The Voter

Volume 67, Number 5 January 2022



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:

http://www.lwvrosevillearea.org

Facebook:

http://www.facebook.com/lwvRosevilleArea

Instagram:

http://www.instagram.com/lwvrosevillearea

YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/ channel/ UCjWhyaOul7m9LEgYY 8IMPfg

## **Conversations with Constituents: Representation in City Governance**

Thursday, January 20, 2022 6:30-8 pm via Zoom

The changing demographics of our communities mean that elected and appointed leaders are provided with great opportunities. This year LWV of Roseville Area is excited to welcome Mayors Randy Gustafson, Falcon Heights; John Keis, Little Canada; Marylee Abrams, Maplewood; Dan Roe, Roseville; and Council Member Andi Moffatt, Lauderdale.

How well does the composition of our city leadership reflect the changing diversity in our com-



munities? What outreach efforts have been made to broaden involvement across the spectrum of their constituents? What has and what has not worked? What examples come to mind when addressing the diversity of constituents' needs in areas such as housing, development, and community programs and events? How can our local governance become more representative, and what resources or expertise will it take? We will also look at recent demographic data about our cities and schools.

The Q&A feature will be open for comments and questions from our online attendees, so be sure to register in advance to join the conversations in real time. The event is moderated by LWV of Roseville Area members and co-hosted by Ramsey County Library.

Register now: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN XFCinJUSR66EEtOMHJtdgw.

## **Hear All About It: CMAL Report on County Government**

League members won't want to miss the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues of Women Voters (CMAL) Quarterly Meeting in January! Mindy Greiling, who chaired the hardworking CMAL committee researching county government, will unveil study findings. The differences between counties and how visibly they operate with—or without—community involvement is stark. Find out how our county stacks up on Saturday, January 15, 10 am via Zoom.

- Zoom link: <a href="https://lwvmn-org.zoom.us/j/85609794968?pwd=cG5uN3RIbEJZTWJjSzI1aXN4bHllQT09">https://lwvmn-org.zoom.us/j/85609794968?pwd=cG5uN3RIbEJZTWJjSzI1aXN4bHllQT09</a>
- Report link: <a href="https://www.lwvmn.org/inter-league-organizations">https://www.lwvmn.org/inter-league-organizations</a> (Don't be dissuaded by the length. The gist of the study is less than ten pages.) The report includes the proposed consensus questions.
- For the January 15 agenda, contact Karen Schaffer at schafferka@gmail.com.

LWV of Roseville Area members will have the opportunity to weigh in on the consensus questions by voting at our local consensus meeting on Tuesday, March 29, 6:30 pm via Zoom. Watch the March Voter and coming eBlasts for more details.

## LWV of Roseville Area January Board Meeting

The next LWV of Roseville Area Board meeting is Wednesday, January 26, at 7 pm. For Zoom access, contact Barb Anderson at lwvrosevillearea@lwvmn.org in advance.



# **CMAL Quarterly Meeting: Livable Communities Program**

League members and members of the public are invited to learn about the multi-million dollar Livable Communities Program administered by the Metropolitan Council. This voluntary program makes grants and loans to communities for economic revitalization, workforce housing, and development. Find out where the money comes from, which metro area communities have received it, what projects have been funded, and how effective the program has been. Watch for further details about this CMAL event in a future Voter article and eBlasts.

- **Speaker:** Tara Beard, Manager, Livable Communities Program, Metropolitan Council
- Date: Saturday, March 19, 10 am via Zoom.

## Consensus: Foundation for LWV Education and Advocacy

One reason the League is respected is because our advocacy is rooted in thorough study before we adopt positions from which we advocate. Recommending police have appropriate training in mental health crisis situations, testifying at city council meetings for affordable housing, and supporting climate action all have been successful efforts for the League of Women Voters of Roseville Area because they were based on League positions determined after in-depth studies.

In the next few months, you will have the opportunity to participate in forming new positions that affect us:

- Regionally through the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues of Women Voters (CMAL) study on county visibility, accessibility, and accountability (see <u>page 1</u>).
- Locally with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) study measuring city progress (see page 9).
- At a state level through the Firearms Update study (see page 5).

League members have been working for months gathering data and researching these important issues. Now it is time for all members to participate. It is essential to have a quorum at each of these meetings. At different League meetings for each study, members will have an opportunity to ask questions, exchange opinions, and look for consensus (overall agreement) on positions suggested for adoption that can be used for advocacy. Recommendations will go to the appropriate level of League for review and be presented to the overall membership for acceptance. After input from all the Minnesota Leagues, the state Firearms Update consensus recommendation will be presented for official adoption at the State Council Meeting. Positions based on CMAL and local studies will be adopted at their respective Annual Meetings in the spring.

As a League member, you play an important role. It may be to become better informed on issues. It may be to offer ideas and ask questions. It may be to participate in a consensus position vote to form the framework for advocacy. It may be all the above.

Your involvement in the three coming study presentations is at the core of League: study leading to member discussion and consensus leading to advocacy action. Help give League a strong voice.

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

LWV of Roseville Area Board Members

#### Officers:

**President**Barb Barany

Vice President Barb Anderson

**Secretary**Kathy Macomber

Treasurer Jessica Holz

#### **Directors:**

**Action/Advocacy** Sherry Hood

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#### **Communications**

Barb Anderson and Mary Peterson

**Membership** Rita Mills

#### **Program**

Florence Sprague, vice chair Carol Marchel

#### **Voter Services**

Teresa Wernecke, vice chair Marcia Cheney

Budget and Development

Barb Anderson and Bonnie Koch

#### Members-At-Large

Rachel Geiser Wayne Groff Sharon McCord Karen Schaffer I first became aware of the League of Women Voters while watching the 1976, 1980, and 1984 Presidential debates. Every four years since, I've wished that League sponsorship of those debates could have continued, rather than having been taken over by the two major political parties. I've also come to appreciate our LWV of Roseville Area sponsorship of local voter forums, both for learning the views of the candidates on my ballot, and for sharing my views as a school board candidate. It wasn't until I joined League, however, that I began to understand our role both in influencing public policy and in broadening the public's understanding of public policy issues. Given this role in public policy, it is natural for members to sometimes wonder why the League is, or is not, advocating for, or speaking out on, a particular issue. What does it mean to be nonpartisan? What other considerations are there?

The League of Women Voters has been about advocacy ever since its inception, which followed ratification of the nineteenth amendment. Issues of achieving suffrage for women and associated person-



**Barb Barany** 

hood rights have evolved to include broader societal issues that affect us all, while retaining the role of women in government as a fundamental principle. Within this framework, all of the League's work is both validated and constrained by nonpartisanship and our three-level (national, state, local) structure. Being nonpartisan means neither promoting nor opposing either a political party or a candidate for public office when representing the League or doing League work. It means being sensitive to separating advocacy for our positions from our voter services work, and addressing positions and actions of public officials, rather than the officials themselves. Aside from legal considerations for our 501(c)3 status, nonpartisanship allows us to do important work like hosting candidate forums and registering new voters. In a recent example, the Voter Services Team, led by Teresa Wernecke, has been hard at work on strategies for engaging high school students in elections and voting. Thank you, Judy Stuthman, for your continuing dedication to new citizen voter registration!

Why does the League, and LWV of Roseville Area in particular, advocate for some issues and not for others? Aside from those of us in certain board positions, members are free to advocate for or against issues of their choice—so long as they are promoting their views as an individual (or another organization), and not as a League member. Championing a cause in the name of LWV of Roseville Area, on the other hand, requires approval, and is only an option when based on a position that has been studied, achieved consensus within membership, and adopted by a membership vote. While we can advocate locally based on established LWVUS or LWVMN positions, as well as our own, advocating at the state or national level requires us to coordinate with the appropriate governance body. While restricting our potential range of influence, these constraints make those arguments more impactful. We are excited that the work of our Equitable Representation Study Committee, shared with each of our five city councils this past summer and fall, gained a further audience when NineNorth-Media interviewed study group member Megan Gunnar Dahlberg for their Cities Speak Podcast in November.

We'll be starting the new calendar year with a full schedule of programs and consensus meetings in January, February, and March. Be an informed member and help LWV of Roseville Area, CMAL, and LWVMN establish significant positions for advocacy by participating in the respective consensus meetings. (See details on page 1, page 5, and page 9)

Wishing everyone a 2022 filled with meaningful interactions with family, friends and community!

**Resources:** Our History, The Waves of Feminism (<a href="https://www.lwvmn.org/our-history?gclid=EAIaIQobChMItMuqmYv99AIVg">https://www.lwvmn.org/our-history?gclid=EAIaIQobChMItMuqmYv99AIVg</a> bjBx3x3gdMEAAYASAAEgKfMfD\_BwE), Best Practices for Staying Nonpartisan in Advocacy (<a href="https://www.lwvmn.org/nonpartisan-in-advocacy">https://www.lwvmn.org/nonpartisan-in-advocacy</a>)

### **Study Proposals Solicited**

Have an idea for a League study? Submit proposals to lwvrosevillearea@lwvmn.org by March 20, for review at the March 23 board meeting. The board will consider recommending a study for membership approval at the May Annual Meeting. Members may also propose a study at the Annual Meeting itself. To apply for board recommendation, please briefly describe the purpose of the study, and indicate a potential chairperson or chairpersons, if known.

#### WINDOWS AND MIRRORS FOR ALL

### **Two Signs**

#### By Florence Sprague

Perhaps you saw it—an editorial page cartoon by Steve Sack in the Star Tribune in the summer of 2020—two houses, two neighbors chatting over the fence, and two signs in one yard. The signs say "Black Lives Matter" and "We Support Our Local Police." One man is saying to the other man "If you think they conflict maybe it's you with the problem." It struck a chord.

I can see why they are so often thought to be orthogonal today. It needn't be the case.

Perhaps the crux of the conflict comes in the intent behind "support." For me, support means willingly paying taxes; endorsing a respectful, living wage for all public employees; backing good training for all public safety employees, both before and throughout employment; treating those public safety employees with whom I come into contact with respect, courtesy, and thanks as the situation warrants; and acknowledging the value of the job and the risks it entails.

To me support does not include a blind endorsement of all actions by all individuals. It does not mean being unquestioning of policies, training styles, or practices. I believe the ugly fact that a black man is 2.5 times as likely to die in police custody as a white man (<a href="https://live-journalists-resource.pantheonsite.io/politics-and-government/killed-police-black-men-likely-white-men/">https://live-journalists-resource.pantheonsite.io/politics-and-government/killed-police-black-men-likely-white-men/</a>). I have heard too often that "driving while black" type traffic stops occur far too often. I am appalled that teens are especially vulnerable to harm by police—including girls (<a href="https://www.themarshallproject.org/2021/11/02/police-hurt-thousands-of-teens-every-year-a-striking-number-are-black-girls">https://www.themarshallproject.org/2021/11/02/police-hurt-thousands-of-teens-every-year-a-striking-number-are-black-girls</a>) and that when discretion is possible it is unequally exercised [as between black and white miscreants]. These facts must change.

Citizens and public servants must live within a compact with rules, mutual obligations, and mutual respect. That can only happen in an environment where all parties are willing to examine their own behavior and role in creating and maintaining a positive community environment.

Implicit biases are real. I have them, you have them, we all have them. Humans are sponges that absorb attitudes from their environment. What matters then is what we do about them, and what type of attitudes we strive to pass on.

As a white woman, it is my job to acknowledge and address the subliminal biases that I have absorbed throughout my lifetime. It is my job to seek ways to address the structural biases in the institutions of work, faith, community, and governance with which I engage.

As I write this in December the ice feels very thin under my feet and George Bailey won't be able to rescue me, so I can only hope that my readers will think about making those two signs harmonize and be our reality.

Human beings are imperfect, but we can improve. We must.

May your new year trend upward on all fronts. Please work to save the planet for the imperfect but much-loved people of all races who inhabit it.

## Looking back at 2020 to look forward to 2022!

#### By Karen Lake

LWV of Roseville Area was an integral part of the successful LWVMN effort to promote voting from home during the 2020 elections, occurring during a pandemic! LWV of Roseville Area members and friends displayed lawn signs messaging, "Vote from Home!" Handouts were developed identifying why voting from home was safe. These were distributed to schools and community organizations and posted in public places. Information updating members on changing voting rules as a result of lawsuits was published in The Voter, in eBlasts, on the website, on Facebook, and on Instagram. What to expect when voting from home, including how to apply for and later check receipt of absentee ballots, and how absentee ballots would be counted was communicated. The effort was extensive! Due in no small part to LWV of Roseville Area's efforts, LWVMN was awarded a 2021 Minnesota Nonprofit Award for Advocacy! Consideration

2021
MINNESOTA
NONPROFIT
AWARDS for
ADVOCACY
PRESENTED BY
THE MINNESOTA COUNCIL OF NONPROFITS

for a continuing effort in supporting voting from home in upcoming elections may be warranted!

## **LWVMN Firearms Update Study**

LWVUS has a position on firearms and LWVMN adopted a position on firearms in 1990. You can read them in their entirety on pages 36-37 of the Program for Action available online: <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/15kMc-POVWXVKUkWSqj7pKFJoY19ccu6U/view">https://drive.google.com/file/d/15kMc-POVWXVKUkWSqj7pKFJoY19ccu6U/view</a>.

These positions are useful. However, one cannot avoid seeing how the world is changing and with that, how the role and presence of firearms in our communities has also been changing in the three decades since the LWVMN position was adopted. Suicides, school shootings, drive-by shootings, workplace shootings, terroristic threats to public officials, a confusing array of militias, and more engulf us. We have a growing understanding of the negative public health impact all of these have for everyone, beyond the personal tragedies they embody. In addition, the Supreme Court has drastically expanded our view of the Second Amendment right to bear arms.

At the LWVMN Convention in the spring of 2019, an update of the study behind the current position was adopted and a study committee was formed. It had been hoped that the report from this update and the related consensus questions could be completed in time for review at Council in the spring of 2022. If we can accomplish this, we will hold a local members meeting and all materials will be available online. Please watch the eBlast for updates. If this is not done in the spring, watch for it in the fall.

## The Plastics Crisis Challenge!

#### By Environmental Subcommittee

Plastics are EVERYWHERE—they are inundating Earth's water, land, and air. The average person currently consumes about 5 grams of plastic each week—about the size of a credit card. We are just beginning to learn about the harmful effects of ingestion of plastics by humans and animals. There are places right now in our country that are not safe to go out and breathe due to toxins released by petrochemical plants. Many of our world's beautiful beaches are blighted by mountains of plastic trash, and landfills are already



overflowing with excesses being pushed onto disadvantaged communities. For a brief summary of the plastics crisis view this short video: <a href="https://www.storyofstuff.org/movies/story-of-plastic-animation/">https://www.storyofstuff.org/movies/story-of-plastic-animation/</a>. Here is a link to League member Anne Haugan's May-June 2020 Voter article about plastic waste: <a href="https://lwvrosevillearea.org/files/newsletters/2020 May Voter.pdf">https://lwvrosevillearea.org/files/newsletters/2020 May Voter.pdf</a>.

One would think that this product of fossil fuel extraction would be in the process of being phased out, but the industry is actually expected to double between 2020 and 2040!<sup>2</sup> It is clearly a systemic problem that must also be dealt with beyond individual action.

How can we have an impact on this overwhelming problem? The combination of convenience offered by the use of plastics, along with the ingrained and longstanding habits make change challenging for all of us. Clearly inaction is also not a viable option.

In each issue of the Voter in the coming year, the Environmental subcommittee is going to offer a brief and doable challenge to act both on individual habits, and also encourage activism to address the need for systemic change.

#### Your first challenges:

**Personal:** We would like for each of you to track the plastic that enters your household. These items could be from the grocery store, the mail, single use plastics, restaurant packaging, throw away plastics used in cooking and storage, among others. It may be helpful to collect it all in separate bins to get an idea of how much of it makes up your garbage and how much goes to recycling. Once we track our consumption (whether we asked for it or not), we will tackle interventions to lessen that flow!

**Advocacy for Change:** Tell Amazon to switch to earth-friendly packaging! <a href="http://pin.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=Ho%2BjIRV0Uo%2BWTRL8GjhwcTqvDUlaU1n3">http://pin.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=Ho%2BjIRV0Uo%2BWTRL8GjhwcTqvDUlaU1n3</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://news.mongabay.com/2020/07/our-life-is-plasticized-new-research-shows-microplastics-in-our-food-water-air/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://news.climate.columbia.edu/2020/02/20/plastic-production-climate-change/

## **Action/Advocacy Volunteers Needed**

#### By Sherry Hood

If you are interested in becoming more involved in state lawmaking, I suggest you start by dipping your toe into Minnesota legislative waters by interviewing your state legislators. We need two interviewers who live in the district per legislator. Interviewers will not advocate for LWV issues, but rather record lawmakers' viewpoints and establish a positive relationship with the League. Questions are provided by the state League. Given the COVID-19 situation, it is best to do the interview via Zoom. For the questions and more information, go to the 2022 Legislative



Interview Guide on the LWVMN website: <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vvztdOPpDyRV941pq50mx\_dHoRcmfVti/view">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vvztdOPpDyRV941pq50mx\_dHoRcmfVti/view</a>. All answers will be submitted to Nick Harper, Civic Engagement Director, at our state League.

Legislators we need to interview:

- Senator Chuck Wiger, Maplewood area have two interviewers
- Rep. Peter Fischer, Maplewood area have two interviewers
- Senator Jason Isaacson, Little Canada, Roseville area need two interviewers
- Rep. Jamie Becker-Finn, Little Canada, Roseville area need two interviewers
- Senator John Marty, Roseville, Falcon Heights, and Lauderdale area need one more interviewer
- Rep. Alice Hausman, Roseville, Falcon Heights, and Lauderdale area need one more interviewer

If you want to step up to even more intrigue, consider joining the LWVMN Observer Corps or the Lobby Corps this coming session that starts at the end of January. For example, an Observer Corps volunteer may follow a single bill or a particular committee through the 2022 session. Perhaps your interest is climate change or voting issues or redistricting. You can go to the LWVMN website for more information. Online training is provided. Find more information on the Observer Corps and Lobby Corps under the Member Resources Action & Advocacy section of the LWVMN website: https://www.lwvmn.org/member-resources.

Please contact me (sherrychood@icloud.com) if you are interested in any of these great opportunities.

## League Donation to NineNorth

LWV of Roseville Area made a donation to NineNorth for being our digital media partner, including for candidate forums for four of our League communities. Below: President Barb Barany and Voter Services Chair Teresa Wernecke present a check to Dana Healy, Executive Director of NineNorth and Maureen Anderson, NineNorth Municipal Coordinator. They are interested in partnering on more projects with our League (see page 7).



Image provided by NineNorth

# **Recap: Equitable Representation Study Follow-Up Delves Deeper Into Resources**

By Barb Luck

A LWV of Roseville Area study team recently looked into who is participating in local governance boards and found that we can do better to reflect the makeup of our communities in its study, "Equitable Representation on Appointed City Boards & Commissions." As a follow-up to the study, Holli Arp, Leadership and Civic Engagement Program Leader with the U of M Extension, together with two colleagues, led a November 16 panel discussion. The discussion centered on the heart of the issue: moving ahead to encourage and support more diverse and inclusive leadership in our local governments. This Leadership and Civic Engagement team, which has been involved in this type of training and facilitation for many years, shared their experiences working with communities across Minnesota as they pursue increased inclusiveness and welcoming diversity.

U of M Extension panelists shared examples and encouraging work:

- Reflections from this team's work on understanding their own culture and racial biases, diversity, and a collaborating attitude of "we're on this journey together and will work with you."
- Importance of having conversations and building relationships within the community such as their long-time Bridging Leadership within counties to build leadership skills and behaviors, which in turn encourage civic engagement.
- Participating in the Welcoming Communities project which is a regional cohort program focused on exploring inclusive best practices through education and relationships.
- Watch for more good work on this whole topic; see available resources and toolkits as they are posted to the League website: <a href="https://lwvrosevillearea.org/">https://lwvrosevillearea.org/</a>

"Diversity is being invited to the party; inclusion is being asked to dance."

- Verna Meyers

Watch a recording of the event: https://my.nicheacademy.com/rcladult/course/39901

# Cities Speak Podcast: Equitable Representation Study on Appointed City Boards and Commissions

By Rita Mills

Following the summary presentations given to city councils, Dana Healy of NineNorth Media contacted Equitable Representation study members, inquiring about the possibility of discussing the final report during an episode of Cities Speak Podcast.

Megan Gunnar Dahlberg was interviewed by Dana on November 23, giving Megan an opportunity to expand on the study process and results. To view the podcast, go to <a href="https://ninenorth.org/videos/cities-speak-ep-89-megan-gunnar/">https://ninenorth.org/videos/cities-speak-ep-89-megan-gunnar/</a>



## Recap: LWV of Roseville Area Annual Holiday Celebration

By Sherry Hood



After one and a half years of isolation, League members enjoyed the annual Holiday Party on Dec. 9 at the new Cedarholm Golf Clubhouse.

The guest speaker was Northeast Youth and Family Services (NYFS) Executive Director Tara Jebens Singh who spoke about the many services they provide for the communities of the Northeast metro area. Many attendees donated to this very worthy and local charity. The event was catered by the always reliable Creative Catering by Molly.

## League Members in the Community

Several LWV of Roseville Area members attended a wonderful celebration in November to honor artist Shakun Maheshwari and officially unveil her community-created mosaic at Lake McCarrons Beach Park. Community involvement in creating this spectacular mosaic made this work so very special! Hosted and supported by Arts Roseville, the Rice & Larpenteur Alliance, and Ramsey County Parks & Recreation. To view the mosaic and pillars, visit the park at 1795 Rice St, Roseville, MN 55113.



Above: League members Teresa Wernecke, Ramsey County Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire, Sherry Hood, artist Shakun Maheshwari, Rita Leopold Mills, Gladys Ellenberg Jones, and Kathy Macomber. Right: Nearby shelter pillars also designed and created by Shakun Maheshwari

**Below:** A closeup of part of the mosaic





## **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 (<a href="http://lwvrosevillearea.org/">http://lwvrosevillearea.org/</a>), click on the YouTube icon on the righthand side, and choose a recorded event. If the event was held virtually through the Ramsey County Library, a link to the recording will be provided in an eBlast and in the Voter in the month following the event.

January events are detailed on page 1, page 2, and page 10.

- Date TBD Firearms Update Consensus. See page 5 for an overview of the study. More details to follow.
- **February 15 ADA Compliance Study Report**. The ADA Compliance Study Committee will share its findings with members and ask members consensus questions.
- March 15 History of Voting Rights and Voter Suppression. Professor Yohuru Williams, University of St. Thomas, speaks about the subject on the Ramsey County Library Roseville Zoom platform.
- March 19 CMAL Quarterly Meeting. See details on page 2.
- March 29 CMAL Report Consensus. See details about the January event covering the report details on page 1. The LWV of Roseville Area Consensus meeting is at 6:30 pm via Zoom. More details to follow.
- April Date TBD Environmental Concerns Topic. More details to follow.
- May Date TBD Annual Meeting. More details to follow.
- **June Date TBD Electric Vehicles**. Check out electric vehicles owned by LWV of Roseville Area members and learn more about this transportation option.

## Member Spotlight: Mary Peterson...The eBlaster

#### By Rita Mills

Each Sunday when your computer pings with the incoming LWV eBlast, keep in mind the person behind these concise local League updates. That's Mary Peterson, working weekends to compile everything from local government meetings to links of recent LWV programs and other programming related to League work!

Early in her professional career Mary worked at the Health Center for the City of St. Paul as a clerk/typist, and after having her first child, she and a coworker approached their administrator about the possibility of job sharing, but they were told that was not possible. "We were ten years too early requesting something like that!"

An opportunity for a seasonal Minnesota State position with the Revisor of Statutes turned out to be more suitable, "...working as a drafting and editing assistant and advancing to a legal editor." During the 37 years with the Revisor's office, "...I learned much about the legislative process and all the steps that occur for a bill to become



law." When the Minnesota Legislature was not in session, "our office became an editing office, preparing and publishing Minnesota Statutes, Laws of Minnesota, and Minnesota Rules."

A Little Canada resident, Mary and her husband raised two children, Roseville graduates, and now care for their grandchildren when needed. Her large, extended family is very important to her. With a pet cockatiel, Mary volunteers for the Parrot Rescue Services. In addition, she enjoys singing in her church choir, reading, traveling, walking, and working out at the gym. (Shortly after high school, Mary took an adventurous trip to Brazil!)

Mary was familiar with League as her sister, Liz Nordling, has been a LWV of White Bear Lake member and candidate forum moderator for many years. "I was always interested in learning more about the organization. When I retired, Rita Mills invited me to some League events and encouraged me to join. And, the rest is history!"

When asked about benefits of being a League member, Mary had a most interesting response: In addition to meeting new people and liking programming events, "I am doing things that are definitely out of my comfort zone!"

Shortly after Mary joined League, she was approached about filling in as secretary, a position she held for a number of years. Then, Barb Anderson approached Mary about taking on the role of Communications Team leader and editing the weekly LWV eBlast. With Barb as a mentor, Mary communicates meetings, events, and programs weekly....the envy of local Leagues statewide.

Mary....thank you for not just volunteering, but leaving your comfort zone and keeping us all informed in a timely manner!



## LWV of Roseville Area: January Event Calendar

- January 15 CMAL Metro County Study Update. See event details on page 1; 10 am; Zoom.
- January 20 Conversations with Constituents: Representation in City Governance. See event details on page 1; 10 am; Zoom.
- January 26 LWV of Roseville Area Board Meeting. See access details on page 2; 7 pm; Zoom.

### 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.

