

# League Opposes Styrofoam Lunch Trays

Despite our actions in the 1980s that prevented the Roseville Area Schools (District 623) from using Styrofoam lunch trays, the schools have now been using them for over 15 years. At the instigation of new League member Kerry Fine and with the blessing of our board, Mindy Greiling, Kathy Juenemann and she took action to again stop this bad environmental practice.

In August, they met with Angie Richey, the Nutrition Services Supervisor, and Shari Thompson, Business Manager, who are working on a Public Entity Innovation Grant (PEIG) from Ramsey County to address district waste and recycling is-sues. Sept. 14, when the board held the first hearing on a waste reduction policy that is a first step in applying for the grant, Kerry testified on behalf of our League, calling for a stronger policy than the one under consideration and intermediary steps, because the grant will take three or four years to implement.

Some elementary schools recycle food and some schools have student environmental groups. Harambee was named a US Green Ribbon School.

## **Mounds View Schools (District 621)**

Mounds View Schools is our most environmental school district. They wash all their dishes and have never stopped. Furthermore, they compost all food and compostable paper products, e.g., napkins, and separate out all plastics for recycling.

## **North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale Schools (District 622)**

Unfortunately, the North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale school district uses all throwaways for school lunches, including Styrofoam trays, due to cost, they said. Members who live in District 622 and are interested in League action there should let us know.

*Kerry Fine, Mindy Greiling, Kathy Juenemann*