

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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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>

Falcon Heights Candidate Forum

LWV of Roseville Area is sponsoring a candidate forum for Falcon Heights. All candidates for mayor and city council were invited to participate in a live forum on October 7, 7-8:30 p.m. at the Falcon Heights City Hall, 2077 W. Larpenteur Ave., Falcon Heights.

Linda McLoon is the moderator for the event. Written questions will be taken from the audience during the event and questions may be emailed to lwvrosevillearea@lwvmn.org until noon the day of the event. The forum will be broadcast live by CTV NorthSuburbs.

Why We Can't Afford Not to Have Health Care for All

- Affordable health care access, like Greenland's glaciers, is melting away before our eyes.
- While uninsured rates rise, out-of-pocket costs are un-stoppable.
- Pharmaceutical companies see large profits while citizens die because prescriptions are too expensive to purchase.
- Around the country, polls show a majority of citizens agree in wanting an affordable way of covering everyone.



Rose Roach

On Tuesday, October 8, LWV of Roseville Area is partnering with Roseville Area Advocates for Minnesota Health Plan to hear speaker Rose Roach, Executive Director of the Minnesota Nurses Association, discuss a potential single payer health care system in Minnesota. Roach will examine how a single payer framework might look, address some common misconceptions and outline work needed to make this a reality.

Returning to a long-time venue, the Little Venetian Restaurant, 2900 Rice St., Little Canada, conversation and dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m. Attendees can order one of four meals: fillet of haddock, \$13.50; cheese ravioli, \$11; meat lasagna, \$11.75; or unlimited salad bar, \$8.75. To make a reservation, call Stephanie DeBenedet at 651-483-1006 or email jdebenedet@msn.com **by Thursday, October 3.**

Members unable to attend dinner are welcome to come for the program from 6:30-8 p.m.

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The LWVUS position on health care "calls for a national health insurance plan financed through general taxes, commonly known as the 'single-payer' approach. The position also supports an employer-based system that provides universal access to health care as an important step toward a national health insurance plan. The League opposes a strictly private market-based model of financing the health care system. Regarding administration of the US health care system, the League supports a combination of private and public sectors or a combination of federal, state, and/or regional agencies. The League supports a general income tax increase to finance national health care reform."

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

LWV of Roseville Area Board Members

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As all of you know, LWVMN will put on a gala on October 26 at 5:30 p.m. in St. Paul's Union Depot celebrating their 100th anniversary. They will honor special guests who are "Minnesota First" in several categories and then hold a live auction.

Individual tickets are \$175 to attend. I and others I know had concerns about the high ticket price. I called Michelle Witte, executive director at LWVMN, to talk to her about this. She explained that the Gala is a fundraiser and \$100 of the \$175 tickets are a tax-deductible donation to LWVMN's Second Century Initiative. She stressed to me how many things have been and will be free to local Leagues surrounding the 2019-2020 Centennial celebrations. These are her examples.

- The Centennial kicked off with the opening of the traveling exhibit in April at the Landmark Center. The exhibit is provided free of charge to local Leagues and history centers across Minnesota. It is currently scheduled in 40 communities through 2021.
- Next was Minnesota Women's Suffrage Day at the State Capitol on September 8, which featured a free day of celebrations for League members and the public, commemorating the 100th anniversary of Minnesota ratifying the 19th amendment.
- There will be additional activities in 2020, including a day at the Minnesota State Fair and the opening of the Minnesota History Center LWV exhibit on September 26, 2020. The "She Voted: Her Fight, Our Right" exhibit at the History Center will provide each League with a free opportunity to showcase their local League history for one week during the exhibit.
- Lastly, there is a free toolkit on the LWVMN website to help local Leagues develop their own Centennial initiative (lwvmn.org/centennial-toolkit).

Michelle ended by saying the Gala is the only one of the Centennial celebration events provided by the State League that costs money to local League members.

If you are interested in attending the Gala, information and tickets are available at lwvmn.org/gala. On the ticket page, there is a place to indicate you are with the LWV of Roseville Area. From that information, the organizers can sit us at the same tables. It should be interesting and lots of fun!



What: Special fundraising gala, celebrating LWVMN's 100th birthday and the first night of their second century. The event will honor 10 "Minnesota First" for women illustrative the League's ongoing work to build an inclusive democracy

When: Saturday, October 26

Where: Union Depot, 214 4th St. E., St. Paul

Time: 5:30 p.m. registration, reception, exhibit viewing; 7 p.m. dinner; 8 p.m. program and auction

RSVP by October 14 — Buy tickets on the gala event page: lwvmn.org/gala



Sherry Hood

Did you know? Census data is used to distribute medical research funding.

Education — Chicken or Egg?

By Florence Sprague

“Progress of the world depends almost entirely upon education.” — George Eastman

I have always been a strong believer in and supporter of education and public schools. At times I have felt like the schools were expected to “solve” societal challenges that people didn’t want to deal with more broadly, bussing being a prime example. We don’t know how to address segregation and racial inequality so we put it all on the schools.

An article in *The Atlantic* this summer explored a similar idea and is worth our attention. In “Education Isn’t Enough” (the title in the print edition, online as “Better Schools Won’t Fix America” at theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2019/07/education-isnt-enough/590611/), Nick Hanauer, entrepreneur, venture capitalist and philanthropist, explores why he has come to believe that education is necessary but not sufficient to improve opportunities for Americans. “Successful” schools tend to be found in strong middle-class communities where families have the time, money, and education to demand the best and support them. If you pay workers a decent middle-class wage, more successful schools will likely follow because, as Hanauer notes, “the **metric most predictive** of a child’s educational success [is] household income.”

But what do we see happening in our schools? From year to year the percentage of students eligible for free or reduced lunch continues to grow, until it now exceeds 50% nationwide. Children in lower-income households tend to face multiple obstacles that can impede their educational success including housing and/or food insecurity, less time for parental help with school, fewer enrichment opportunities, more exposure to lead and asbestos, inadequate healthcare, and more. Studies have shown that only 20% of student outcomes are due to the school, while family circumstances account for 60%.

And what do we see happening in the economy? Since 1970, after-tax corporate profits have increased from about 5% to 10%, while in the same period wages as a share of GDP have fallen by 8%, and the share of pre-tax income of the wealthiest 1% has soared from 9% to 21%. The real wages of the top 1% rose 156 % while the average paycheck did not increase.

Hanauer notes, “Today...**the median** American family is left with \$76,000 a year. Had hourly compensation grown with productivity since 1973—as it did over the preceding quarter century, according to the Economic Policy Institute—that family would now be earning more than \$105,000 a year.”

While this was happening, the number of Americans with a high school diploma went from about 50% to 90% and the proportion of Americans with a college degree tripled. Lack of education was not the prime culprit.

Education is important on so many fronts, but it cannot undo the impact of economic inequality. “We have confused a symptom—educational inequality—with the underlying disease: economic inequality.”

Education is and always will be vital, but has the education system also become a scapegoat for a society that is unwilling to directly address other issues that drag people down? What do you see?

New Member Spotlight: Judy Murakami

By Beth Reinhart

Judy Murakami is one of our new members this year. She has already participated in the Better Angels workshop and brought in two additional new members.

Judy has lived most of her life in Minnesota — growing up in the Mac-Groveland area, and attending the University of Minnesota. She and her husband George raised four children and they now have nine grandchildren, most of whom live nearby in Minnesota. She taught English and History, primarily in Roseville, before beginning a career in marketing communications with Medtronic.

Although retired for 14 years, Judy hasn’t slowed down a bit. She helps organize and coordinate Holy Hammers, a volunteer coalition of 15 local churches that sponsor and build homes through Habitat for Humanity. Her teaching skills stay honed as she volunteers with immigrant English language learners at the Roseville Adult Learning Center.

In this era of controversy, Judy hopes to find in League a balanced perspective and an opportunity to learn. We welcome her enthusiasm and encourage her to keep up the new member recruitment!



Roseville and Maplewood Organics Recycling Sites Are Open

By Donna Peterson

Where Are the Sites?

- In Roseville, the dumpsters are located in the same area as the leaf recycling site: 2495 Dale St (south of Cty Rd. C).
- In Maplewood, the site is in the YMCA Community Center Parking Lot: 2100 White Bear Ave.

In both locations, along with other sites in the county, there is a special dumpster labeled for the biodegradable bags of organics (see the dumpster image on this page).

Organic Recycling Rules

Before you rush forward with all the things you are eager to compost, here are a few important things to keep in mind.

- The bag for the compost must be certified as compostable by the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI).
- Small (two gallon) BPI certified bags are available at the compost sites.
- A limited number of bags and small kitchen caddies (to hold the bags) are available at Roseville City Hall or Maplewood City Hall. You can take up to two bags per week. Bags will still be available when caddies are gone.
- Food waste of all kinds is okay and, in fact, is the primary reason for this program. Food waste accounts for more than 30% of solid waste.
- Additional items you can bring for composting are identified on an Organic Acceptability list from Ramsey County: ramseycounty.us/sites/default/files/Recycling%20and%20Waste/Residents/Organics%20YesNo%20list.pdf. Read it carefully!
- Exercise caution when composting food containers and disposable utensils labeled as “biodegradable” or “compostable.” Only those with a BPI certification truly are compostable. Unfortunately, very few of these containers have been certified by BPI. One reason they shouldn’t be included is a lining used to keep liquid from penetrating into the cup or bowl is not totally biodegradable. Those items not certified might not have been tested, or if they have, don’t meet the standards established by BPI.
- Don’t forget, choose reusable dishware whenever possible and consider steps that might reduce your food waste.
- While leaves and grass clippings are organic, they are not acceptable for the food scraps composting program. See the Ramsey County website for where to bring yard waste: ramseycounty.us/residents/recycling-waste/collection-sites/yard-waste.

Once the bags of compostable, organic waste have been collected, the dumpsters will be transported to the industrial composting site in Rosemount.

It is imperative that we are all diligent and careful about what we collect. Anything that is not compostable is contamination and cuts down on the quality of the compost. If the percentage of contaminants is too high, a load could be rejected. No one wants low quality compost.

Let’s all get it right! The only bag to be used is the BPI-certified bag used for collection. CAUTION is the right word for everything that is not food waste.

Find more information about the Ramsey County food scraps composting program here: ramseycounty.us/residents/recycling-waste/collection-sites/food-scrap.



Making Census: Counting Children Under Five

By Barb Barany

Last month's Voter issue highlighted the low-count populations we hope to reach in order to achieve a complete count for the 2020 US Census. Foremost among these is the under-five age group, which is estimated to have represented 80% of Minnesota's undercounted in the 2010 US Census. The risk is particularly acute within complex households. The LWV of Roseville Area Ad Hoc Census Committee plans to work with community education and library programs to support their efforts to advertise the Census and its importance. In addition, Megan Dahlberg made an important first contact with Ramsey County Women, Infants, and Children program supervisors and gained their enthusiastic partnership.

How can we get the attention of busy young parents in early childhood programs and WIC offices? One resource is the parents themselves. We are recruiting program participants to spread the word, both through tabling at the programs and informally through their neighborhoods. A generous grant from the Roseville Area Community Fund allows us to thank (with gift cards) those helping with outreach. Print materials are essential to support person-to-person outreach as well as to reach additional parents. We need something that can get key points across quickly, especially to those with limited English reading skills. Enter Marcia Cheney and the infographic. Drawing (pun intended) on her volunteer work with literacy programs, Marcia suggested an infographic which relays a message through graphic design and just a few words. Currently in the design phase, Marcia's infographic highlights real numbers (people and numbers), real easy (methods of responding, with data going safely into a locked box), and real impacts (\$ signs, symbols of programs funded by federal programs, and government representation). She identified a graphic artist to complete the design. We have received an enthusiastic response from those with whom we've shared the concept, including WIC supervisors. We are not aware of other available infographic approaches and expect our design to be widely shared throughout Minnesota.

LWV of Roseville Area members are needed to assist with outreach, particularly from February through April 2020.

Voter Registration Event

By Karen Lake

A voter registration event was held at Roseville Area High School on National Voter Registration Day, September 24.



Future voters!

September Event Recap: Practice Your LAPPs

By Florence Sprague

Political discourse these days is often starkly divided and vitriolic. Members of the “other” are harshly met by what Bill Doherty, co-founder of Better Angels (better-angels.org/minnesota/) calls the four horsemen of polarization—stereotyping, dismissing, ridiculing and contempt. Yet decisions and progress can only be made when we all work together. In September, LWV of Roseville Area invited Better Angels to lead a workshop titled, “Depolarizing Within: Becoming a Better Angel in Your Own World.” Forty-one people gathered to work through a series of thought-provoking steps guided by expert facilitators from Better Angels, Bill Doherty and Bruce Mackenzie.

After quietly performing a private self-reflection on how we think about those with whom we disagree, participants were offered strategies to help them breakdown stereotypes and make depolarizing distinctions to humanize the “other” so that we can distinguish between positions and people and move toward grasping why they might think as they do.

Better Angels offers several types of workshops. The focus of a “Depolarizing Within” workshop is to explore how to talk with those in the same political group to tone down inflammatory rhetoric that would offend and push away the other side, making the impassable gulf even wider. Next we discussed language to avoid, the need to refrain from attributing bad motives when you disagree with ideas, awareness that your side is also not perfect, and more.

The core of the evening was practicing four skills for depolarizing conversations. The skills are **L**isten, **A**cknowledge, **P**ivot, and **P**erspective—LAPP. **Listen** for the values and the emotions within a polarized speaker’s words. **Acknowledge** what you are hearing and, if you can, find a point of agreement so the speaker feels heard. Begin to **Pivot** the tone of the conversation by signaling that you have been thinking/reading/talking about the issue. Then move to offer a depolarizing **Perspective** that offers a way to see beyond the stereotypes and oversimplifications of positions. **LAPP**. After the facilitators modeled these steps we all practiced our own versions. It’s not easy, but the potential return is great.

“I’ve come to realize that we’re going to have to understand and respect each other more if we’re going to solve our country’s problems” (a prior Better Angels participant).

How well are you acquainted with your inner polarizer?



Did you know? Census data is used to forecast future transportation needs for all segments of the population.

Future League Events

Meetings are usually recorded and posted on our website: lwvrosevillearea.org. If you need a ride to an event, contact Sherry Hood (sherryhood@icloud.com) or Bonnie Koch (toouray@aol.com) (see the member directory for their phone numbers).

October events are detailed on [page 1](#) and [page 8](#).

- **November 19 – A Place for Everyone.** A panel of experts discussing fair housing for all community members. House of Representatives Housing Committee Chair, Rep. Alice Hausman; Executive Director of Minnesota Inter-agency Council on Homelessness, Cathy ten Broeke; and Ramsey County Director of Veteran Services, Maria Wetherall; 6:30-8 p.m.; Centennial United Methodist Church, 1524 County Rd. C2 W., Roseville.
- **December 12 – Dinner Theater LWV Centennial Celebration.** Music by Ta-Ta Quartet, buffet dinner, one-act play “From Seneca Falls to South St. Paul” women’s suffrage presentation by Madeline Hansen; 5-6 p.m. cocktails, 6-7 p.m. dinner, 7-8:30 p.m. play; Gulden’s Restaurant, 2999 Maplewood Dr., Maplewood (corner of Hwy 61 and County Rd. D).
- **January 16 – Conversation with Constituents.** Interact with office holders in our five cities; 6:30 p.m. refreshments, 7-8:30 p.m. program; Roseville City Hall, 2660 Civic Center Dr., Roseville.
- **February 18 – Electoral College/National Popular Vote Compact—Is There Another Option for Choosing a President?** Karen Schaffer presenter (co-hosted with the Roseville Public Library); 6:30-8 p.m.; Roseville Public Library Community Room, 2180 N. Hamline Ave., Roseville.
- **March 31 – What Are Our Cities Doing on Environmental Issues?** 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Further details forthcoming.
- **April 21 – League Involvement and Voting Rights Through the Decades.** Josie Johnson will talk about her League involvement and voting rights; 7-8:30 p.m.; Roseville Public Library Community Room, 2180 Hamline Ave. N, Roseville.
- **May 5 – LWV of Roseville Area Annual Meeting.** 5 p.m. social hour, 6 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. meeting; Little Canada City Hall, 515 Little Canada Rd. E., Little Canada.
- **June (Date TBD) – Sustainability Field Trip.** Meet at the Little Canada Ramsey County Watershed headquarters to learn about the program and tour the facilities; 2665 Noel Dr., Little Canada.

Social Corner: LWV of Roseville Area Members Out and About

LWV of Roseville Area members attended the Roseville Area School Fund luncheon on September 25 at Midland Hills Golf Course. Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan was the keynote speaker.



LWV of Roseville Area members Mary Jo McGuire, Clare Verbeten, Jamie Becker-Finn, Curtis Johnson, and Wayne Groff, LWV member Alice Hausman, and Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan (pictured in the middle of the group)

LWV of Roseville Area: October Event Calendar

- **October 7 – Falcon Heights Candidate Forum.** See event details on [page 1](#); 7 p.m..
- **October 8 – Why We Can't Afford Not to Have Health Care for All.** See event details on [page 1](#); 5:30 p.m. dinner, 6:30 p.m. program.
- **October 10 – Gloria: A Life.** Attend a play with League members about Gloria Steinem. If you reserved a ticket, see your email for details. Contact Sherry Hood if you want to set up a ride to the play; 7:30 p.m.
- **October 26 – LWVMN Gala.** Fundraising gala for LWMN's 100th birthday. See [page 2](#) for more details; 5:30 p.m.



LWVUS Board of Directors 2000 — *Source: LWV Media Library*

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.

Did you know? Census data is used to reapportion seats in the House of Representatives.