Bonnie Koch remarked afterwards, "The Centennial Celebration was beyond fantastic. Loved every minute of it from the Ta-Ta Quartet background music, to the incredible banner, to the delicious dinner, to the eye-opening suffragette program. And there was the bonus of having a chance to chat with people I don't see regularly. It was a true League event in terms of celebration, education and camaraderie."

It was a wonderful night full of great memories. Thanks to the Centennial Holiday Party Subcommittee: Chair June Stewart, and members Shirley Bradway, Mindy Greiling, and Diana Menanteau. Peruse images on this page and the next to see the fun had by all.



Photos above by Madeline Hansen; photo below by Richard Peterson





Photos left, above, and below by Rachel Geiser



Photos left and below by Richard Peterson



Making Census: Multi-Unit Housing

By Barb Barany

When residents fail to respond to the census on their own (online or by mail), the US Census Bureau sends enumerators to knock on doors and obtain the required information. Federal law requires landlords to grant census employees access to their multi-unit buildings, but awareness and enforcement is weak. Those attending the January 16, “Conversations with Constituents” can help by encouraging city officials to pass an appropriate ordinance or resolution, and to educate landlords. Ramsey County has passed a resolution. Cities can reference the ordinance recently passed by Edina. (An ordinance is stronger than a resolution.)

If you live in multi-unit housing with a homeowners association or similar, ask how US Census workers will be admitted to the building.

US Census Jobs: Spread the Word

By Barb Barany

There is a critical need for more people to apply for census taker jobs in Ramsey County. The application is open until February 1 and the US Census Bureau is now offering \$22.00 per hour, including for training, for census takers in Ramsey County.

People from historically undercounted communities, including people of color, low income and immigrant communities, are strongly encouraged to apply. Non-citizens, with work permits, who speak locally significant languages (like Hmong, Karen, Spanish, Somali, and Oromo) will be considered if there is a shortage of U.S. citizens with those language skills applying. The online application, FAQ, and other information are available at 2020census.gov/jobs.html.

November Event Recap: A Place for Everyone

By Rachel Geiser

On November 19, a large group gathered at Centennial United Methodist Church in Roseville to hear the current state of affordable housing in the metro area and what can be done to support fair housing in their communities. The panelists were Alice Hausman, 66A State Representative and Chair of the House Housing Committee; Maria Wetherall, Executive Director of Ramsey County Veterans Services and Chair of Heading Home Ramsey; and Cathy ten Broeke, State Director of Prevent and End Homelessness, and Assistant Commissioner, Minnesota Housing.

The panelists began the night by discussing current housing needs from the perspective of the group they represent. After their opening remarks, the panelists answered insightful questions submitted from the attendees. These questions addressed issues related to funding, individuals experiencing homelessness, support services, proving a voice for those affected, ideas that have worked, eviction issues, affordable housing loss, and reparations and building racial equity (with an assist from Minnesota House of Representative Peter Fischer who was in attendance). The panelists wrapped up their remarks by answering what kind of advocacy was the most effective from the various groups to which people belong. Suggestions included supporting and volunteering with groups already working on this issue (e.g., MICAH), contacting government officials directly about the issue, educating your community about why affordable housing is such an important issue, and making connections and getting to know people experiencing housing instability.

Watch this informative event through LWV of Roseville Area’s YouTube page: youtube.com/watch?v=t0ypdex5RTY



Panelists Rep. Alice Hausman, Maria Weatherall, and Cathy ten Broeke, and Moderator Rachel Geiser (photo by Sherry Hood)

Future League Events

Rides to events: If you would like to attend League events but need transportation, contact Sherry Hood at sherryhood@icloud.com or 651-633-1434. She will find someone in your area to provide a ride.

Event recording: Many of our events are recorded. If you would like to watch a recording of an event at home, go to our website, lwwrosevillearea.org. Click on the YouTube icon on the righthand side and choose from recorded events.

January events are detailed on [page 1](#), [page 2](#), and [page 10](#).

- **February 13 – Affordable Housing Forum (CMAL)** See the event details on [page 2](#); 7 p.m.; Edina City Hall Council Chambers, 4801 W 50th St, Edina.
- **February 18 – Electoral College/National Popular Vote Compact—Is There Another Option for Choosing a President?** Karen Schaffer presenter (co-hosted with the Roseville Public Library); 6:30-8 p.m.; Roseville Public Library Community Room, 2180 N. Hamline Ave., Roseville.
- **March 24 – How Are Our Cities Addressing Environmental Issues?** A panel discussion with mayors on how environmental decisions are impacting Roseville Area League cities (co-hosted with the Roseville Public Library); 6:30-8 p.m.; Roseville Public Library Community Room, 2180 N. Hamline Ave., Roseville.
- **March 26 – Not For Sale** A drama about housing discrimination faced by families of color in the 1950s and 1960s, see [page 2](#) for RSVP information; 7:30 p.m.; Minnesota History Theater, 30 10th St. E., St. Paul.
- **April 21 – League Involvement and Voting Rights Through the Decades.** Josie Johnson, author and longtime member of LWV of Minneapolis and one of her co-authors, Carolyn Holbrook (co-sponsored with Roseville Public Library); 6:30-8 p.m.; Roseville Public Library Community Room, 2180 N. Hamline Ave. N, Roseville.
- **May 5 – LWV of Roseville Area Annual Meeting.** 5 p.m. social hour, 6 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. meeting; Little Canada City Hall, 515 Little Canada Rd. E., Little Canada.
- **June (Date TBD) – Sustainability Field Trip.** Meet at the Little Canada Ramsey County Watershed headquarters to learn about the program and tour the facilities; 2665 Noel Dr., Little Canada.

LWV of Roseville Area Video

Check out a video about the LWV of Roseville Area's mission and pictures of what our chapter has been up to recently here: youtube.com/watch?v=RpPAi_yOgEE&t=2s

Did you know?

Census information is used for:

- Planning and researching for media as a back-up for news stories.
- Distributing catalogs and developing direct mail pieces.
- Planning for school projects.
- Designing public safety strategies.
- Estimating the number of people displaced by natural disasters.

LWV of Roseville Area: January Event Calendar

- **January 11 – Peering Into the Future of the Metro Area.** See CMAL event details on [page 2](#); 9:30 a.m. refreshments, 10 a.m. program.
- **January 16 – Conversation with Constituents.** See event details on [page 1](#); 6:30 p.m. refreshments, 7-8:30 p.m. program.

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 or information to submit for the newsletter, contact Rachel Geiser at rachelsoup@gmail.com.



League on the Radio: 1928 Presidential Campaign —
Source: LWV Media Library

Did you know?

Census information is used for genealogical research.