



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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Save the Date for Our Annual Meeting!

May 31, 2012

11:30 am to 2:15 pm

Locust Hill Country Club

2000 Jefferson Road

All are Welcome!

11:30 am Reception/Registration

12:00 noon Lunch Served

12:30 pm Keynote Speaker, Sandra Doorley

1st Woman District Attorney in Monroe County (see p. 3)

1:00 pm Recognition of Members

1:15 pm Business Meeting, League Members Only

Business Meeting Agenda:

Election of 2012 - 2013 Officers and Board Members

Proposed Local Positions

Budget 2012 - 2013

Members are encouraged to attend and participate in the business meeting at 1:15 PM.

A quorum is required to convene the business meeting.

Lunch choices: Vegetable Wellington with Julienne Vegetables, baked in

Phyllo Pastry with Roasted Red Pepper Sauce

OR

Chicken with Smoked Tomato Beurre Blanc

\$30 for League Members, \$45 for non-league visitors

Make check out to LWV/RMA and mail to

PO Box 10573, Rochester, NY 14610. Indicate your luncheon choice.

Deadline for luncheon: May 22, 2012

Visit the High Acres Landfill at our May GO-SEE Tour! May 3, 2012

See article on page 3 for details!

Since Last Month

Naturalization Ceremonies. The following members were or will be present to welcome the new citizens:

April 12 - Federal Building-1:00 pm-Sheila Abeling, Kathy Farrar

April 19 - Minerva Deland School, Fairport-10:00 am-Joan Rosenthal, Mimi Wilson

May 10 - Monroe County Office Building-10:00 am - Marcia Eisenberg

June 7 - Federal Building-1:00 pm - Sheila Abeling

June 14 - Monroe County Office Building - 10:00 am-Marcia Eisenberg

Thank you to Mary Hussong Kallen and Sheila Abeling for registering students to vote at Brighton High School on March 2nd. The school had their annual "Wellness Fair". The students were very enthusiastic!

On April 24th, the League will be opening absentee ballots for the 2012 Presidential Primary. Thank you to our volunteers Shirley Eberly, Chris Burleigh, Mary Sussong Kallen and Sheila Abeling!

WHO REPRESENTS YOU 2012 has been published and is being distributed. It is a wonderful publication that is a guide to your elected officials. If you need any copies, please contact Sheila Abeling at 223-6819 or sheiler162007@gmail.com.

Sheila Abeling, *VP Voter Services, LWV/RMA*

President's Report

Another year for LWV/RMA is almost complete and the Board of Directors is pleased to present the annual reports to the members. See directors' reviews for 2011-2012 in this issue.

Plans for our annual meeting on May 31st can be found in this Voter. Thanks to Beth Keigher and Gin Busack for chairing this year's event. We will have as our speaker, Sandra Doorley, Monroe County District Attorney, enjoy lunch and hold our business meeting at Locust Hill Country Club. The slate of officers and elected directors recommended by the nominating committee are printed in this issue. Thanks to chair, Sally Brown, and committee members, Gin Busack, Brian Valenti, Lois Winterkorn and Julie Johnson.

Thanks to John Schmitt you'll find the board recommended 2012-2013 LWV/RMA budget for your study. Thanks to Ernest DuBois and the By-Laws committee members, Anna Bundschuh, Gin Busack and Beth Keigher.

As the year ends and my terms as President are over, I thank all the members who have been patient, supportive and understanding during this transitional period. Not receiving the Voter in the mail, not having phone calls returned immediately and mail opened in a timely fashion has been an adjustment for all members. Through it all, our members' continued encouragement has made it possible for the LWV/RMA to remain a strong voice for informed voters in our community.

Katherine Smith, *President LWV/RMA*



We've Gone Digital and We Need Your HELP!

The League of Women Voters/Rochester Metropolitan Area has gone digital! If you know someone who hasn't been getting their edition of **The Voter**, it's because we don't have their email address!

Please have them provide us with their email address as soon as possible so they can receive their copy of The Voter in a timely manner. **The League of Women Voters DOES NOT sell member information of any kind to anyone and WILL NEVER DO SO in the future.** If they don't have a computer, please tell them to call the office at 585-262-3730 to request a printed copy.

It's fast, it's fun, it's easy! Just have them send an email to pr@lwv-rma.org and put **add my email address** in the subject line. We'll update our member information so they'll get their Voter!

Please Help Us!

May GO-SEE Tour! Visiting High Acres Landfill

May 3, 2012 marks our 13th Annual GO-SEE Tour (rain or shine)!

Members, visitors and guests welcome.

Meet at Applebee's Restaurant (northwest corner of strip mall Rt. 250/Rt. 31) in Perinton.

Board the school bus which will take us to the site where we will visit the landfill and learn about all the changes and improvements that have occurred in landfills over the years. The bus will return us to Applebee's for lunch (you pay).

Have you ever stopped to wonder about where your garbage ends up after you throw it away? High Acres is not just a place where trash is buried and never thought of again. This facility, as well as the Mill Seat Landfill in Bergen, has a renewable energy plant where methane gas is collected and converted into energy that is sold back to the national grid. Landfills must always deal with the issue of getting rid of methane and while most places burn it away, Waste Management has tapped into the concept of making it useful as electricity. Currently, enough energy is collected to power 9,000 homes. High Acres is in the process of applying for a permit to expand the operation so that more energy can be created.

Waste Management works hard to incorporate natural wildlife habitats into its facilities. As scavengers, seagulls are naturally attracted to landfills and often become a nuisance. But, High Acres has introduced falcons, which are birds of prey and, in turn, help keep the seagulls at bay (no pun intended). For more information about this facility visit: <http://www.highacreslandfill.com>.

From blogs.rochester.edu/thegreendandelion/2010/08/visiting-high-acres-landfill.

The LWV/RMA has a history of advocating for safe landfills and in the past testified several times before the county legislature regarding proposed landfill sites.

Directions:

From the north: Route 250 south, through Fairport and almost to Route 31; turn right into strip mall at the traffic light (just before intersection with Route 31). School bus and Applebee's will be apparent.

From the north and west: Route 490 east and exit to route 31 east; turn left at Route 250 and left again at next traffic light into strip mall and Applebee's.

Questions, contact Jane Schmitt at 585-334-0588 or mjane@rochester.rr.com.

Jane Schmitt, *VOTER Editor*

Sandra Doorley

Sandra Doorley is the District Attorney for Monroe County, New York and the first female to hold that office. Doorley took office in January 2012, succeeding Michael Green for whom she served as First Assistant District Attorney.

For the last twenty years, Sandra Doorley has successfully prosecuted thousands of criminal cases. In her career as an Assistant District Attorney, Doorley prosecuted many high profile cases. Recently, she was appointed to lead the Appeals Division within the DA's office.

Doorley has become a known leader in the prosecution of cold cases using DNA evidence and has been successful in obtaining indictments and convictions on many cold cases, including the 1976 murder of a young girl in Rochester and the conviction of a serial offender for 1995 and 1996 murders involving sexual assault.

In January 2011, Sandra was honored by the New York State District Attorney's Association with the Robert M. Morgenthau Award in recognition for her professional accomplishments, honesty, integrity and commitment to the fair and ethical administration of justice.

Doorley obtained a Bachelor's Degree from the University at Albany and received her law degree from Syracuse University.

For more information go to: <http://sandradoorley.com>

Observer Corps Annual Report

Members of the Observer Corps were quite active this year! In addition to observing various town board meetings and the county legislature, we reached out to the community in an attempt to gain new members by hosting tables at the Greece Ridge Mall and Market Place Mall. We were joined by Sheila Gargan who successfully registered several people to vote. Quite soon after that, we presented our Sunshine Forum with representatives from TV Channels 10,13 and 8 sharing their experiences, as reporters, with the Sunshine Laws.

Many thanks to our observers: Gin Busack, Julie Johnson, Georgia deGregorio, Brian Valenti, Jane & John Schmitt, Ida Holleran, Elaine Schmidt and Sula Baxter.

Elaine Schmidt, *Chair of Observer Corps*

Voter Services Annual Report 2012

The League has been represented at the bi-monthly Naturalization ceremonies by Sheila Abeling, Marcia Eisenberg, Kathy Farrar, Beth Feldman, Barb Hendry, Joan Rosenthal, Mimi Wilson, and Lois Winterkorn. League members explain to new citizens what registering to vote means and then helps them complete voter registration forms. At the ceremonies, we have distributed more than 1,500 registration forms this calendar year.

We published our brochure **WHO REPRESENTS YOU** 2012. Five thousand brochures were printed and are being distributed to various community organizations, including libraries and the Board of Elections. The League was awarded a grant for \$5,000 from the Rochester Area Community Foundation to cover publishing **WHO REPRESENTS YOU** from 2008 to 2012.

League volunteers opened absentee ballots for the Board of Elections at the September Primary, November General Election and the April Presidential Primary. We have wonderful, reliable volunteers in the League!

Voter registration drives were successful. We discussed the process of voting and helped to register those qualified to vote at several events and places: General Hospital's "Spring into Safety", St. John Missionary Baptist Church's Block Fair, Constitution Day at Nazareth College, "Books Sandwiched In" at the Rundel Library, Brighton High School's "Wellness Fair", Clothesline Art Show at the Memorial Art Gallery, Greece Ridge Mall, and Brighton Highlands Home.

Our Fair Election Practices Campaign encourages all candidates for public office to run positive, issues-oriented campaigns. Some candidates feel that negative ads are effective. The League believes that positive campaigns that address important issues are winning campaigns. This year the Committee monitored complaints and held ten hearings. The 2011 Committee members were: Jim Morris (Chairperson), Ralph Esposito, Lois Giess, Channing Philbrick, and Kay Wallace. Alternates were John Curran, Tom Frey, Tracy Logel, Jim Peters, Sue Roberts, and Jim Turner.

The League made itself available to speak in the community about the importance of voting. We met with students from elementary to high school levels. Also, we visited and spoke at area senior citizen facilities and refreshed their knowledge of the importance of voting.

This year, the League sent Teresa Leone, a junior at School Without Walls High School, to STUDENTS INSIDE ALBANY 2012.

The Rochester Voters Alliance (RVA) is a coalition of not-for-profit, non-partisan, interfaith, civil rights, and community-based organizations devoted to providing education to Monroe County citizens on the importance of informed voting, register voters, and remind voters to go to the polls on Election Day.

The League has continued its liaison with the Rochester Voter Alliance. We will work with different community organizations to help accomplish the above goals in this 2012 Election year.

The League had the wonderful opportunity to work with Election Fellows at the college level. The Election Fellows Program, funded by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC), was created after the passage of the Help America Vote Act College Program in 2002. The program selects two Election Fellows from each participating college to recruit students to work the polls on Election Day in November. Area colleges have been involved in this endeavor. Our League has worked with the students for the past two years. This year we worked with Nazareth College students and were able to engage several students in the excitement of voting and becoming recruits. The Board of Elections (BOE) Commissioners are thrilled with the Fellows. They consider the participation of the Fellows as "a win-win for both the students and the BOE."

Voter Services' goals for the coming year include:

- increase visibility of the League in the community
- increase the number of voter registrations
- increase our Voter Services volunteers
- increase our volunteer activities with the Board of Elections
- continue to educate citizens about the importance of voting and participating in our democracy.

Sheila Abeling, *VP Voter Services*



**Vote and the choice is yours.
Don't vote
and the choice is theirs.**

Annual Membership Report

The LWVUS bylaws require that an annual membership count be taken as of February 1st of each year. This number is used for the calculation of the LWV/RMA Per Member Payment (PMP) to the national and state leagues. As of February 1, 2012, the member count of the Rochester Metro League was as follows:

Individual Members	(\$75 dues)	94
Student	(\$25 dues)	1
1st member household	(\$75 dues)	15
2nd member household	(\$30 dues)	15
Honorary 50 year Members	(\$0 dues)	10
Total		135

During 2012, six additional members have achieved 50 year Honorary status. We honor their commitment, counsel and continuing support.

Joyce Herman
Suzanne McNamara
Richard McNamara
Ursula Reiners
Louise Slaughter
Carol Seeman.

We have welcomed seven new members for the year 2011-2012. They are:

Richard Barone	Thomas Ferrarese
Kathy J. Farrar	William Gioncursio
Beth Feldman	Mary Hussong Kallen
Cathy Phelps	

The Membership Committee has focused this year on improving visibility and communication with both our members and the community. We thank our members for their patience and cooperation with a very necessary database clean-up.

Submitted by the Membership Committee:
Gin Busack, *Chairperson* Georgia DeGregorio
Cathy Phelps Chris Burleigh
Ernest DuBois Carly Wise-Levick
Ellen DeGregorio Beth Keigher
Lois Winterkorn

Gin Busack, *Chairperson Membership Committee*

Nominating Committee

Before announcing the slate of new officers and directors for the Board of the Rochester LWV, let me first acknowledge the committee for their ideas and participation. Great thanks go to Gin Busack, Brian Valenti, Julie Johnson and to Lois Winterkorn for her home and coffee as a meeting place. We did some restructuring of the responsibilities of some directors and talked a few members into continuing to assist the League off board. Let me thank and congratulate everyone on this slate for coming forward. Below is the proposed LWV/RMA Board for the coming year.

President	Georgia DeGregorio
Vice President/PR	Brian Valenti
Secretary	Rita Gerretson
Membership Program	Ellen DeGregorio
Voter Services	Gin Busack & Beth Keigher
Local Gov't.	Barbara Grosh Elaine Schmidt

Several members have agreed to take on specific tasks but will not be on the board:

Gaynelle Wethers	Development
Katherine Smith	Action/Advocacy
Sheila Abeling	Naturalization/FEPC.

The last member we are looking for is the Voter Editor which remains unfilled. Dorothy Borgus has agreed to proof/edit the Voter for content but is unable to take on the responsibility of putting it together. Chris Burleigh will still do the computer layout but we were unable to find an editor who will assemble the articles, edit them for content and grammar, and ensure we have news about the activities and forums of the local league.

Sally Brown, *Chairperson Nominating Committee*

Welcome New Members!

Thomas F. Ferrarese
William M. Gioncursio
66 Pavilion St.
Rochester, NY 14620
585-233-4894
ferrarese@prodigy.net

Richard Barone
154 Allwood Dr.
Irondequoit, NY 14617
585-342-1748
Vinylphile@aol.com

Preliminary Budget 2012-2013

ACTIVITY	Income \$	Expense \$
Dues - 2012-2013	8,905.00	
National PMP		3,720.00
NYS PMP		2,160.00
Funds available for local use	3,025.00	--
Contributions - members	1,750.00	
non-members	250.00	
LWVNY Education Fund	500.00	
Bibby Fund	600.00	
Programs		
<i>Membership</i>		
Postage		250.00
Printing & supplies		150.00
Networking Events		600.00
<i>Voter Services</i>		
Election Services	2,000.00	
Moderators & Speakers	100.00	
Who Represents You		1,000.00
Welcome to the League	*	
First Vote	*	
<i>VOTER - newsletter</i>		
Lay-out		1,000.00
Printing, Mailing & Setup		200.00
<i>Luncheons</i>		
Making Democracy Work	1,500.00	1,500.00
Annual Meeting	1,000.00	750.00
<i>Public Forums</i>		350.00
<i>Public Relations</i>		350.00
Administrative Expenses		
Accounting + postage		1,045.00
Annual Appeal letter + postage		180.00
Bank Fees (PayPal & M&T)		50.00
Development - Appeal Ltr.		250.00
Postage		500.00
Printing		500.00
Telephone		700.00
Misc		500.00
Liability Ins		250.00
National/State Conv. Exp.		600.00
Total	10,725.00	10,725.00

* sufficient for year

Annual Report, Action

As Director for Action, I've been meeting with local state senators and assemblymen to lobby for the state league legislative agenda. This year we are focusing on 4 issues:

Campaign Finance Reform. The League is lobbying for lower donation limits for individuals and corporations, fuller disclosure rules and public financing of campaigns.

Election Reform. We are lobbying for some relatively technical changes to rules about paper ballots, and for a constitutional amendment to permit same-day registration.

Court Simplification. New York's court system is overly complex and inefficient. Streamlining the eleven layers of trial courts could save money and make justice more accessible.

Moratorium on Hydro-Fracking. The League believes that there is no way at present that the DEC could regulate hydro-fracking in a way that protects the environment and public health, and permits should not be issued.

Barbara Grosh, *Director, Action*

Observer Corps

HENRIETTA TOWN BOARD

February 2012 - No LWV issues

March 2012 - No LWV issues

IRONDEQUOIT TOWN BOARD

February 2012 - No LWV issues

March 2012 - The town board reluctantly approved the permit for the cell tower.

The Court decided in favor of the cell tower so the town board was required to issue the permit.

IRONDEQUOIT WORKSHOP

March 2012 - The workshop, with all members present, passed a resolution allowing the Sea Breeze Fire District to appoint its own Commissioners.

MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

February 2012 - The official papers for Monroe County for announcements are the Daily Record and Rochester Business Journal.

March 2012 - Quick meeting of the legislature. No LWV issues.



Coming Events!



May

- 3** GO-SEE Tour of High Acres Landfill
- 17** Membership Committee, 1:00 pm
- 17** Board Meeting, 2:00 pm
- 31** Annual Meeting, Locust Hill Country Club, 11:30 am

June

Have a Wonderful Summer!

Students Inside Albany

Junior, Teresa Leone of School Without Walls represented our League in Albany. She was among the 54 students who participated March 25-28 in LWVNY Education Fund program called STUDENTS INSIDE ALBANY.

"This interactive conference," explained the State League, "brings together male and female high school students from across the state to learn about New York State government and the process by which citizens can participate in the policy-making arena." The conference included:

- seminar on the basics of state government;
- tips on successful lobbying by the NYS League's legislative expert in Albany, Barbara Bartoletti;
- lobbying role-playing session with upstate Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward;
- primer by both a Republican and a Democratic assemblyman on how to run for office;
- workshop by the executive director of the Alliance for Quality Education and a New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) official on lobbying and organizing a political campaign;
- seminar on the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) and the Open Meetings law by Robert Freeman, executive director of the NYS Committee on Open Government;
- discussion on the role of the media, by both the producer and the host of the YNN Albany political news television program "Capitol Tonight."

As part of the program, students also toured the State Capitol building, observed the State Senate

and Assembly in action, and shadowed both their State Senator and Assembly person. Teresa shadowed Senator Joseph Robach and Assemblyman Harry Bronson. When Teresa was first asked about her experience after returning from Albany, she said, "I wish that it had been longer." She really enjoyed the entire experience and thanks the League for the opportunity.

Sheila Abeling, *VP Voter Services*

Who Represents You Goes Digital!

WHO REPRESENTS YOU: a Guide to Your Elected Officials for Monroe County, New York State and the Federal Government is now available on-line!

Click here for your copy:

<http://lww-rma.org/WRY12.pdf>

2012 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA: Steps To a New and Better State Government

Click here for your copy:

http://www.lwvny.org/advocacy/legAgenda/2012/LegAgenda_2012brochure.pdf

Board meets at 2:00 pm on the third Thursday of each month.

Local Government meets at the Brighton Town Hall, Stage Conference Room. For details, call Beth Keigher 271-6694.

Membership Committee meets at Brighton Town Hall - Stage Room at 1:00 pm, first Friday of each month. For details, call Gin Busack 467-6131

10:00 am Naturalization Ceremonies are held at Monroe County Office Building, 39 W. Main St.

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

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

Board meetings of the LWV/RMA are open to membership.

For more complete information, consult our website at www.LWV-RMA.org, call 262-3730 or e-mail us at LWV/RMA@frontiernet.net



Teresa Leone with Assemblyman Bronson

Our Student in Albany, Teresa Leone with Senator Robach



Forum on Redistricting



Voter Registration



Voter Registration



Forum on Sunshine



Voter Registration



Brooks Hill School Wetlands Demonstration



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Rochester, NY 14610
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www.LWV-RMA.org

Rochester VOTER

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

Officers:

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Sheila Abeling
VP Voter Services
John Schmitt
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Director, At-Large
Barbara Grosh
Director, Action
Jane Schmitt
VOTER Editor

Off-Board:

Chris Burleigh
VOTER Layout & Production

**Next VOTER
Deadline is August 6!**



Goals of the League of Women Voters:

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

Join the League Today!



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Check Amount: _____

Level of Membership: _____

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

Please send this form and your check payable to
League of Women Voters/RMA to:
LWV/RMA
PO Box 10573
Rochester, NY 14610