

# The Voter

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

Volume 66, Number 9  
May-June 2021



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<a href="#">Environmental Mayor Forum</a>	2
<a href="#">Climate Change Event</a>	2
<a href="#">Voter Suppression Event</a>	2
<a href="#">League Social</a>	2
<a href="#">President's Report</a>	3
<a href="#">Census Update</a>	3
<a href="#">Windows/Mirrors for All</a>	4
<a href="#">Voter Services Update</a>	4
<a href="#">Trash Collection Support</a>	5
<a href="#">Tiny Homes Event</a>	6
<a href="#">Recap: Annual Meeting</a>	6
<a href="#">Future League Events</a>	7
<a href="#">New Member Spotlight</a>	7
<a href="#">May-June Event Calendar</a>	8

Find us on our website and other social media sites!

Website:  
<http://www.lwvrosevillearea.org>

Facebook:  
<http://www.facebook.com/lwvRosevilleArea>

Instagram:  
<http://www.instagram.com/lwvrosevillearea>

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

## Study Consensus: Equitable Representation in City Commissions and Boards

As the study for the Equitable Representation in City Commissions and Boards wraps up, our League needs to reach a consensus to allow for potential advocacy. To do this a Zoom meeting will be held on **Monday, May 24 at 7 p.m.** We do not anticipate this being a long meeting, however, it will give the study committee an opportunity to present the research and suggestions made by city participants. After comments and questions, League members will have the opportunity to vote on the following question:



*Should LWV of Roseville Area recommend that our cities' boards and commissions broadly reflect the diversity of their population, including race, ethnicity, gender, income, age, and other aspects of diversity?*

The goal of this year-long study was to identify current practices and suggestions and/or best practices in equitable representation for boards and commissions appointed by the city councils of Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Little Canada, Maplewood, and Roseville. An overview of this study can be found in the April Voter: [https://www.lwvrosevillearea.org/sites/lwvrosevillearea.org/files/newsletters/2021\\_Apr\\_Voter.pdf](https://www.lwvrosevillearea.org/sites/lwvrosevillearea.org/files/newsletters/2021_Apr_Voter.pdf).

Please:

- Watch for a link in the weekly e-Blast for the complete report.
- Watch for a link in the weekly e-Blast to register for the meeting on Monday, May 24.
- Contact Barb Luck at 651-214-4262 or Patricia Hoffman at 651-398-8585 if you are unable to make this meeting and have questions, comments, or input.

---

## LWVMN Convention: Attend for Free!

The 2021 LWVMN virtual Convention (June 10-12) is a great opportunity for local members to get a feel for what happens in our parent organization, with no commitment and at no cost. You can sign up as a non-voting observer for free, and chose which workshops to attend and sessions to view. Schedule and sign-up information is available at <https://www.lwvmn.org/convention-2021?rq=convention>.

---

## LWV of Roseville Area June Board Meeting

The next LWV of Roseville Area Board meeting is Wednesday, June 23, at 7 p.m. For Zoom access, please contact Barb Anderson at [lwvrosevillearea@lwvmn.org](mailto:lwvrosevillearea@lwvmn.org) in advance.

# RESCHEDULED: Environmental Forum with Our Mayors

*Note: This event was canceled in April with all other Ramsey County events that day. It is rescheduled for June 3. **You must re-register** for the event at the link below to get the updated Zoom access link.*

Join us on June 3 at 6:30 p.m. for the rescheduled environmental forum with the mayors from Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Little Canada, Maplewood, and Roseville, and moderator Anne Hunt from the Minnesota State Office of Sustainability. With the growing impact of climate change, such as damaging warm temperatures, flooding, forest fires, and tornadoes, learn what's happening in your own city. Hear about actions taken by our five area cities to address climate change and implement their 2040 Comprehensive Plans, and ask your questions of the mayors. This event is co-sponsored by the Ramsey County Library.

Register in advance here: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_g1clmRsCQH-COV7ootlCAg](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_g1clmRsCQH-COV7ootlCAg). If you miss the event, check the Ramsey County Library website at <https://www.rclreads.org/> for the recording after the event.

---

## Insects and Climate Change

Please join us **June 15 at 7 p.m.** for a presentation on bugs, climate change, and the forests of Minnesota, with Dr. Brian Aukema, UMN Entomologist. Dr. Aukema likes trees, and spends most of his time trying to figure out why insects are eating them.

**Of a Larch Life Well Lived: How a Changing Climate is Facilitating Outbreaks of Tree-Killing Insects** will detail stories about the unexpected discovery that this insect—and others—are taking advantage of a changing climate to create unprecedented new challenges in natural resource management. Of particular importance to Minnesota are the Tamarack trees in our bogs now challenged by tree-killing eastern larch beetles. Dr. Aukema, who oversees the UMN Forest Insect Ecology, will detail research on a variety of forest insect challenges of consequence to the state and region, many of which are impacted by facets of global change such as climate change and invasive species.

This event is the second in a series on climate change and the forests of Minnesota. The webinar will be presented through the Ramsey County Library. The presentation is co-hosted with Resilient Roseville, a local climate action group, and with Do-Good-Roseville.

Use this link to register: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_8\\_nVUQS6SnKTBq0UYd8\\_sw](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8_nVUQS6SnKTBq0UYd8_sw)

You may also register on the Ramsey County Library website: <https://rclreads.bibliocommons.com/events/608c4e8eeec62d2f00b3f05a>

---

## Who Gets to Vote?

LWV of Roseville Area is partnering with LWV of St. Paul on the event, “Who Gets To Vote?” This Zoom event will focus on voter suppression with Professor David Schultz as one of the key speakers. The event is on June 29 from 7-8 p.m.

Watch a future eBlast for the registration link and more event details.

---

## LWV of Roseville Area Summer Social

Mark your calendars for the social half of the LWV of Roseville Area Annual Meeting! On July 27, register to attend the summer social for a fun, socially-distanced outside event.

**What:** Summer social with in-person conversation, box lunches, and Rose Award presentations

**When:** 6 p.m., Tuesday, July 27

**Where:** Jaycees Shelter, Roseville Central Park, 2540 Lexington Ave. N.

If you would like a boxed meal at the event, follow this link to register and pay:

<https://www3.thedatabank.com/dpg/601/donate.asp?formid=RosevilleCalend&c=20210511204324836193>

## 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

Thank you to all those who were able to attend the virtual business portion of our Annual Meeting. Membership approved the Budget Committee's recommendation for the new fiscal year, the slate of Board members presented by the Nominating Committee, and amendments to our Policies and Procedures as requested by the Board. In addition, membership re-adopted our local Program for Action, with a change to one position, substituting resident for citizen. Having heard updates on study progress from our two committees, membership also approved continuation of the studies into the new year. A lively discussion resulted from directions to the Board.

In spite of the pandemic impacting the ability of the study committees to carry out their work, both completed surveys. The Cities' Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Study Committee, led by Jim and Stephanie DeBenedet, hopes to soon make visits to facilities that are currently closed, followed by proposing consensus questions to membership in time for final approval at the 2022 Annual Meeting. The Equitable Representation in City Commissions and Boards Study Committee, led by Patricia Hoffman and Barb Luck, was able to analyze responses to their surveys, as well as research other information available online. They presented the resulting consensus question at the Annual Meeting. Plan to attend the Equitable Representation Study consensus meeting on May 24 (see more information on [page 1](#))!

Donna Peterson recommended that the Board enhance efforts to reach out to young people, making them aware of the relevance of our mission and activities to their lives. Much of the following discussion revolved around a proposed award program for high school students. Mindy Greiling reminded us that advocacy is most effective when many people voice their positions directly to decision makers. A successful resolution in favor of organized trash collection in Roseville can be followed by advocacy in Falcon Heights and Lauderdale.

While we'll miss seeing Board Secretary Jim DeBenedet, At-Large Board Member Stephanie DeBenedet, Action/Advocacy Co-chair Priscilla Morton, and Voter Service Chair Karen Lake at monthly Board meetings, we know that they'll be using their considerable skills in other League venues.

Long-time Leaguers Jim and Stephanie also have a long-time history of service to LWV of Roseville Area and its members, and through League, to our cities. Following up on the ADA once again puts Roseville Area in the forefront of an important issue.

Being an Action/Advocacy chairperson means watching what issues are coming to the fore in each of our five cities, advancing the goals of LWVUS and LWVMN, and doing it all while adhering to LWV policies and procedures. We thank Priscilla for keeping us all informed and for her passionate encouragement to advance the issues we care so much about.

When Karen agreed to "one more year," she couldn't have known all that the 2020 election year would entail. Always quick to credit the work of others, she was the stabilizing force behind a challenging effort, working with LWVMN and the Minnesota Secretary of State's Office, among others. Her post office must know her well, having accepted many packages of election materials for community housing and organizations.

We have a full summer schedule of activities. Be sure to note those listed in this and the July/August issue of the Voter, as well as in weekly eBlasts.

---

## Census Success!

*By Barb Barany*

If you responded to the 2020 Census, you made a difference in helping Minnesota maintain its eight congressional seats and 10 electoral votes. If just 26 fewer Minnesotans had been counted, the seat we kept would have gone to New York instead.



**Barb Barany**

## Burdens Borne

By Florence Sprague

*“They carried their own lives. The pressure was enormous.”* — Tim O’Brien, *The Things They Carried*

You may have read Tim O’Brien’s almost meditative novel about the soul-destroying fear, violence, brutality, and ambiguity of the Vietnam War, *The Things They Carried*. One motif O’Brien uses repeatedly to frame the events in the story is a noting of the actual things a soldier carried. They carried the things any person needed to live—rations, water, and dry socks in their heavy packs. They carried the things a soldier needed to live—ammunition, weapons, a radio. So many pounds dedicated to causing or preventing death. They carried the things a spirit needed to survive—letters, photographs. They carried the intangibles that really weighed them down—loneliness, a yearning for a girlfriend and the normal life of youth, a yearning for their lost innocence, love, hate, and FEAR.

Photographer Amber N. Ford gives us another perspective on things carried. In her project, “Mistaken Identity,” she focuses on the ordinary items held by Black men, women, and children when they were killed by police. Her images are featured in an essay by Allissa V. Richardson, “It Wasn’t a Gun,” in the December 2020 issue of *The Atlantic* (<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2020/12/amber-n-ford-mistaken-identity/616927/>). (They can also be viewed at her website: <http://www.amberford.com/personal-projects#/mistaken-identity/>) The items are exemplars of what shooting victims were carrying, selected from things actually owned and used by Ford, her friends, or family. They are mundane items—a hairbrush, a cell phone, a key ring, or toys—tangible items from daily life. She created the images by “scanning the objects with the scanner’s lid open in a dark room,” creating a stark black background. Her presentation was intentionally “severe and hinted at the colorless void that emerges when a loved one dies.”

Like soldiers in Vietnam, Blacks in the United States of America, and particularly the young men, carry many layers of things. While they do not have to carry items of sustenance except by choice, they, too, bear intangible burdens—racism, negative stereotypes, generational trauma, FEAR.

The US pulled out of Vietnam in 1973 and the war ended in 1975. The experiences of brutality and pointless violence still haunt so many. Derek Chauvin was recently convicted of murder...one case among so many; the list unfinished. Killings of people of color by law enforcement have not ceased; the traumas continue to accumulate.

They have been saying on the news of late that at nearly 20 years the war in Afghanistan is the United States’ longest war. But is it?

## Voter Services Update

By Karen Lake

The Voter Services Committee offered area high schools voter registrations when seniors picked up graduation caps and gowns. Schools were also provided eligibility requirements for students registering and information on how to register online. Tartan High School accepted the offer and Marcia Cheney, Gladys Jones, Karen Lake, and Florence Sprague volunteered May 13-14, with 111 students taking advantage of the opportunity.

A Ramsey County grant to fund multiple partners for civic engagement work, especially in underserved neighborhoods,



League Member Gladys Jones (r) with Tartan Students at Voter Registration Table

was offered to various community groups. LWV of Roseville Area Voter Services has committed to supporting grant activities identified and/or managed by several organizations who may receive a Ramsey County grant award, expected to be announced by June of 2021. Requests via eBlasts may be forthcoming for LWV of Roseville Area members to volunteer for specific activities throughout this summer and fall which would be opportunities for short-term endeavors to advance voter registrations and education.

# We Support Organized Trash Collection in our Five Cities

By *Jim DeBenedet*

We understand the City of Roseville is going to consider the issue of organized trash collection. The League of Women Voters of Roseville Area, an organization with an interest in public services, including their cost and protection of the environment, strongly supports this initiative.

Among the many issues we have studied and adopted positions on, we have, since 1985, had a position in favor of organized trash collection. Furthermore, we updated our position in 2010 and also have reconsidered our position on this issue at every annual meeting of our membership and remain consistently in support of organized trash collection as a means to lower the cost of such service, reduce traffic in our neighborhoods, provide for the environmentally responsible disposal of trash, and reduce wear and tear on our city streets.

In 2012, the Roseville's Public Works, Environment, and Transportation issued a resolution to the council to follow the state-authorized procedure to implement a system of organized trash collection. That resolution included several goals to be considered including:

1. **Economic** – *Ensure the lowest possible uniform rate structure for residents, transparency in rate structures, assurance that city costs will be revenue neutral, and less wear and tear on residential streets thereby reducing the city's maintenance requirements.*
2. **Environmental** – *Assure waste is directed to resource recovery facilities for highest and best reuse, to meet mandatory waste reduction goals, and minimize noise and air pollution.*
3. **Service** – *Provide for a uniform range of collection options such as size of container and collection of large items and yard waste, credit for extended vacations or seasonal residency, maximize efficiency in solid waste collection, and improved neighborhood aesthetics due to fewer waste collection days.*
4. **Better Management** – *A better process for data collection allowing better management for the City, individuals, and haulers.*
5. **Safety** – *Fewer trucks on residential streets with less impact on neighborhood livability and safety.*
6. **Better Planning** – *Collection of better and more uniform data on waste generation and service delivery.*
7. **Hauler Impact** – *Consider existing market share to minimize impact to local haulers.*
8. **Quality of Service** – *A fair and open process for customer satisfaction.*

Since this was last considered by the City Council, an increasing number of Minnesota cities have adopted organized trash collection as the preferred method of collecting trash for the reasons stated.

We ask all members who live in Roseville to contact the Mayor and City Council to urge them to adopt a method of organized trash collection and disposal that meets all or significantly all of these goals as soon as possible consistent with state statutes.



# Tiny Homes

*By Sherry Hood*

A couple of LWV of Roseville Area members were present at the Open House for TINY Homes at a local church in Maplewood on April 16. This is an innovative enterprise throughout parts of the country to house homeless people. Their purpose: “Settled (which is a non-profit organization) activates and equips faith communities to pursue ‘Home With the Homeless’ through sustainable housing, purposeful work, and supportive community.”

They are focused on community first: social belonging; truly affordable, sustainable homes; being a neighborhood asset; having a support system; and the residents having purposeful work.

These homes on wheels (built by church volunteers) are small but remarkable! They are small communities (six or more houses) that are usually placed in a circle and two of the small houses are occupied by supportive, assistive volunteers, some who have sold their homes and live in this circle.

The residents have to pay \$200-\$300 per month for rent. For some it is through the federal and state disability program, for others through their own work. To learn more and to contribute to this program, visit: <https://settled.org/>



**Tiny Home (Courtesy of Settled.org)**

---

# Recap: LWV of Roseville Area 2020-2021 Annual Meeting

*By Rachel Geiser*

On May 4, LWV of Roseville Area members met once again for a virtual annual meeting. While President Barb Barany lamented that we could not be together still, she provided an overview of all that the League has done this year and recognized the many people who helped make the League activities and causes a reality.

Business agenda items went smoothly throughout the course of the evening with League members voting and approving proposed motions, and accepting the work of the Nominations Committee and Finance Committee.

As a reminder, you can find a copy of the 2020-2021 Annual Report on the League website: [https://lwvrosevillearea.org/sites/lwvrosevillearea.org/files/docs/2021%20LWVRA%20Annual%20Report%20%282%29\\_0.pdf](https://lwvrosevillearea.org/sites/lwvrosevillearea.org/files/docs/2021%20LWVRA%20Annual%20Report%20%282%29_0.pdf). View the proposed amendments that were passed, nominations report for now approved new committee leaders and board members, and the now approved budget. Also review President Barany’s recap on [page 3](#).



However, the 2020-2021 LWV of Roseville Area year is not over. While it’s still too early to get together in person for an event, we are all hopeful that July will bring great weather, more vaccine doses, and eased quarantine constraints that we can gather for the social half of our League’s annual meeting in July.

On July 27, we’re gathering at the Roseville Central Park in Roseville to come together, socially distanced, for a picnic and to honor members with the Rose Awards.

Find event details on [page 2](#). You can register and pre-purchase food at the link in that article if you would like to partake in the boxed meal.

Hope to see everyone there together once again!

# 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: <http://lwvrosevillearea.org/>. Click on the YouTube icon on the righthand side and choose a recorded event.

April events are detailed on [page 1](#), [page 2](#), and [page 8](#).

- **July 27 – LWV of Roseville Area Summer Social.** See event details on [page 2](#).
- **July and Beyond** – Watch the eBlast and July-August Voter for new programs as the Program Committee sets the 2021-2022 LWV of Roseville Area event schedule.
- **August TBD – LWV of Roseville Area Field Trip.** Planned field trip to the Minnesota African American Heritage Museum rescheduled to likely August to allow for members to attend together.

---

## New Member Spotlight: Sarah Julius (she/they)

By Rita Mills

I grew up in Iowa and moved to Minneapolis in July, 2004. I love sports, music, and theatre, and combined all three interests into one by writing a queer women's rugby musical which is debuting at Gremlin Theatre in St. Paul in June, 2022 (<https://www.usbank.com/newsroom/stories/how-us-banker-sarah-julius-is-bringing-her-story-to-the-stage.html>).

I am married to my incredible wife, Megan, and we have one 4-year-old daughter, Frida, and two dogs, Sasha, the Vizsla, and Willow, the Chihuahua mix. Incidentally, Willow is six pounds of pure attitude and rules our household!

I have spent 15+ years in the recruiting space, most recently as a VP, Talent Acquisition Manager at US Bank, leading a 14-person team that supported all tech recruiting across the enterprise. I moved to Best Buy in May, 2021 as an Associate Director in Tech Transformation, focusing on Inclusion and Diversity. In short, I've made a career out of and am most passionate about the space where tech, recruiting, and diversity, equity, and inclusion intersect.

Currently I serve on the Board of Directors for PFund Foundation (<https://pfundfoundation.org>) and on the Fundraising Committee for She Rock She Rock (<https://sherocksherock.org>) and of course I am a member of the League of Women Voters! I enjoy volunteering for organizations committed to racial justice, gender equity, LGBTQ+ rights, and voter empowerment.

**To make a difference!!** That is why I joined the League of Women Voters. I firmly believe the world would be a better place if voters were truly empowered and engaged. I feel LWV aligns nicely with that belief and is committed to doing the hard work necessary to make that dream a reality. I would like to meet more members as I love meeting new people! I am someone who appreciates the perspectives of others, particularly if they differ from my own.

Remember, if you like musicals, check out *Great Big Rainbow World*. You can find us on Instagram (@gbrwmusical), Facebook, or at <https://brwmusical.com>, and you can listen to our demo album on Spotify. There isn't any reference to the League of Women Voters in the show yet but... well... if enough of you follow the show I just might need to slip that in somewhere!



**Welcome to League, Sarah!! Your energy level is amazing!!**

---

## **LWV of Roseville Area: May-June Event Calendar**

- **May 24 – Study Consensus.** See event details on [page 1](#); 7 p.m.
- **June 3 – RESCHEDULED Environmental Forum with Our Mayors.** See event details on [page 2](#); 6:30 p.m.
- **June 10-12 – LWVMN Convention.** See event details on [page 1](#).
- **June 15 – Insects and Climate Change.** See event details on [page 2](#); 7 p.m.
- **June 23 – LWV of Roseville Area Board Meeting.** See access details on [page 1](#); 7 p.m.
- **June 29 – Who Gets to Vote?** See initial event details on [page 2](#); 7 p.m.

### *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).

