

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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Firearms in Minnesota Study: Discussion/Consensus

The LWVMN Firearms in Minnesota Study 2022, with companion consensus questions, is now available to members online: <https://www.lwvmn.org/member-resources>. Due to digital availability and environmental considerations, a printed report won't be published and distributed. (If you need help accessing this information online, contact Florence Sprague at misemer@msn.com or 612-839-4360.)

Join the LWV of Roseville Area conversation about the study at our consensus meeting on Thursday, December 1, at 7 pm on Zoom at this link: <https://lwvmn-org.zoom.us/j/85142622044?pwd=MEJvSVg5eEZCVU1IekRFVWVDbGNXUT09> In the meantime, take time well ahead to read and think about the study and questions. Be ready for the consensus meeting so that you can vote on positions that can strengthen the ability of LWV to advocate on the results of the study. If you cannot attend the consensus meeting and discussion, you can still share your choices about the study consensus by completing the individual report form at the LWVMN link above and returning it to Florence Sprague (see the LWV of Roseville Area directory for her street address or email/call her). The votes of LWV of Roseville Area members will be tallied and merged with those of League members across the state. If there is sufficient agreement among member in Minnesota, the resultant additions to the LWVMN position on firearms will be presented for approval at the LWVMN Convention in the spring of 2023.

Not sure what a consensus is? Check out page 2 of the January 2022 Voter: https://lwvrosevillearea.org/sites/lwvrosevillearea.org/files/newsletters/2022_Jan_Voter.pdf#page=2. The consensus study process is the essence of grassroots power. Our collective voice is stronger because legislators know that LWV researches, thinks, discusses, and seeks consensus before advocating!

December Service Event and Luncheon

Join LWV of Roseville Area members for a service event to pack bags of food for distribution to children whose families are food insecure, allowing children to eat all week. Meet at Every Meal on Tuesday, December 6 (2723 Patton Rd., Roseville). Volunteers will pack from 9-11 am in assembly-line style packing with stools provided for those who can't stand for the full time and heavy lifting done by three people. There will be another group joining volunteers from League.



At 11:30 am, we will meet at Lindey's Steakhouse, 3600 N. Snelling Ave, Arden Hills, for lunch. You **do not** need to volunteer at Every Meal to attend the luncheon!

Please let Sherry Hood know by November 18 if you plan to attend one or both events (651-633-1434 or sherryhood@icloud.com). This should be a fun and fulfilling day!

LWV of Roseville Area November Board Meeting

The next LWV of Roseville Area Board meeting is Wednesday, November 16, at 7 pm. For Zoom access, contact Mary Peterson at lwvrosevillearea@lwvmn.org in advance. There will be no board meeting in December.

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>

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

LWV of Roseville Area Board Members

Officers:

President

Barb Anderson

Vice President

Rachel Geiser

Secretary

Jen Peterson

Treasurer

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Action/Advocacy

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vice chair Mary Kay
VonDeLinde

Program

Florence Sprague,
vice chair Carol
Marchel

Voter Services

Marcia Cheney,
Nancy Simpson,
Teresa Wernecke

CMAL

Karen Schaffer,
Lisa Scribner

.....

Members-At-Large

Lisa Scribner
Wayne Groff

Even though the election is almost over, the season of questioning election results is just beginning. I was able to attend the quarterly Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues of Women Voters (CMAL) program on October 15, "Are Metro Area Elections Safe?" Paul Linnell, Deputy Elections Director in the Minnesota Secretary of State's office, addressed election security from registration to post-election. As an election judge I was aware of many of the processes in place to ensure election security, but I learned a lot from this presentation. If you'd like to see this presentation for yourself, you can find a recording of it at https://lwwmn-org.zoom.us/rec/share/5jFUNL1KYMtM7kPJLoR_eF0hXLC0WnT_nysMz5mNF17tBSYALSfbbYy2RGpMSsQy.28VZzo4yTXeQkaex. Use the passcode: 0uFzK=YG

It was a treat to meet for an in-person program for the first time in 2.5 years in October. Our speaker, M. Jay Shahidi, shared information about the history and scope of the United Nations, in the context of being a native-born Iranian. It inspired me to learn more about the U.N. and the impact it has had on the world. See the event recap on [page 6](#).

Congratulations to the Voter Services team for having organized ten successful candidate forums, including several jointly with the St. Paul and White Bear Lake Leagues. (See their report on [page 4](#).) Now it's time for some well-deserved rest!



President Barb Anderson

Save the Date: Conversations with Constituents

Thursday, January 19, 2023; 6:30-8 pm; Zoom

Never lacking for local issues like public safety, representative governance, housing, and transportation, LWV of Roseville Area looks forward to welcoming the mayors from Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Little Canada, Maplewood, and Roseville, along with Ramsey County Commissioners from Districts 1, 2, 3, and 7 to our annual Conversations with Constituents. Our conversations will again be held virtually on Zoom, in partnership with Ramsey County Library. Register for the event at this link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zGExiHxeShqEJKOJi1D0MQ

The Q&A will be open for comments and questions from online attendees, and your questions for our guests will be solicited in advance. Stay tuned for online registration information.



Environmental Question

What can individuals do about the huge plastic pollution issue? Plastics have a negative impact on the environment in major ways—from its role increasing global warming to polluting oceans and killing wildlife to being associated with serious health problems such as cancer, infertility, and ADHD.

(See [page 7](#) for the answer to this environmental question.)

College Worthy

By Florence Sprague

Earlier this fall the radio program *This American Life* rebroadcast an episode from 2015, “Three Miles” (listen at <https://www.thisamericanlife.org/550/three-miles> or read the transcript at <https://www.thisamericanlife.org/550/transcript>). It is the story of several students whose schools were a mere three miles apart in New York City, but whose lives felt thousands of miles apart. A pair of friends who taught at the two schools arranged to have a group of students from the public school serving predominantly low-income black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) students visit the private school serving predominantly white students from wealthy families. Some students were motivated by this experience and made connections, but others were freaked out by the blatant inequity of educational opportunities they viewed. The visiting students felt conspicuous, out of place, and undeserving. Some of them felt unbridled anger and resentment that they were not offered the same environment.

That inequity in itself is a tragedy. This story revealed that overcoming that inequity is immensely complicated and psychologically complex. Even the most capable students from the low-income school were often emotionally unprepared to feel that they fit in at college. That is an even greater, heartbreaking tragedy.

Some of the visiting students did later participate in programs that helped them attend college. The supports were seldom enough to bridge the gaps. Gaps that were economic. Gaps that were about knowing the unwritten rules about how a college functioned. Psychological gaps about belonging and fitting in. Too many gaps.

One program which is working to improve diverse access to higher education that was mentioned in this story is Posse (<https://www.possefoundation.org/shaping-the-future>). It has a rigorous entrance process, creates cohorts of students, offers pre-college guidance, and other services. But even this program was not enough to help some students overcome their internalized sense of unworthiness (sometimes called the imposter syndrome), their economic challenges, or other problems.

I have a friend who was a dean at an Ivy League university for many years and he was proud of their involvement with the Posse program as a way to increase accessibility of higher education for students from impoverished communities. But as the *This American Life* story tells us, crossing that crevasse is still **so** difficult, that many students, though brilliant, do not succeed.

This also brings to mind some anecdotes Claude Steele notes in *Whistling Vivaldi*, though from two different angles. He observed that the test performance of individual members of groups subject to certain stereotypes could be affected by the type of input they received shortly before a test. For example, girls might be stereotyped as not as good at math, but when given positive examples of women working in math before a test they would score highly. Or while BIPOC students might feel that they had to always work alone to prove that they deserved to be at college, white students, unbeknownst to their BIPOC classmates, more easily formed study groups or sought support during professorial office hours thereby improving their chances of success. The imposter syndrome has many tentacles.

Clearly, we need to start developing a student’s innate sense of self-worth at an early age. What is the source of self-esteem and self-worth and where does economics fit in? Where does mass media fit in? Where does generational trauma fit in? Racism? It is a challenge worthy of a solution.

Get Out the Vote!

This is not about for whom to vote. Just work to get your friends, family, neighbors...**everyone** engaged and to their polling places on or before November 8. We need our whole community engaged and positive about the election. Minnesota has some of the best election policies and systems in the nation. Each League member can reach many! Need information? The website mnvotes.gov, an easy web address to remember, takes you to the state website with all of the practical voting information. An LWV site, <https://www.vote411.org/>, has information submitted by candidates, too.



Help Wanted

Are you looking for an opportunity to support League without being a part of a larger team? Consider these possibilities.

Archivist Data Entry

- Enter ongoing League information (monthly newsletters, Board notes, annual meeting booklets, study summaries, etc.) onto a Google Drive set up for our archives. Team leaders would send materials to you.
- Use the League eBlast to solicit information that League members may have in personal computer files that should be added to the drive.

Archival Technician

League has maintained hard copy files of League activity since its inception. Copies are stored in the basement of the Falcon Heights City Hall. About a third of it has been scanned and entered in the archival Google Drive. This role would involve:

- Identifying a means for scanning the remaining hard copies. We have a designated fund that would cover costs.
- Moving files not yet scanned to a location for scanning.
- Entering scanned items into the Google Drive.

Contact Bonnie Koch (touray@aol.com or 651-683-2992) if you are interested in one of these opportunities.



Voter Services Report

By Voter Services

Youth Engagement: Efforts have focused on recruiting Student Ambassadors. Despite students having expressed interest (and an availability of a \$250 stipend) applications have not been received. Please contact Marcia Cheney (marcia.cheney@gmail.com) if you know a RAHS student that might want to participate. Additionally, a team is being assembled for the November classroom presentation at RAHS about voting, during which registrations are also completed. If you are interested in participating, contact Marcia.

Citizenship Ceremonies: Ceremonies this month returned to a morning and afternoon session at the RiverCentre, each accommodating more than 700 new citizens. Guests were allowed to observe. Voter registration efforts by the League continued.

Candidate Forums: Our League completed 10 candidate forums (CF), of which three were partnerships with other leagues. Rachel Geiser and Kathy Macomber sounded like pros even though they were first-time moderators. Moderators Florence Sprague, Linda McLoon, and Kitty Gogins were, as usual, key to our successful CFs. We want to thank Nancy Simpson for her diligence in operating the Sign-Up Genius and making sure we had timekeepers and set-up help for the CFs. In addition, Rita Mills and Barbara Anderson get the award for helping with the most CFs. We want to acknowledge the Communications Team (Mary Peterson, Gladys Jones, and Rachel Geiser) and Maureen Anderson from NineNorth for making it possible for League members and community members to watch the CFs. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help with the CFs.

Spotlight: Voter Services 2022 (Part II)



October Event Recap: In Search of Unity

By Rachel Geiser

LWV of Roseville Area hosted an in-person event on October 18 at the Ramsey County Library Roseville. After starting with light refreshments and social time, League members sat down to a presentation by M. Jay Shahidi to honor United Nations (UN) Day.

Shahidi is an international affairs researcher, public speaker, citizen lobbyist, human rights activist, and business owner living in Saint Louis Park. He is a past president of the UN Association of USA, the Harold E. Stassen Chapter in Minnesota which is part of the UN Foundation. He also served on the National Council of the organization for three years and in 2019, was presented its Arnold Goodman Lifetime Achievement Award for 54 years of concerted advocacy for the UN and for his relentless humanitarian efforts.

In his presentation, Shahidi shared experiences from his youth growing up in Iran, his time as an undergraduate at Minnesota State University, Mankato, and his first visits to the UN to provide perspective on the importance of the UN. Shahidi shared about the current work of the UN and could have spoken longer about his views on its future importance throughout the world if the League, and the library, didn't need to call it a night. A great event back with a fresh perspective on what's going right in the world.



Future League Events

Event recording: Many events are recorded. To watch a recording, go to our website (<http://lwvrosevillearea.org/>), click or tap on the YouTube icon on the right side, and select a recorded event. If the event was held virtually through the Ramsey County Library, a recording link is provided in an eBlast and Voter following the event. Recorded library events are also posted on their website.

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

- **January 14 – CMAL County Commissioner Panel.** Panelists will answer questions focused on the issues raised by the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues of Women Voters' (CMAL) January 2022 study. See below for initial details.
- **January 19 – Conversations with Constituents.** Annual conversations with local elected officials; 6:30-8 pm, Zoom. Register here: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zGExiHxeShqEJKOJi1D0MQ See initial event details on [page 2](#).
- **February 21 – Restorative Justice - What Is It? How Does It Work?** Join panelists who will discuss their background and work and attempt to answer if a restorative justice approach can break the cycle of repeat offenders in the justice system with Q&A to follow; 7 pm, Zoom. Registration: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Kmd76p9gRXGceyv8HXiS0w
- **March 16 – Tour of the Muslim center Rabata**, led by LWV of Roseville Area member Tamara Gray; 12 pm. Event details forthcoming.
- **April TBD – Environmental Topic.** Event details forthcoming.
- **May TBD – Annual Meeting.** Event details forthcoming.

Save the Date: CMAL County Commissioner Panel

The Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues of Women Voters (CMAL) will host a panel of metro-area county commissioners on January 14, 2023, at 10 am via Zoom.

CMAL will ask the panelists to address the issues of county government accountability, transparency, civic engagement, and relationships with the Metropolitan Council that were the focus of the CMAL study on county government published in January 2022. Audience members will be able to ask the commissioners how (and if) they will try to implement CMAL's revised position on metro-area county government on these issues.

The meeting will be open to all LWV members and members of the public. The CMAL study and revised position may be found on the LWVMN website: <https://www.lwvmn.org/inter-league-organizations>. Questions? Contact Karen Schaffer at schafferka@gmail.com.



Environmental Answer

Simply put, practice the six Rs noted by the Earth Day organization. The first three are well-known practices—reduce, reuse, recycle—with three more also recommended: remove, refuse, and rally. Calculate your plastic use and find more tips at <https://www.earthday.org/plastic-pollution-calculator-2/>.

(See [page 2](#) for the Environmental Question that accompanies this answer.)

LWV of Roseville Area: November and December Event Calendar

- **November 8 – Election Day.** Encourage everyone to get out and vote by election day! See voting information resources on [page 3](#).
- **November 16 – LWV of Roseville Area Board Meeting.** See access details on [page 1](#).
- **December 1 – Firearms in Minnesota Study Consensus.** Attend the LWV of Roseville Area consensus meeting regarding the findings on the LWVMN study. See study material location and event details on [page 1](#); Zoom, 7 pm.
- **December 6 – Service Event and Luncheon.** Join League members for a food packing service event for children in need and/or for lunch. See event details and contact information on [page 1](#).



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.