

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

Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/lwvRosevilleArea](http://www.facebook.com/lwvRosevilleArea)

Instagram:  
[www.instagram.com/lwvrosevillearea](http://www.instagram.com/lwvrosevillearea)

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

## November Event: COVID-19 — Urgent Lessons for Public Health Reform

Join us November 17 from 6:30-8 p.m. to focus on health policy lessons COVID-19 provides in a virtual event co-hosted LWV of Roseville Area and the Ramsey County Library Roseville. Our panelists, see their biographies below, posit that our current system has shown itself to be ill-prepared to cope with a pandemic. Challenges have arisen from many direc-



(l-r) Stella Obadiya, RN; Dave Dvorak, MD, MPH; MN State Senator John Marty

tions. People have lost jobs, and with it, their employer-based insurance coverage, joining others already without health insurance coverage just when infectious disease responses needed coverage for everyone to aid in the fight to stop the spread of the virus. Multiple systems competed for resources when coordination was needed and costs escalated. Some segments of the population are suffering disproportionately. The pandemic points to the need for a system that addresses health disparities and covers everyone, without exception; a system that plans ahead to address public health needs efficiently.

League member Mindy Greiling will moderate the event. Register here: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_rJj3Ma9QDCmsOLlvDpy8A](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rJj3Ma9QDCmsOLlvDpy8A). If you would like more details, visit: [https://relreads.bibliocommons.com/events/search/fq=types:\(5df16fdd1562d04500907031\)/event/5f8f4df59aac72f005780df](https://relreads.bibliocommons.com/events/search/fq=types:(5df16fdd1562d04500907031)/event/5f8f4df59aac72f005780df)

**Stella Obadiya, RN**, is a passionate and driven advocate against health care disparities and discrimination experienced by minorities especially people of color. She has over three decades of nursing experience in areas including children's emergency care, mental health, brain injuries, and maternity care, both in Nigeria and the US.

**Dave Dvorak, MD, MPH**, is an emergency physician who practices at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center and NorthPoint Health and Wellness Center. He is a member of the Minnesota chapter of Physicians for a National Health Program, which supports universal health care access through single-payer reform.

**John Marty** has been a state senator since 1987. He is a strong advocate for government ethics, environmental protection, and universal health care. He is the author of the proposed Minnesota Health Plan, which would replace the health insurance system with health care for all.

## LWV of Roseville Area November Board Meeting

The next meeting of the LWV of Roseville Area Board is Wednesday, November 18, at 7 p.m. For Zoom access, please contact Barb Anderson at [lwvrosevillearea@lwvnmn.org](mailto:lwvrosevillearea@lwvnmn.org) in advance.

# December Event: Discrimination in Housing Opportunities — Redlining and Racial Covenants Then and Now

Have you ever bought or sold a house? There are mounds of paperwork involved. How carefully do we read those papers? Tragically, for decades, racism was embedded in deeds and lending policies barring the sale of properties to non-white purchasers.

In an event co-hosted by our League and Ramsey County Library Roseville, Historian Kirsten Delegard, Director and Co-founder of Mapping Prejudice, and Kari Collins, Ramsey County Community and Economic Development Director, will help us understand how racial covenants were used in the past to discriminate, how the impacts of this discrimination still manifest today, and what current barriers to equitable home ownership may be.



**Kirsten Delegard,  
Co-Founder of  
Mapping Prejudice**



**Kari Collins,  
Ramsey County  
Community and  
Economic  
Development  
Director**

**When:** Tuesday, December 8, 7-8:30 p.m.

**Where:** Zoom, hosted by the Ramsey County Library Roseville

**Registration:** Watch the weekly eBlast for a link or go to the library events page

## *From the Mapping Prejudice Project:*

The organization is mapping racial covenants in the Twin Cities. Racial covenants are clauses—a couple of lines of text—that were embedded into property deeds to bar people who were not white from buying or even occupying the parcels of land to which they were attached.

The project just finished the map of Hennepin County and has turned its attention to Ramsey County. It has developed a process that harnesses the power of community to reveal this hidden history of race in the built environment. Three thousand people contributed to the map of Hennepin County. Even more volunteers have stepped up to read property deeds in Ramsey County and extract the information necessary to put these racial restrictions on a map.

Covenants were made illegal by the 1968 Fair Housing Act. But their legacy continues today in the Twin Cities, which has some of the largest racial disparities in the country. The Mapping Prejudice Project is designed to reveal the “racism behind these racial disparities,” in the words of Ibram Kendi. It illuminates how structural racism shaped the urban landscape, blocking African Americans from critical avenues for housing stability and wealth accumulation.

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## January Event: Conversations with Constituents — But We’ve Always Done It This Way!

The January 2021 Conversations with Constituents event will be held virtually this year. Organizers are already planning for the program during which elected officials engage with their constituents (us!) about issues reflecting the current concerns of our communities. This year's format will be quite different than past programs, but rest assured, the outcome will be equally enlightening.

Save the date for our live Zoom “Conversations” program on Thursday, January 21, from 6:30-8 p.m. We'll split the evening into two 40-minute conversations with the Ramsey County Commissioners and Legislative officials who represent our five-city communities. Instructions to join the program by computer or phone are forthcoming. Sorry to say that treats will not be provided this year, but feel free to treat yourself in the comfort of your home!

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## Action and Advocacy Team — Members Needed

Post election, the Action and Advocacy team is looking for members. We observe and communicate local decisions and discussions and alert the full membership when they are of primary interest to the LWV. We also wish to be involved and active in the Fair Maps process for redistricting with LWVMN beginning now. Join us for as much or as little time as you can spare on these important issues that profoundly affect our democracy. Contact Priscilla Morton at [prismorton@comcast.net](mailto:prismorton@comcast.net) or 612-269-3458.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

## LWV of Roseville Area Board Members

### Officers:

#### **President**

Barb Barany

#### **Vice President**

Barb Anderson

#### **Secretary**

Jim DeBenedet  
(Mindy Greiling, backup)

#### **Treasurer**

Jessica Holz

.....

### Directors:

#### **Action/Advocacy**

Wayne Groff  
Priscilla Morton

#### **Communications**

Barb Anderson, transitioning to Mary Peterson

#### **Membership**

Rita Mills

#### **Program**

Florence Sprague, vice chair  
Carol Marchel

#### **Voter Services**

Karen Lake

.....

### Members-At-Large

Stephanie DeBenedet  
Rachel Geiser  
Karen Schaffer

My daughter, a neuroscientist, recently told me about the mantis shrimp; its ability to perceive color in ways that humans cannot is a reminder of how each of us may have a different perspective on the same events. Much of what League does allows us and our wider community to see things from another perspective. From programs to studies to Voter articles to candidate forums, we have the opportunity to see things as others might and sometimes to propose remedies to those that don't look right—a non-partisan resource in a highly partisan environment.

In October's program, Florence Sprague led a conversation opening a window to families facing the challenges of serious mental illness, based on Mindy Greiling's new release, *Fix What You Can*. While the emphasis in Mindy's compelling book is on describing issues and her approaches to personal and legislative solutions, she also notes that her leadership in recent LWV of Roseville Area police and affordable housing studies was inspired by the respective concerns that individuals with serious mental illness have in these areas. In listening to the program, I also couldn't help but reflect on what a tremendous resource we have in highly capable moderators, for both programs and forums.

While personal circumstances may inspire us to work on an issue, the reverse may also be true. Working on the 2020 US Census gave me insight into some of the issues facing immigrants and refugees in our community. Being part of one of our studies—ADA Compliance in our Five Cities or Equitable Representation—can be a way to serve our community while learning more about it.

As I write this report, many Americans have voted, but the majority have yet to cast their ballots. As you read this, the results of the presidential and other races may not yet be known. What we do know is that your support of League, and your work toward its goals, underpin the recognition and democratic expression of viewpoints.

## Census Success

*By Barb Barany*

Census self-response has always been the most complete and accurate response. This year, it was even more critical, due to the challenges of non-response follow-up during COVID-19. So when census data collection abruptly ended on October 15, it was especially rewarding to find that Minnesota led the nation in 2020 self-response, reversing the trend of decreasing rates in recent decades. Each of our LWV of Roseville Area five cities outdid the Minnesota self-response rate, also improving over 2010. While our in-person outreach strategy came to a halt just as we began to ramp up, the preliminary work, starting at the end of 2018, and continuing activity surely contributed to this success. Kudos to the team! Major contributors included Marcia Cheney, Barbara Christl, Megan Dahlberg, Rachel Geiser, Alma Graff, Elizabeth Hansel, Sherry Hood, Rita Mills, Mary Peterson, Lisa Scribner, Nancy Simpson, Teresa Wernecke and Kathy Whatley.

***New Members Diving In*** – Census work enjoyed an infusion of skills and enthusiasm with the addition of three members who joined LWV of Roseville Area and the Ad-Hoc Census Committee during 2019. Marcia Cheney put her experience volunteering with literacy programs to use in multiple venues, including envisioning and overseeing the creation of our infographic, coordinating with school district and county partners, participating in in-person outreach, recruiting bilingual enumerators, and phone-banking during the pandemic. Alma Graff put her skills as a professional marketing communicator and native Spanish speaker to work in outreach to both Roseville Area and Saint Paul Public Schools' Spanish-speaking parents. Nancy Simpson's experience volunteering with immigrant communities led her to persistently and successfully navigate the obscure, on-again, off-again enumerator hiring process. While waiting to do official census bureau work, she volunteered as a phone-banker.



**Barb Barany**



**Marcia Cheney**



**Alma Graff**



**Nancy Simpson**

### P.S.

*By Florence Sprague*

*“I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve.”*

*Albert Schweitzer P.S. March 2020*



Sometimes it happens that once I begin to think about something, I start to see it everywhere. In October I pondered whether a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), such as that which functioned in South Africa, could ever work in this country. I had, and have, serious doubts about it on a national level, but in the intervening weeks I have come across a number of instances across North America where parties have sought healing through this process. The geneses have been varied—by court order, by legislation, by private organization. I freely admit that I have not done in-depth research into each of these efforts; their mere existence gives me hope. Harm must be uncovered and acknowledged to begin the healing process.

The first one I encountered was the state of Maryland's Lynching TRC ([msa.maryland.gov/lynching-truth-reconciliation/](https://msa.maryland.gov/lynching-truth-reconciliation/)). Learn more about it in this report by NPR: [npr.org/2020/09/28/917861513/maryland-panel-tasked-with-investigating-states-lynching-history](https://npr.org/2020/09/28/917861513/maryland-panel-tasked-with-investigating-states-lynching-history). This one is going on right now and an online search will quickly pull up numerous news articles. It was established by the Maryland legislature and it “is authorized to **research cases of racially motivated lynchings and hold public meetings and regional hearings** where a lynching of an African American by a white mob has been documented.” Uncover, acknowledge, begin the healing.

Then I ran into “the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, the largest class-action settlement in Canadian history.” They began to implement this court order in 2007. One thing the agreement required was the creation of a “Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada to facilitate reconciliation among former students, their families, their communities and all Canadians” ([rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1450124405592/1529106060525](https://rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1450124405592/1529106060525)). Uncover the harm done to First Nation children, families, and communities; acknowledge it; and try to begin the healing.

Then I saw a similar TRC in Maine, the Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare TRC, which did its work from 2013-2015. The attempts at cultural genocide by means of the removal of Native American children to residential schools, where they were too often mistreated, was a terrible crime on both sides of the U.S.-Canada border. Will Minnesota and the Dakotas follow suit to uncover, acknowledge, and begin the healing ([mainewabanakireach.org/maine\\_wabanaki\\_state\\_child\\_welfare\\_truth\\_and\\_reconciliation\\_commission/](https://mainewabanakireach.org/maine_wabanaki_state_child_welfare_truth_and_reconciliation_commission/))?

Then I came across the Greensboro TRC. This one was founded by a private group in 2004 to look into the Greensboro Massacre, the killings by the KKK and the ANP of five protesters from the Communist Party rallying against the Klan on November 3, 1979 ([greensborotrc.org/index.php](https://greensborotrc.org/index.php)). The underlying event here is closer to the present, but not well acknowledged. Has there been healing?

That site led me to the International Center for Transitional Justice which was begun in 2001 by one of the chief architects of South Africa's TRC using an initial \$4 million grant from the Ford Foundation ([ictj.org/](https://ictj.org/)). This organization works with victims, civil society groups, and other organizations in countries that have endured massive human rights abuses, hoping to prevent further abuses. Would that such an organization had existed long ago to help this country, but tragic that it is needed.

Then, when I thought I had this article all blocked out, on Friday, October 16, the Minneapolis City Council approved a resolution establishing a truth and reconciliation process. Yes, right here. “The ultimate objective of this process is to begin implementing specific solutions to specific harms that created and perpetuate racial disparities with a prioritized focus on healing with historically Black American descendants of slavery and American Indian/Indigenous communities.” Read more at [news.minneapolismn.gov/2020/10/16/city-council-approves-resolution-establishing-truth-and-reconciliation-process-for-city-of-minneapolis/](https://news.minneapolismn.gov/2020/10/16/city-council-approves-resolution-establishing-truth-and-reconciliation-process-for-city-of-minneapolis/). We can all look forward to seeing how this plays out in our own neighborhood and seeking ways to help.

How many more are out there? How effective have they been at uncovering, acknowledging, and promoting healing? When you think about it, most of these are addressing crimes and harm that occurred long ago, leading to generational trauma. Solving and salving that is a tall order. But we must begin somewhere.

# Voter Services: Voting Resources and Reminders

By Karen Lake

## • What Happens After the Votes Have Been Cast for the 2020 General Election?

- Do not expect all results to be called or announced on election night and that is okay! Some results may be known by then, but not necessarily all.
- A delayed result with an increased number of mailed in ballots means **the system is working as it should** to insure the integrity of our election process.
- A surge in mailed in ballots requires election officials to adapt their ballot counting practices and requires voters to be patient. A complete and accurate ballot count is more important than a fast ballot count.
- Due to an increase of absentee voting during this pandemic, it is essential that voters allow for every vote to be counted and every voice heard. Prepare for many election results (and states will be on different timelines) to be announced after election day. **Democracy is worth waiting for!**

Seek out **credible sources** to check on rumors and possible misinformation! The Minnesota Secretary of State's Office and your local county elections office are the credible sources. Be wary of **misinformation** (information which is incorrect or misleading whether intentional or not) and **disinformation** (information which is false and designed to be misleading and confusing). Thanks for voting!

## • Voter Services Committee Update

- In words attributed to Helen Keller, "I am only one; but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. I will not refuse to do something I can do."
- So many have contributed to voter registrations, voter education, and get out the vote this election season! Thus, LWV of Roseville Area has had a significant outreach even beyond formal League activities.
- Members of the Environmental Subcommittee were among those who supported Voter Services Committee efforts by joining in Suzanne Sancilo's work to contact organizations that might be willing to distribute voter resources to the people they serve. (A listing of the over two dozen contacts made by Suzanne Sancilo and Donna Peterson are listed below.) Karen Lake followed up with groups and provided resources according to needs. Marcia Cheney, Donna Peterson, Barb Luck, Priscilla Morton, Alana Howey, and Sherry Hood were also involved in letter/postcard writing and in texting/phoning in cooperation with other nonpartisan groups seeking to get out the vote.
- LWV of Roseville Area members participated in relational organizing and following up on Vote411 candidates who did not respond to requests for information. Sherry Hood, Barb Luck, and Mary Mohan assumed responsibility for three cities' candidates, and additional Leaguers offered reminders to their area's candidates as well.
- Five candidate forums were organized by Teresa Wernecke and Cecilia Warner and moderated by Kitty Gogins, Linda McLoon, and Florence Sprague.
- Area high schools were contacted and provided voter registration information for distribution to senior students.
- Participation in weekly meetings with Minnesota Secretary of State staff and periodic meetings with MNVoice occurred over the summer and fall of 2020.
- Extraordinary energy, flexibility, and commitment to civic engagement were obvious during this pandemic!
- According to Judy Stuthman, citizenship ceremonies continue, with two large ceremonies (250 people each) held at the River Center on Monday, November 2, with new citizens then able to vote in this election. In the future, it is expected that there will be two days of ceremonies each month at the River Center, with three ceremonies on each of the two days, allowing time between for the River Center to disinfect the room (which normally holds over 1,000 people). The public health guidelines are in place for safety during this pandemic.

## • Community Groups Contacted/Provided Voting Resources (\*indicates those supplied resources)

Vadnais Heights Lions Club*	Salvation Army*	Roseville Schools Meals on Wheels*
Second Harvest Heartland*	Open Hands Midway	Merrick Community Services*
Presbyterian Homes	North St. Paul Food Shelf	White Bear Area Food Shelf
Christian Cupboard, Oakdale	MN Teamsters Food Shelf	17 Community Residences in 4 cities
Roseville Senior Apartments*	Heritage Place, Roseville*	Sunrise Assisted Living, Roseville
Coventry Seniors, Roseville	Coffman, Falcon Heights	Greenhouse Village Condos, Roseville
Town Square, Falcon Heights	The Lodge, Little Canada	Eaglecrest Assisted Living, Roseville
Encore Senior Living, Maplewood	Cherrywood Pointe Assisted Living, Roseville (two locations)	
Maple Hill, Maplewood	Rock What You Got Live at the State Fair Event *	
The Hendrickson, Falcon Heights	New Perspectives Assisted Living, Roseville	
Homestead, Maplewood	RosePointe Senior Apartments, Roseville *	
National Night Out sponsored by House of Hope Church (event cancelled)		
Keystone Community Center (Food Shelf and Meals on Wheels) (two locations)*		

# What a Waste

*By Barb Luck*

During the COVID-19 pandemic, most of us have cooked more meals at home than previously to avoid eating in restaurants. Many people express satisfaction with trying new recipes and honing their cooking skills. Yet, for reasons that are difficult to understand, between 30-40% of food distributed for sale is wasted, according to the USDA. What? That amount of perfectly good food is not being used, while too many families don't have enough food to eat. One positive outcome of families spending more time at home is hopefully that better meal planning and paying attention to perishable foods are improving.



## **Expensive and Damaging to the Planet**

Common sense tells us that wasting that much food puts an unnecessary strain on the environment. As we know, there is an extensive climate change impact from producing food, especially a largely meat-based diet. This includes greenhouse gas emissions, land clearing, fertilizer and fresh water use, and burping cattle. It makes good sense to respect the value of food.

## **Simple Steps to Reduce Food Waste**

Working on new food-related habits can make an impact. Here are a few ways to reduce food waste.

- Create a simple meal plan and a corresponding grocery list and follow the plan most of the time. If your schedule changes, take action to save your food. For example, cook fresh vegetables today to extend their life or switch to a different recipe to use foods that won't last long.
- Keep track of perishable items by putting fresher foods to the middle of the fridge and leaving older foods in front.
- Remove moisture from vegetables by wrapping them in a clean towel so they will last longer. If lettuce, herbs, roots, etc. are starting to fade, you can revive them in ice water for ten minutes.
- If you have a freezer, use it to keep food fresh until you can use it. Have a food dehydrator? It can be used to dry fruits, vegetables, meats and more, which then have a long shelf life.
- Concerned about that "best used by" date? It's not a safety date, but a suggested peak quality date. Use your judgement about how something smells instead of going by a date.
- Start a food log of thrown out food. It helps be more conscious of the amount and type of food that doesn't get used so you can change how much you purchase.
- Think creatively about food that is a little beyond its peak, such as using wilted vegetables in soups or stews or aging bread for French toast.

## **Take It Another Step**

If you're already doing all of the simple steps, you may consider ordering your produce from Imperfect Foods. As the name implies, this company sells a wide range of food that grocery stores won't accept, including odd-shaped vegetables, off-sized eggs, scarred almonds, and excess products.

Feel good about your role with responsible use of food. Small steps taken by many have an impact.

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## **LWVMN Firearms Study — Volunteers Needed**

*By Firearms Committee Co-Chairs Mary Lewis Grow and Marti Micks*

The committee updating the 1990 LWVMN Firearms study hopes to do primary source research on the impact of firearms violence in our local communities. We can't do research without the help of local LWV members!

Would you be willing to conduct a 1/2 hour interview with your police chief or sheriff, or your local hospital administrator or behavioral health clinic administrator? If so, we will send you the interview form with instructions to make it easy to do so. All interviews are confidential and will only be part of an aggregated response. The purpose of the interview is to listen to the person you are interviewing and not to debate their viewpoint.

If you're willing to help, please contact Florence Sprague at [misemer@msn.com](mailto:misemer@msn.com) or 651-779-0349. Thank you so much for any help you can give us!

# Recap: Fix What You Can — Mental Health Book Talk

By *Bonnie Koch*

Mindy Greiling, LWV of Roseville Area member and 2020-2022 National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Ramsey president, discussed her recently released book, *Fix What You Can: Schizophrenia and a Lawmaker's Fight for her Son* at our October 20 virtual meeting. The discussion, co-sponsored by the League, Ramsey County Library Roseville, and NAMI Ramsey, had an attendance of over 70 participants.

Sharing personal photos as a backdrop, Mindy began the evening by describing her son Jim's struggles with mental illness and drug addiction which emerged during his college years. She was then joined by Sue Abderholden, executive director for NAMI Minnesota, for a discussion about the mental health system. League Program Chair Florence Sprague moderated a question and answer period with personal questions and those submitted by members of the audience.

Mindy touched on mental health legislation that she accomplished during her tenure as a state representative, and Sue discussed recent successes including a program created through grants that brings community mental health providers into the schools; the inclusion in a recently passed bill that provides for voluntary engagement teams to work with individuals to encourage them to enlist in voluntary treatment, avoiding court intervention; and a requirement for police training to include six hours of mental health education.

If you were unable to attend the program, or would like to view it again, the recording can be accessed by visiting Ramsey County Library's website. Look for recent recordings under Events & Classes or follow this link:

[my.nicheacademy.com/rc/adult/course/20681](https://my.nicheacademy.com/rc/adult/course/20681)



Mindy Greiling (left), Florence Sprague (right), Sue Abderholden (center)

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## Report from the Council of Metropolitan Area League of Women Voters

By *Karen Schaffer*

- CMAL hosted a Zoom event on the Regional Parks and Trails System on October 17. About 40 LWV members from across the metro heard Emmett Mullin (Metro Council Parks Manager) and Holly Jenkins (Wilderness in the City) discuss how the regional parks system works and how to get involved. The Zoom event recording is available. Go here [zoom.us/rec/share/QZr3zVBIFJQPButghZiV\\_5B2OWDbSE5SsUBIEhRdKgJ1hPGQE-q0jIEQUBa31ONa.-phaoaNIYX57EAjX](https://zoom.us/rec/share/QZr3zVBIFJQPButghZiV_5B2OWDbSE5SsUBIEhRdKgJ1hPGQE-q0jIEQUBa31ONa.-phaoaNIYX57EAjX) and enter passcode **.CV+\$pMI**
- Save the date: January 9, 10-11:30 a.m. CMAL will host a Zoom panel of county government officials from Dakota, Washington, and Hennepin Counties (Matt Smith, Lisa Weil, and Jan Callison, respectively). Panelists will address issues being studied by the CMAL county government study committee (e.g., accountability, transparency, connections with Met Council) and take your questions.
- Karen Schaffer, CMAL Chair, testified on behalf of CMAL at Governor Walz' Blue Ribbon Committee on the Metropolitan Council on October 26. Karen reported on the results of the 2019 CMAL study on Metropolitan Council governance, including the results of LWV interviews of local government officials regarding their views of Metropolitan Council. The January 2019 CMAL Report to Members is available at [lwvmn.org/inter-league-organizations](https://lwvmn.org/inter-league-organizations). The revised CMAL position on Metropolitan Council governance is available at that website. CMAL's Blue Ribbon Committee testimony is available at [metrocountil.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=2&clip\\_id=3483](https://metrocountil.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=3483)

# In Memoriam: Georgiana Sobola

By: *Julianne Johnston*

Georgiana Sobola was dedicated, strong-willed, well-informed, an expert piece-quilt maker, Czech language translator, very independent, a gracious hostess, a dog lover, a political participant, and so much more.

Georgiana was born into an immigrant Czech family of four in Cadott, Wisconsin. She and her sister entered grade school speaking English as their second language. She graduated from Cadott High School and went on to graduate from the University of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, earning a MA degree in Library Science. She taught school in Wisconsin and Minnesota and became the librarian for the St. Anthony Village High School.

She was a member of LWV of Roseville Area for 50 years and a member of the League for sixty-nine years! During her membership in Roseville, she provided her garage and yard for a massive League garage sale for three days.

She also received hundreds of books each year for the League book sale. In her basement, she carefully organized every book received into categories, which were then hauled out to the book sale location. Georgiana was selected to be the League representative for the Roseville Charter Commission. She was also a regular League monitor of the Roseville City Council attending every meeting and reporting back to the League with issues and concerns.

Twice she traveled with her sister to the Czech Republic where she was comfortable speaking the Czech language to most people there who knew little or no English. She was a translator of old Czech handwritten documents into English for Bohemian Czech, Inc., in Wisconsin. She talked about the difficulty in reading documents and records written in the old-style language. However, she was diligent and provided amazing history for the organization tracing many family heritages back to the “old country.”

For many years, Georgiana served as an election judge for every election held in Roseville. Her shift would start early in the morning and extend late into the evening. She believed in voting rights and citizen responsibilities. For 20 years of the previous DFL Senate District 54, she served on the newsletter committee. The newsletter was produced six times a year, and Georgiana would contribute at least one article for every issue. She wrote about the Roseville Charter, income disparity, runoff voting, election judges, candidate forums, voter ID, and articles of interest for the readers.

Her family, of which she was a vital part, included her sister and her husband and their two children. They celebrated holidays, took trips together, and were very involved. Georgiana died at the age of 94 on September 24, 2020. Her family, the League of Women Voters, and many others will miss her.



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## League Facebook Campaign — Update

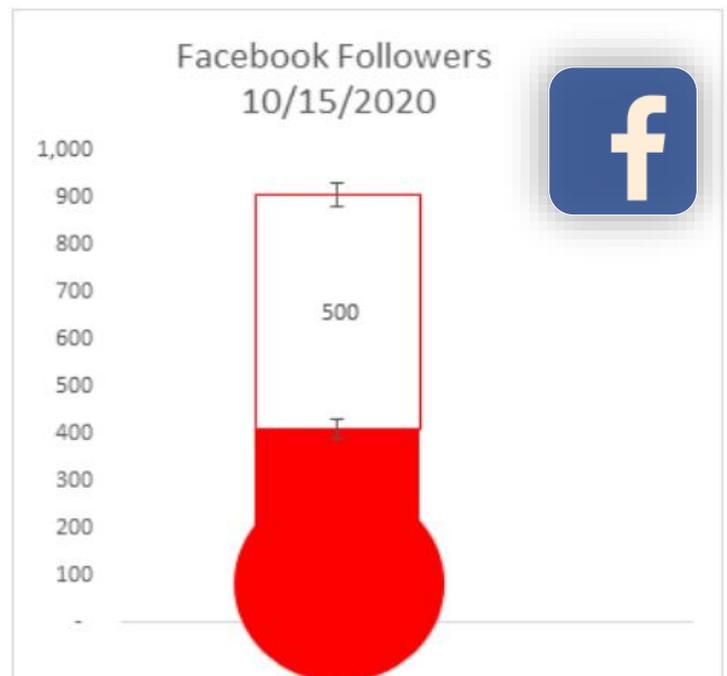
By *Barb Anderson*

We have made small progress in reaching our goal of 1,000 Facebook followers. We now have 408 followers as of October 15, compared to 401 in September. Perhaps we set the bar too high for now.

Instead of trying to reach 1,000 followers right away, let's try to reach 500 in the short term. Please help us extend our reach in the community by following our Facebook page (if you don't already) at [facebook.com/lwvRosevilleArea](https://facebook.com/lwvRosevilleArea). Then, like and share our posts among your friends and followers.

The more of our posts you like and share, the greater likelihood that we'll reach a broader audience.

Thank you for your help!



## Future League Events

**Event recording:** Many of our events are recorded. If you would like to watch a recording of an event at home, go to our website, [lwvrosevillearea.org](http://lwvrosevillearea.org). Click on the YouTube icon on the righthand side and choose from recorded events.

November and December events are detailed on [page 1](#), [page 2](#), and [page 10](#).

- **January – Conversation with Constituents.** See [page 2](#) for preliminary event information.
- **January – Social Event CANCELED.** Sadly we feel that it would still be unsafe to invite members to dine together in person. We eagerly await a time when we can gather safely.
- **February 16 – Redistricting.** Paul Huffman, from LWVMN, will speak on redistricting. More information will be shared later; 7-8:30 p.m.
- **March – TBD.** Event topic is being finalized. Watch for more information.
- **April – TBD.** Event topic is being finalized. Watch for more information.
- **May 4 – LWV of Roseville Area Annual Meeting.** More information will be shared later.
- **June – Field Trip.** Event details are being finalized. Watch for more information.

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## New Member Spotlight: Megan Schletty

*By Megan Schletty*

I grew up in Stillwater, graduating from Stillwater Area High School (Go Ponies!) in 2000 and from the University of Wisconsin - Madison with a degree in marketing in 2004. My dad and step-mom work with the state and county health departments, and my mom works as an advanced-practice nurse. I'm lucky to have my parents and my brother and his family all living in the area. I live in Arden Hills with my wife, Sarah; our three-year-old daughter, Frida; and our two dogs.

My professional skills include project management, event planning, change management, culture and talent development. Specifically, I've spent most of my career with Target, working across merchandising and marketing. I currently lead a team of Creative Project Managers, working on Target campaigns for Style, Baby, Brand Marketing, and Corporate Responsibility. I also spent several years working in communications at Target, learning much about all areas of its business, including the company's role in government affairs and policy, both locally and nationally.

Recently I volunteered at an event in north Minneapolis organized by When We All Vote that brought together voter registration and information with distributing food and essentials. Other volunteer activities mirror some of my personal interests and passions. Before having our daughter, my wife and I fostered dogs for a local rescue, and we continue to support this endeavor through fundraising and events. I also have a passion for food (cooking, baking, and eating!) and have enjoyed becoming a supporter and volunteer at Open Arms MN, an organization that prepares and delivers food to people living with health and/or financial hardships. When I'm not spending time with my family, I love to sew simple apparel for myself, my friends, and my daughter. I also enjoy working out, exploring area trails with our dogs or on my bike, and I can't wait to get back to traveling after the pandemic!

I feel strongly that there is a part for everyone to play in our community and government, and I'm passionate about information and advocacy to empower everyone to get involved. I love that the LWV has its roots in elevating women and focuses on education, access, and equity. I think there is so much power in local organizations, so was excited to see such an active LWV chapter in my community.

I hope to learn more about local government, the players, the policies that influence lives of my neighbors and me on issues such as public education, access to services, and representation. As the pandemic restrictions ease, I'm looking forward to meeting and getting to know fellow League members and helping to plan and organize events.

*We are very happy to have Megan take time out of her busy schedule to join our League!*



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## **LWV of Roseville Area: November-December Event Calendar**

- **November 17 – Health Care Panel.** Virtual event; 6:30-8 p.m. See details and registration information on [page 1](#).
- **November 18 – LWV of Roseville Area Board Meeting.** Virtual event; 7 p.m. See details and access information on [page 1](#).
- **December 8 – Redlining and Racial Covenants.** Virtual event; 7-8:30 p.m. See details and registration information on [page 2](#).

### *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 [rachel-soup@gmail.com](mailto:rachel-soup@gmail.com).



**Voting Campaign** (Source: LWV Media Library)