

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. Non-citizens and those under 18 can be associate members.

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Join Us for Our November Forum

Our Local Attorney General's Office: What's In It For You?

What the office does and how it can help with our concerns and problems

Presented by

Ted O'Brien, Assistant Attorney General-In-Charge (AAGIC)

Ben Bruce, Assistant Attorney General

Monday, November 14

7:00 P.M.

Asbury United Methodist Church

1050 East Avenue, Rochester, NY

Handicapped Accessible/Parking in Rear

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

We look forward to seeing you!



Presidents' Corner

Temperatures and leaves are falling, but we in the League are not losing a beat in this busy time of year!

In our ongoing effort to help make our community aware of services and resources offered by various government agencies, our October forum featured Monroe County Board of Elections Commissioners Tom Ferrarese and David Van Varick. What a timely topic! They were also featured on "Connections with Evan Dawson" on WXXI 1370AM. Be sure to check our YouTube channel soon if you missed the forum.

In the same vein, our November forum will present Ted O'Brien, Assistant Attorney General In Charge (AAGIC), Rochester Office, and Assistant Attorney General Ben Bruce, who will provide an overview of the local AG's office, as well as some of their "affirmative" cases. These are matters where they represent the people of the State of New York against perpetrators of scams and frauds upon the public, and enforce compliance with laws designed to protect consumers, protect people's civil rights, and much more. Mark your calendar and bring your questions: Monday, November 14, at 7:00 P.M. at Asbury First United Methodist Church!

For the fifth consecutive year, we co-sponsored a candidate debate with WROC-TV News 8. This year, we offered the only debate between candidates for the 25th US Congressional District, incumbent Louise Slaughter and challenger Mark Assini. Media coverage and reviews have been outstanding – we're so pleased that our ongoing partnership with Channel 8 helps voters cast informed ballots. If you missed it, be sure to watch it online: <http://www.rochesterfirst.com/news/local-news/25th-congressional-debate>.

Our Advocacy Committee is looking for members! Each year, members visit our elected representatives to present the League's Legislative Agenda, then visit again as we have specific pieces of legislation or issues we support. In addition, committee members help keep other League members up-to-date on the progress of legislation or on issues in the public eye with articles in The Voter. The League receives guidance from LWVNY and partners with several local organizations on a variety of issues, and Katherine Smith will be available for mentoring, so you won't be left alone to learn about the issues or how to advocate. If this sounds like something you'd like to try, please contact me at president@lwv-rma.org.

Thanks for all you do to make our League such a dynamic force in our community. Hope to see you at First Friday on November 4 and at the polls on November 8!

In League,

Mary Hussong-Kallen
president@lwv-rma.org

VOTE411.org Voting Guide

The League of Women Voters has developed and uploaded VOTE411.org, a digital voters' guide for all election related information. This "one-stop-shop" includes registration deadlines, absentee and early voting information, detailed information about the candidates on your ballot, polling place locations and ID requirements for voting, where they exist.

Enter your address at VOTE411.org to build your personalized voting guide that includes which offices and ballot questions you will see when you vote, as well as nearby candidate debates and forums, so you can hear directly from the candidates on the issues that matter most to you. This year VOTE411.org will include approximately 100,000 candidate and ballot measure details and help voters compare candidate responses to League questions.

Voting allows you to make an impact on critical issues and policies and VOTE411.org has all the information you need to make sure you are able to cast your ballot.

Information provided by Chris Carson, Chair, League of Women Voters Education Fund



Milestones in Women's Rights

- Carrie Chapman Catt's Birthday (January 9)
- The League's Birthday (February 14)
- Women's History Month (March)
- Anniversary of the Enactment of Title IX (June 23)
- Anniversary of the Seneca Falls Convention (July 19-20)
- Women Equality Day/ Anniversary of the Passage of the 19th Amendment (August 26)

**Democracy is not a
spectator sport.
Tag! You're It!**

November Forum

OUR LOCAL ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE: WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

I recently attended a gathering of local agencies called together to help a newly-appointed Assistant Attorney General learn about regional concerns in the area of civil rights.

The problems reported included lead contamination in homes and schools, discontinued stipends for prisoners upon release, housing discrimination, and many more! This new Assistant AG noted that her office doesn't only look for big, high-profile cases—it also prosecutes breaches of local ordinances and state laws.

I didn't know we had a regional AG office in Rochester, let alone why I might contact it. I had thought of civil rights as a federal issue. The meeting made me wonder how much we know about the non-elected parts of our government.

It turns out that former NYS Senator Ted O'Brien heads the Rochester office – and he readily accepted our invitation to speak to the League and the community at-large about the local AG's office – who they are, what they do, and what they can do if we contact them with our concerns and problems. Ted and Assistant AG Ben Bruce will provide an overview of the local office, including what are called "affirmative" cases. These are matters where the AG's office represents the people of the State of New York against perpetrators of scams and frauds upon the public, and enforces compliance with laws designed to protect consumers, protect people's civil rights, and much more.

You're WISE (Warmly Invited and Strongly Encouraged) to bring your questions to the Asbury First United Methodist Church on Monday, November 14, at 7:00 P.M. And please share this invitation!

Mary Hussong-Kallen
President, LWV-RMA



Spanish Visitors Meet with LWV-RMA President and Attend Debate

On October 18, LWV-RMA President Mary Hussong-Kallen spoke about the League to a group of political science professionals from Spain via the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program, locally administered by Rochester Global Connections. That evening, they attended the candidate debate the LWV-RMA co-sponsored with WROC-TV that featured Congresswoman Louise Slaughter and her opponent Mark Assini.



LWV-RMA President Hussong-Kallen meeting with Spanish political science professionals on October 18. Later that day they were guests at the debate between Congresswoman Louise Slaughter and opponent Mark Assini.



Fair Election Practices Campaign (FEPC):

The FEPC (Fair Election Practices Campaign) has been very quiet. A good thing indeed! There is still plenty of time before the election for trouble to brew, but, thankfully, so far, so good. Jim Morris's Hearing Panel is fully staffed and ready to go if needed. The filing deadline for complaints is Friday, November 4, at noon. Let's all cross our fingers that there will be no need to meet and that this will be a year of fair campaigns.

Thank you to all Hearing Panel members who volunteered for this project.

The Committee: Jim Morris (Chairperson), Rob Brown, Ralph Esposito, Lois Giess, Channing Philbrick. **The Alternates:** Tom Frey, Peter Knapp, Susan Kramarsky, Jim Peters, and Sue Roberts. Your participation in this project is appreciated. Our League website lww-rma.org has FEPC updates.

Any League member interested in helping with planning FEPC 2017 is asked to contact Sheila Abeling. Your help would be very appreciated!

Lynda Garner Goldstein
FEPC Committee Chairperson
lyndagoldstein@gmail.com

Sheila Abeling
1st Vice President
sheiler162007@gmail.com

Naturalizations:

On October 13, Marcia Eisenberg welcomed new citizens at the Monroe County Office Building. Also on that day at the Federal Building, Joan Rosenthal met candidates for Naturalization. On November 10, Mimi Wilson met candidates for citizenship at the Monroe County Office Building. The George Eastman House/Museum was also a venue for Naturalization on November 10. Kathy Farrar and Lois Winterkorn attended that ceremony. Thank you to all League volunteers! Anyone interested in attending a ceremony, please contact Sheila at sheiler162007@gmail.com or 585-223-6819. You won't be disappointed! It's a wonderful opportunity to see our Democracy at work.

Sheila Abeling
Naturalization Committee Chairperson
sheiler162007@gmail.com or 223-6819

The Honorable Elizabeth Wolford with new citizens.



We Need Your Help!

The League is helping the Monroe County Board of Elections to open absentee ballots on Thursday, November 10. We will need volunteers for this League fundraiser. Please consider volunteering!

We will be at the Board of Elections Service Center at 2595 Brighton Henrietta Townline Rd. at 9:00 AM.

Contact Sheila at 585-223-6819 or sheiler162007@gmail.com if you can help us out. Thanks!

December Consensus Meeting on Legislative Procedures Update

Two years ago we participated in a LWVNYS consensus on whether there should be term limits for members of the state legislature. While the consensus was against term limits, many local leagues expressed an interest in having the terms of legislators be longer than the current two years. At the 2015 LWVNYS State Convention, the delegates approved the Board-recommended Program Update Study of our position on Legislative Procedures. The current study is looking at the section of the Legislative Procedures position that reads:

“The legislature should continue to serve as a part-time body. Terms for legislators should be longer, and possibly staggered.”

There are three parts to the consensus:

- Limits in outside income for state legislators
- Term lengths for state legislators
- Limits on length in leadership positions and committee chairs.

Please join us on Wednesday, December 8, at 4:00 P.M. at Brighton Town Hall for a presentation on these issues and a discussion of the consensus questions.

Judy Weinstein

Government committee member
j.weinstein.roc@gmail.com

**Bad
Politicians
Are Elected by
Good People Who
Don't Vote**

LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK! 

We know you'll "like" us!

www.facebook.com/lwvofrma

Poverty Study Group Preparing Spring Forum

The Poverty Committee met with representatives from the Catholic Family Center [CFC] and The Community Place on September 30. We discussed CFC plans for implementing the contract they had received from Rochester Metropolitan Anti-Poverty Initiative [RMAPI] to address poverty reduction in the neighborhoods of Beechwood/Marketplace Heights/EMMA.

This “Mentors for Success” pilot will provide a person-centered approach connecting people to jobs and strengthening support systems that help them retain jobs. Mobility Mentoring and the Family Independence Initiative [FII] are two creative approaches for families to gain access to connections, choice and capital. The FII program has been used in Boston successfully and mentors from Boston will be advising the local effort.

The committee, which includes Larry Burnette, Sandra Frankel, Hasana Martin, and Chris Pryor, met again on October 28 to discuss these programs and to prepare for a forum in the Spring. We welcome your joining us and bringing your ideas and questions.

Georgia DeGregorio

Chairperson, Poverty Study Group, LWV-US MLD Shur Fellow
585-787-9692 or georgiatd1@gmail.com



**I WANT YOU
TO CONTACT CONGRESS
ONCE A QUARTER**

Sunshine Corner



**MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE,
OCTOBER 11, 2016
OBSERVED BY ELAINE SCHMIDT**

The Legislature voted to accept additional funding from the NYS Department of Health and extend the time period for support of the Monroe County Nurse-Family Partnership Program.

The Legislature accepted additional funding from the NYS Department of Health for Lead Poisoning Prevention Program as well.

A budget for the Office of Public Integrity was established by a transfer of funds from the Contingency Fund.

Judy Sternberg of the League of Women Voters, Becky Elwell of RocActs, Larry Marx of Children's Agenda, Bridget Hurley of Children's Agenda, and Linda Pratt of ROCActs all spoke in support of \$1,000,000 more for child care in the next budget. Other public speakers spoke on behalf of more support for businesses owned by veterans, pre-school special services for autistic children, and disability insurance for Monroe County Probation Department.

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

WEBSTER TOWN BOARD, OCTOBER 13, 2016 OBSERVED BY LOIS WINTERKORN

The Town Board discussed a contract with Community Champions regarding zombie homes. Community Champions is already working with Greece and Gates.

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

Elaine Schmidt
Observer Corps Chairperson
e.schmidt8@frontier.com



Ida Holloran and Lois Winterkorn welcoming participants.

October Forum: Voting in Monroe County 2016

On October 26, Monroe County Board of Elections Commissioners Thomas F. Ferrarese and David Van Varick reviewed security measures to protect voters and votes, issues with paper ballots, and election reforms in other states.



Monroe County Board of Elections Commissioners Thomas F. Ferrarese and David Van Varick with LWV-RMA Member Mary Myers who organized the program.



LWV-RMA President Mary Hussong-Kallen meeting with Channel 13 reporter.



Hasana Martin and Sheila Abeling before the meeting.

Address to Monroe County Legislature

The following "Address to Monroe County Legislature in Support of Increased Childcare Subsidies" was presented by LWV-RMA Board Secretary Judy Sternberg at the October 12 meeting of the Legislature. (This address and those of other presenting agencies relies in part on information from our 2013 CGR Report, Child Care Subsidies in Monroe County, which was made possible by the Bee Bibby Endowment Fund.)

Good Evening, my name is Judy Sternberg, and I'm here representing the League of Women Voters – Rochester Metropolitan Area.

The League is a non-partisan organization, that among our other missions, studies and advocates for selected policy issues in our community.

Both the NYS League and our local League have a long history of strong support for quality childcare, including pushing for increased appropriations to subsidize the cost of quality childcare for low income working families.

And so here we are again today.

The League does not believe any of you are uninformed on the benefits that stable, reliable, quality childcare provides to struggling families and to our county.

- Reliable childcare that enables parents to stay in the labor force and be productive and trusted employees who show up on time, put in their full scheduled hours and optimize their earning potential.
- Stable childcare that provides peace of mind to parents and reduces the ripple effects of stress on families.
- Quality childcare that stimulates the cognitive, social and motor skills of children and prepares them for a more successful entry into the world of school.

The League does not believe any of you are unaware of the growing numbers of the working poor in our County.

Yet for many years not only have the number of subsidies to qualifying parents not risen, they have been cut. Funding now covers only about 20% of eligible children.

The stated bottom line has always been "inadequate resources" and the County has always claimed it was the State's responsibility to provide more funds. In truth it takes increased funding at all levels of government, Federal, State and County.

Well this year the State has done that. NYS has

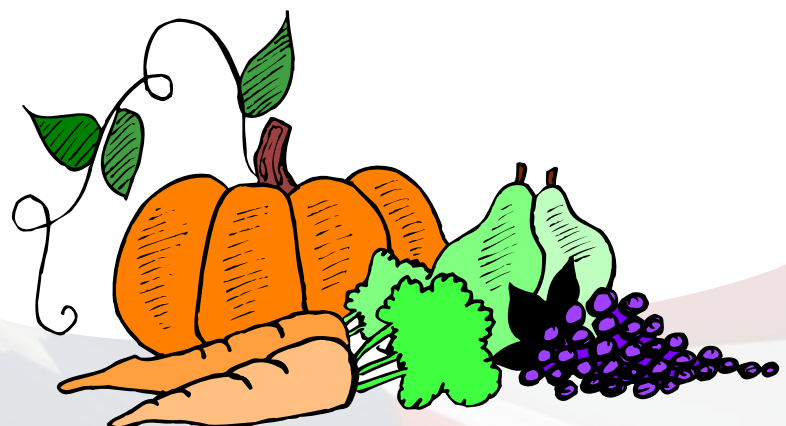
earmarked substantial sums of money for childcare subsidies.

The League of Women Voters – Rochester Metro Area believes Monroe County has received more state monies and is now in a position to raise the number of funded subsidies. We call on the County Legislature to now appropriate those funds.

Additionally, we call upon the Legislature to move ahead to meet the new federally mandated 12-month eligibility system. The new system will bring new expenses and we believe the County should begin allocating increased monies towards that purpose.

In this electoral year when citizen frustration with government has become so evident, you have the opportunity to get something of consequence done for many of our county residents.

The League respectfully urges you to do so.





Coming Events!



November

- 4 First Friday (11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M., I-Square)
- 8 **ELECTION DAY!!!**
- 10 Naturalization Ceremony (11:00 A.M. at Monroe County Office Building)
- 10 Naturalization Ceremony (1:00 P.M. at Federal Building)
- 14 LWV-RMA Forum (7:00 P.M. at Asbury United Methodist Church)
- 17 U.N. Day
- 17 LWV-RMA Board Meeting (3:00 P.M., Asbury First UMC)
- 24 Thanksgiving!

December

- 2 First Friday (11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M., I-Square)
- 8 Naturalization Ceremony (11:00 A.M. at Monroe County Office Building)
- 8 Naturalization Ceremony (1:00 P.M. at Federal Building)
- 8 Consensus meeting on Legislative Procedure, (4:00 P.M. at Brighton Town Hall)



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



First Fridays

Join League colleagues for lunch or a mid-day coffee break each First Friday of the month, 11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. at I-Square, 400 Bakers Park, at Titus Avenue, Irondequoit, NY 14617.

First Fridays provide us all with an opportunity to get to know one another by chatting informally.

The work we love to do is more fun when we know one another better.

We hope to see you on:

- | | | |
|------------|------------|--------|
| November 4 | February 3 | May 5 |
| December 2 | March 3 | June 2 |
| January 6 | April 7 | |

Board of Directors meets the second Thursday of each month at 3:00 P.M. at Asbury First UMC. Board meetings are open to all members.

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

On second Thursday of each month at 10:00 A.M. Naturalization Ceremonies are held at Monroe County Office Building at 39 W. Main Street.

On second Thursday of each month at 1:00 P.M. 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

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Rochester VOTER

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

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**DECEMBER VOTER
DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 15!**



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, Judy Wadsworth
Layout/Design, Chris Burleigh*

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

LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK! 
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Join the League Today!



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

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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