

The Voter

The official publication of the League of Women Voters of Roseville Area
FALCON HEIGHTS, LAUDERDALE, LITTLE CANADA, MAPLEWOOD, ROSEVILLE

Volume 64, Number 9
May/June 2019



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June Field Trip: Sustainability Tour

The sustainability tour of Macalester College's Markim Hall is scheduled for 10 a.m. on June 5. This event is coordinated by League member Donna Peterson. Markim Hall features native landscaping, energy efficiency, water conservation, and solar panels. For these features and more, it has been certified as LEED Platinum, the highest level of certification for energy efficiency and environmental design by the US Green Building Council. Macalester College's Sustainability Manager, Suzanne Savanick Hansen, will show us the highlights of this remarkable building during the one-hour tour.

Transportation to the event can be by bus or car. There is a bus stop right by the building on the A line. The 9:22 a.m. bus should arrive at Snelling Ave. and Grand Ave. at 9:36, leaving plenty of time to walk the short distance to building's lobby. To ride the bus, you need the correct change or a Go-To Card when riding the bus (the fare is \$1.75 one-way or a reduced fare for those over 65 of \$0.75). Buses run often, making a return ride easy. Donna plans to take the bus and will offer details for those also interested.

See a map and directions here: macalester.edu/about/maps/. You can park in any of the Macalester parking lots without a permit; some street parking may be available. Two handicap parking spots are available behind Markim Hall that are accessed from Snelling Ave. Those interested in carpooling should plan to meet at the north side of the Oval at 9:15 a.m. Going to French Meadow on Grand could be a lunch opportunity after the tour.

Contact Donna Peterson (peter080@umn.edu) by May 28 to let her know if you plan to go in order to give Macalester College a complete count.

CMAL Annual Meeting

The Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues of Women Voters (CMAL) invites you to the CMAL Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 1, in the Robert Rohlf Room of Ridgedale Library, 12601 Ridgedale Drive, Minnetonka.

- 9:30 a.m.: Doors open for coffee and refreshments.
- 10 a.m.: Keynote speaker Nora Slawik, Chair of the Metropolitan Council, former legislator, former Maplewood Mayor, and long-time LWV member, will share her vision for regional governance and the role of the Met Council.
- 11:30 a.m.: CMAL Annual Business meeting for CMAL Delegates (though all are invited to stay and help plan for the coming year).

If you choose to stay for lunch, box lunches will be provided at no charge, though donations will be accepted.

Please RSVP at: docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfGAbCE57nWkV6UFTKjUMOQnctmW3p2zaaLUN_XuTuotSSb_g/viewform.

CMAL needs the numbers for planning and box lunch options. This event is free and open to the public. Bring a friend or neighbor along! This is a great opportunity hear directly from our new Met Council Chair. Maybe she will comment on CMAL's recent Met Council Governance Report and Consensus! Prior to the meeting, those who sent an RSVP will receive an electronic version of the Annual Meeting booklet and agenda.

If you have questions or suggestions, contact Karen Schaffer, CMAL Chair and Member, and LWV of Roseville Area Member (651-636-7359 or schafferka@gmail.com).

Find us on our website and other social media sites!

Website:
www.lwvrosevillearea.org

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/lwvRosevilleArea

Instagram:
www.instagram.com/lwvrosevillearea

YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjWhyaOul7m9LEgYY8IMPfg>

Walk with League in the Summer Parades!

Come stand up for our League and celebrate LWVMN's 100th year by marching in a parade in Roseville or Little Canada.

- Roseville Rosefest Parade: June 24, evening
- Little Canada Canadian Days Parade: August 4, afternoon

When dressing for the parade think past, present, and future!

Some marchers plan to dress in outfits similar to the suffragettes. June Stewart gathered her suffragette outfit (see the picture to the top-right) through trips to the secondhand store and the Target Dollar Spot. You can also order a costume online at [candyapplecostumes.com/cc00713.html](https://www.candyapplecostumes.com/cc00713.html) (the photo to the bottom-right shows this costume). The dress comes with the sash but not the hat, sign, or shoes. The cost including shipping and handling is \$40 with a window of 17 days if you need to return it. The sizes run quite small. A size XL is equal to size 12-14.

Some of us will wear the I Will Vote/Be a Voter t-shirts we had last year with the blue LWV caps. See the picture below of the participants from the Rosefest parade last summer for this outfit.

Any ideas for other outfits are welcome!

Please email June Stewart (juneret@comcast.net), Sherry Hood (sherryhood@icloud.com), or Mary Peterson (mary.peterson555@gmail.com) to let them know that you'll be marching in one or both of the parades or if you have any questions.

Come and have a great time being with other League members and proudly standing for voting rights for all!



June Stewart's suffragette outfit



Summer 2018 Rosefest Marchers



Image: Candy Apple Costumes website

2019-2020 Program Possibilities

In 2020, we will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters—a century of educating voters, undertaking in-depth studies, and advocating positions to make democracy work. In late May, the Program Committee will meet to set a schedule of programs for the 2019-2020 year. We welcome your ideas for programs and speakers to address the issues that confront us in the 21st century. Members have given us ideas throughout the year and an ongoing list has been built. If you have an idea to add to the list, please email it to Bonnie Koch, Program Chair, at toouray@aol.com.

Your perspective, questions that you want answered, and community members you know, or know of, will help the Program Committee develop another year of events that will continue to make us knowledgeable voters and advocates.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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The longer I am President of LWV of Roseville Area, the more I am impressed with what this League accomplishes; we have so many talented and dedicated members of a 100-year old, nationally-recognized, and venerated institution! As a result, there are so many possibilities for what our League can contribute to our local communities, our state, and our country! There were two significant events that occurred this past month. The first was the state convention hosted by the St. Paul League the weekend of April 26-28 at the elegant St. Paul Hotel. The featured speaker was Virginia Kase, CEO of LWVUS. She talked about the power of women: it is a "battle of strategy and the use of our power to win." Also, "the men of LWV can empower and uplift women." Democracy is about everybody's voice being heard. She asked, "What is the power of our elective strength? We are all on one team!" She said, "We don't wait to complain about our democracy, but do something about it!... We have seen a lot of abuse of power lately, in business, entertainment, and in our own government. Women have not been recognized for their contributions." She continued to say:



Sherry Hood

- "We are not uniting for permission for someone else to tell our story...we do it ourselves!"
- "We are not uniting to have permission to run for office... we do it ourselves!"
- "We are not allowed in the room...so we go outside the room and do it anyway!"

She continued to say that LWV was late in advocating for women of color and for the ERA. She said that we have the courage to accept our initial failings and go forward with new positions.

My thoughts: Sometimes we do right and win and sometimes we lose whether right or wrong. Right now (winning 11 out of 13 legal cases this past year) and some days we win the big ones. We have done this in the past, we do it now, and will again in the future!

You will all be accused of partisanship! The only thing we are partisan about is our belief in democracy for all, no matter of race, creed, place of birth, political opinion, or gender. To quote Kase, "You don't have to do this alone. Together, we are strong, we are courageous, we will persevere, we are the LWV!"

The second significant event occurred with our local LWV of Roseville Area Annual Meeting on May 7. It introduced a new sub-committee under the Action/Advocacy Committee (Environmental Subcommittee), the ad-hoc Census group that was introduced late last year, and the proposed Centennial Celebration ad-hoc committee. It was an extraordinary and fun event! Congratulations, LWV of Roseville Area! You are spectacular!



LWV of Roseville Area Delegates to the 2019 LWVMN State Convention

(l-r) Teresa Wernecke, Barb Anderson, Sherry Hood, Mary Peterson, Clare Verbeten, June Stewart, Mindy Greiling, Beth Reinhart, Rita Mills, Florence Sprague (not pictured: Judy Stuthman (delegate) and Elizabeth Hansel (LWVMN Civic Engagement Fellow))

What Do You Need to Be Healthy?

By Florence Sprague

Employer-funded, high deductibles, Obamacare, the ACA, pre-existing conditions, mandates, freedom to choose, high premiums, privacy, single payer, etc., etc. The debate over how to pay for healthcare has been tearing this country apart for years. The topic is a minefield of assumptions, misinformation, fears, and loaded language and seems to defy resolution.

Now, take a moment to consider, what is the difference between *being* healthy and *getting* healthy? In a heartening TED talk, Rebecca Onie, an expert on the intersection of social determinants of health and healthcare, shares some startling findings (ted.com/talks/rebecca_onie_what_americans_agree_on_when_it_comes_to_health/transcript?language=en). When polled about what we need to *be* healthy and how to allocate a hypothetical pot of money among those things, there was almost total agreement across genders, ethnicities, regions, and political parties. The citizens of this country may rage and wage war on one another about health insurance, but they agree on what is fundamental to being healthy—safe housing, healthy food, good wages, and health care.



The responses are thrillingly unanimous. Whether the respondents were African-American Democratic women in Charlotte, white and Latino male swing voters in Seattle, or white male Republicans in Dallas, if given \$100 they would all spend more on housing, food, and childcare rather than in hospitals and clinics. The color-coded pieces of Onie's pie charts make abundantly clear the broad agreement across all polled groups on how to spend dollars to help people *be* healthy. What better place to start building?

In recent years, awareness of the importance of “social determinants of health” has grown. Onie points out that today it is “widely recognized that just 20% of health outcomes are tied to medical care, whereas up to 70% are tied to healthy behaviors and what’s called the social determinants of health—basically, everything that happens to us.” That’s quite a disparate impact. Health care providers acknowledge that better housing reduces infant mortality and increases life expectancy, and doctors bemoan sending patients home to unhealthy housing or insecure food availability, yet Medicaid can justify doing nothing for hungry patients as the “standard and usual care” in this country.

Most voters have experienced struggles to make ends meet. For them, regardless of party affiliation, it is common sense, based in experience that good wages, healthy food, and safe housing are important to health, and they agree on how to apportion the dollars that could keep us healthier. As Onie concludes it is “not about changing minds... It is about changing the questions we ask...and it is [time] to act.”

We the people can help all to be healthier by reminding healthcare and insurance businesses that we expect them to make the data about non-medical influencers of health a part of their business plan.

Let's stop arguing and start acting. In 2017, national healthcare expenditures grew to \$3.5 trillion, or \$10,739 per person, and accounted for 17.9% of the US GDP (cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/NationalHealthExpendData/NHE-Fact-Sheet.html). If we put funding toward things that help us to *be* healthy, less healthcare will be needed.

Next, try this for other contentious topics. Step back from the most hotly-contested position to find the underlying common ground and build from there.

April Event Recap: Civic Literacy 101 - State Government

By Barb Anderson

Part II of the two-part Civic Literacy 101 series on April 2 (an event that League co-sponsored with Do Good Roseville and the Roseville Library) focused on Minnesota state government. Nick Harper, Esq., who serves as LWVMN lobbyist and Civic Engagement Director, was the main presenter. He began by reviewing the three branches of state government (judicial, executive and legislative), and went on to concentrate on the legislative branch, beginning with leadership. All of his remarks were focused on the current legislative session, so he identified the representatives and senators who serve in leadership positions.



Mindy Greiling and Nick Harper (photo by Barb Anderson)

Harper spent some time outlining the ideal legislative process, following a bill from conception to law. He stressed that this is the ideal (think of the song *I'm Just a Bill* from *Schoolhouse Rock*).

This ideal never happens in real life because of amendments, negotiations, and committees that each bill must navigate, until most become part of an omnibus bill that joins many bills under a single umbrella (Harper referred to these as Frankenstein quilts). Along the way, legislators must meet deadlines established in advance that guide the process. If a committee fails to act on a bill by the deadline, it may not progress to become a law in the current session.

During the presentation, Harper answered many questions submitted by the audience. Assisting him in answering the questions was League member Mindy Greiling, who served 10 terms in the Minnesota House. She was filling in for Rep. Jamie Becker-Finn, who had a committee meeting that evening. Greiling was able to compare how things had changed over time, and also why certain practices are followed.

Harper went to the Legislature's website (leg.state.mn.us/) and showed how to look up bills and their status as well as amendments, committees and their schedules, legislators, and mailing lists you can sign up for.

That last part of the presentation was focused on communicating with legislators. Citizens can call to both educate their legislator and to lobby. The times that the public can participate most effectively with the legislator is in the following areas:

- Come up with a bill idea.
- Find a bill author.
- Call a legislator before committee votes (if they serve on the committee).
- Testify at a committee.
- Call a legislator before a floor vote.
- Call a legislator before a conference committee.
- Call the governor before a signature or veto.

Harper offered advice to members who contact their legislator. Before you call your legislator, get the facts right. Get information from at least three sources, at least two of which should be bona fide journalists. Sources should be local and written. Don't rely on social media sources. You can either call or email your legislator. Greiling suggested that using email ensures that there is an accurate record of your contact and is easier for legislative follow up. When you make contact, you should state your name and your neighborhood/city. Identify the bill number that you are supporting or opposing, and state why (e.g., who it will help, consequences). Then indicate if you would like a response. Finally, if a legislator has introduced or supported a bill that you support, you can just communicate to **thank them** for supporting the bill. Both Harper and Greiling stressed that legislators are hard-working, well-intentioned people with too much work to do in too little time.

April Event Recap: Becoming American Series #6

By Rachel Geiser

On April 11, the last of the Becoming American video series and discussion events was held at the Shoreview Library. LWV of Roseville Area partnered with the Shoreview Library and Do Good Roseville to hold this series with great feedback from all who attended.

Shoreview Librarian Paul Lai was once again on hand to introduce the session and Dr. Dina Gavrilos, University of St. Thomas Associate Professor of Communication and Journalism, facilitated the discussion.

The film screened was “The Search for General Tso.” The film set out to find who General Tso was, how he became the namesake of a popular dish at many Chinese restaurants in the US, and who created the dish. In aiming to attain these answers, the film also explored the unique placement and migration experience of Chinese immigrants in America. It also revealed the hardships and the respect of Chinese restaurants in America through the years.

After watching the film, the group reviewed an article distributed by Lai and discussion questions from Dr. Gavrilos. Points of discussion included:

- The approachableness of the film for a wide range of age groups.
- How Chinese restaurants and food was a way for the Chinese immigrants to feel accepted.
- The unique work of the Chinese associations to help immigrants resettle across the US.
- The authenticity of foods from different countries served at restaurants in America and who “owns” these types of food.
- Is it okay to be okay with Americanized Chinese food?
- The fact that saying “Chinese food” is too generalized and the terms used should really consider the various regions the dishes come from in China (e.g., food from the Canton, Hunan, and Schezuan regions).

Thanks to all who attended one or many of the Becoming American sessions. If you want to watch a film again or if you missed one, you can check out any of the films screened at the events from the Shoreview Library. You can also find the list of films and the articles used in discussion at the Becoming American website: becoming-american.org/.



Participants at the final Becoming American series event (photo by Rachel Geiser)

April Recap: Climate Change Discussion

By Rachel Geiser

On April 16, at the Prince of Peace Church in Roseville, many gathered to hear Dr. Kenneth (Kenny) Blumenfeld, a Senior Climatologist at the Minnesota DNR, speak about Minnesota's Changing Hydro-Climatology. Dr. Blumenfeld first discussed how climatology works by building models from observations and projections to find variability and trends in a region's climate.

Minnesota's pronounced, observed trends are that it is getting wetter and warmer: the lowest temperatures are increasing the fastest and extreme precipitation is increasing. The important hazards Minnesota has include hot days, drought, and tornadoes and severe convective storms (i.e., straight-line winds and hail). Dr. Blumenfeld showed several graphs that clearly indicate that Minnesota has been getting warmer and wetter in the last 30 years. He said that the way we're getting warmer is by lifting up the bottom with fewer lower temperature days; we are not raising the summer high temperatures...yet.

Dr. Blumenfeld recommended a few resources (unfortunately there is not yet a one-stop-shop for climate change in Minnesota): Minnesota DNR's climate website: dnr.state.mn.us/climate/index.html and Minnesota DOH's climate website: health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/climate/. Dr. Blumenfeld also recommended searching the internet for "MN ICAT Climate," the Environmental Quality Board, and reviewing the Science Museum of Minnesota's climate resources as well.

If you're interested in working on Environmental topics through the League, contact Priscilla Morton (prismorton@comcast.net) or Wayne Groff (waynegroff@edinarealty.com) from the Action/Advocacy committee to join the newly-created Environment subcommittee or just find out more information about the group from them. To view a recording of this event, go to the League's YouTube channel: youtube.com/watch?v=DaIcW3TFu10.



(photo by Rachel Geiser)

2019 LWV of Roseville Area Annual Meeting

The 2019 LWV of Roseville Area Annual Meeting was held on May 7 at the Maplewood Wakefield Park Community Building. President Sherry Hood led the meeting and introduced all board members to present their reports. Some highlights include:

- Ad-Hoc Committees: Vice President Barb Barany discussed the work that the ad-hoc Complete Count Census committee is doing and called for volunteers to join in the work being done. Teresa Werneke and Mindy Greiling discussed the work of the Centennial ad-hoc committee and the help they need. Priscilla Morton discussed the newly-formed Environment subcommittee of the Action/Advocacy Committee and requested volunteers as well.
- The nominations from the Nominations Report was approved, as was the 2019-2020 proposed budget. The attendees also re-approved the LWV of Roseville Area positions and agreed to focus on the 2020 census instead of a local study for the coming year.
- Seven Rose Awards were given out for the year. See [page 8](#) for information on the recipients.

For more information on the reports that were covered during the Annual Meeting, review the Annual Report. You can find it in your email or on the League's website: lwvrosevillearea.org/sites/lwvrosevillearea.org/files/2019%20Annual%20Report.pdf.

Annual Meeting: Rose Award Winners

By Sherry Hood

The Rose Awards were presented at the 2019 LWV of Roseville Area Annual Meeting to members who exceeded expectations in their service to League this year. Here are the recipients and why they were recognized.

Karen Schaffer: Our League has bragged so many times about this lady being our member. She has chaired CMAL, which created a magnificent study of the Metropolitan Council this past year.



Barb Barany: This lady has taken on the leadership of a difficult task of overseeing our 2020 Census involvement that she so expertly manages.

Alana Howey: She contributes whenever she can and at the same time works as a physical therapist and helps raise two teenage daughters! Her work and dedication to the League on several committees is so appreciated!



Donna Peterson: She has been a member for many years and works hard for the LWV of Roseville Area, guiding us with her passion for the health of our environment.

Priscilla Morton: She is a brand new member and dove headfirst on being a co-chair of our Action/Advocacy Committee. She has provided wonderful leadership with that committee and the subcommittee on the environment.



Teresa Wernecke: This new member has contributed so much to the Voter Services committee this past year and was a tremendous asset at our voter forums. Her contributions have not gone unnoticed.

Elizabeth Hansel: Her contributions are remarkable. To list just a few: she is a youth member of the Human Rights, Inclusion, and Engagement Commission of the city of Roseville. She initiated and led Teens for Human Rights Club at RAHS. This young lady has been a tireless advocate for differently abled persons, promoting the enforcement of the American with Disabilities Act. She has been a member of our Action/Advocacy and Voter Services committees helping us to better engage with students. She has also managed an Instagram account to encourage youth to register and vote in the 2018 election! We are proud that she is a LWVMN Civic Engagement Fellow, participating in both state-wide youth activities and local League endeavors. Locally, she is a member of the ad-hoc Census Committee - her focus is to organize and conduct outreach to RAHS multicultural clubs and discuss census curriculum with RAHS government teachers.



Reminder to Renew Your 2019 League Membership

Please take a moment to use the form below to renew your League Membership for 2019 at this critical time in our democratic life together. Your continuing commitment provides vital support for the League's important work at state and national as well as local levels.



This year, our local efforts are focused on the 2020 census and advocacy in support of the fight to protect our shared environment and to resist climate change, in addition to our strong traditional emphasis on voter registration and local candidate forums throughout our five-city area. More broadly, the League is actively involved in collaborations to resist gerrymandering before the U.S. Supreme Court, to encourage responsible nonpartisan redistricting, and to restore and expand voter registration and participation in our electoral process.

This promises to be an exceptionally busy and consequential year for the League of Women Voters. We need your support for these endeavors. We are counting on you to renew today! Thank you for responding promptly. (In addition to providing needed funds in a timely way that helps us plan and budget our priorities, it makes my life easier to not have to tackle too many reminder notices!)

Beth Reinhart

Membership Committee Chair

P.S. You may pay dues by way of sending a check to Joyce Briggs or through PayPal, which can be accessed through the LWV of Roseville Area website: lwvrosevillearea.org/.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Membership options:

_____ \$70 Individual

_____ \$105 Household

_____ \$35 Low -income

Write checks to: LWV-RA

Mail to: Joyce Briggs

2750 Dale St., #45

Roseville, MN 55113

Jbriggs2750@gmail.com

Rachel Geiser, editor
1223 Duluth Ct.
Maplewood, MN 55109

LWV of Roseville Area: June Event Calendar

- **June 1 – CMAL Annual Meeting.** See the full event description on [page 1](#); 9:30 a.m.
- **June 5 – June Field Trip: Sustainability Tour.** See the full event description on [page 1](#); 10 a.m.
- **June 24 – Rosefest Parade Marching.** See the full event description on [page 2](#).

New programs for the 2019-2020 year will be announced this summer. Watch your email and the July/August Voter issue for more information.

Thanks for a great 2018-2019 year!



LWV of Roseville Area Members—December 2018

Voter Article Submission Deadline

Submissions for the next issue of The Voter are due 10 days before the end of the month. If you have any questions or information to submit for the newsletter, contact Rachel Geiser at rachelsoup@gmail.com.