

# The Voter

The official publication of the League of Women Voters of Roseville Area

FALCON HEIGHTS, LAUDERDALE, LITTLE CANADA, MAPLEWOOD, ROSEVILLE

Volume 62, Number 1

August, 2016

**LWV**

League of Women Voters

ROSEVILLE AREA

Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Little Canada, Maplewood, Roseville

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

*President's column* 2

*Windows, Mirrors* 3

*Police study* 5

*LWVUS* 5

*Calendar* 6

## We're on the Web!

[www.lwvrosevillearea.org](http://www.lwvrosevillearea.org)

## And Facebook!

[www.facebook.com/romafh.lwv](https://www.facebook.com/romafh.lwv)

## Roseville Area League co-sponsors film featuring struggle for women's right to vote



Inez Milholland

Ninety-six years ago, the 19th Amendment was ratified, giving American women the right to vote. Join us as we celebrate that historic occasion with films about the struggle for votes and about Inez Milholland, one of the most colorful of the early campaigners for women's suffrage.

The event, will be at 7 p.m. Aug. 18 at the Roseville Library. Sponsors are the League of Women Voters - Roseville Area; the Human Rights Commissions of Roseville and White Bear Lake, and the Harriet G. Walker Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

This event is free. Please register at <https://votesforwomen.eventbrite.com>

## What affordable housing is available locally?

Our League's housing study committee got off to a good start this summer re-searching the topic of affordable housing and learning about the various types in preparation for learning about our local situation. League already has strong positions in support of affordable housing at the regional (Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues), state and national levels, but members attending the Annual Meeting last spring called for this study in order to assess availability in each of our five cities.

Mindy Greiling and Bonnie Koch began by picking the brain of League member Dr. Craig Waldron, instructor in the Management, Marketing and Public Administration Department at Hamline University and recent Oakdale City Manager. Various committee members have interviewed or are in the process of interviewing: Barbara Dacey, Executive Director, Washington County Housing and Redevelopment Agency; Metropolitan Interfaith Council on Affordable Housing (MICA); Housing Link; Minnesota Housing Partnership; Commissioner Mary Tingerthal, MN Housing; Home Line; Common Bond and the Metropolitan Council. Committee members also attended a presentation about Journey Home, a housing organization founded by Ramsey County Commissioner Blake Huffman.

The committee is planning public meetings (see program article) to help educate League members and the public on this important issue. We also urge everyone to read the many articles that are frequently in the media and regularly check our Facebook page.

Co-Chairs: Rebecca Bormann, Mindy Greiling, Bonnie Koch

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**President**

Rita Mills

**Vice President**

Marquita Stephens

**Secretary**

Margaret Stanwood

**Treasurer**

Teri MacNabb

**Directors****Administrative Assistants:**

Shirley Bradway

Joyce Briggs

**Membership:**

Stephanie DeBenedet

Beth Reinhart

**Program:**

Mindy Greiling

**Public Relations:**

Gwen Willems

**Voter Editor:**

Judy Berglund

**Voter Services:**

Cecelia Warner

**Web Site:**

James DeBenedet

Barb Anderson

**At-large:**

Carolyn Cushing

Bonnie Koch

Beth Salzl



## The Times They Are A-Changin'.....

Bob Dylan's lyrics resonated throughout the LWV State Council and National Convention and initially felt intimidating. However, after checking the date (1964), reading the lyrics, recalling those "times," I feel confident that this particular local League with its strong history of study, advocacy and activism will be up to current challenges!

With heart-felt gratitude to June Stewart, past and current Board members for encouraging, mentoring, and sometimes cajoling me, I look forward to a busy and interesting year of programming and study, and thank you in advance for your support and assistance.

A brief introduction.....I joined League four years ago after retiring from a long career in education. I have lived in Little Canada for 36 years with my husband, have two married daughters, four adorable grandchildren (in the past three years), love book clubs (Between the World and Me...my recent fav), playing bridge (still learning,) traveling (babysitting has taken a priority,) biking and gar-

dening. I look forward to getting to know you as well!

Joining LWV had been on my mind for many years, as I liked and respected the League's mission. I first attended a League event, Conversations with Constituents in January, 2012, walked up to Stephanie DeBenedet, handed her a check for membership, and have rarely missed a program since. And, now that I am quite involved, I truly want this League's legacy to continue, passing the torch to another generation.

While we will keep a laser focus on Voting and Voting Rights, I will work on three overarching goals that I shared with the Board in June:

- Diversification
- Communication
- Voter Services

Working on each of these goals may feel overwhelming, however, they are interrelated. With our healthy membership and using guidance provided by the State and National levels, I believe that we can break these down in smaller doable pieces, therefore continuing the strong legacy of the LWV Roseville Area for years to come.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at [rlcomills@hotmail.com](mailto:rlcomills@hotmail.com) with ideas, questions, concerns, and of course to volunteer!

## We have a new Web page

[www.lwvrosevillearea.org](http://www.lwvrosevillearea.org)

With the change in name to LWV Roseville Area, came the need to change the website, Facebook and Twitter accounts. We thank Jim DeBenedet for faithfully maintaining the website under the previous League name romaafh, however he requested assistance. It seemed timely to start over with a new domain, host, software which lead to a new web format. Barb Anderson will be updating and making changes to the website; Carrie Dickson is posting on Facebook and Twitter. However, a communications task force is looking at how we might be more "nimble" in the dissemination of information as well as being less dependent on a few individuals.

Please bookmark this site. [www.lwvrosevillearea.org](http://www.lwvrosevillearea.org) We know changes need to be made continually and look forward to hearing suggestions, receiving photos, and calendar items. Some features of the new site include an ability to pay dues electronically through Paypal, a local Google calendar, Facebook and Twitter connections, a local You Tube channel (video archive of programming) and a contact e-mail.

## It's Not Always What You Think

By Florence Sprague

Ferguson, Missouri; Baltimore, Maryland; Hempstead, Texas; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Falcon Heights, Minnesota. Falcon Heights? We've joined a list that no one wants to be on—the site of the death of a young black man shot by a police officer or dying while in police custody. Two officers shot sitting in their patrol car in New York City, five officers killed by a sniper in Dallas and others wounded, three killed in Baton Rouge. This is an equation that can never be balanced.

These (never-ending?) events overwhelm one with grief, anger, frustration... too much fear, too much historical/generational trauma, too little trust, too many guns, too little connection. I have no solutions, so I will return to thinking about a concept that I heard mentioned in some of the early comments about the Philando Castile shooting as having potentially influenced the police officers—implicit bias.

I found a helpful overview of many studies of implicit bias in a report “Helping Courts Address Implicit Bias” from the National Center for State Courts.

[www.ncsc.org/~media/Files/PDF/Topics/Gender%20and%20Racial%20Fairness/Implicit%20Bias%20FAQs%20rev.ashx](http://www.ncsc.org/~media/Files/PDF/Topics/Gender%20and%20Racial%20Fairness/Implicit%20Bias%20FAQs%20rev.ashx) [Note-I have included some of their citations to research studies in an effort to maintain fair attribution. Complete references for those can be found at the end of that report. Unless otherwise noted, all quotes are from this report.] This report defines implicit bias as “the bias in judgment and/or behavior that results from subtle cognitive processes (e.g., implicit attitudes and implicit stereotypes) that often operate at a level below conscious awareness and without intentional control...that ‘...are automatically activated by the mere presence (actual or symbolic) of the attitude object’ (Dovidio, Gaertner, Kawakami, & Hudson, 2002, p. 94; also Banaji & Heiphetz, 2010).” That’s quite a mouthful.

It boils down to saying that our actions can be influenced by attitudes and beliefs which we do not consciously accept, might even actively reject, and might not be able to articulate. That same report indicates that implicit biases can “develop over time with the accumulation of personal experience” and may be identified in children as young as six years old. The discrepancies between explicit and implicit attitudes with which adults often struggle can appear as early as age ten.

In addition to personal experience “People share a common social understanding of the stereotypes that are pervasive in our culture, and this knowledge can foster implicit bias even if a person does not necessarily endorse the cultural stereotype (Devine, 1989; Fazio, Jackson, Dunton, & Williams, 1995). One explanation is that people implicitly make associations and evaluations based on cultural knowledge in a way that ‘may not be available to introspection and may not be wanted or endorsed but is still *attitudinal* because of its potential to influence individual perception, judgment, or action’ (Nosek, 2007, p. 68 [emphasis added]).”

Even people who have received training, read books, given much thought to, and care very much about issues of racial justice can still be tripped up by the quagmire of bad ideas in this highly racialized society with so much historical prejudice. This doesn’t excuse bad outcomes. It just helps us to see how much more work there is for all of us to do to heal ourselves and our country.

Curious about what lurks beneath your surface? There are many websites that will help you, or at least give you their ideas about the topic. One that has been around for a while (since 1998) is Harvard based Project Implicit.



**How do we combat bias?  
By examining implicit bias.**

<https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/aboutus.html> Here you can take tests that are intended to help identify your subconscious biases on race, gender, politics and more.

Other places to look could be Understanding Prejudice at [www.understandingprejudice.org](http://www.understandingprejudice.org) It links you to the Harvard test, but also has a lot of other information. Another resource is Teaching Tolerance, a Project of the Southern Poverty Law Center, at [www.tolerance.org/search/apachesolr\\_search/implicit%20bias](http://www.tolerance.org/search/apachesolr_search/implicit%20bias).

The National Center for State Courts’ report first noted above points out that implicit bias can have an impact not only on police officers but also on medical professionals, judges and jurors, HR’s hiring decisions, and everyone’s voting choices, as well as on you and me in myriad more mundane daily encounters. While noting the mitigation is not the same as reducing the underlying biases, they offer some strategies for mitigating the effects of implicit bias. Ideas for mitigation include efforts to “Consciously acknowledge group and individual differences (i.e., adopt a multiculturalism approach to egalitarianism rather than a color-blindness strategy in which

(Continued on page 4)

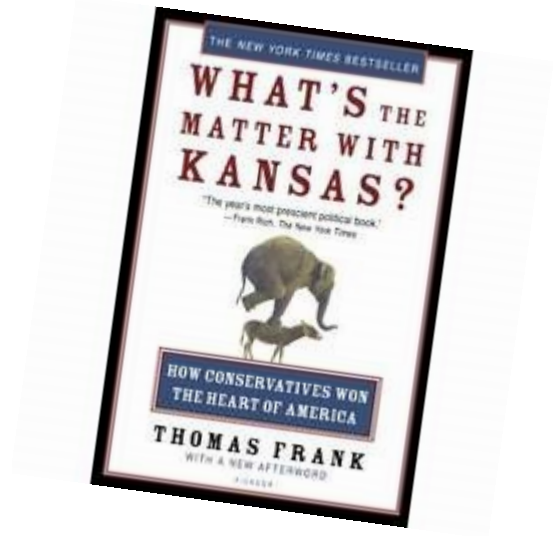


## What's the Matter with Kansas?

Confused? Tiring of the divisive rhetoric? Flummoxed with how civic engagement got to this point? How is the mission of LWV connected to all this?

Join fellow Leaguers to discuss a book written 12 years ago by Thomas Frank, *What's the Matter with Kansas?* This can be found at public libraries and perhaps at *Half-Price Books*.

Wednesday, August 17  
10 a.m.— 11:30 a.m.  
Home of Carolyn Cushing  
3031 Simpson St. N  
Roseville



Leaguers met during July sharing a variety of book selections. It was suggested to form an actual monthly League “Book Club,” thus providing opportunities for members in smaller groups to discuss social, environmental, political issues in context of articles and books and related to LWV mission. Guidelines, meeting times, titles were suggested, however this is still in a formative stage, thus open to further ideas.

## Windows and Mirrors

*(Continued from page 3)*

one tries to ignore these differences); routinely check thought processes and decisions for possible bias (i.e., adopt a thoughtful, deliberative, and self-aware process for inspecting how one’s decisions were made);... and increase exposure to stereotyped group members (e.g., seek out greater contact with the stigmatized group in a positive context).”

Does it feel awkward? Stilted? That’s why it takes a lot of practice and effort. And that’s why we need to change the national culture...so that future generations will absorb less and less that they must then seek to overcome. Explicit bias still exists. Implicit bias is even more widespread and must be explicitly addressed.

BOOKS! BOOKS! and MORE BOOKS! The Star Tribune recently collected reading recommendations for “bridging the gap” between blacks and whites from Twin Cities writers of color. It is an outstanding list of books which includes authors you may have read, like James Baldwin or Toni Morrison, but also many of whom you aren’t likely to have heard. There is fiction, non-fiction, poetry, young adult... Check it out! It can keep us all reading, discussing, and growing for a long time. [www.startribune.com/what-writers-of-color-say-we-should-read-now/386494211/](http://www.startribune.com/what-writers-of-color-say-we-should-read-now/386494211/)

Editor’s note: Florence Sprague is a member of the League of Women Voters of Roseville Area.

*“Windows and Mirrors for All” has been a regular column in the Voter since 2004. The title is derived from an essay by Emily Style, “Curriculum as Window and Mirror,” found in Seeding the Process of Multicultural Education. Style states that “education needs to enable the student to look through window frames in order to see the realities of others and into mirrors in order to see her/his own reality reflected.” People of all ages need both mirrors and windows with which to view the world, but too often we only have mirrors.*

## League presents police study recommendations to city councils

Members of our League's Police Study Committee presented our recommendations at city council meetings this summer. Little Canada, Falcon Heights and Maplewood mayors and council members welcomed our presentation with open arms, asked questions and made positive comments about the League and our comprehensive study and recommendations. Roseville, however, relegated our presentation to the public comment section of their agenda, where no dialogue was possible. Carolyn Cushing eloquently objected to this treatment at the meeting, and President Rita Mills sent a letter of objection that was published in the Review. Lauderdale postponed their meeting at which our presentation was scheduled as part of the regular meeting, due to the controversy over the St. Anthony police officer shooting a black man during a traffic stop, but we expect to be rescheduled soon.

**Mindy Greiling, Carrie Dickson, Rita Mills, co-chairs**



**Police Study Committee co-chair Carrie Dickson and Maplewood Police Chief Paul Schnell.**

## LWVUS Convention: Making Democracy Work

**By June Stewart**



The 2016 LWVUS convention was held in Washington, D.C. June 16-19. Rita Mills, Judy Stuthman and I attended as delegates from LWV Roseville Area.

The theme of the convention was Making Democracy Work. Rita and I went a day early for Lobby Day. We were reminded that the Supreme Court in *Shelby County v. Holder* essentially gutted the Voting Rights Act. Voter suppression has increased substantially since that ruling. The proposed Voting Rights Advancement Act is an attempt to prevent discrimination in voting nationwide. LWV members from many states met with their national representatives to lobby for passage of this Act.

*(Continued on page 7)*

# 2016 – 2017 LWV of Roseville Area Programs

Editor's note: The following is a calendar of programs scheduled for 2016-17 by the League of Women Voters of Roseville Area. Tuesday evening programs will be recorded and played at Wednesday morning meetings in September, October, November, February and March. The Wednesday meetings will be at 9 a.m. at, Resurrection Lutheran Church, 910 County Road D, Roseville.

The programs were developed by the Program Committee, chaired by Mindy Greiling. Committee members are Carolyn Cushing, Carrie Dickson, Kerry Fine, Anne Haugan, Kathy Juenemann, Bonnie Koch, Valerie Swenson.

Other meeting planners: Rita Mills, Gladys Jones, Barbara Leary, Judy Stuthman, Donna Peterson, Carole Erickson.



## August

**18** *Votes for Women Film Fest*, Roseville Library, with Roseville and Shoreview Human Rights Commissions & Shoreview DAR chapter, 7 p.m.

## September

**6** *Everything you want to know about Ramsey County Elections*, Joe Mansky, Ramsey County elections manager, Roseville Library, 7 p.m.

## October

**18** *Elections and Outreach panel*. Autumn Grove Roseville Parks building, 1365 Lydia Ave. W., 6:30 p.m.

## November

**15** *Ellen Shelton, Amherst Wilder Foundation researcher*, Autumn Grove Roseville Park building; co-sponsoring with LWV St. Paul, 6:30 p.m.

## December

**4** *Holiday party*, Applewood Pointe. Charity, Pacer.

## January

**17** *VIP Event*, Falcon Heights City Hall

## February

**21** *Housing panel, including John Slade of MICAH*, at a church; co-sponsoring with LWV St. Paul, 6:30 p.m.

## March

**21** *Community Psychological First Aid*, Molli Slade, Roseville Human Rights Commissioner who works at Guild, Autumn Grove Roseville Parks building, 6:30 p.m.

## April

**18** *Housing study presentation*, Autumn Grove Parks building (Housing committee), 6:30 p.m.

## May

**2** *Annual Meeting*, Little Canada City Hall

**16** *Eagles Point Wastewater Treatment Plant tour*, Cottage Grove, 10 a.m.



# LWVUS Convention: Making Democracy Work

*(Continued from page 5)*



The Minnesota delegation went to Senator Amy Klobuchar's office first. Wednesdays are her Minnesota breakfast days. She spoke to the group, even though she'd had little sleep because late the night before had been speaking in the Senate to attempt to force a vote on gun legislation. Her legislative aide met with the LWVMN group and attentively listened to us.

We met at Senator Franken's office later. His aide, Molly, told us that he was on the Senate floor but took us to the basement and helped us get security badges so we could ride the little train between the House and Senate. We felt pretty special. Molly took our group to the Senate Reception room, with its impressive gold decorations. Senator Franken came and met with us there. Both Minnesota senators are co-sponsors of the Voting Rights Advancement Act.

The convention started that night and it was inspiring to see about 700 delegates there from all over the country. There were 39 representatives from Minnesota. We had three days of speakers emphasizing that the Voting Rights Act is our most important civil rights act. Multiple break-out sessions allowed us to focus on topics such as communication, voter registration, and bringing diversity to our local leagues.

President Elizabeth MacNamara encouraged us to stop using the term "non-partisan" because it appears many people don't understand it. She suggested we explain that the League does not endorse or support any individuals or political parties.

For me, one of the highlights was the Minnesota-led effort to change the 96-year-old bylaws to remove the requirement that LWV members be citizens and at least 18 years of age. There were five very impressive young women from Bloomington who spoke at a break-out session the night before giving their own stories and encouraging people to vote for the changes. Some of them spoke during the convention debate and were bright, articulate and passionate. The bylaws change to remove the "citizen" requirement was passed overwhelmingly.

The proposed amendment to remove the age requirement brought some vigorous opposition. Delegates spoke about fears of LWV meetings being "overrun by teenagers" and young people should "wait their turn". Other delegates spoke about "being overrun by teenagers sounded great and they would be welcome" and wanting younger people to be full participants.



This amendment did not pass by the required two-thirds, but thanks to people who knew Robert's Rules a plan was developed and a motion was introduced to change the age requirement to 16. That did pass.

Judy Stuthman was a speaker at a breakout session about registering new voters at citizenship ceremonies. She was rightfully introduced as "the rock star of new citizen voter registration". Thanks to her leadership, Minnesota is far ahead of other states in being welcomed at citizenship ceremonies for voter registration.

The next national convention will be in Chicago in 2018 and the 100th anniversary of the LWV will be in Washington, D.C. in 2020. I encourage everyone to attend for inspiration, solidarity with other people who support voting rights, and a lot of fun.

**Senators Amy Klobuchar, above, and Al Franken met with members of the Minnesota delegation.**

Judy Berglund, editor  
2075 Farrington St.  
Roseville, MN 55113

---

See page 6  
for a calen-  
dar of this  
year's  
events

