

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:

<http://www.lwvrosevillearea.org>

Facebook:

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

Instagram:

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

YouTube:

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

Brews and Book Reviews

Save the date! The 6th annual LWV of Roseville Area Brews and Book Reviews event (now a tradition) is scheduled for Tuesday, July 19, from 6:30-8:30 pm. This year we are venturing beyond Roseville to Maplewood to the recently relocated **White Bear Meadery at 1320 County Rd. D Circle** near the corner of highways 694 and 61. (When using your navigator, make certain to enter County Rd. D Circle.) See their site: <https://www.whitebearmeadery.com>

A variety of meads and a few food items are available for purchase. We have reserved a room for our book discussions, and will have a container available for a free-will offering to cover the cost of the room reservation.

For those not familiar with the Brews and Book Reviews event, you and your guests are invited to bring a book, or two, or a podcast suggestion to informally share in small groups. (Physically bringing a book is not required!) A listing of books and podcasts discussed during the evening will be included in a future eBlast and Voter. Many a personal summer reading list has evolved from this evening!

Invite a friend, relative, or neighbor, and venture over to the northern part of Maplewood to experience the mead culture and enjoy good conversation with League members and friends.



LWV of Roseville Area August Board Meeting

The next LWV of Roseville Area Board meeting is Wednesday, August 24, at 7 pm. For Zoom access, please contact Mary Peterson at lwvrosevillearea@lwvmn.org in advance.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

LWV of Roseville Area Board Members

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Voter Services

Marcia Cheney,
Nancy Simpson,
Teresa Wernecke

CMAL

Karen Schaffer,
Lisa Scribner

.....

Members-At-Large

Lisa Scribner
Wayne Groff

As I have been watching the historic January 6 hearings recently, I am reminded of the importance of a well-educated electorate. No matter if the hearings lead to any action by the Justice Department, we have been watching history being made, and they have served to inform those watching in a way that doesn't happen often. Education is one of the tools that League uses to empower democracy, and one that local leagues like ours emphasize. It's our responsibility to continue to provide relevant programming to ensure the electorate is educated.

This summer is bringing many opportunities to engage with each other and with our communities. Rita Mills and Rachel Geiser have arranged for our annual Brews and Book Reviews to be held at the White Bear Meadery on July 19. It will be a great opportunity to share our favorite books and podcasts. You're encouraged to bring a friend to this and all events (see [page 1](#)).

The Voter Services co-chairs (Teresa Wernecke, Marcia Cheney, and Nancy Simpson) have organized many opportunities for our members to engage with the public, whether it be registering people to vote or marching in parades. Please contact Nancy Simpson at nsimpson51@gmail.com to learn more or join in specific events (see [page 6](#)).

The Program Committee, led by Florence Sprague and Carol Marchel, has been hard at work planning for the slate of programs for this upcoming year. See the event for August below and keep an eye on the Future Events section of future Voters and the weekly eblasts to get the latest details.

The Student Scholarship Committee led by Karen Lake has awarded the final scholarship of the year to Kaniyah (KD) Ellison, graduate of Fairview Alternative High School. Read more about it on [page 4](#). Congratulations KD!

I hope you are enjoying this all too brief summer. I hope to see you at some of the summer events.



President Barb Anderson

Be SMART: A Conversation About Kids and Guns

On August 18 at 7 pm we will cohost this timely event along with the Ramsey County Library. The presentation is a 20-minute educational program linked to the Be SMART gun safety program.

The Be SMART presentation was developed by the Be SMART for Kids campaign. The program focuses on the importance of adult responsibility in adhering to secure gun storage practices, open and non-political conversations about gun safety, and community awareness and engagement.

The Be SMART program is the non-partisan educational wing of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America started in 2015 to take action to prevent children's access to guns. Since that time the presentation has been shared across the country with the general community as well as parent and teacher groups, civic organizations, police departments, public health agencies, faith-related groups, gun owner associations, Kiwanis and Rotary groups, social service agencies, and others.

For more information about Be SMART see this site: <https://besmartforkids.org/>

For general information about Moms Demand Action see this site: <https://momsdemandaction.org/>

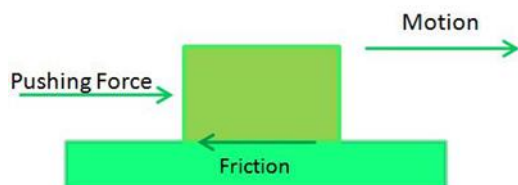
Use this link to register in advance for the event: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_6FrBIYr4S3e7HR7ISIkYqQ

Simple Machines and More

By Florence Sprague

It's summertime. Time for fun. Time for some quirky takes on striving to contribute to a positive world.

Have you ever tried to move a heavy object that is too large to pick up? The friction from the floor makes it very hard work and may make it impossible.



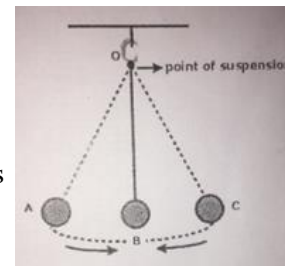
A forklift can be very useful, but for short distances and turns you may be able to skip the motorized machine and go simple machine. Employing simple machines, a Johnson bar enables humans to move objects with human power (on the right surface). A Johnson bar is a lever with wheels and a wedge—a bar maybe six feet long with little wheels and a metal lip at one end. Slide that lip under the edge of a heavy crate, push down on the other end and voila, the crate tilts onto the far edge, reducing friction and allowing you, the worker, to pull the bar forward, maneuver, and move the heavy crate.

Thinking about intractable social issues I long for a metaphorical Johnson bar. What is the concept or approach that could slip under a conflict just enough to lift it and reduce the friction, allowing us to maneuver the issue to a better resolution by pivoting or inching perspectives?

Staying with friction and adding inertia, we know from experience, as well as science, that it takes more force to start an object moving than it does to keep it moving. Pushing that box of wine or hockey gear across the basement is doable, but it does take some oomph to get it started.

Thinking now about those intractable social issues. It is true here also that it takes extra oomph to initiate changes to attitudes or habits. This is probably why activists often argue loudly for BIG changes. That extra force may be needed in order to get movement toward even small ones.

And then there is the pendulum, swinging back and forth so hypnotically. It reflects politics in a way, with one party in ascendance, then the other. However, while a pendulum shows conservation of mechanical energy, in politics and governance, the swings and overreactions/overcorrections feel like a waste of human energy. The expansion of X leading to backlash against X. One party wins the presidency then at the midterm that party loses seats, etc. Stress and struggle. We need balance—a way to honor the needs of both sides and to optimize the benefit to all, not social systems that look more like a pendulum swinging between more conservative and more liberal without stopping in the middle.



I do find it fun, though, that a pendulum swings from the “point of suspension.” This brings to mind not only the actual meaning of suspend as to hang, but also suspense, as in not knowing what will happen next. May it be something good.



“Windows and Mirrors for All” has been a regular column in the Voter since 2004. The title is derived from an essay by Emily Style, “Curriculum as Window and Mirror,” found in Seeding the Process of Multicultural Education. Style states that “education needs to enable the student to look through window frames in order to see the realities of others and into mirrors in order to see her/his own reality reflected.” People of all ages need both mirrors and windows with which to view the world, but too often we only have mirrors.

LWV of Roseville Area Scholarship: Third Recipient

By Karen Lake

The third and final high school student to be presented a 2022 League of Women Voters of Roseville Area Scholarship received her award at Graduation on June 6. Kaniyah (KD) Ellison was selected by the Fairview Scholarship Committee using guidelines provided by the LWV of Roseville Area Scholarship Committee (see below). KD evidenced perseverance toward her goal of further education to advance her interests in music, photography, videography, and educational writing. She valued and was committed to her schooling to date, including being especially grateful for the support of her teachers. According to advice from her father, KD is convinced that despite what might be taken away, a degree cannot be! Congratulations and Best Wishes to KD!

2022 marked the initial year, after some time, of scholarships being offered to students from three area high schools who have coordinated in the past with League to provide voter registrations. Each student winner from Roseville Area High School, Fairview, and Tartan were presented \$500 checks and offered complimentary one-year memberships to LWV of Roseville Area if they wished to accept. A goal was to increase League visibility with young people, in addition to supporting deserving students in continuing their education post high school. The scholarship effort has been funded for 2023 as well.

Members of the LWV of Roseville Area Scholarship Committee are: Karen Lake (Chair), Barb Barany, Anne Haugen, Suzanne Sancilio, and June Stewart.



Criteria for League of Women Voters of Roseville Area Student Recognition Scholarship

The League of Women Voters of Roseville Area is pleased to honor students who demonstrate strong citizenship skills and resilience and personal responsibility with a Student Recognition Scholarship.

The League of Women Voters is nonpartisan and does not support or oppose candidates or political parties at any level of government. Membership in the League is open to women, men and non-binary. The mission of the League is to encourage informed and active participation in government, to work to increase understanding of major public policy issues and to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

Included with a \$500 scholarship is an optional, one-year membership to the LWV of Roseville Area.

Guidance for the selection of the student

Required criteria are:

1. Member of the current academic year's graduating class.
2. Has post-high school education or training plans.
3. Presents personal qualities that make him/her/them a role model to others.

In addition, one or more of the following criteria are desired:

1. Has set and achieved a personal goal.
2. Has life experiences that demonstrate self-determination and/or the overcoming of challenges.
3. Assists non-English speaking family, friends and/or community members in participating within their community.
4. Participates in a school, religious or community group to promote cultural, environmental, educational and/or political engagement.

Scholarship Recipient Thank You Message

The second LWV of Roseville Area scholarship recipient, Laichia Vang, sent a thank you message to our League:

“To the League of Women Voters: Thank you so much for this scholarship! With your help, I am able to attend the U of M — Twin Cities for FREE in the 2022-2023 academic year. Growing up, I always contemplated how I would pay for school, especially coming from a low-income background. Thus I am so grateful that you saw my application as a great fit for your scholarship. I will continue to advocate and organize in college and in my career to ensure that future generations can thrive. Let's connect! I would love to see how we can partner and create a more equitable, inclusive, and diverse society. Again, thank you so much! With gratitude, Laichia Vang”

Youth Engagement Report

By Voter Services Committee

In early May, the League participated in a Volunteer Fair at Roseville Area High School (RAHS) as students arrived for class and traveled between classes. Over 150 students visited the League table, attracted by the Spinning Wheel, photo booth, and free snack. Because few seniors participated in this event, voter registrations were limited but several students planned to apply for student and/or bilingual Election Judge openings. This event was staffed by Nancy Simpson, Teresa Wernecke, and Marcia Cheney.

During late May, the Youth Engagement Program was involved in two significant activities: one at RAHS (May 26) and the other at Tartan (May 31). Winners of the LWV of Roseville Area Scholarships introduced themselves at each event, expressing gratitude for the award. Between the two activities, about 200 voter registrations were completed.

On May 26, a presentation was made to 6-7 senior government classes at RAHS, reaching an estimated 175 students. The program was designed to link how the vote one casts directly impacts issues of particular concern, especially on a local level. Students participated in a “stand up, sit down” demonstration of voter participation and the level of participation by those under age 30. Multiple voter registrations were completed, many students used the QR code to register. A photo booth (with props) offered the opportunity for students to take and post photos of themselves, showing their willingness to vote in upcoming elections. As time allowed, brief supplemental activities were offered. Voter Service volunteers included Rachel Geiser, Rita Mills, Nancy Simpson, Mary Kay VonDerLinde, and Marcia Cheney.

Thanks to Rita for sending photos to the school Superintendent; an article about the event is anticipated in an upcoming edition of the PTA/school community newsletter.

On May 31, Voter Services members were warmly welcomed at the Cap & Gown Pickup at Tartan High School, where we met with several hundred seniors. After completing required activities, students were encouraged by staff and asked by League volunteers to register to vote. Multiple voter registrations were completed representing both online and paper applications. Those registering usually signed their first name as they added a I WILL VOTE sticker to a poster board. Voter Services volunteers included Gladys Jones, Rita Mills, Kate O’Connell, Becki Pederson, and Marcia Cheney.

At a subsequent meeting with a social studies teacher at RAHS, plans were confirmed for Voter Services Youth Engagement volunteers to return each trimester for a repeat of the voter registration program. Tentative plans have been made for Voter Services to work with several Student Ambassadors during the upcoming academic year. This program will be modeled after the State Youth Civic Engagement Initiative. In July, a meeting with our Tartan contact is anticipated to consider additional League involvement with seniors. A fall voter registration and educational program is planned at Fairview Alternative High School.



Above: Rachel Geiser presenting at RAHS

Below: Marcia Cheney helping students register to vote



Martin-Brown Grant

Congratulations to the Voter Services team that was awarded the Martin-Brown Grant, receiving 70% of the requested total. In the approval grant letter, The Martin-Brown Committee was impressed with Voter Services’ plans for this year and specifically commended the activities for youth engagement. Major kudos for a great team effort!

Voter Services Volunteer Opportunities

By Voter Services Committee

The LWV of Roseville Area Voter Services Committee is continuing to educate and encourage voting for our upcoming elections. We need and would love your help to make this year be successful.

July's upcoming opportunities are both on, Thursday, July 21.

- **5-7 pm:** Falcon Heights Ice Cream Social at Community Park, 2020 Roselawn Ave, Falcon Heights, MN
- **5-8 pm:** Lauderdale Day in the Park at Lauderdale Community Park, 2328 Roselawn Ave, Lauderdale, MN

We encourage you to sign up and would love for you to show up. The primary activities will include greeting visitors, encouraging voter registration, working the spinning wheel activity, encouraging use of Vote 411 (<https://www.vote411.org/minnesota>) as a one-stop-shop, and filtering questions as best we can. We will be there to help support and/or train you along the way. Please email Nancy Simpson directly at nsimpson51@gmail.com to sign up.

Future opportunities such as candidate forums for the general election (not the primary election) will be forthcoming. Please consider joining us and getting to know other League members as we continue to support and educate our community—be it young, olds and everyone in between!



Left: League members staffing a table at a neighborhood event;
Middle: The Voter Services question wheel; **Right:** A student posing in front of the 'I Will Vote Sticker' wall;
Next page: League members at neighborhood Voter Services volunteer opportunities

Roseville Area School Survey — Submit Your Feedback

Now is an important time to support one the central pillars of our community—our schools! Currently, the Roseville Area Schools school board specifically seeks feedback and ideas from LWV members about Roseville Area Schools. This reminder is for anyone who had not yet completed the Roseville Area Schools survey.

The district provides essential services to our community that are well in line with the League's goals. These include civics education and a strong emphasis on equitable and quality education—services now more critical than ever. The challenges and opportunities of the district have changed significantly over the last 20 years in ways in which many are unfamiliar. For example, some of you may not know that 60% of the students in Roseville Area Schools are students of color. The overview of the district linked at the end of this article provides useful information to help League members familiarize themselves with the current nature of the district.

This is your opportunity to share ideas as the district plans to move forward. Please help the Board finalize a rigorous Strategic Plan by completing a short survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RAS-R1>

Please complete the survey by July 15.

To read an overview to provide background information about the Roseville Area School District, see this site: https://drive.google.com/file/d/12I5S_0APeNfWya2fxsKq6tjlcVmpNjHq/view?usp=sharing

Plastic Impacts of Microplastics/PFAS on our Health, Especially Older Adults

By Anne Haugan and Alana Howey, Environmental Subcommittee

In this sixth and final article highlighting the plastic crisis, we'd like to focus on a dangerous result of having so much plastic in our environment.

Microplastics Affect Both Humans and the Environment

PFAS (polyfluoroalkyl substances) are less than an inch-long fragments of broken-down plastic and are everywhere—in the air we breathe, aquatic waters, soil and plants, our drinking water, and the food we eat. PFAS are found in food packaging, Teflon cooking pots, Scotchgard coated carpet and upholstery, water resistant outdoor gear made with Gore-Tex, artificial turf, treated sewage sludge used as crop fertilizer, fire fighting foam, and vehicle tires.

What Are the Dangers to Our Health?

Researchers are finding tiny particles of microplastics in people's bodies. When toxic PFAS chemicals enter the human body, they never break down which is why these some 5,000 synthetic chemicals are known as "forever chemicals."

Exposure to PFAS chemicals is linked to immune issues, birth defects, thyroid disease, some types of cancer, and lung and brain damage, and they accumulate in the liver. They also are of great harm to our environment.

It is crucial to clean up microplastics.

Some Strategies for the Eradication of PFAS Chemicals

- Hold chemical companies, such as DuPont and 3M, accountable for the PFAS chemicals they produce by setting federal, state, and local standards and regulations. <https://addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/pfas-deadly-tell-epa-make-dupont-chemours-3m-pay/petition>
- Urge Columbia Sportswear and retailers such as REI to phase out selling products which are produced with PFAS "forever chemicals."
- Work with cities, towns, and counties to improve stormwater systems to catch pollutants before they get into our waterways and flow out to the ocean.

The enormity of the plastic crisis can seem overwhelming. The combination of our individual and collective actions can and MUST occur for the benefit of our health and environment. It has been a slow process to change our habits and to get the attention of the plastics industry.

Examples of Positive Change have Recently Occurred

- In June 2022 the US Department of the Interior phased out the sale of single-use plastics in national parks and public lands.
- Soon new products using recycled waste will be produced locally. Companies involved include Schwan's, Target, Ecolab, Cargill, Land O Lakes, and the University of Minnesota.



League members working the Voter Services table at neighborhood events



LWVUS Statement on Recent Supreme Court Decision

The Supreme Court decision on Dobbs v Jackson was released after articles for the Voter were submitted.

The League of Women Voters of the United States President **Dr. Deborah Turner** and CEO **Virginia Kase** issued the following statement in response to the 6-3 Supreme Court decision of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which overturns the constitutional right to abortion as recognized for nearly 50 years in the landmark cases of *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*:

"Today's ruling strips women and those who may become pregnant of their bodily autonomy and will have devastating — and immediate — consequences across the country. While the Court's opinion was expected, its harm is extreme and real. When women and those who can become pregnant can no longer make reproductive decisions for their own bodies, they are no longer equal individuals in our democracy. This harm will exacerbate societal inequalities and fall disproportionately on people of color and low-income communities already facing egregious obstacles to health care.

"The decision foreshadows the erosion of other well-established Constitutional rights including marriage equality, access to contraception, and the right to engage in private, consensual intimate conduct.

"The dissenting Justices get it exactly right: today's majority opinion is an assault on the constitutional guarantee to equal protection of the laws and the right to due process. With this decision, BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and other historically marginalized communities have no guarantees that their civil rights will be protected.

"The League of Women Voters stands in our power with our reproductive partners and all persons who fear the dangerous consequences of this decision. We will use our anger to fight in the legislatures, in the courts, and in the streets. We call on our elected leaders at the state and federal levels to act swiftly to restore bodily autonomy to all people.

"Women hold the power to create a more perfect democracy. We will not stand by as constitutional rights are stripped away, one by one. Women's rights are human rights, and we will continue to fight until the right to abortion is restored. Our lives depend on it."

Recap: EV Fair — A Huge Success!

By Donna Peterson

Here's a brief summary of the LWV of Roseville Area sponsored EV Fair from June 21:

- Excellent background information for those who knew little about electric cars by Alan Wernke from Data Insights (contact: Alanwernke@datainsights.com; phone: 612-991-7845). A link to the video of his presentation will be included with the eBlast when it is available.
- Close to 100 people attended, aiming to learn more.
- Fifteen electric cars were available, with drivers eager to answer questions.
- E-bikes from Bicycle Chain and Pedego gave people the opportunity to ride ebikes around the church lot.
- LWV of Roseville Area members Suzanne Sancilio and Nancy Simpson, of Voter Services, staffed a table with information on VOTE 411 and the wonderful wheel of questions.
- Two or three people expressed interest in becoming League members.
- A table was hosted by Noelle Bakken, City of Roseville Sustainability Intern.
- **Thank you** to Anne Haugen, Alana Howey, Priscilla Morton, members of the Environmental Subcommittee, and also many members from Prince of Peace Lutheran Church who hosted the event.



Left: League members and the community enjoying the EV Fair.

Next Page: More images from the EV Fair.

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.

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

September and Beyond – Watch the eBlast and upcoming Voter newsletters for new programs as the Program Committee sets the 2022-2023 LWV of Roseville Area event schedule.

New Member Spotlight: Becki Pedersen

By Rita Mills

Growing up in a small town in Iowa, Becki Pederson developed a love for reading, the outdoors, horses, and dogs while making frequent family trips to Chicago. Those trips fostered a liking for the “windy city.”

Becki’s college career began at the University of Northern Iowa obtaining a degree in sociology/social work in spite of originally pursuing a degree in English education. After moving to Chicago where she began her career as a medical social worker, she obtained her Master’s degree in Social Work at Loyola University. Becki continued to work in a variety of settings including nursing homes, Loyola Hospital in Chicago, and home health care.

After living in Chicago for a number of years, Becki and her husband, Felix, were drawn back to Minnesota, settling in the Roseville area where she recently retired as the residential hospice social worker at Our Lady of Peace in St. Paul. “Felix and I adopt senior rescue dogs. We share an interest in the Japanese culture and the music of the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra.”

Becki’s volunteer history is long and varied and includes the Minnesota Nursing Home Social Workers Association (MNHSWA), Planned Parenthood, mission trips to Haiti and Bolivia, and the Intercultural Institute at Bethel University for which they have hosted Japanese students for a month each summer. In addition to volunteering, Becki recently obtained her Minnesota substitute teacher’s license and plans to substitute in a local elementary schools in the fall.

When asked what led to her joining LWV, she responded, “I am very concerned about climate change and would like to support the League’s efforts in this arena as well as efforts to help students and others register to vote.” Becki has also been a passionate vegetarian for over 35 years.

Through her membership, Becki anticipates learning much more about local, state, and national politics. “I look forward to meeting and volunteering with the dedicated women in the LWV of Roseville Area.”

Becki, LWV of Roseville Area welcomes you and looks forward to working with you in spite of your busy life!

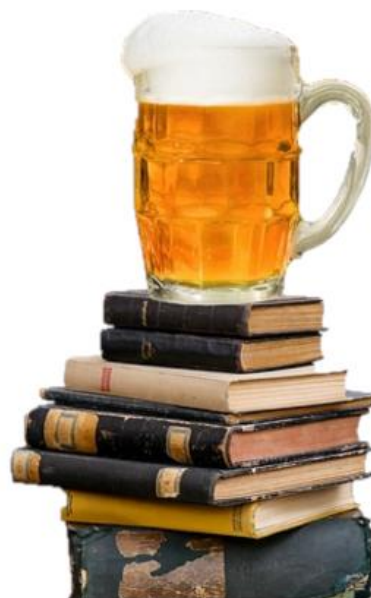


More images from
the EV Fair



LWV of Roseville Area: July-August Event Calendar

- **July 19 – Brews and Book Reviews.**
See event details on [page 1](#); 6:30-8:30 pm;
White Bear Meadery, 1320 County Rd. D
Circle, Maplewood.
- **August 18 – Be SMART: A Conversation
About Kids and Guns.**
See event details and registration link on
[page 2](#); 7 pm; virtual on 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.