



Rochester/Metro League of Women Voters Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Voter education is one of the League's most important functions, and the League encourages all citizens to register and to cast an informed vote.

The League does not support political parties or candidates, but does take stands on important issues after careful study and research.

Membership in the League is open to all citizens of voting age.

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*It's time once again, and you are WISE
(Warmly Invited and Strongly Encouraged) to attend our*



PLEASE JOIN US ON
WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2015
4:00 PM AT LOCUST HILL COUNTRY CLUB.

Vote for:

- New slate of candidates to our Board of Directors and Nominating Committee
- Budget for 2015-2016
- Bylaws revisions

Recognize Milestone League members

Honor our Carrie Chapman Catt, Making Democracy Work and Lifetime of Service Award winners

Celebrate all of our many accomplishments this year

Enjoy socializing with other members

*If you've never attended an Annual Meeting,
please make this your first!*

- Cost is \$10 per person
- Hors d'oeuvres
- Coffee, tea, punch
- Cash bar

RSVP at <http://www.lwv-rma.org> or 262-3730

We look forward to seeing you!



President's Corner

It's finally spring, and we hope you're enjoying this wonderful and well-earned weather!

But before you change your focus to gardening and travel, we have a month of activities that we hope you'll make time to attend. We think you'll enjoy them all.

On May 4 we'll meet at 7:00 PM at Brighton Town Hall to discuss the LWVNYS position on constitutional conventions. With the possibility of a convention in 2017, it's not too soon to make sure we can make an informed decision. Judy Weinstein and the Government Committee have done an outstanding job of explaining the current position and the proposed changes. Join us for the presentation and discussion.

On Saturday, May 9, LWVNYS is holding a regional meeting at Sperry High School (1799 Lehigh Station Road) at 11:00 AM focusing on organ donation. It will become part of our Voter Registration activities since it will appear as an option on registration forms. This is also an opportunity to meet members of area Leagues and representatives from LWVNYS.

Of course, our biggest event this month is the Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 27, at 4:00 PM at Locust Hill Country Club. Cost is only \$10, and we hope you'll be there to vote on new members of the Board of Directors, the budget and updated bylaws. Just as important though, is recognizing and celebrating the members who have worked so hard and made us all so proud to be members of the League.

As we approach the end of our program year, our committees and study groups have written summaries of their accomplishments. What a terrific year we've had! Please take time to look over all the reports, and remember that every group is eager for new members.

We held our last monthly forum for this year, and it was another gem. Sarah Liebschutz and her panel of experts discussed the Affordable Care Act in great detail – history, ins-and-outs of obtaining coverage, legal issues, and the successes and shortcomings. As usual, our moderator and panelists were interviewed on WXXI's 1370AM "Connections with Evan Dawson" on the day of the forum. Listen to the podcast at http://wxxinews.org/post/connections-implementing-affordable-care-act?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+wxxi-1370featured+%28Connections+with+Evan+Daws+on%29&utm_content=FeedBurner. And remember that this and all our recent forums are available on YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjC9NCupn9AhZpH2k83m5_g).

We can't close without thanking Patrina Freeman for stepping in as our Board Secretary and our departing Board Member Barbara Grosh for all the wonderful energy and creativity she's brought to our board. We're so grateful that her hard work will continue on Voter Services, but we'll miss her on the board.

In League,

Gloria S. Read gloell@rochester.rr.com

Mary Hussong-Kallen mmhk@rochester.rr.com

Advocacy: 2015 NYS Ethics Regulations

As you may have heard, part of the 2015 NYS Budget contains new provisions for ethics rules for NYS officials. The rules provide for more disclosure of outside income for state officials, establishes a procedure where officials convicted of corruption might lose their state pension, tightens some rules affecting restrictions on personal use of campaign funds and verification of per diem expenses.

The LWVNYS and other good government groups find these changes to be important, but unfortunately, not significant. Criticisms of the bill include:

- it did not provide for public financing of election campaigns,
- it did not close the LLC loophole for campaign contributions,
- it did not ban campaign funds being spent on all personal expenses, and
- it did not mandate full disclosure of discretionary state funding of local projects.

LWVNYS has a long-standing position that "stronger ethics reforms are required to end the climate of corruption in Albany" (April 1, 2015). This bill did not strengthen the enforcement of these agreed-upon changes, which would mean changing the structure and power of the Joint Commission on Public ethics.

In addition, the content of these statutory requirements was included in the 2015-2016 budget bill. The LWVNYS has a position against placing policies in the budget bill. This budget bill was passed under the Governor's authority for a "message of necessity," which means the Assembly and State Senate did not have the requisite three days to study it. In fact, the chambers had only a few hours in the preceding evening. Additionally, the same bill contained the education policies and funding so hours were spent debating those provisions and not the ethics parts.

Katherine Smith

1st Vice-President and Advocacy Chair

LWVNYS Constitutional Convention Position Update

CONSENSUS MEETING MAY 4

Monday, May 4

7:00 – 8:00 PM

Brighton Town Hall, 2300 Elmwood Avenue

The League of Women Voters of New York State is considering updating the delegate selection portion of the current Constitutional Convention position.

ALL LWV-RMA members are encouraged to join us in the discussion of the proposed updated position on Monday, May 4, at 7:00 PM in the Brighton Town Hall.

Our response to the question “Do we wish to retain the current position or do we wish to adopt the new position?” will be combined with the responses from other local Leagues in order to determine the LWV-NYS position. This update is not intended to consider whether or not the League will support or oppose the proposal for a constitutional convention when it comes up again for a vote in 2017. The state board will decide that question in light of current policy concerns and the entire League position.

We hope to see you on the 4th.

Judy Weinstein

Government Committee Member

Naturalization

On April 11th at Minerva Deland School in Fairport, Mimi Wilson and Lois Winterkorn welcomed fifty new citizens at an oath ceremony in the morning. Also on that day, Marcia Eisenberg met forty five candidates for citizenship at the Federal Building in the afternoon.

May will bring the League to the Monroe County Office Building on the 9th in the morning. Marcia Eisenberg will welcome the new candidates. Also in May, Joan Rosenthal will meet candidates at RIT. The date and time are to be announced soon.

On June 13th at the Monroe County Office Building, Mimi Wilson will welcome new citizens. Also on that date, Kathy Farrar will be at the Federal Building in the afternoon to meet candidates for Naturalization.

All members of the LWV/RMA are welcome to attend Naturalization ceremonies. If you are interested, please contact Sheila Abeling at sheiler162004@yahoo.com or call at 585-223-6819.

Sheila Abeling

2nd Vice-President, Naturalization Chair

Organ Donation and Voter Registration

The New York Alliance for Donation (NYAD) and the League have joined in a partnership to increase both voter registrations and organ donor registrations at the same time. With this partnership, local Leagues will provide information on organ donor registration at voter registration drives.

LWVNYS and LWV-RMA are hosting Western NY regional Leagues at a training session on Saturday, May 9, at Sperry High School, 1799 Lehigh Station Road.

The schedule is:

11:00 -12:00 Organ Donation Program

12:00 - 1:00 Lunch (provided) and networking with other League members

1:00 - 3:00 How do we get our League jobs done with the people resources we have?

All members are strongly encouraged to attend the workshops at no charge.

Pre-registration is appreciated:
585-262-3730 or www.lwv-rma.org

Who Represents You

Our annual brochure “Who Represents You” is available! This handy and very informative publication is updated each year thanks to a grant from the Rochester Area Community Foundation.

If you would like a copy (or would like to distribute copies as you attend events in the community), please contact Barbara Grosh at barbaragrosh@gmail.com.

Looking Back

Please take a few moments to look over this wonderful timeline:

<http://www.suffragist.com/timeline.htm>

We think you'll discover a heroine or an event you didn't know about!

Do You Tweet?

If you use Twitter, consider following LWV-NYS. You'll find great information on many topics. Look for <https://twitter.com/LWVNYS> next time you're online!



LWVNYS recommends a video titled “This Won't Hurt a Bit” available online at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=syMjY0-cT9E>

Agriculture/Farm Labor Study Group Update

We all depend upon the fruit, milk and vegetables their labor yields, but what about the non-work life of farm workers? How is family life impacted by such realities as language barriers, migration, scrutiny by the Border Patrol, isolation, housing, transportation and health care?

The League's Agriculture/Farm Labor Study Group is exploring these questions as we focus on ethical and equitable treatment of farm workers, always keeping in mind the national LWV's commitment to address the basic needs of all people for food, shelter, and access to health care and transportation.

Several activities designed to help us increase our awareness of the lives of farm laborers are being planned. All will be invited to attend these upcoming events when they are scheduled. These opportunities include:

- Joint gathering with the Las Mujeres Divinas, a group of farm worker women: an open discussion about their lives.
- Screening of the award-winning documentary about migrant farmworker women, "After I Pick the Fruit," followed by a discussion with the film maker, Nancy Ghertner, and the stars of the film. The evening will include ethnic cuisine. (Late October or early November)
- Visiting with farm workers on the farms where they live and work. (Late September or early October)

And of course if you are interested in these issues, you are invited to join this committee!

Lory Ghertner & Barb Deming

Agriculture/Farm Labor Study Group Members

Legislative Agenda Lobbying Invitation

Are you interested in learning more about the LWV-NYS 2015 Legislative Agenda and lobbying our local Albany delegation from Monroe County? Appointments to meet with NY Senators and Assembly Members will be scheduled on Fridays throughout May.

Please contact Katherine Smith at 334-3991 or kathysmith292@gmail.com.

Meet Elaine Schmidt

BACKGROUND

Elaine was born and raised right here in Rochester and attended SUNY Geneseo. She worked for Monroe County Human Services for about 15 years until she retired in 2013.

WHY SHE JOINED LWV-RMA

Elaine had been listening to the debate on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act from the time President Obama first proposed it. One side said it would cover people who could not afford health insurance and drive down the cost of health-care. The other side said it would be an economic disaster. She searched the internet for objective information and found the League of Women Voters national website which offered an in-depth review of the new healthcare plan. It contained all the information she was looking for! Soon afterward, while attending a Weight Watchers meeting at work, Julie Johnson mentioned that she was attending a League meeting that night. Elaine hadn't realized that there was a local League! She met with several members of the LWV-RMA and signed up!

HER ROLE IN THE LEAGUE

Elaine started with the Observer Corps, observing the Monroe County Legislature with Georgia DeGregorio and has since enjoyed seeing our local government in action from the League's vantage point. She joined the Government Committee soon afterward and continues to work on both committees, chairing each at various times. She's attended both State and National LWV conventions and has been impressed with the zealous pursuit of democracy by LWV members on national, state and local levels.

QUOTE

I want to help make democracy work!

Do You Have...

Comments?

Suggestions?

News We Can Use?

Contact The Voter at:

lwvrma-voter@rochester.rr.com

Poverty Committee: FPL Shortcomings and an Alternative Standard

When discussing or measuring poverty, many people refer to the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) as a benchmark. However, many now argue that the FPL standard is no longer appropriately relevant regarding a person or family's ability to support oneself. The FPL standard is simply outdated and much too low to provide the basis for truly meaningful dialogue or comparison to a contemporary standard of living.

If we as a country wish to have useful interaction and to propose practical solutions relating to poverty, it is important to have a constructive way to measure what is an adequate income, what is an inadequate income and what is the shortfall between the two.

Our LWV Poverty Committee is evaluating more meaningful ways to identify poverty for advocacy purposes. What is needed for a person or family to move into self-sufficiency?

Poverty and Self-Sufficiency Monroe County 2010*

Family Size	FPL	Self-Sufficiency
1	\$10,830	\$20,042
2	\$14,570	\$38,773
3	\$18,310	\$47,391
4	\$22,050	\$54,182
5	\$25,750	\$58,598

Federal Poverty Level Shortcomings*

- Poverty level is simply too low!
- FPL based on a single item—Food
- Food Budget calculated x 3 = FPL
- Updated annually since 1963 via the CPI
- FPL methodology is “frozen”—does not allow for changes in relative cost of food or non-food items, or addition of new necessary costs.
- Food is now 13% of income, not 33%.
- FPL measure is demographically dated; two parent family with “stay-at-home” wife or single parent who does not work.
- FPL measure does not vary by geographic location.
- FPL measure provides no means to track changes in specific costs nor the impact of subsidies, taxes and/or tax credits.

*The Self-Sufficiency Standard for NYS 2010 by Diana Pearce, PhD; Director of the Center for Women's Welfare, University of Washington School of Social Work

Larry Burnette

Poverty Committee Member

Membership Corner

The question was: what can we do to let our members know how much we appreciate them? The Membership Committee members all responded: tell them.

Each of you has supported our League through your dues, your ideas, your volunteering to help. That team work is what makes our League outstanding!!

And we want you to feel even more part of our team by giving us feedback. What you need in order to be effective as members and citizens? What topics should we be addressing in the coming year? What new ideas do you want to bring to the table?

Have you shared your enthusiasm with a friend and brought him or her to a meeting? It is catching, you know!

Call us at 262-3730 or email me at georgiatd1@gmail.com - or better yet, attend our next membership meeting on Monday, May 11, at 5:30 PM at the Winston Road Library.

Georgia DeGregorio

Membership Committee Chair

Watch and Listen to our Forums on YouTube!

The League is trying something new, something that has had success in other cities. We are now recording our forums and posting the videos on YouTube for your viewing pleasure. Can't make the forum? Not a problem. Catch a 'replay' on YouTube!

To access the League's YouTube videos, please click on this link:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjC9NCupn9AhZpH2k83m5_g

Enjoy!

Capitol Beat Blog

Check in for important updates from League Legislative Director Barbara Bartoletti!

Please visit frequently:

<http://www.lwvny-capitolbeat.blogspot.com/>

Check for this week's post!

Did you know...

that registering in advance for League activities is easy – and very helpful to our planners? Visit our website (www.lwv-rma.org) to find out about upcoming events – and while you're there, register for an event!



Sunshine Corner

HENRIETTA TOWN BOARD APRIL 15, 2015 FROM MINUTES ON TOWN WEBSITE

No LWV issues were noted.

A public hearing will be held on May 6 at 7:00 PM at Henrietta Town Hall on a resolution to enact a local law establishing a rental registry. The intent of the resolution is to regulate one- and two-family housing for rent.

(To view the full minutes from these and other meetings, please click here: <http://www.henrietta.org>)

IRONDEQUOIT TOWN BOARD APRIL 16, 2015 FROM MINUTES ON TOWN WEBSITE

No LWV issues were noted.

A public hearing was set for May 7 at 7:35 PM at the Town Hall regarding the amending of Chapter 177 of the Town Code. The amendment requires rental property owners to register their properties with the town, among other things.

A public hearing was set for May 7 at 7:36 PM at the Town Hall regarding amending the town code to provide a process for registering vacant buildings.

(To view the full minutes from this and other meetings, please click here: <http://www.irondequoit.org/>)

MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE APRIL 14, 2015 OBSERVED BY ELAINE SCHMIDT

No LWV issues were noted.

The agenda was moved as a whole with the exception of items 5, 12, 13, 27 and 28.

A resolution was passed authorizing a contract with CHA Consulting Inc. for professional engineering services for the Frontier Field stadium renovation project. A contract was authorized with Clark Patterson Lee for professional engineering services for the Civic Center reconstruction project.

A resolution authorizing the issuing of \$78,000,000 in Monroe County bonds to redesign and reconstruct the Downtown Campus of Monroe Community College was passed.

(To view the full minutes from this and other meetings, please click here: <http://www2.monroecounty.gov>)

WEBSTER WORKSHOP MARCH 26, 2015 OBSERVED BY LOIS WINTERKORN

Concerns with Webster's Special Use Permit applications were discussed, including use of alcohol, police involvement and costs.

(To view the full minutes from these and other meetings, please click here: <http://www.ci.webster.ny.us>)

WEBSTER TOWN BOARD APRIL 16, 2015 FROM MINUTES ON TOWN WEBSITE

No LWV issues were noted.

Budget considerations proposed by the Finance Director were approved. Fees for Special Events were added to the Town's Fee Schedule.

(To view the full minutes from these and other meetings, please click here: <http://www.ci.webster.ny.us>)

Elaine Schmidt
Government Committee Member

Do You Have...

Comments?

Suggestions?

News We Can Use?

Contact The Voter at:

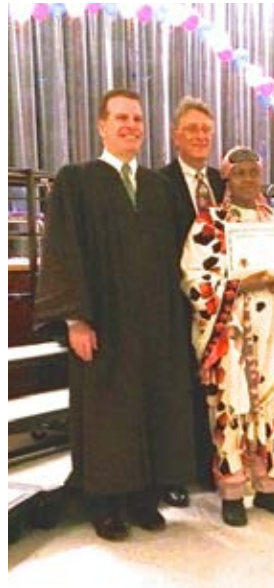
lwwrma-voter@rochester.rr.com

Did you know...

that when any of our activities is mentioned in the media, you can find the link on our website? Check out www.lwv-rma.org.



Naturalization Ceremony Photos



End of Year Reports

Advocacy

Objective: To inform LWV-RMA members, local officials and the general public of the League's positions and actions on public policy.

KEEPING MEMBERS INFORMED:

Monthly articles in The Voter on a wide variety of topics

Discussion leadership for LWVNY consensus sessions on 2014 ballot Proposition 1 (redistricting) and primary elections ballot issues

Monthly exchange of ideas between members and directors at First Friday events

Proposal and leadership of Bee Bibby Endowment Fund/CGR research and forum on childcare subsidies

KEEPING PUBLIC OFFICIALS INFORMED:

2015 LWVNY Legislative Agenda sent to six Assembly members and six NY Senators in Monroe County Albany delegation

Meetings with elected officials to review Legislative Agenda completed by 1st VP and the League member living in the district

KEEPING THE PUBLIC INFORMED:

Media interviews: Evan Dawson on Proposition 1 (redistricting), Election Night Analysis on WXXI, D&C on childcare, Channel 10 on ethics reform and Channel 8 on elections

FEPC signing

Planning of Channel 8 2014 Congressional debate

REPRESENTING LWV-RMA:

3 Naturalization Ceremonies

Susan B. Anthony and Community Foundation luncheons

Monthly meeting of Early Childhood Development Initiative and presentation of Bee Bibby Report on Child Care Subsidies in Monroe County

NYS Assembly hearing by Assembly Member Richard Gottfried on Single Payer Health Care in NYS (participated in four LWVNY conference calls on this issue)

Finger Lakes Region Steering Committee on WEA in 2014

Katherine Smith

1st Vice-President and Advocacy Chair

Naturalization

The League was represented at an average of two Naturalization ceremonies per month in Monroe County during 2014.

Our volunteers explain to new citizens what registering to vote means and we assist them in filling out voter registration forms.

During 2014 the League worked with approximately 1500 new citizens.

Dedicated League Volunteers: Sheila Abeling, Marcia Eisenberg, Kathy Farrar, Beth Feldman, Barb Hendry, Joan Rosenthal, Kay Saunders, Katherine Smith, Mimi Wilson, Lois Winterkorn.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

League volunteers open absentee ballots for the Monroe County Board of Elections during Primary and General Elections. The League has a contract with the Monroe County Board of Elections each year.

Opening ballots is a League fundraiser. During 2014 the League raised \$1200 from this project.

FAIR ELECTION PRACTICES CAMPAIGN

The League and TIAR (The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester) sponsor a yearly Fair Election Practices Campaign (FEPC) during election season.

The FEPC encourages all candidates for public office to run positive, issue-oriented campaigns.

The Committee/Hearing Panel hears complaints regarding candidates who do not follow the Pledge of the FEPC.

Members of the Hearing Panel for 2014 were: Jim Morris (Chairperson), Ralph Esposito, Peter Knapp, Channing Philbrick, Kay Wallace.

Alternate Members of the Hearing Panel for 2014 were: Tom Frey, Lois Giess, Jean Keplinger, David Koon, Jim Peters, Sue Roberts, Carol Saum, Mary Ann Thorpe.

Sheila Abeling

2nd Vice-President, Naturalization Chair

Did you know...

that Elizabeth MacNamara, President of LWVUS, posts regularly on Twitter? If you have a Twitter account, follow and "tweet" her at "LWV of the US."

End of Year Reports

Government Committee

The Government Committee meets monthly to discuss ongoing concerns (such as LDCs and the County Charter Review process) and possible new issues. Additionally, we prepare the questions asked of candidates for Vote 411 and coordinate the Observer Corps.

Our members are Patrina Freeman, Elaine Schmidt, and Judy Weinstein.

This was a busy year for us! We:

- participated in the County Charter Review process by attending hearings and speaking on behalf of the LWV and as individuals.
- planned a balanced forum on Proposition 1 (Redistricting Amendment) and presented the pro side .
- prepared presentations for the consensus meetings for the LWVNYS Term Limit, Ballot Access, and Constitutional Convention Delegate Selection positions.
- are working on a forum for fall 2015 to educate public on the issues involved in a state Constitutional Convention.

Judy Weinstein

Government Committee Member

Public Relations

If you are familiar with 'The Profit' which airs on CNBC and stars serial entrepreneur, Marcus Lemonis, then you're probably aware of "the three P's" he uses to evaluate a business: People, Process, Product. It seems simple and straightforward, however many businesses fail with at least one of the P's. After evaluating a business, Marcus then swoops in to provide advice and his own money to get the failing 'P' back on track. While getting the failing 'P' back on track, there's usually a lot of pain'; however once everyone buys in, it's usually a happy ending.

Why am I telling you this? Because if I were to break down the League, and in this case, Public Relations, using Marcus' 3 P's, it's quite interesting.

People: This is not a one-man show; there are countless League members who make my job easy. The knowledge and passion of our active members is something I admire and keeps me motivated to do my job to the best of my ability. Whenever we need someone to give an interview, be on the radio, help with a quote, there's always someone to turn to. We can check 'People' off the list.

Process: Over the past 4-years, we have developed a turnkey process to promote the League to the Rochester community. Through our process we have developed key relationships with media members who share our passion for the community and are proud to promote our vision. We can check 'Process' off the list.

Product: Our product speaks for itself. Through our community involvement with Naturalization to our monthly educational forums, the League continues to bring relative knowledge and support to the citizens our community. We can check 'Product' off the list.

The League's 'People' and 'Product' make the Public Relations 'Process' very seamless. I look forward to finding the next PR enthusiast and handing the torch to them next year.

PS – I bet we would make Marcus very proud.

Brian Valenti

Public Relations Chair

Membership Committee

Our membership has blossomed to 145 people this past year! Each new member is contacted so we can meet with him or her and answer any questions that may arise. We welcome the many new members who have become active with the League!

Current members for the new year officially counted as of February 1, 2015 are:

Individuals	94
Households	32
Honorary Memberships	15
Students	4

The Membership and Program Committees worked together for a successful General Membership Meeting in January to discuss Program Planning. This is our "Picnic in the Park" event which combines League talk about future plans with a relaxed lunch with new and older friends.

None of the above could be achieved without the conscientious work done by our committee, as well as other supporting members of the League. Thank you to each of you – and remember, each of you is our best ambassador for asking friends and acquaintances to join us in "Making Democracy Work!"

Georgia DeGregorio, Chair; Lois Winterkorn, Gin Busack, Michael Barbato, Hasana Martin, Phyllis Walker, Patrina Freeman, Ellen DeGregorio, Carly Wise-Levick

End of Year Reports

Poverty/Housing Committee

Mission Statement: The Poverty/Housing Committee was convened to explore the League role in addressing poverty in the Rochester area as identified by ACTRochester with a specific focus on housing for the homeless.

During 2014-2015 The committee has been examining the many ways that poverty has had an impact on local residents by:

- attending Rochester city and school budget meetings,
- participating in a “reality tour” which included visits to a makeshift campsite often utilized by the homeless, as well as a traditional homeless shelter,
- interviewing homeless shelter administrators, city officials, and partaking in a housing survey.

ACTIVITY FOR THE PAST YEAR INCLUDED:

June 11, 2014 - League members attended a City of Rochester Council budget hearing. This hearing included a documented review of the City of Rochester’s 2014-2015 Budget.

August 25, 2014 - Committee members met with a representative from St. Joseph’s House of Hospitality, the Rochester branch of the Catholic Worker Movement. We learned of the organization’s history and gained insight into the needs and challenges they face as they provide and supervise the Dorothy Day Housing First building.

September- November - 2014 Telephone interviews with Wilson Commencement Center and Dimitri House.

December 3, 2014 - Carol Wheeler, Manager of Housing at the City of Rochester, explained some of the functions of this particular area of city government. Ms. Wheeler also discussed some of the funding streams and partner agencies that allow programs such as Rapid Re-Housing to exist.

Currently the Poverty/Housing Committee is focused on finding ways to help those without NYS ID obtain this critical documentation. A valid government ID is a requirement for accessing social services, completing most job applications and many other activities that may be the initial step to easing the burden of individual poverty.

Join us as we seek ways to work at all governmental levels in examining this all-important issue.

Georgia DeGregorio, Chair; Hasana Martin, Lenore Youngman, Larry Burnette, Chris Pryor, Gin Busack, Carole Hoffman, Beth Feldman, Betty Schaeffer, Carly Wise-Levick

Program Committee

When we work together we are able to accomplish amazing things. This has been another wonderful year of collaboration!

Benefitting from the insight, inspiration and expertise provided by our members through our Government, Farm Labor, Healthcare and Education Groups, our sisters in Wayne County and other friends, we have been able to provide informative forums and consensus meetings on a range of timely issues:

- the 2014 redistricting amendment,
- ballot access,
- the LWVNYS position on a NYS constitutional convention,
- term limits,
- childcare subsidies in Monroe County,
- the school to prison pipeline,
- the grand jury system, and
- the challenges of implementing our Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

None of this would have been possible without the support of our community partners: Asbury First United Methodist Church, The Social Justice Council of the Unitarian Church of Rochester, The Children’s Agenda, The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester, Greater Rochester Immigration Justice Council, SUNY Brockport and Brighton Town Hall.

Further, we thank our own members for their participation and support this year, especially in our January Program Planning Meeting. We listened – and we want you to know that our League is working collaboratively to provide upcoming forums and events addressing your interests and concerns.

**Gin Busack
Ernest DuBois
Lois Winterkorn**

Did you know...

that LWVUS maintains a blog on its website? For info on many topical issues, read (and then comment) at www.lwv.org/blog.

End of Year Reports

Agriculture/Farm Labor Study Group

The focus of the group this year has been on the “ethical and equitable treatment of farm labor,” pursuing this effort through a study of LWV positions and printed material. A Go-See Tour to a local farm in order to gain insight into farmworker working conditions and a presentation of the acclaimed documentary “After We Pick the Fruit” are being planned to coincide with the 2015 harvest timeframe.

Total Energy Study Group

The focus for this new study group has been on two issues: first, achieving a better understanding of alternative energy sources through a combination of research, interviews & site visits; second, researching the issues concerning the cross-border transportation and storage of fracking waste. Meetings and research continue

Healthcare Study Group

This study group presented an in-depth look at the implementation challenges faced by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act at a forum in May. Sarah Liebschutz moderated the panel composed of Kim Wynn (Coordinated Care Services), Brian Heatherington (Empire Justice) and Sr. Christine Wagner (St. Joseph’s Neighborhood Center).

Civics Education Study Group

The long-term focus of this group, a joint effort of the Rochester and Wayne County Leagues, is to encourage civics education in the area high schools, initially focusing on the Rochester City School District. Interviews were conducted with members of the City School Board to better understand their responsibilities. A program consisting of a civics education PowerPoint presentation and voter registration drive was prepared and introduced to RCSD high school students. In addition, the group presented two very successful forums:

School to Prison: Alternatives to Incarceration, an in-depth exploration of systemic patterns that place vulnerable youth on a track for incarceration, focusing on diversion programs for 15 to 18 year olds in the Crescent Area. Our moderator was Rev. Lawrence Hargrave, and our panelists were Monroe County Assistant District Attorney Shani Curry-Mitchell, Director of the Center for Youth Elaine Spaul, and Edward Minardo of SUNY College at Brockport’s Criminal Justice Department.

The Grand Jury System: Who, What, Where, When, Why and How? which explored the Grand Jury in its historical context and present-day usage in order to better understand proposed legislation. Moderated by Rev. Lawrence Hargrave, Pastor for Outreach Ministries at Asbury First United Methodist Church, our panelists were Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley and First Assistant Public Defender Roger Brazill of the Monroe County Public Defenders Office.

See You at the Annual Meeting!

PLEASE JOIN US ON
WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2015
4:00 PM AT LOCUST HILL COUNTRY CLUB.

*If you’ve never attended an Annual Meeting,
please make this your first!*

Cost is \$10 per person
Hors d’oeuvres
Coffee, tea, punch
Cash bar

RSVP at <http://www.lwv-rma.org> or 262-3730

We look forward to seeing you!



Coming Events!



May

- 4** Constitutional Convention
Position Consensus 7:00 PM
(BTH) This meeting is for members only.
- 9** LWVNYS Organ Donation/Voter Registration
Regional Workshop 11:00 AM (TBA)
- 14** Naturalization Ceremony 10:00 AM
(Monroe County Office Building)
- 14** Rochester Federation of Women's Clubs
Luncheon 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

18 Naturalization Ceremony (RIT)

27 ANNUAL MEETING 4:00 PM
(Locust Hill CC)

June

5-7 LWVNYS Convention

11 Naturalization Ceremony 10:00 AM
(Monroe County Office Building)

11 Naturalization Ceremony 1:00 PM
(Federal Building)

Be sure to check your email and our website for other events as they are scheduled!

April Forum: The Affordable Care Act - Photos



Sarah Liebschutz, Professor Emerita, SUNY, Brockport and LWV-RMA member



Kim Wynn of Coordinated Care Services



Christine Wagner of St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center



Bryan Hetherington of Empire Justice Center

Board meets monthly on the second Thursday of each month. Board meetings are open to all members.

Government Committee meets monthly. For details, call Elaine Schmidt at 530-7414.

Membership Committee meets monthly. For details, call Georgia DeGregorio at 787-9692.

10:00 AM Naturalization Ceremonies are held at Monroe County Office Building at 39 W. Main Street.

1:00 PM Naturalization Ceremonies are held at Federal Court House at 100 State Street.

Forums are open to the public. Calendar information is subject to change.

For more complete information, consult our website at www.LWV-RMA.org, call 262-3730 or e-mail us at info@lwv-rma.org



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
ROCHESTER METROPOLITAN AREA

PO Box 10573
Rochester, NY 14610
585-262-3730
www.LWV-RMA.org

Rochester VOTER

A Monthly Publication of the
League of Women Voters/Rochester Metropolitan Area

**JUNE VOTER
DEADLINE IS MAY 15!**



SPEAK UP, BE HEARD,
IF YOU DON'T SAY A WORD, EVERYTHING WILL STAY THE SAME WAY

Join the League Today!



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Check Amount: _____

Level of Membership: _____

Please send this form and your check payable to
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Rochester, NY 14610
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Chair, Membership

Goals of the League of Women Voters:

- To encourage informed citizen participation in government and politics
- To influence public policy through education and advocacy

*The Voter is a monthly publication of the LWV-RMA
Editor, Mary Hussong-Kallen
Layout/Design, Chris Burleigh*

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MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

Individual/Associate	\$75
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Carrie Chapman Catt	\$200
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Low income, call office	Sliding Scale