LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF ROSEVILLE AREA

















70th Annual Meeting

League of Women Voters of Roseville Area

(Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Little Canada, Maplewood, Roseville)

May 23, 2023 — 7 pm

Autumn Grove Park Building, Roseville



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LWV of Roseville Area: Organizational Structure



How Our League Works

Program

Member Meetings
Educational Events
Conversations with Constituents
Council of Metro Leagues
Local Studies

Voter Services

Candidate Forums Voter Registration Community Outreach Youth Engagement

Administrative

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Finance Committee

Action

Action Alerts Lobby Corps Observer Corps Advocacy

Membership

Data Management Member Directory Nominations

Communication

Weekly eBlast, Monthly Voter, Website, Social Media, PR, Archivist

Falcon Heights | Lauderdale | Little Canada | Maplewood | Roseville

Lifetime Membership Award

50 Year Member: Donna Peterson

By: Sherry Hood

Another remarkable person is joining the 50-year LWV membership group: Donna Peterson. Donna hails from Seneca Falls, New York, the birthplace of US women fighting for their equal rights!

She became interested in LWV after observing a friend, a member of LWV, fighting for water issues in New Mexico. When her physicist husband was thinking about relocating for his teaching career, she wanted a city that had a LWV, so Macomb, Illinois, was Donna's beginning with the League.



One of Donna's most insightful, memorable experiences of being in the LWV was going with Judy Stuthman to a federally supported high-rise rental in north Minneapolis several years ago. The government wanted the renters to form a Board that would help run the building and report back to HUD. Donna and Judy were brought in as LWV members to help with election of the Board. Donna found it surprising that the residents, many immigrants, did not feel that they actually had a say. Donna felt their life experiences left them without any sense that their voice could make a difference or what citizenship in the US even encouraged. Finally they were convinced and a Board was formed.

Huge thank you!

Donna has contributed much to our LWV of Roseville Area League, including co-founding our active Environmental subcommittee and being chair for the past four years. She has great interest and concern for the environment and worked for Ramsey County to advise businesses regarding hazardous waste. She was also employed by a U of M program designed to provide free assistance to businesses about hazardous waste and cutting other waste and emissions.

When being told that she has done so much good with her contributions to society, Donna humbly replied that she was just "one person on the planet trying to make a difference in small ways."

Current Lifetime Members

These seven distinguished members of the LWV of Roseville Area are lifetime members who have served LWV for 50 years.

Joyce Blomquist Carolyn Cushing Georgeann Hall Jackie Hays Mary Ann Palmer Donna Peterson Lila Recksiedler Judy Stuthman

Remembrance: Stephanie DeBenedet

By: Mindy Greiling

It is fitting that Stephanie and Jim DeBenedet received our League's Rose Award in May 2022. For the past two years, they led a major committee that worked hard to assess city compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act's guarantee of access to public buildings and sites. The award was presented at the Annual Meeting in absentia, the day before Stephanie died.

Stephanie and Jim joined League in 2005. They both jumped into being active. Stef may have been best known for her steadfast presence greeting everyone at the registration table at League events, but she did many other things. She served on the Board for many years. I worked closely with her when we cochaired the Membership Committee. Our large committee had a lot of fun meet-



ing at her lovely home. It is accessible for her wheelchair and also she baked delicious cookies. (Stephanie published a cookbook, Bake Yourself Happy.) We worked hard on that committee too and more than doubled League membership.

Stephanie was loved everywhere she went, with her dazzling smile and warm, welcoming ways. Former League president June Stewart recalled when she met Stef. "It was my first time coming to a League meeting. I walked into the Little Venetian, knowing no one. Then I spotted Stephanie, with her big smile. She said, 'Come sit by me.' That's what she was like."

Stephanie was a great empathetic listener. She also loved to tell stories. She talked about when she was a nurse, meeting Jim and his family, her family, and of course numerous tales about her grandchildren, Juliana and James. Conversations also often covered politics. She cared a lot about the state of the world her grandchildren would live in. No matter what weighty issues we discussed, she always made sure to end on a positive note.

So here's a salute to Stephanie DeBenedet. Thanks for being a wonderful friend and role model for us all on how to live a productive, positive life no matter what life throws your way.

Remembrance: Leola Rempel

By: Karen Schaefer

Long time League member Leola Rempel passed away on November 18 at the age of 96. She was my co-League member and friend since 1979, when I became her neighbor on Belmont Lane in Roseville. The League meant a lot to Leola. She maintained her membership until very recently, attending League meetings, programs, and events faithfully for decades. She valued the League as a source of information, a way to participate in civic and community events, and a place to meet convivial friends. She was, so to speak, a "members' member," regularly supporting and participating in League events. She was the kind of member that membership organizations, like the League, prize.



Leola was also my friend, more like family really. I like to think that she helped me more than others who lived on Belmont Lane, but that probably isn't true. She and her husband Bill attended lots of my children's events. She loaned me her basement floor when I was cutting and sewing leotards for my daughter's gymnastics team, her basement floor being larger and cleaner than my dining room table. All who knew Leola are richer for it, and we miss her dearly.

Remembrance: Barb Anderson

By: Rita Mills

"Hey Barb...gotta minute?"

And of course, an hour later we'd laugh and agree we really did have other things to do! Opening my string of texts with Barb Anderson, I never quite got to the beginning. However, I do recall her initial involvement in our League of Women Voters.

Back in 2015, I was chatting with a mutual friend, Vicki, sharing book titles as we frequently did. I had recently retired from teaching, enjoyed reading and book groups as did Vicki who was a good



friend of Barb's and fellow member of the esteemed Little Canada Ladies' Literary Book Club, which dates back to the '80s. As usual I mentioned League, and Vicki suggested that Barb Anderson might be interested. I responded, "The Barb Anderson? The business manager in the Roseville School District?" Feeling a bit intimidated, I passed on LWV information to Vicki, who in turn passed it on to Barb...and the rest is history.

Reviewing hundreds of texts, Barb and I not only conducted hours of League business, but we shared everything from book titles to getting a new water softener, from medical concerns of our respective friends and remodeling bathrooms to world and national events. We were comfortable weaving between serious League business and the mundane aspects of life, either via phone or over 7 am breakfast sandwiches at Panera in Vadnais Heights. We spent hours with fellow Leaguers, converting our membership to Databank, with Barb patiently explaining what Beth, Ann, and I considered indecipherable. Barb was simply a finance, technical, and organizational guru. When our eyes would glaze over a spreadsheet, a graphic conversion, I like others would take a deep breath, sit back, and think, "Oh, no problem, Barb will figure it out!"

So many of us, particularly LWV Board members know Barb had an impact in many aspects of our League, from financial, to taking on the Communications team leadership and establishing the weekly Sunday e-Blast, to maintaining the webpage, as the President...all while taking on the position of Treasurer on the LWVMN Board.

Currently, the hole Barb's passing has created feels insurmountable, personally and with League. Barb could always see a solution, would show patience in encouraging us, teaching us, mentoring us. So, when reading all the "Hey Barb...gotta minute?" texts, it's time for me personally to embrace the hurt and along with fellow Leaguers take a collective deep breath, reach out, and continue "fighting the good fight" of empowering voters and defending democracy, something dear to Barb's heart to the very end.

Presidents of LWV of Roseville Area, 1954 – 2023

2023 – Present	Rachel Geiser	1993 – 1994	Jeanne Thompson and Faith O'Neill
2022	Barbara Anderson	1991 – 1993	Lila Recksiedler
2020 - 2022	Barbara Barany	1989 – 1991	Kathy Ciernia
2018 – 2020	Sharon Hood	1987 – 1989	Ginny Gibson and Norma Signorelli
2016 - 2018	Rita Mills	1985 – 1987	Nancy Irsfeld
2012 – 2016	June Stewart	1983 – 1985	Mindy Greiling
2010 – 2012	Ann Cleland and Karen Schaffer	1981 – 1983	Sally Simundson
2009 – 2010	Ann Cleland and Barb Yates	1979 – 1981	Suzanne Jenkins and Gloria Froelich
2008 – 2009	Teri MacNabb and Ann Cleland	1977 – 1979	Virginia Sykes
2006 – 2008	Teri MacNabb and Barb Yates	1975 – 1977	Joyce Blomquist
2005 – 2006	Teri MacNabb and Barb Lehn	1972 – 1975	Georgeann Hall
2003 – 2005	Sandi Lutz and Barb Lehn	1969 – 1972	Carolyn Cushing
2001 – 2003	Ann Berry and Shirley Bradway	1967 – 1969	Lorraine Fredrickson
2000 – 2001	Laurie Boche and Judy Stuthman	1965 – 1967	Alice Scheel
1998 – 2000	Mary Ann Palmer and Judy Stuthman	1963 – 1965	Nancy Rozycki
1997 – 1998	Florence Sprague	1961 – 1963	Marge Johnson
1996 – 1997	Le Matts and Florence Sprague	1958 – 1961	Mrs. Robert Swan
1995 – 1996	Le Matts	1956 – 1958	Mrs. Paul Boyer
1994 – 1995	Jeanne Thompson	1954 – 1956	Mrs. L. Hocraffer

LWV of Roseville Area Positions

LWV of Roseville Area has adopted positions regarding several issues of local importance. These issues are below, but can also be found on our website at lwv.ncg/advocacy/. LWVMN positions can be found on their website at lwv.ncg/advocacy/. National LWV positions can be found on the national website at lwv.ncg/impact-issues.

GOVERNMENT

- Support ADA compliant opportunities for resident participation in city government, including early public participation in the decision-making process, and open appointment for advisory committees. (1988, 2021, 2022)
- Support City Manager form of government for Maplewood and Roseville (Plan B). (1960s)
- Recommend community police departments improve data collection of police activity to ensure accountability for avoiding racial profiling and track that officers dispatched to domestic violence and mental health crisis situations have appropriate training. (2016)
- Recommend that all cities periodically evaluate police cost-analysis and service delivery. (2016)
- Support the Memphis Model, or a substantial equivalent Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), for police officers dealing with mental health crises. (2016)
- Support the St. Paul Blueprint for Safety, or a substantial equivalent training, for police officers dealing with domestic violence. (2016)
- Support diversity training for all police officers. (2016)
- LWV of Roseville Area recommends that, over time, our Cities' boards and commissions broadly reflect the diversity of their population, including race, ethnicity, gender, income, age, and other aspects of diversity. (2022)
- Support city government compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements in administrative policy and access to and use of city owned and leased buildings, voting precincts, and recreational locations and facilities. (2022)
- Support compliance by city governments with ADA requirements for identification of an ADA Coordinator and grievance process and ease of access to these on city websites. (2022)

SOCIAL POLICY

- Support emergency medical services in Roseville with user fees. (1978, 1981, 2003)
- Support volunteer fire fighters with appropriate wages and benefits; oppose fees for fire department services. (2003)
- Support transportation options that serve the needs of the area. (1983)
- Support ADA compliant safe non-motorized pathways with costs assessed areawide. (1983, 2022)
- Support equal opportunity for all students in public schools with use of unbiased educational materials free of gender stereotypes. (1984-88, 2000)
- Support electing School Board members at-large for Districts 621, 622, 623. (1985, updated 1988)

NATURAL RESOURCES/ENVIRONMENT

- Support organized refuse collection contracted with haulers by the city. (1985, 2010)
- Support action to remove yard waste, newspaper, glass, metal munity composting. (1982)

LOCAL STUDY ITEM

The Board does not recommend a new study to begin for 2023-2024.

CMAL Annual Report

- 1. The Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues (CMAL) published Volume 59 of the newsletter. Issue 1 (July 2022) included a short history of the origins of CMAL in 1962, five years prior to creation of the Metropolitan Council. Issue 2 (December 2022) included a summary of Paul Linnell's October 15 presentation on the security of metro area elections. Issue 3 (February 2023) included a summary of the County Government Panel on January 14.
- 2. CMAL Quarterly Meetings. CMAL hosted three virtual programs:
 - (a) October 15, 2022: "Are Metro Elections Safe?" Paul Linnell, Deputy Elections Director, Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State, gave a wide-ranging presentation on election security in the metro area, ahead of the 2022 general election.
 - (b) January 14, 2023: "Metro County Government in 2023." County Commissioners Debbie Goettel (Hennepin), Laurie Halverson (Dakota) and Trista MatasCastillo (Ramsey) put on a powerhouse display of knowledge of county government, policies and issues. This panel was the culmination of CMAL's 2022 study of transparency, accountability and civic engagement in county government in the metro area.
 - (c) March 18, 2023: "Is Metro Transit at a Crossroads?" Metropolitan Council Member Deb Barber and Metro Transit Interim General Manager Lesley Kandaras gave a presentation on the issues of crime, safety and ridership on the Metro Transit system as a whole. Member Barber's PowerPoint included a wealth of detailed information on these three issues and how they affect one another. An article summarizing the presentation was sent to CMAL delegates.
- 3. Letter to the Editor. On March 20, 2023, the StarTribune published CMAL's letter to the editor promoting its position on retaining the Metropolitan Council as an appointed, not elected, body. This position is based on the study and consensus process of CMAL regarding Metropolitan Council Governance in 2018-2019. The letter was prompted by recent legislative discussions proposing election of Metropolitan Council members.
- 4. County Com missioner Candidate Forums. The County Government Study Committee provided some metro area League of Women Voters with potential questions to be asked at the forums ahead of the 2022 general election. The questions were based upon the 2022 CMAL study of county government.
- 5. The CMAL Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2023. Results will be published in the July-August LWV of Roseville Area newsletter.

LWV of Roseville Area Representative: Karen Schaffer and Lisa Scribner

Annual Meeting Agenda

70th Annual Business Meeting Agenda

League of Women Voters of Roseville Area Tuesday, May 23, 2023, 7 pm Autumn Grove Park Building, Roseville

- 1. Call to Order / Adoption of Order of Business
- 2. Additions/Changes to Agenda
- 3. Appointment of Parliamentarian
- 4. Declaration of Quorum
- 5. Introduction of the Board
- 6. Reports
 - President's Report
 - Secretary's Report
 - Treasurer's Report
 - Committee Reports: Voter Services, Program, Membership, Communications, Action/Advocacy, Student Scholarship

7. Action Items

- Presentation and approval of the 2023-2024 budget
- Adoption of the local Program for Action
- Consideration of a local study
- Approval of amendments to the LWV of Roseville Area Policies and Procedures
- Presentation and approval of Nominating Committee Report
- 8. Rose Awards
- 9. Directions to the Board
- 10. Announcements
- 11. Adjournment

President's Report

This year was busy and full of unexpected change, both incredibly sad and exhilarating. While the world kept turning, our League was hard at work to keep turning with it and meet all challenges thrown our way.

Our tireless members and committee leaders met the election year and its busyness, the turn in the Minnesota government and surprising bills for League advocacy, and the change in leadership within our own group with strength, support for one another, and determination to carry on the important work we do.

- The Voter Services Team, led by Marcia Cheney, Nancy Simpson, and Teresa Wernecke, were hard at work this year. If you didn't find them leading multiple voter registration events, they were organizing numerous candidate forums and partnering to help other Leagues run theirs. If they weren't faithfully gathering candidate responses for Vote411, they were engaging students in the Roseville Area High School to impart the importance of voting and local elections.
- The Program Committee, led by Florence Sprague and Carol Marchel, produced an abundance of events this year, balancing between Zoom and in-person attendance. The topics ranged from ranked choice voting to restorative justice to the importance of trees, with many more timely topics in between to keep us informed.
- The Study of Our Five Cities' Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) moved from member approval last year to advocacy this year. Study members Jim DeBenedet, Ann Cleland, Bonnie Koch, and Mary Peterson spoke at our cities' councils to share the study results and recommendations. An immediate effect was seen in several cities with accessibility being brought up in other aspects of the councils' work after the presentations.
- The Communications Team, led by Mary Peterson, faithfully kept our members informed of both League events and alerts to the many bills in our government that spoke to the work and issues our League upholds.
- The Action and Advocacy Team, led by Sherry Hood, found hope and organized chaos in reporting on all of those many bills. They found quite an unexpectedly active session to keep us all aware of this year. The Environmental Subcommittee, led by Donna Peterson, tirelessly continued their advocacy and programming to keep our attention turned to the precariousness of our fragile world.
- The Membership Committee, led by Rita Mills, the Nominations Committee, led by Sherry Hood, and the Finance Committee, led by Mary Ann Palmer, met the adversity of the loss of a leader in our League with strong leadership themselves and perseverance to keep our League running strong. Our Student Scholarship Committee, led by Karen Lake, moved to ensure that loss was honored in our scholarships this year.

The incredible work of our resolute committees are listed in even more detail in the individual reports within this document. Please read them and congratulate those involved for their wonderful accomplishments for the year.

Our League can only thrive because of the strength of the members that make it up. I know I personally experienced that with the support I was given repeatedly as I stepped into the presidency halfway through this year. Our members new and tenured are full of incredible knowledge and experience they can lend to make exploring and advocating for our positions a joy despite the hard work needed to make it happen. I thank you all for continuing that work with your passion and resilience as we look to the bright future of the coming year, and I can't wait to see what we can accomplish together next.

President: Rachel Geiser

Secretary's Report: 69th Annual Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the 69th Annual Meeting of the LWV of Roseville Area Tuesday May 3, 2022, Autumn Grove Park Building, Roseville

1. Call to Order / Adoption of Order of Business

Vice President Barb Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm, explaining that President Barb Barany was unable to attend. Barb Anderson recognized the members of the Annual Meeting committee and thanked them for their work. She asked if there were any changes to the order of business and hearing none, it was adopted as printed.

2. Additions/Changes to Agenda

Barb Anderson asked whether there are any changes to the agenda as listed on page eight of the 69th annual meeting booklet. hearing none, the agenda was adopted as printed.

3. Appointment of Parliamentarian

Barb Anderson appointed Karen Schaffer as parliamentarian.

4. Declaration of Quorum

As more than 10% of the membership was present, Barb Anderson declared a quorum.

5. Introduction of the Board

Board members stood and were recognized. Life members were listed, and those in the room were recognized.

6. Reports

- <u>President's Report</u> can be read on page 9 of the Annual Report.
- <u>Secretary's Report</u> is on page 10 of the Annual Report. Barb called for a motion to authorize the Board to approve the Minutes of this annual meeting at the first regularly scheduled Board meeting following this Annual meeting. Moved by Cecilia Warner, motion carried.
- <u>Treasurer's Report</u> can be seen on p. 12 of the Annual Report. The Treasurer's report will be filed for review and audit.
- <u>Committee Reports</u>: The reports for Voter Services, Program, Membership, Communications, Action/Advocacy, Equitable Representation, Cities' Compliance with ADA, and Student Scholarship can be found on pp. 13-20 of the Annual Report. Barb thanked the team leaders for the great work.

7. Action Items

- <u>Presentation and approval of the 2022-2023 budget</u>: The budget is on p. 21 of the Annual Report. Sherry Hood moved to adopt the budget with a second by Rita Mills. Budget was unanimously approved.
- Adoption of the local Program for Action, a continuation and amendments to local positions: (p.6). The Board recommends adoption of this new position. Wayne Groff moved to adopt as written, seconded by Sherry Hood. Groff moved to amend, adding the word disability. Both Wayne and Sherry agreed to amend. The motion carried. ADA study: Board recommends amendments to existing positions and a new position (see p. 9 in Annual Report). So moved by Megan Dahlberg and seconded by Florence Sprague. Motion carried. Each year, members are asked to re-approve the program for action (p. 6 of the Annual Report). Moved by Alana Howie, seconded by Rita Mills, motion carried.

(Minutes continue on next page.)

Secretary's Report: 69th Annual Meeting Minutes (cont.)

- <u>Consideration of a local study</u>: The Board does not recommend a new study in 2022/23. There were no study suggestions from the floor.
- Approval of amendments to the LWV of Roseville Area Bylaws
- Approval of amendments to the LWV of Roseville Area Policies and Procedures: Florence Sprague moved to adopt the deletions and revision. Discussion followed, explaining rationale for moving details from bylaws to policies and procedures. The Board recommends the addition of policy (on p. 23 of Annual Report) to conduct local advocacy in alignment with the state. Motion to adopt by Wayne Groff with a second by Georgeanne Hall. Mindy Greiling suggested corrections on the final bulletin and deletion of duplicate sentences. Motion to amend the original motion by Mindy Greiling with second by Rachelle Peleska. The motion to amend carried; and the original amended motion also carried.
- <u>Presentation and approval of Nominating Committee Report:</u> Having no nominations from the floor, the Chair declared nominations closed. Cecelia moved to nominate the slate as presented in the report. Rachelle seconded. Motion carried and nominees will take office effective June 1, 2022.

8. Rose Awards:

- Jim and Stephanie DeBenedet: Gor the ADA study
- Rachel Geiser: For contributions to League through her work on the ADA, Voter, and Annual Report
- Bonnie Koch: For her core knowledge of League policy and procedures
- Carol Marchel: For her moderation technique
- Nancy Simpson: For her energy and experience with immigrant organizations

9. Directions to the Board:

Request for suggestions from the membership. Carol Marchel suggested finding a way to diversify our membership. Discussion around the importance of personal connections and relationships when engaging diverse communities. Marsha Cheney spoke about her connections in the Muslim community.

10. Announcements:

Megan Dahlberg has been elected to the National Academy of Science for her research in the field of Early Childhood.

Voter Services Committee asked for those interested in serving on that committee.

Rita Mills announced upcoming event: Brews and Books event on Tuesday, July 19, at the White Bear Meadery in Maplewood.

11. Adjournment at 8:05 pm. Attendance: 37 members.

Minutes submitted by Kathy Macomber, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

This is the Summary of Accounts for LWV of Roseville Area.

REVENUES	
Membership	
Total of all dues	\$6,095.00
Contributions	*-,
Total of all donations	\$6,133.00
Other	
Grants (Martin & Brown, Youth Fellows, etc.)	\$1,102.61
Interest Income	•
Used book sale, and refunded duplicate payment	\$87.00
Transfers	
Total amount transferred from savings account into checking account	
TOTAL REVENUES	\$13,417.61
EXPENSES	
Dues	
Per Member Payment (PMP) for Minnesota	\$2,821.00
Per Member Payment (PMP) for US	\$3,808.00
Partner/Other Organization Dues	
Programming	
MN/US Member Events (Convention, Council, etc.)	
Salaries/Internships Paid	
Events/Meetings (Venue Rental, Speaker Stipends, Refreshments, Marketing, etc.)	\$134.76
Voter Service (Candidate Forums, Registration, Outreach, Marketing, etc.)	\$1,561.85
Membership Supplies (Printing, Postage, Merchandise, etc.)	\$538.63
Lobbying	
Direct Lobbying (does not include volunteer time, only paid expenses)	
Other	
Fundraising	\$161.38
Bank Fees/Credit Card Fees/PayPal Fees	\$146.78
IT Expenses	\$209.95
Office Supplies	\$39.95
Other (Please Specify)	
Transfers	
Total amount transferred from checking account into savings account	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$9,422.30
SUMMARY	
Beginning of Fiscal Year	
Checking account bank balance on March 31, 2022	\$33,689.95
Plus deposits in transit	
Minus outstanding checks	-\$8,033.42
Checking Register on 3/31/2022	\$25,656.53
Plus Total Revenues	\$13,417.61
Minus Total Expenses	\$9,422.30
Checking Register on 3/31/2023	\$29,651.84
End of Fiscal Year	
Checking account bank balance on March 31, 2023	\$29,830.62
Plus deposits in transit	
Minus outstanding checks	-\$178.78
Adjusted Bank Ending Balance 3/31/2023	\$29,651.84

Treasurer: Kathy Macomber

Voter Services Committee Report

The following is a summary of major Voter Services Committee activities.

Voter Registrations

- Events featuring voter registrations/information: Earth Day April 22, 2022 & 2023; Volunteer Fair at RAHS May 4, 2022; Juneteenth Community Festival on June 19, 2022; Electric Transportation on June 21, 2022; Falcon Heights Ice Cream Social July 21, 2022; Lauderdale Day in the Park July 21, 2022; National Night Out at House of Hope August 2, 2022; Climate Carnival in St. Paul August 20, 2022; Festival for Change September 9, 2022.
- LWVRA participants at one or more voter registration events include Barbara Anderson, Marcia Cheney, Megan Dahlberg, Rachel Geiser, Deb Heuwinkel, Alana Howey, Gladys Jones, Susan Johnson, Rita Mills, Kate O'Connell, Kris Olsen, Becki Pederson, Suzanne Sancilio, Nancy Simpson, Margaret Stanwood, Mary Kay VonDeLinde, Teresa Wernecke
- Some events were in conjunction with Do Good Roseville and other LWVRA Committees.
- New citizenship ceremonies led by Judy Stuthman registered about 10,000 new voters.

Candidate Forums (CF) in 2022

- The CFs were Arden Hills Mayoral & City Council, Maplewood Mayoral and City Council, Little Canada City Council, Lauderdale Mayoral and Council, Roseville Mayoral and City Council, Senate District 44 and House Districts 44A & 44B, Independent School District 622 North St. Paul and Oakdale.
- We partnered with the White Bear Lake League to provide CF for Senate District 40 and House Districts 40A and 40B and partnered with St. Paul League to provide CFs Senate District 66 and House Districts 66A and 66B and Ramsey County Commission District 3.
- Nine North's Maureen Anderson and her team provided technical operational taping and broadcast skills for five of the Candidate Forums plus accommodations for one of the CFs.
- LWVRA moderators for these Candidate Forums were Rachel Geiser, Kitty Gogins, Kathy Macomber, Linda McLoon, Florence Sprague.
- Assistants at one or more of the Candidate Forums were Barbara Anderson, Marcia Cheney, Megan Dahlberg, Sherry Hood, Alana Howey, Susan Johnson, Suzanne Kienietz, Karen Lake, Kathy Macomber, Rita Mills, Kate O'Connell, Sharon Oswald, Becki Pederson, Suzanne Sancilio, Nancy Simpson, Mary Kay VonDeLinde, Teresa Wernecke.
- Suzanne Kienietz made approximately 55 name plate signs for candidates and moderators for 9 of the CFs.
- LWVRA Communication Team members were Mary Peterson, Gladys Jones, Rachel Geiser.

Youth Engagement

• LVWRA met with over 200 Tartan High School seniors on May 31, 2022, as they picked up their cap & gown. Volunteers at this event were Marcia Cheney, Gladys Jones, Rita Mills, Kate O'Connell, Becki Pederson.

(Report continued on next page.)

Voter Services Committee Report (cont.)

Youth Engagement

- LWVRA is scheduled to be at Tartan High School cap & gown event again this year on May 25, 2023. (Roseville High School was not interested in this cap & gown event because students tend to leave the high school immediately after to visit their former elementary schools.)
- Marcia Cheney, along with Rachel Geiser, Rachelle Peleska and Teresa Wernecke, successfully led the effort for LWVRA to design and teach a curriculum specifically focused on local elections/voting for the Roseville High School senior government/civics classes. This syllabus has been well received by the civic teachers and popular with students. Marcia, Rachel, Rachelle and Teresa continue to energetically enhance and fine tune this curriculum.
- LWVRA successfully supervised the Roseville High School senior's civic classes on May 26, 2022, November 22, 2022, and March 6, 2023. LWVRA Volunteers who enjoyed interacting with the students at these classes were Marcia Cheney, Rachel Geiser, Rita Mills, Rachelle Peleska, Nancy Simpson, Mary Kay VonDeLinde, Teresa Wernecke.
- Future civic classes continue to be planned with one scheduled for May 31, 2023.
- Marcia Cheney identified a Roseville High School Student Ambassador and Ambassador on Special Assignment. The student ambassador created eight posters titled "Women Belong in Government" and two sets of these were displayed throughout the school. A contest to generate increased viewing of them led to 10 prizes being awarded. The students are currently developing a competition called "Civics & Art Mash-up" with the theme "My Vote, My Voice."
- Updates about Youth Engagement programs were provided to Chris Hester, Principal, and Lee Thao, Assistant Principal. Marcia Cheney has also been in contact with Brynn Mac-Donald, Career Center.

Other

- Vote411 Out of 54 contested candidates that LWVRA covered, 34 answered the questions for Vote411. Nancy Simpson headed up the effort to encourage candidates to answer the questions. Sherry Hood and Teresa Wernecke submitted possible questions for Vote411.
- LWVRA Voter Services successfully received money from the Martin & Brown Grant. 2021-2022 Voter Services Committee

Voter Service Team Co-Leaders: Marcia Cheney, Nancy Simpson, Teresa Wernecke

Team: Kayla Flynn, Karen Lake, Kathy Macomber, Rita Mills, Kate O'Connell, Sharon Oswald, Suzanne Sancilio

Candidate Forums Lead: Teresa Wernecke Youth Engagement Lead: Marcia Cheney

Voter Registration & Tech Expert Lead: Nancy Simpson

Moderators: Kitty Gogins, Linda McLoon, Kathy Macomber, Florence Sprague; Rachel

Geiser; Training: Susan Johnson

Program Committee Report

Programming this year encompassed every month and a wide variety of activities and topics.

It was another year of great collaboration with the Ramsey County Library Roseville (RCLRV), which cosponsored many programs and hosted them on their Zoom platform. Programs presented on Zoom at the RCLRV are recorded and may be viewed online. Many events were also cosponsored by other leagues, particularly St. Paul.

The LWV of Roseville Area continued to keep our presence known in our communities, sharing information with the cities and supporting their commitment to inclusivity.

June—the Environmental subcommittee educated and entertained us with its EV (Electric Vehicle) event at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. Indoors was an informative video and a knowledgeable speaker and in the parking lot was a wide variety of EVs and EV owners to learn from. The bold could also test ride electric assisted bicycles.

July—our annual book sharing and social event became Books and Mead as we met at the White Bear Meadery, newly relocated to Maplewood. As always, the books and conversation were wide-ranging.

August—in coordination with the Firearms Study consensus coming in early December, we sponsored a program on gun safety, "Be SMART: A Conversation About Kids and Guns," led by member Suzanne Sancilio.

September—a true LWV topic, Ranked Choice Voting, with panelists Jeanne Massey of FairVote Minnesota and Mary Hartnett of Clean Elections Minnesota sharing information on how ranked choice voting works and how it has been implemented in Minnesota communities to-date.

October—we met in person at the RCLRV to recognize the important work of the United Nations (UN Day is October 24) and listen to M. Jay Shahidi, representing the Minnesota Chapter of the United Nations Association of USA.

November—GOTV: No, not watching the tube, Get Out the Vote! We hope that all were able to participate in the important mid-term elections by voting, and heaps of thanks to the many Leaguers who worked at the polls!

December—the long-awaited LWVMN Firearms Study consensus meeting was held. The study report was available online. Attendees discussed and voted on eight consensus questions. Those unable to attend were able to submit their votes by snail or e-mail. Our votes were then joined with those of all other local leagues in MN, with the resulting position changes to be presented at Convention this spring for a vote of the delegates.

December—also offered a service opportunity followed by lunch with friends. Members joined other volunteers to pack bags of non-perishable foods at Every Meal in Roseville. These bags are distributed through schools to families facing food insecurity. Youth learn better if they are not hungry! Hungry volunteers then joined for lunch at Lindey's Prime Steak House.

January—Conversations with Constituents was another great opportunity to hear from our mayors and county commissioners and maintain connections with local officials. Another event co-sponsored by RCLRV.

February—Restorative Justice, an outstanding panel including RC Attorney John Choi, Roslyn Harmon, Dispute Resolution Center, and Tina Sigel, from Restorative Justice Community Action brought us a thought-provoking and informative program.

March—Rabata Cultural Center—LWVRA member Tamara Gray welcomed us to Rabata to learn about their programs focusing on educating Muslim women. They graciously served lunch along with information and inspiration.

April—The environmental subcommittee presented "Trees: Guardians of Health, Happiness, Equity," with speakers Peter McDonagh and Ben Shardlow.

May—Annual Meeting.

Program Team Leader: Florence Sprague; Vice-Chair: Carol Marchel

With deep gratitude for the hard work, patience and commitment of the entire team, and apologies to anyone we may have failed to note.

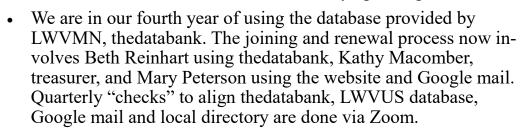
Team: Megan Dahlberg, Rachel Geiser, Mindy Greiling, Patricia Hoffman, Sherry Hood, Gladys Jones, Bonnie Koch, Kathy Macomber, Rita Mills, Lisa Scribner, Karen Schaffer, study committee chairs and members.

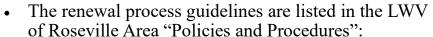
Membership Committee Report

As of April, 2023, Board meeting, the active membership is at 125 which includes 7 lifetime members. This is 16 fewer than last year at this time due to non-renewal (reasons: age-related, wanting to pursue other interests, unknown), relocation, and deaths.

- We continue to rely heavily on staying connected with individual emails and snail mail packets.
 Monthly "Spotlight" articles in The Voter are now a "Q&A" with more photos and emphasis on personal interest.
- The "How Our League Works" brochure has been crucial for communicating with new members. New members have exclusively joined via the League website.

• Membership pictorial directory was updated regularly and emailed to membership in January and June, but updated versions can be emailed individually upon request.





- April 1 is the renewal date for members who have joined prior to 2019.
- Renewal dates for members who have joined 2019 and later are based on the Join Date (rolling membership). There are currently 43 members in this "rolling membership" category (down from 48 one year ago.)
- The most significant change in past five years has been to allow a two-month grace period to renew, after which a member becomes "inactive." Reminder...this is a change from prior six-month grace period. While "inactive" members are left in

grace period. While "inactive" members are left in thedatabank records, they are removed from local League's mailing list for weekly e-blasts, Voter and Action Alert notifications. Three members were "reactivated" during past year.

• Membership chair is meeting bimonthly with chairs at state level and individually with other state chairs. Sharing information is becoming paramount.

Committee members: Beth Reinhart, Kathy Macomber, Mary Peterson, Mary Kay Vondelinde

Chair: Rita Mills

Lifetime 5%

6 years or more 60%

5 years or less 35%

of new members by year: 2019 – 9 2020 – 12 2021 – 5 2022 – 15 2023 - 2

Additional \$16
Student \$0
Lifetime \$0
LWVMN dues: \$27
Student & Lifetime: \$0

Dues date structure: January 1 – December 31 for both state and national.
Data to U.S. due January 31. Payment due March 31 to receive a 5% discount.

LWVUS dues:

Primary \$32

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Communications Committee Report

A welcome change this year was being able to meet in person a few times. The Communications Team continues to use social media to communicate with members and the general public. Members are encouraged to follow us on social media, especially Facebook. We also post events on Twitter and Instagram, and share to our page posts from LWVMN, LWVUS, other local Leagues and other organizations to inform our members. Thank you to Gladys Jones for all the Facebook posts.

We continue to send out weekly email blasts with information and reminders about upcoming League events and meetings, and events and information sponsored by other local Leagues and organizations that may be of interest to our members.

Information on our events is sent to our local city offices, and they publish information about our meetings and events that they believe will serve their residents. While that doesn't include every event LWV of Roseville Area holds, it does broaden our ability to get our message out to the general public. We also send press releases to the major newspapers, but they have not published the items we have sent.

The League website, lwvrosevillearea.org, continues to be the place to find articles about sponsored events, voting resources, issues of The Voter, advocacy issues, including studies conducted and League history. There you will also find links to our Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube accounts. Because virtually all of our programs have been hosted by the Ramsey County Library in the past year, we cannot post our recordings on our YouTube channel. Instead, they are published on the library's website, and we provide links to the recordings on our website, Facebook and in our weekly eBlasts. Thanks to Sherry Hood, Action/Advocacy Chair and committee members, we continue to publish weekly scheduled meetings of local municipalities and their committees/commissions. This information is updated by Sunday each week and contains links to the agendas for each.

The Voter has a new refreshed look. After receiving training, we now use PowerMail through the LWVMN Databank website to create an HTML email newsletter. Thanks to Rachel Geiser for all her work on this. The Voter contains a monthly President's report, information about programs, both before and recaps after events and Board and Annual meeting dates. It also contains articles from League members, a member spotlight, timely information from LWVUS and LWVMN, volunteer opportunities with our committees and a monthly event calendar.

All of our Board and committee meetings this past year have been conducted using our Zoom platform. We found there are benefits to meeting on Zoom, especially during the winter months. We will revisit how we conduct our meetings and programs and share decisions with members. If you have suggestions or ideas about how to do that, or how we can improve in any way, we welcome input.

Co-Chairs: Mary Peterson

Committee Members: Mary Peterson, website and email; Gladys Jones, social media; Rachel Geiser, The Voter, Mindy Greiling, Barb Luck, assist with communications, Merrie Zakaras, PR; Jo Waldron, The Voter distribution.

Action/Advocacy Committee Report

The weekly updates of local government meetings have been sent continuously for the Sunday eblasts. These submissions have also informed and updated our website on a regular basis. Even if members do not attend these meetings, just the agenda posted informs all of us what our own and neighboring communities are doing! We all learn in someway from this information.

The chair of this committee has attended almost all monthly LWVMN Action/Advocacy meetings. Also, Action Alerts from our state League and Minnesota Environmental Partnership (MEP), a climate action group in which our state League is an important member, have been sent to all local members regarding legislation being considered at the 2023 Minnesota State legislative session.

The Environmental Subcommittee has been busy this year!

Carol Marchel and Sherry Hood joined the 100% Campaign Coalition at our state Capitol in February to advocate for 100% clean energy by 2040 for the state of Minnesota. It was passed and signed into law by Governor Walz a few days later.

Also, some of our committee contacted several new city council members in our five city area for an interview with them offering our knowledge and support of local environmental issues.

We presented a field trip last June which was an EV Fair and it was very well attended and fun! On April 18, 2023, we organized a program about trees and our urban tree canopy that was very interesting and well attended. We have a field trip organized for June 2023 at the U of M Forestry Department as a follow-up to our program in April.

Chair: Sherry Hood Committee Members:

- Action/Advocacy: Mindy Greiling, Wayne Groff, Priscilla Morton
- Observer Corps: Margo Bock, Ann Cleland, Carol Marchel, Teri Mathews
- Environmental Subcommittee: Donna Peterson (chair), Anne Haugan, Sherry Hood, Alana Howey, Barb Luck, Tammy McGehee, Priscilla Morton

Student Scholarship Committee Report

In 2021 a Student Scholarship Committee was formed at the direction of the LWV of Roseville Area Board to identify area high school contact people for proposed student scholarships, to determine an amount to grant and to develop the criteria for award recipients. The overall goal of providing the scholarships was to increase League visibility with young people, especially those from underrepresented communities. A \$500 scholarship with an optional complimentary student membership to our Chapter was this year offered to a 2022-23 graduating student at Roseville Area High School, Fairview Alternative High School and Tartan High School, which are schools in our local five cities. They have worked with us in the past to offer student voter registrations. Each school's Scholarship Committee, using our guidance criteria, selected the winner at their school.

The Student Scholarship Committee recommended funding for an increase to two \$500 scholarships at each of RAHS, FAHS and Tartan beginning in the 2023-24 school year.

Guidance for selection of the student

Required criteria are:

- 1. Member of the current graduating class or equivalent.
- 2. Has post-high school education or training plans.
- 3. Presents personal qualities that make him/her/them a role model to others.

One or more of the following criteria are desired:

- 1. Has set and achieved a personal goal.
- 2. Has life experiences that demonstrate self-determination and/or the overcoming challenges.
- 3. Assists non-English speaking family, friends and/or community members in participating within their community.
- 4. Participates in a school, religious or community group to promote cultural, environmental, educational and/or political engagement.

Chair: Karen Lake

Committee Members: Barb Barany, Anne Haugen, Suzanne Sancilio, June Stewart

Finance Committee and Budget Report

The Annual Budget for 2023-2024 was created based on actual revenues and expenses in the 2022 – 2023 year, plus adjustments for youth scholarships and Board priorities. For the most part, income was in keeping with the budget as approved by the membership at the May 2022 Annual Meeting. Expenses were less than expected, at 62% of the budgeted amount.

Variations from the 2022-2023 budget included:

- PayPal fees More members are paying via PayPal, which increases the fees. However, it results in less effort to manually process checks, so it is a great trade-off.
- Voter Services Because 2022 was an election year, candidate forums and other Voter Services expenses were higher, with the Martin Brown grant offsetting most of the expenses.
- Board The Board met virtually all year, so there were no facility expenses.
- Delegate travel The LWVMN Convention was held virtually, so there were no travel expenses incurred.

In the creation of the 2023-2024 budget, the following should be noted:

- Dues projections are based on current and previous years' membership.
- Voter Services expenses will decrease as this is not an election year.
- Increase in youth award/scholarship to match Board directive. The increased expense is offset by the increased memorial donations this year.

There was no in-person audit or examination of the financial records. An audit will occur in the 2023-2024 budget year. Please note all individual transactions were reviewed electronically at year-end by the Budget Committee, and financial transactions are reviewed monthly by the Board and are consistent with the budget/Board actions.

(See the 2023-2024 proposed budget on the following page.)

Chair: Mary Ann Palmer

Committee Members: Bonnie Koch, Kathy Macomber, and Merrie Zakaras

Finance Committee and Budget Report (cont.)

		Area 2023-24 P	<u> </u>	March 22-23		od Budgot 22 24
	Propose	d Budget 22-23	YIL	March 22-23	Propos	ed Budget 23-24
INCOME:			<u> </u>			
Dues (115) pd members @ \$70	\$	8,400.00	\$	6,095.00	\$	8,050.00
Contributions (unrestricted)	\$	4,000.00	\$	4,553.00	\$	3,500.00
Memorials			\$	1,580.00		
Annual Meeting	\$	800.00			\$	500.00
Micellaneous	\$	200.00	\$	87.00	\$	200.00
Reserves	\$	1,000.00			\$	6,380.00
Martin-Brown Grant			\$	1,162.61		
Paypal Fees	\$	(300.00)	\$	(146.78)	\$	(200.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$	14,100.00	\$	13,330.83	\$	18,430.00
EXPENSES:						
Program Division						
Program	\$	750.00	\$	32.20	\$	750.00
Honorariums			\$	100.00	\$	300.00
Special Events	\$	1,000.00			\$	1,000.00
Voter Service	\$	1,725.00	\$	1,561.85	\$	1,725.00
Advocacy Action	\$	100.00			\$	100.00
Communications						
Public Relations/Advertising	\$	100.00			\$	100.00
Voter mailing	\$	100.00	\$	85.00	\$	100.00
Archivist	\$	100.00			\$	100.00
Printing	\$	750.00	\$	192.00	\$	750.00
Website/Facebook/Zoom	\$	300.00	\$	209.95	\$	300.00
Miscellaneous						
Membership	\$	150.00	\$	261.63	\$	300.00
Board Expense						
President/Vice President	\$	100.00				
Secretary						
Development Committee	\$	150.00	\$	161.38	\$	200.00
Treasurer/fees	\$	75.00	\$	39.01	\$	75.00
Board Expense	\$	50.00			\$	50.00
Sunshine Fund	\$	50.00			\$	50.00
Facility Honorarium	\$	200.00			\$	200.00
Delegate, Travel, Affiliation						
Delegates, Convention, Workshop	\$	2,000.00			\$	2,000.00
Miscellaneous						
Memorials						
Other Club Dues (Gavel Club)	\$	20.00			\$	20.00
Dues (Regional Water Interleague)	\$	25.00			\$	25.00
Annual Meeting	\$	800.00	\$	499.27	\$	500.00
Miscellaneous	\$	200.00				
Youth Award/Scholarships	\$	1,500.00	\$	1,000.00	\$	3,000.00
Per Member Payments						
PMP National (115 members @ \$32)	\$	3,840.00	\$	3,808.00	\$	3,680.00
PMP State (115 members @ \$27)	\$	3,240.00	\$	2,821.50	\$	3,105.00
CMAL dues (115members @ \$1)						
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	17,325.00	\$	10,771.79	\$	18,430.00

Amendments To LWV of Roseville Area Policies and Procedures

The following are proposed amendments to LWV of Roseville Area policies and procedures (change in red font).

(ARTICLE III) LOCAL MEMBERSHIP, Amended by the Board on May 4, 2023

- A. Voting members Persons at least 16 years of age and older whose current annual dues are paid.
- B. Dues The fiscal year is April 1-March 31. New membership dues are \$50. Renewing dues are \$70 for individual memberships and \$105 for family memberships. Dues for students are \$0 and low income individuals are \$30. Members who joined prior to 2019 will have a membership renewal date of April 1 each year. New members joining in 2019 or later, or inactive members re-joining in 2019 or later, will have a membership renewal date based on their original join or re-join date.

Nominations Committee Report

By Nominating Committee: Sherry Hood, Chair, and committee members Barb Barany, Lisa Scribner, and Florence Sprague

• *President: Rachel Geiser

• *Vice President: Teresa Wernecke

• *Secretary: Jen Peterson

• *Treasurer: Kathy Macomber

• *Members-at-Large: Wayne Groff, Bonnie Koch, Lisa Scribner, Florence Sprague

• CMAL: Karen Schaffer, Lisa Scribner

• *Action Team Leader: Sherry Hood

o **Team:** Mindy Greiling, Wayne Groff

- Environmental Subcommittee: *Chair:* Alana Howey; *Team:* Rebecca Bormann, Ann Haugan, Sherry Hood, Carol Marchel, Tammy McGehee, Kris Olsen, Becky Pederson, Donna Peterson
- o **Observer Corps Subcommittee:** Ann Cleland, Sherry Hood, Carol Marchel
- *Budget & Development Co-Leaders: Bonnie Koch, Mary Ann Palmer

Team: Barb Barany, Merrie Zakaras, *Treasurer* Kathy Macomber

• *Communication Team Leader: Mary Peterson

Team: Gladys Jones, Barb Luck, Merrie Zakaras, Youth engagement students

Voter Subcommittee: Editor: Barb Luck, Proofreading: Becki Pedersen, Print: Barb Barany, Distribute copies: Jo Waldron

• *Membership Team Leader: Ann Thonet

Team: Mary Kay VonDeLinde; treasurer Kathy Macomber; Data: Beth Reinhart

• *Nominating Committee Chair: Barb Barany

Team (appointed by Board): Karen Lake, Beth Reinhart, Lisa Scribner

• *Program Team Leader: Rita Mills; Assistant Leader: Carol Marchel

Team: Carrie Dickson, Megan Dahlberg, Georgia Heisserer, Patti Hoffman, Kathy Macomber, Lisa Scribner, Karen Schaffer, Florence Sprague; *Fliers:* Barb Leary; *Conversations with Constituents:* Margo Bock, Kris Olsen, Florence Sprague

- *Voter Services Team Co- Leaders: Marcia Cheney, Nancy Simpson, and Teresa Wernecke;
 - Team: Kayla Flynn, Karen Lake, Kathy Macomber, Rita Mills, Kate O'Connell, Sharon Oswald, Suzanne Sancilio
 - o Candidate Forums: Teresa Wernecke, Suzanne Sancilio
 - o Youth Engagement: Marcia Cheney
 - o Voter Registrations: Nancy Simpson, Suzanne Sancilio
 - Moderators: Kitty Gogins, Linda McLoon, Kathy Macomber, Florence Sprague; *Training:* Susan Johnson
- Ad Hoc Committees
 - o **Archives:** Shirley Bradway; *Digitizing:* Barb Barany
 - Annual Meeting: Mary Kay VonDeLinde
 - Student Scholarship Committee: Chair: Karen Lake; Team: Barb Barany, June Stewart, Anne Haugen, Suzanne Sancilio

^{*}Elected position

Thank You to 2022-2023 Contributors!

The LWV of Roseville Area thanks the following members and friends of the League for their generous contributions to the 2022-2023 fund drive. Contributions totaled \$6,133, including \$1,580 in memorials for Barbara Anderson, Stephanie DeBenedet, and Leola Rempel.

Barbara Anderson Bonnie Koch Karen Angeli Karen Lake

Anonymous Kathy Macomber
Catherine Armstrong Carol Marchel

Barb and George Barany Rita Mills

Nancy Bruggeman Mary Ann Palmer
Thomas Chapple Donna Peterson
Marcia Cheney Jen Peterson
Ann Cleland Mary Peterson

Shelley Colvin

Jim DeBenedet

Lila Recksiedler

Linda Den Bleyker

Karen Schaffer

Lisa Scribner

Carrie Dickson Lisa Scribner
Louise Gallagher Val Skrypek

Rachel Geiser Florence Sprague and David Misemer

Mindy and Roger Greiling

Wayne Groff

Georgeann Hall

June Stewart

Judy Stuthman

Joan Stark

Deb Heuwinkel

Sandra Hewitt

Sherry Hood

Soan Stark

Ann Thonet

Jeanne Voight

Teresa Wernecke

Nancy Irsfeld Judy and Lloyd Wright

Gladys Jones

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate; it is political in that it takes positions on selected governmental issues, which is done only after members study and reach agreement.