

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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LWV® League of Women Voters
ROSEVILLE AREA
Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Little Canada, Maplewood, Roseville

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>President's column</i>	2
<i>Windows, Mirrors</i>	3
<i>October meeting</i>	5
<i>Holiday party</i>	6
<i>Calendar</i>	8

We're on the Web!

www.lwvrosevillearea.org

And Facebook!

www.facebook.com/lwvRosevilleArea

And Instagram!

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www.instagram.com

November meeting will focus on affordable housing

Ellen Shelton, research scientist with Wilder Research, will speak at the Nov. 15 meeting of the League of Women Voters of Roseville Area. Shelton's speech is titled "In Our Own Backyard: Homelessness and Affordable Housing." League members are studying affordable housing and its availability in our five cities this year. Shelton's talk will include a focus on St. Paul and its suburbs. The meeting is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of St. Paul.

Shelton has more than 20 years of experience in applied social science research, specializing in studies related to the well-being of families and children and community-level change. Her projects include homelessness.

The meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. at the Autumn Grove Roseville Park building, 1365 Lydia Ave. W. The event is free and open to the public. There will also be a recorded viewing of the program at 9:30 a.m. at the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, 3115 Victoria St. N., Roseville.



League Leader Ann Berry dies



Longtime League leader Ann Berry died Oct. 17. She was 86.

Berry joined the Roseville Area league almost 50 years ago, narrowly missing a Lifetime Achievement Award, which would have been issued next spring.

Ann was a leader and an activist, often outspoken in her drive for civic improvement. "One of my early activities in the League," she said in an interview for the local League's history book, "was when we raised some hell with the school system for having an outdated and tactless sex education film. We hounded the district psychologist until she got a new one."

"Don't we love how Ann put things?" asked former State Rep. and League member Mindy Greiling, who spoke at her Oct. 22 funeral. "One of many League committees she served on studied juvenile justice reform, resulting in the creation of Northeast Youth and Family Services. Ann served on their board for many years.

(Continued on page 6)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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So...On we move...

After much angst during an election described as “one for the history books,” and regardless of our disappointment or excitement in the outcome, work of League of Women Voters moves on. We continually revisit the LWV mission:

“...encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.”

At the state and national levels, strategic planning work continues, and even though we do not have specifics, we do know that the prime focus will be **Voting**: protecting voters, educating and engaging voters (millennials, disenfranchised), reforming use of money in politics.

While it is tempting to think that we now have time to catch our breath, the “Voter Services” files need to stay in the forefront and active. We need to continue brainstorming:

- What worked?
- What did not?
- With an inroad into the required American Studies classes at RAHS and the Adult Learning classes at Fairview, how can we improve and continue the LWV presentations?
- How do we incorporate more social media in all we do?
- How do we encourage more of our membership use social media?
- How might we expand our voter services projects, enlisting more LWV members to assist?
- What ideas might we glean from other LWV’s throughout Minnesota and beyond? (Virtual Voter on Facebook is a good source.)

The LWV slogan is moving on to “Making Democracy Work **for ALL.**” At the local level we want to embrace this with an emphasis on the “...**for ALL!**”

League Book Club to meet Nov. 16

“Can America Put Itself Back Together?”

Atlantic Monthly, March 2016

“A three-year, 54,000-mile journey reveals surprising sources of strength.”

By James Fallows

Save the date.....and join in some thought provoking conversation!

Wednesday, Nov. 16, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Home of Carolyn Cushing

Magazine title: “Can America Put Itself Back Together?” by James Fallows, Atlantic Monthly, March 2016

www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2016/03/how-america-is-putting-itself-back-together/426882/

pdf version will be sent out via email to League members

Push and Pull

By Florence Sprague

Scientists assert that human populations on all continents today originated in Africa and migrated to all of the others over the millennia. People have continued to move, expand, explore and seek new resources and homes ever since those early migrations. The factors that cause people to move are often divided into two categories, push factors and pull factors. As you might infer, push factors are the negatives that make staying in one place difficult, such as war, famine, overcrowding, and persecution. The pull factors are positives in another place that encourage others to come into a place—such as land, jobs, safety—the chance of a better life.

Minnesota is known for the large numbers of immigrants from Germany, Sweden and Norway. So, why did they come to the U.S. and end up in Minnesota? What were the push and pull factors at play? Well, if they were farmers who came after 1862, they may well have homesteaded and earned farmland merely by the act of living and farming on the land they claimed. This was hard work and often dangerous, and the right of the U.S. government to offer land for homesteading is highly questionable since the treaties they signed were unfair and often not fulfilled, but land for the taking is one heck of a pull factor.

Every immigrant is first an emigrant, that is, first you leave one place and then you come to another. The Swedes were already experiencing the push factors of poverty, too many people on too little land, and lack of other job opportunities.

Homesteading was just one factor pulling immigrants from Europe to the plains states. (An interesting aside, people could homestead in Alaska until 1986.) Jobs in manufacturing, mining, and the general environment of economic prosperity and opportunity (remember those streets paved with gold stories?) lured immigrants from places where they were poor, overcrowded, and persecuted. Today, despite the fact that a significant portion of the U.S. working population is struggling with the loss of manufacturing jobs and sees diminished opportunities for a better life for their children, much of the rest of the world still sees the United States as the land of opportunity, a land of safety



The factors that cause people to move are often divided into two categories, push factors and pull factors.

and peaceful transitions with much less corruption than many other places.

Of course they want to follow the many earlier waves of immigrants. Push and pull factors are still powerfully working around the world. Is it less worthy to try to escape gang violence and political corruption in Central America than to escape pogroms in Eastern Europe?

I am mostly Scotch-Irish and English, with a little German mixed in, at least, as far as I know. Most of my ancestors immigrated enough generations ago that I do not know stories about the factors that pushed or

pulled them across the Atlantic. I could only speculate from history books. I think that they came before there was much in the way of immigration control. They mostly did not pass through Ellis Island or Angel Island. They would not have had to battle quotas, or health tests, or the Chinese Exclusion Act, or the refusal of this country to accept many Jewish refugees before WW II.

How about you? When and why did your ancestors come to North America? What do you know about the push and pull factors that acted upon them? Do you ever consider how that might compare to today?

For African Americans, the whole concept of voluntary emigration and immigration is frequently not relevant. I would be interested in learning more about how your personal history influences your current beliefs about contemporary immigration issues. If you are Native American, some of the pull factors for immigrants from Europe were horrible push factors forcing you out of your homelands, but even the Ojibwe migrated to Minnesota within still remembered oral history. How do you feel about contemporary immigration issues?

Space, jobs, and resources are finite. The planet is ever more crowded and contentious. There are not simple solutions to the challenges of ongoing human migrations. But we must face them with compassion and open hearts. We, too, are connected.

League members visit American Studies class

By Rita Mills

Early on a crisp, sunny morning, LWV members Judy Stuthman and Sherry Hood marched down the corridors of Roseville Area High School to Feliz Yargice's American Studies class with Martha O'Toole (teacher at Learning in Style in Minneapolis.), and Fallilatou Tagbe, originally from Togo, led the 45-minute session.

Admittedly, 8:15 a.m. is a bit early for 17 year-olds to be bombarded with:

- ◆ Who was President during WW I?
- ◆ How many members does the House of Representatives have?
- ◆ During the Cold War, what was the main concern of the U.S.?



And it wasn't very consoling when sleepy students were reminded there are 100 such questions that immigrants must be prepared to answer in order to gain their citizenship and right to vote. Oh, and teacher, Ms. Yargice, asked the initial question in Turkish to alert students to what it feels like to have 10 of the 100 questions asked in English when the individual has English as a second language. That definitely caught the attention of more than a few bleary-eyed seniors!

Stuthman gave an overview of the history of voting in the United States, beginning with the purpose of the Revolutionary War, Articles of Confederation, and continuing to the onset of poll taxes, the Constitutional Amendments concerning voting..... a thorough review for any of us. Voting fraud along with hacking issues were discussed, wrapping up most interesting sessions all thanks to our LWV Voter Services team.

League team presents voting information to new citizens at adult learning center

By Rita Mills

With the invitation from Belinda Jones at the Adult Learning Center (ALC) in the Fairview Community Center, a Voter Services team loaded their totes with history of voting notes, sample ballots, voter registration forms, a couple of laptops and presented to three different combined classes of adult students, most of whom are recent immigrants. Students attending this ALC are from the surrounding area, including St. Paul, Minneapolis, Brooklyn Center, Maplewood, and Roseville.

All eagerly listened to the presentations, and those who have already attained citizenship requested registration forms. Some had previously voted but had recently moved, thus needed location of polling places as well as explanations of what IDs to bring to the polls. Many had questions about the ballot and about how one fills it out. And all were understandably surprised to see the listing of so many names of people running for President of the United States! Others simply wanted to know if they could vote for just one office or if they would vote for a President and a Vice-President.

While it is safe to say that the students learned much from the experience, it was also very enlightening for those LWV members (Judy Stuthman, Sherry Hood, Cecilia Warner, Rita Mills) presenting and assisting. We learned much in terms of what needs to be done to clarify and explain the voting process.



Sherry Hood presents information to new citizens.

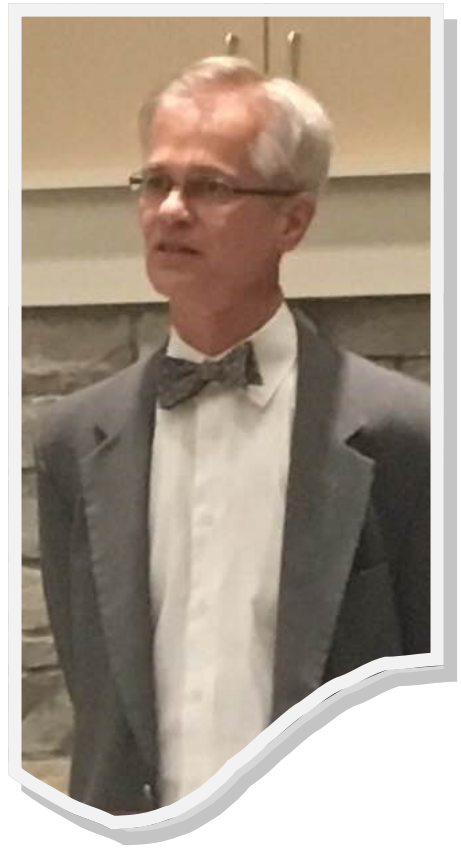
Marty: “It’s an election, not an auction!”

Most elected officials are honest, well-meaning people, but they operate in a corrupted system – a system controlled by money, Sen. John Marty told the Oct. 18 meeting of the Roseville Area League of Women Voters.

The “money factor” often controls who runs for office, the priorities of the office holder, what issues are raised and how those issues are framed, he said, adding that those problems were exacerbated by the 2010 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in the Citizens’ United case, which essentially ruled that corporations have the First Amendment rights of citizens and gives them the green light to spend unlimited sums on ads and other tools to influence elections.

Overturning Citizens United is essential to reform the system, Marty said, adding that such reform will be difficult until and unless the make-up of the Supreme Court changes. But he believes that change, though difficult, is possible. He called for publically-financed campaigns, or if that’s impossible, limits on campaign spending and a ban on gifts from lobbyists.

To view Marty’s speech, go to the Roseville Area League’s Website, www.lwvrosevillearea.org.



Voter Service Committee sponsors five forums

The Voter Service Committee sponsored five candidate forums in September and October. All are available on our Website, www.lwvrosevillearea.org. All candidates participated, except in ISD 622, where two of seven candidates did not appear, but submitted opening and closing statements.

The forums were:

Sept. 27 – three candidates for two open positions on the Little Canada City Council.

Oct. 4 – three candidates for two open positions on the city council in Lauderdale, and one unopposed candidate for mayor.

Oct. 12 – three candidates for two open positions on the Roseville City Council.

Oct. 13 – candidates vying for four open positions on the ISD 622 School Board.

Oct. 17 -- all six candidates vying for seats in the Minnesota House and Senate participated.



Candidates for Roseville City Council: Lisa LaLiberte, Wayne Groff and Jason Etten



Roseville Area League Holiday Party!

December 4
Social Hour 4 p.m.
Dinner 4:30 p.m.
Applewood Pointe
1996 Langton Lake Road
Roseville



Main Dish: Apricot glazed pork loin
Vegetarian if requested

\$25

Reservations by Nov. 26 to

Carole Erickson

Applewood Point, #220

1996 Langton Lake Road

Roseville, MN 55113

Phone: 651-633-2530

Make check payable to LWV Roseville Area

Charity: PACER, Jody Manning, speaker

PACER advocates for children with disabilities.

Bring your checkbooks.

Berry

(Continued from page 1)

“Once Ann gave her support, she gave it wholeheartedly.”

City issues were always Ann’s bailiwick, Greiling noted, quoting Ann, “We did butt in a lot, but we got what we wanted, too. If people don’t like us, they still respect us, and justifiably.”

Ann later served two terms on the Planning Commission and three on the Roseville Human Rights Commission. She and other Leaguers first had to get the Human Rights Commission reestablished, because it had been allowed to fizzle over power struggles.

“When I was on the HRC, in pairs of twos, we visited every single realty agency in Roseville and every rental apartment building and made very clear what the housing laws were at that time,” Ann said. “We gave them copies of the laws. There was nothing subtle about us.”

Ann is survived by daughters Barbara (David), Bonnie (Greg), Sarah (Kurt) and Kate (Lou) and grandchildren Lance, Neil, Peter, and Mia. Her husband, Dr. James Berry, died in 2001.

The Board of Directors of the Roseville Area League has approved a brick commemorating Ann that will be installed at the Arboretum in Central Park this spring.

Aiming for zero waste

by Gwen Willems

Many of us members of the Roseville Area League of Women Voters had the opportunity to tour the Eureka Recycling plant in northeast Minneapolis last May. Eureka is a 15-year-old nonprofit that uses services, programs and policy to reduce waste. On the tour, we saw truckloads of recyclables being sorted and packaged, putting Eureka's philosophy into action.

Eureka has had a good year, winning five-year recycling contracts with Minneapolis and St. Paul through competitive bids. The mission of Eureka is to demonstrate that waste is preventable, not inevitable. It says it is the only organization in Minnesota that specializes in zero waste.



Members of the Roseville Area League toured Eureka Recycling last May.

What exactly is zero waste? According to the Zero Waste International Alliance, "Zero Waste is a goal that is ethical, economical, efficient and visionary, to guide people in changing their lifestyles and practices to emulate sustainable natural cycles, where all discarded materials are designed to become resources for others to use. Zero waste means designing and managing products and processes to systematically avoid and eliminate the volume and toxicity of waste and materials, conserve and recover all resources, and not burn or bury them. Implementing zero waste will eliminate all discharges to land, water or air that are a threat to planetary, human, animal or plant health."

Although this total vision of sustainability might be more of an ideal concept to strive for than an attainable goal, a growing number of communities (e.g., San Francisco, Oakland, Seattle) and organizations (e.g., Toyota, Nike, Hewlett-Packard) are adopting it.

Locally, Eureka sponsored a Twin Cities Zero Waste Summit last year to showcase the efforts of people in our area who work for zero waste, discuss challenges, share accomplishments, and develop a vision. The second annual Zero Waste Summit, held October 22, focused on environmental and social justice, making zero waste solutions equitable for all. I heard a smorgasbord of national and local speakers offer solutions for some of the 4.4 pounds of waste that is produced per person per day in the United States, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. The topics ranged from sharing tools (the Minneapolis Tool Library), to composting (Minnesota Composting Council), to marketing reclaimed building materials (Rebuilding Exchange), to getting banned substances out of cosmetics (Sierra Club), to using solar energy (Cooperative Energy Futures), to removing cancer-causing tire particles from playgrounds (Play it Safe Minnesota). Go to www.eurekarecycling.org for more information about reducing waste.

Gwen Willems is a member of the Roseville Area LWV Board and an elected Supervisor with the Ramsey Conservation District. The Board of Supervisors sets district policies and oversees the budget, staffing and conservation activities.



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

Calendar

November

- 8 Election Day**
- 15** Unit meeting featuring Ellen Shelton, Amherst Wilder Foundation researcher. Affordable housing and homelessness. 6:30 p.m. Autumn Grove Roseville Park building; 1365 Lydia Ave. W. Co-sponsoring with LWV St. Paul.



*Happy Thanksgiving!
To You And Your Family*

The Tuesday evening program will be recorded and played Wednesday morning at 9:30 a.m. at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 3115 Victoria St. N., Roseville.

See you at the Dec. 4 Holiday Party! See page 6.