



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.

Inside this issue:

- Pros & Cons of Paid Family Leave Forum 1
- President's Corner 2
- March Forum 2
- Our Forums on YouTube 2
- Advocacy Update 3
- Membership Corner 3
- Voter Services 4
- Naturalization Update 4
- Election Services 4
- Sunchine Corner 5
- 2016 Annual Meeting 5
- Poverty Committee 6
- Capitol Beat Blog 6
- Do You Tweet? 6
- Who Represents You 6
- News We Can Use 6
- Amazon Smile 6
- Climate Change Forum Photos 6
- Susan B. Anthony Luncheon Photos 7
- Naturalization Photos 8
- Calendar 9
- First Fridays 9
- The LWV-RMA Online 9
- Leadership 10

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) and LWV-RMA present

The Pros and Cons of Paid Family Leave: How It Impacts New York's Employers and Employees

OUR EXPERT PANELISTS:

Blue Carreker – Organizer with Citizen Action of NY; Campaign Manager of Paid Family Leave Campaign

Greg Biryla – Executive Director of Unshackle Upstate

Larry Marx – Executive Director of The Children's Agenda

Yvette Pagano – CEO of CAR Engineering & Manufacturing

OUR DISTINGUISHED MODERATOR:

Katherine Smith – LWV-RMA's Advocacy Director and 1st Vice-President

Monday, March 21, at 7:00 PM

AAUW's Perkins Mansion

494 East Avenue

Refreshments will be served.

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

We look forward to seeing you!



Presidents' Corner

In 2 weeks Daylight Saving Time begins – can spring be far behind? We hope not!

As you'll note in reading this edition of The Voter, the League is even busier than usual.

In news from the board, we sadly accepted Patrina Freeman's resignation as Secretary and gratefully appointed Judy Sternberg to fill her term.

We've booked the Annual Meeting at Locust Hill Country Club on Thursday, June 2, at 4:00 PM. The cost will again be just \$10 per person. If you've never attended an Annual Meeting, please make this your first!

Gin Busack and the Voter Services committee are taking collaboration to new levels! They're joining forces with many community organizations to register voters and get them out to vote. If you have some time and would like to help some people make their voices heard for the first time, please consider helping with a voter registration event.

LWV-RMA will once again be participating in Vote411.org – a powerful tool for researching candidates and their positions on issues. Judy Weinstein coordinates this excellent resource.

Our popular brochure "Who Represents You" is nearly ready. The Monroe County Library System distributes it, but if you know of organizations who would like copies, please let us know.

First Friday attendance is growing! We hear great feedback on the mix of social and business topics as members (and sometimes future members) chat over lunch or coffee. Although we're scheduled from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM on the first Friday of each month, we often find a small group or two still "meeting" at 2:00 or later. We'd love to see you there...

Finally, our next forum is so timely: Paid Family Leave. It seems that chances are good that NYS may pass the legislation this year, and we all need to know more about it. Carole Hoffman has invited a strong panel of experts to help us understand the pros and cons, and the AAUW is co-sponsoring the event at the Perkins Mansion on 3/21.

We are so fortunate here in Rochester to have so many hard-working and well-informed members! For all that you do, for all that you attend, for all that you suggest and for all that you contribute, we offer our heartfelt thanks! You make democracy work so well in Rochester!

In League,

Gloria S. Read (gloell@rochester.rr.com)

Mary Hussong-Kallen (mmhk@rochester.rr.com)

March Forum: The Pros and Cons of Paid Family Leave

We hear frequent updates on the likelihood of Paid Family Leave being enacted in New York State this year. The stories of workers being forced to choose between keeping a job and taking care of a loved one can be heartbreaking. We wonder how (or if) employers will be able to hold jobs and cover the workload if an employee needs to take time off.

The League has been a strong supporter of the legislation, in an environment of fear, confusion, hope and politicking. The issues are complex – and the impact will be dramatic on all parties. Where can you go for reliable information?

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) and LWV-RMA will attempt to offer a balanced look at the issues and impacts in our upcoming forum, The Pros and Cons of Paid Family Leave: How It Impacts New York's Employers and Employees.

As always, we offer an expert panel:

Blue Carreker – Organizer with Citizen Action of NY; Campaign Manager of Paid Family Leave Campaign

Greg Biryla – Executive Director of Unshackle Up-state

Larry Marx – Executive Director of The Children's Agenda

Yvette Pagano – CEO of CAR Engineering & Manufacturing

Our moderator will be Katherine Smith, LWV-RMA's Advocacy Director and 1st Vice-President, who has followed this issue carefully.

Following the presentations, our panelists will be available for your questions. Refreshments will be served.

Please plan to join us on Monday, March 21, at 7:00 PM at AAUW's Perkins Mansion, 494 East Avenue.

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!

Advocacy Update

As League members all know well, 2016 is a Presidential Election year, and the action starts early. In NYS there is a primary on April 19 for registered Republicans and Democrats to select their party's candidate for US President.

Turnout for elections in Monroe County has been very low for primaries in recent years. LWVNYS and LWV-RMA work diligently to increase voters' participation in the electoral process. Our goals are to make it easy for citizens to vote and to expand voters' engagement in our democracy.

LWVNYS supports having only one Primary Day in June, but after all our years of lobbying 2016 may have as many as 3 Primary Election Days scheduled, plus Election Day on November 8.

In addition to holding only one June primary date in the future, LWVNYS has set goals of: increasing voter turnout by offering early voting, same day registration, no-excuse absentee voting, paperless form of registration, and better ballot design.

The District of Columbia and 37 states all have some form of early voting. LWVNYS supports implementing early voting in a manner that will allow comparable access to the polls for all eligible voters. In 2012 some states had more than 50% of ballots cast by Election Day. LWVNYS supports a NYS Constitutional Amendment to allow for no-excuse absentee voting to help increase the number of citizens voting each year. Additionally, secure online registration should (and could easily) be expanded to serve all eligible citizens.

The League has advocated for preregistration of 16 and 17 year olds to ensure their routine voting every election. LWV-RMA has a strong program in our area high schools and colleges to inform young citizens of the history of voting in the US and to register them. Thanks to Gin Busack, Phyllis Walker, Georgia DeGregorio, Beth Feldman, Gail Wilder, Ann Carmody and their teams (with the cooperation of teachers, administrators and student groups), our efforts on this front are very successful.

The League knows democracy works best when more voters can easily participate. With the centralized election records system for registration that NYS now employs, it can be relatively easy and not cost-prohibitive to have same-day registration. The District of Columbia and the 11 states which presently have this system have seen a 12% increase in voter turnout.

Finally to meet the League goal of increasing voter participation, we support improved ballot design. The improvements would be: a clear delineation

between offices and candidates, larger font and fill-in circles in black (not grey).

More information check <http://bit.ly/1RyWWWVK> for the League's Legislative Agenda.

Katherine Smith

Advocacy Chair and 1st Vice-President



Membership Corner

Thirty-one members attended our January 9 "Picnic in the Park" Program Planning event which was blessed by good weather for the 4th year in a row!

We opened with a quote found on Facebook, and it became the theme for the day:

"Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in."

Four local standing committees presented updates on work they have done in the last year as supported by national positions. This was followed by a presentation by Joan Rosenthal about the Nurse Family Partnership program. All members were encouraged to join a committee, as good work is being done but so much more could be accomplished with another member or two.

Lunch was followed by a spirited discussion over a proposal made by LWVUS suggesting that we allocate our human and financial resources toward a primary focus of supporting a campaign entitled "Making Democracy Work." The board reviewed the final decision and agreed that LWV-RMA should indeed lend our support, and asked Georgia DeGregorio to notify National. One caveat was expressed clearly: members supported the concept but only if work on other positions is not neglected.

I wish to thank the Energy, Poverty and Government Committees (including Observer Corps and Voter Services), as well as the Education Study Group for their hard work in pulling together presentations and outstanding handouts and PowerPoint presentation. Bravo!

Georgia DeGregorio

Membership Chair

NOTE: This article was inadvertently omitted last month. We extend apologies to Georgia and our readers.

Voter Services: Ready for a Great Year!

February began with our Education Study Group being honored by a request from LWVNY Executive Director Laura Bierman that we share our popular PowerPoint presentation on the history and importance of the vote, and that we allow her to further share with our sister Leagues. This presentation was developed by the Rochester League (Beth Feldman, Hasana Martin, Mary Olinger, Camille Clayton, Judy Sternberg, Judy Wadsworth, Lois Winterkorn and Georgia DeGregorio) and the Wayne County League (Ellie Drake), and is used as a Civics education and voter registration tool for registering seniors in our visits to City School District classrooms. (Members who attended January's program planning meeting enjoyed a preview of this popular presentation.)

Our college initiative, under the guidance of Gail Wilder and Ann Carmody, continues. Lois Winterkorn and Gin Busack met with the University of Rochester Political Activism Group leader to explore additional opportunities to work together both on the campus and in the community, while Judy Sternberg, Alison Wilder and Don Wilder responded to an invitation by the Rochester Institute of Technology to take part in their Spring 2015 Community Service Fair. We also began discussion with Monroe Community College to expand our current activities to include the Damon City Campus students.

The Rochester Voter Alliance initiative continues plans for what appears to be a busy registration season. This group, co-sponsored by The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester and our League, is a collaboration of community and faith groups which works to encourage both voter registration and participation, focusing on areas in the City with lower participation connected to high rates of poverty. Currently, our group includes Strong Memorial Hospital, the Susan B. Anthony House, Coffee Connection, NYCLU, Center for Disability Rights, First Unitarian Church, Pathstone Housing Projects, LaCumbre, YWCA, Wilson Commencement Park, St. Peter's Kitchen, Faith Community Alliance of Greater Rochester, GRCC/Faith in Action, Planned Parenthood of Central and Western New York, Raging Grannies, St. Francis Xavier Cabrini, Islamic Center of Rochester, Highland Family Medicine and Cameron Community Ministries. The "season" will run from June 1st through September 30th. **WE ARE SEEKING ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY GROUP PARTICIPATION AND VOLUNTEERS TO REGISTER VOTERS.** If you know of any other groups or if you might personally be interested in working with us, please contact Gin Busack (ginbusack@aol.com or 585-467-6131). A training session with the Board of Elections is scheduled for May 10 at the Center for Disability Rights.

The common thread in all of our ongoing activities – whether at naturalization services, high schools, colleges, inner city locations or possible future sites – is the need for volunteers. Pick your interest, we will find a spot for you!

Gin Busack
Voter Services Chair

Naturalization Update

On February 11th, Sheila Abeling, representing the League, helped candidates register to vote at the Naturalization ceremony at the Monroe County Office Building at 10:00 AM. Fifty candidates became new citizens. Betty Schaeffer assisted in welcoming the citizens. Also on that day at 1:00 PM, Sheila Abeling met 51 new citizens at the Federal Building. Camille Clayton volunteered to help the League register the citizens to vote. Thank you, Betty and Camille, for volunteering!


The 2016 Naturalization Schedule is on the League website (lwv-rma.org). Please check it out. We'd love to have new volunteers participate in these very moving ceremonies. If you are interested, please contact Sheila Abeling at 585-223-6819 or sheiler162007@gmail.com. You won't be disappointed!

Sheila Abeling
Naturalization Services Coordinator and 2nd Vice-President

Election Services

The New York State Presidential Primary will be held on Tuesday, April 19th. The next two primaries (Congressional, locals) will be on Tuesday, June 28th, and Tuesday, September 13th. The General Election will be November 8th. If you have moved, want to change political party or for some reason need to register to vote, please do so soon! We have a busy election season!! Remember this is every American's right! Your vote is a privilege. Help someone register to vote and then help get them to the polls when it's time to do so.

Sheila Abeling
Election Services Coordinator and 2nd Vice-President

LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK! 
We know you'll "like" us!
www.facebook.com/lwvofrma

Sunshine Corner

**GREECE WORKSHOP 2/10/2016
OBSERVED BY CHRIS PRYOR AND
ELAINE SCHMIDT**



The meeting followed the stated agenda. The board went into executive session for a short time and then resumed to consider other agenda items. Discussion could be heard by the members of the public who were there. No issues with the facility regarding public participation.

No LWV issues were noted.

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

**GREECE TOWN BOARD MEETING 2/18/2016
OBSERVED BY CHRIS PRYOR**

Members of the public were encouraged to state concerns about proposed projects. The concern of most citizens was the proposal to operate a charter school on the site of the former Mother of Sorrows School. Terra Science and Education, Inc. seeks to operate a high school to be known as Rochester Academy Charter School on the property located at 5000 Mount read Blvd.

Possible issue for LWV-RMA is zombie homes in Greece.

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

**IRONDEQUOIT TOWN BOARD 2/18/2016
OBSERVED BY ELAINE SCHMIDT**

An issue regarding a private construction project in Irondequoit was brought to the attention of the Town Board by a citizen during public input. The citizen is concerned that building codes are not being followed.

Several promotions and hires were made at the meeting. Appointments to the Irondequoit Conservation Board were made (term is 2 years).

No LWV issues were noted at the meeting; however, Irondequoit has zombie homes that are being reviewed.

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

**MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE 2/9/2016
OBSERVED BY ELAINE SCHMIDT**

Shadow Spirit was commended by the County for its work with people who have eating disorders. A 20%

mortality rate is associated with these diseases, the highest mortality rate of any mental illnesses.

Brigit Hurley of The Children's Agenda spoke in support of child care subsidies and the Nurse Family Program.

An amendment to the resolution creating an Office of Public Integrity was passed unanimously. That office was given subpoena power and the director (a 5 year appointment) could only be removed for cause. The added strengths were applauded by both parties.

The Daily Record and the Rochester Business Journal were designated as the official newspapers for notices by the County. As he has for the several past years, Legislator Barouth proposed that the Democrat and Chronicle be added to the list as an additional available option. It was voted down again along party lines.

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



It's nearly time and you will be WISE (Warmly Invited and Strongly Encouraged) to attend our Annual Meeting!

Please plan to join us on Thursday, June 2, 2016 at 4:00 PM at Locust Hill Country Club.

Vote for:

- New slate of candidates to our Board of Directors and Nominating Committee
- Annual budget for 2016-2017
- Honor Milestone League members
- Celebrate Carrie Chapman Catt & Making Democracy Work Awards
- Acknowledge the members who earned You Make Us Proud Awards this year

Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, punch, coffee, tea, cash bar – and wonderful company

Cost is just \$10 again this year!

RSVP at <http://www.lwv-rma.org> – we look forward to seeing you!

Poverty Committee: An Invitation for You to Help

Do you want to help our committee look into the Smarter Cities Challenge Report?

The report is a very detailed presentation, offering recommendations to the Rochester Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative. We are currently studying it and developing questions to ask different stakeholders in personal interviews. The more eyes involved in the process, the better our research will be. Our goal is to present a program in the fall on the status of Initiative.

If this sounds like the challenge you've been looking for, please contact us at 585-787-9692 or georgiatd1@gmail.com. Currently, we meet every two weeks at United Way, 75 College St, with the next meeting scheduled on March 7 at 11:00 AM.

Georgia DeGregorio
Poverty Committee Chair

From LWNYS

Visit Capitol Beat Blog by LWNYS Legislative Director Barbara Bartoletti and LWNYS Director of Program and Policy Jennifer Wilson! You'll find the inside story on many NYS government news events here. If you haven't visited before, be sure to check it out, and then make it a habit when the Legislature is in session: www.lwvny-capitolbeat.blogspot.com/

Do You Tweet?

If you use Twitter, consider following us! You'll find great information on many topics. Look for [@LWVrochesterNY](https://twitter.com/LWVrochesterNY) next time you're online!



Who Represents You

Our annual brochure "Who Represents You" will soon be 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 Voter Services Chair Gin Busack, ginbusack@aol.com.

News We Can Use

Do You Have...

Comments?

Suggestions?

News We Can Use?

Please contact The Voter at:

lwvrma-voter@rochester.rr.com

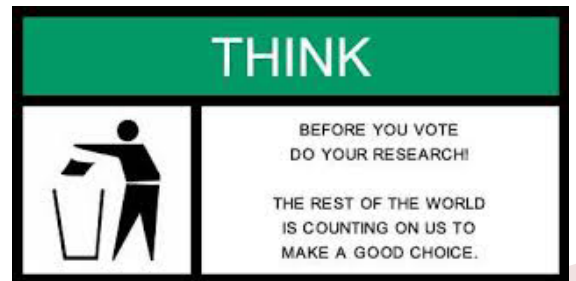
Amazon Smile

The state League has joined a new program to help raise funds. AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support the state League every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) you'll find the same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a 0.5% of the purchase price to the state League's Education Foundation. To shop at Amazon Smile, simply go to [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) instead of just amazon.com and search for the League of Women Voters of NYS as your selected charitable organization.

Climate Change Forum Photos - February 22



Susan B. Anthony Luncheon Photos



Naturalization Photos





Coming Events!



March

- 1** Board Meeting (6:30 PM at Asbury First United Methodist Church, East Avenue)
- 4** First Friday (11:00 AM – 1:00 PM at Corner Bakery Café)
- 10** Naturalization Ceremony (10:00 AM at Monroe County Office Building)
- 10** Naturalization Ceremony (at George Eastman Museum TBA)
- 15** Book Club: *Waiting for Snow in Havana* by Carlos Eire (1:00 PM at Greenhouse Cafe, 2271 East Main Street, Rochester)
- 21** Forum: Paid Family Leave (7:00 PM at AAUW's Perkins Mansion)

April

- 1** First Friday (11:00 AM – 1:00 PM at Corner Bakery Café)
- 5** Board Meeting (6:30 PM at Asbury First United Methodist Church, East Avenue)
- 11** Forum: Catherine Cerulli of the Susan B. Anthony Center at UofR
- 14** Naturalization Ceremony (1:00 PM at Federal Building)
- 21** Naturalization Ceremony (at Minerva DeLand School TBA)

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

First Fridays

Are you free for lunch or a mid-day coffee break? If so, we'd like to spend it with you – and note our new location: the Corner Bakery Café in College Town!

When: First Friday of the month between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM

Where: 1367 Mt. Hope Avenue (free parking behind)

What: Chatting with other League members – topics are up to you

If you've wanted to get to know more members, here's an opportunity – because we think the work we love to do is more fun when we get to know one another better.

See you on:

- Friday, March 4
- Friday, April 1
- Friday, May 6
- Friday, June 3

*FREE PARKING (ramp garage and open air lot)
BEHIND THE RESTAURANT!*

The LWV-RMA Online

WEBSITE:

<http://www.lwv-rma.org>

YOU TUBE:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJc9NCupn9AhZpH2k83m5_g
or <http://bit.ly/1XY8Bju>

TWITTER:

<https://twitter.com> sign in (or set up an account) then search for @LWVrochesterNY

FACEBOOK:

<https://www.facebook.com/lwvofrma/?ref=bookmarks>
or <http://on.fb.me/1Rju80N>

Board meets monthly on the first Tuesday 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

**APRIL VOTER
DEADLINE IS MARCH 15!**



- | | |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
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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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We know you'll "like" us!
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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
League of Women Voters/RMA to:
LWV/RMA
PO Box 10573
Rochester, NY 14610
or join us online at: www.lwv-rma.org/join.php

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

Individual/Associate	\$75
Household	\$105
Susan B. Anthony/Frederick Douglass	\$150
Carrie Chapman Catt	\$200
Student (full-time/under 25)	\$25
Low income, call office	Sliding Scale