



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:

September Events	1
President's Corner	2
Have YOU Visited our Website? ...	2
Rochester Votes 2013	3
September Forum	3
League Visibility	4
Race, Community & Immigration Bias.	4
Immigration Reform Rally.	5
Mayoral Debate	5
Book Club Meets; Books Chosen ...	6
Fall Election - Are You Ready? ...	6
FEPC & Naturalization	6
Important Fall Advocacy Issues ...	7
Membership Update	8
Great Lakes Ecosystem Update. ...	8
Did You Know.	8
Milestones	8
Calendar	9
Leadership	10

Save The Dates! Join Us for Our September Events:

September 3 Fair Election Practices Campaign Signing Ceremony/Press Conference

Noon

The Atrium in the County Office Building
Everyone is invited to attend

September 17 Constitution Day Naturalization Ceremony at The College at Brockport

10 AM

September 24 What Does the *Shelby County v. Holder* Supreme Court Decision Limiting the Voting Rights Act Mean for New York State?

Speakers:

Monroe County Board of Election Commissioners
Thomas Ferrarese
and

Peter Quinn

7 - 8:30 PM

Asbury First Methodist Church
1050 East Avenue
Rochester, NY 14607

Open to the public

*Rochester Votes 2013 volunteers will be honored and
new League members will be recognized.*

President's Corner



It is inevitable. Summer has to end. But we are now preparing for a fantastic new League year! In fact, many of you already got a head start on the Voter Service Celebration planned for August and September by volunteering for **ROCHESTER VOTES 2013**.

You worked at over 48 sites alongside our co-sponsors, and we helped 156 people take their first step toward voting (or continuing to make their voice heard). I'm excited that 50 people asked us to help them remember to vote. We will send them links to our online voter guide at www.vote411.org. Each small thing we do makes a difference. Thank you — each and every one!

To continue our Celebration, we urge all members to attend our September events as noted on our front page.

Many of you who volunteered to register voters had interesting experiences and are eager to share them, as well as your recommendations for a future voter registration drive. We can always do even better!! So we are planning a punch and cookies reception at the September forum on Tuesday, September 24, at Asbury First Methodist Church. **SAVE THE DATE**. We need your feedback.

We thank Channel 8 again for working with us to co-sponsor a debate on August 29 between the Democratic primary candidates for Rochester Mayor in preparation for the September 10 primary election. It was quite a challenge for Bryan Queen, Channel 8 Program Director, to switch quickly from the PGA event to ours. We appreciate all they do to keep the community informed.

We are continuing to attend the sub-committees developed from the current FR=EE campaign to combat racism in the Rochester community. We have members attending the housing and education groups, and League programs are being developed from their agendas. In addition, our own Health Care Study Group is preparing a program in October to coincide with the opening of the New York State exchanges for registration. Be sure to go to our website for up-to-date information in Section IV of the Table

*2000---the number of homeless children in the Rochester School District. **

of Contents. You can then answer questions that your friends, family, co-workers and neighbors may have.

As always, your board of directors meets monthly and welcomes your attendance. It is on the third Monday of the month at 6 PM at Brighton Town Hall. Check for last minute date change.

Georgia DeGregorio
President, LWV-RMA

*Slavery in America is not dead, it just looks different - it is called human trafficking. **

Have YOU visited our website lately?

Here's what you may have seen!

Our Health Care Study Group has gathered an impressive selection of resources - check the Table of Contents at <http://www.lwv-rma.org/healthcareindex.php>.

Candidates have begun signing the Fair Campaign Pledge - read about the Fair Campaign Election Practices Campaign 2013 and see the names of candidates who have already signed the Pledge at <http://www.lwv-rma.org/FEPC.php>.

Who Represents You, our comprehensive directory of local, state and national elected representatives, is easy to access - visit <http://www.lwv-rma.org/WRY13.pdf> and be sure to bookmark the page. Use the contact information to make your voice heard between elections!

And there's more! Take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with this wonderful resource.

Rochester Votes 2013 – A Success and a Challenge

From August 3-11 we were busy! We registered voters at 4 different Tops Markets in the city, plus 8 different branch libraries, the Anthony Jordan Health Center, and Rochester Community Bikes. We had over 40 volunteers taking shifts, some of them taking several shifts. Our co-sponsors included Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, the Delta Nu Omega Chapter of Kappa Alpha Kappa sorority and Delta Sigma Theta sorority. Together we registered 156 voters!

We are thrilled when:

- an 18 year-old stands taller as they decide to vote.
- someone who's moved chooses to connect to their new location by registering to vote.
- a person decides to register as a member of a party so they can have a voice in the primary.
- an older person who may never have voted or who stopped voting years ago decides to be part of the conversation.
- someone who's completed a sentence for a crime reclaims their right to vote.

Whenever we register voters a lot of people tell us they're already registered. This time we had a new way to engage them. "Oh, did you know there's a primary election on September 10? Are you planning to vote?" Fifty people signed a pledge to vote and asked us to send them a reminder as the election draws near. We'll be emailing and texting them, reminder them to vote, along with links to www.Vote411.org which provides information on candidates and ballot initiatives.

We still find a substantial number of people who refuse to register to vote. We find most often that they aren't apathetic, but they are angry and feel the political system will never respond to their needs. It's a big challenge to understand how to draw them in and how to make the system respond to their needs. We're happy to be working with our cosponsors to find the answers.

Barbara Grosh
Director, Voter Services

34 - the number of children forced into sex trafficking every single hour in the US. They will be sex-trafficked within 48 hours of being on the street. *

Our September Forum: How Did *Shelby County v. Holder* Weaken the Voting Rights Act?

The 1963 Voting Rights Act (VRA) Section 4 provided the formula that determined the jurisdictions (several states, three counties in NYS and other election districts in the US) that required pre-clearance by a federal court or the US Department of Justice when voting laws and regulations were going to be changed. These jurisdictions were determined by past history of discrimination established by Congress' criteria.

In June 2013 the US Supreme Court ruled (in *Shelby County v. Holder*) that Section 4 was no longer needed, but gave the Congress a way to rewrite the section. Other parts of the VRA are still in place, but the remaining processes for a citizen to file a discrimination claim about voting are more complex, costly and lengthy.

LWV is strongly supporting a new writing of Section 4, to be passed by Congress and signed by the President this fall. It's a fundamental right in this country to have fair, accessible elections for all Americans - young and old, rich and poor, urban and rural - in all states, counties and municipalities.

Contrary to the 5-4 ruling of the Supreme Court, discrimination in voting continues to occur in our democratic country. The LWV is lobbying for enforcement mechanisms in a updated Section 4. Section 2 has an enforcement provision which remains in the law, but is not sufficient because it can be used **only after** a discrimination law goes into effect. Section 4 stops the implementation of these laws **before** any voter is prevented from voting.

The LWV's vision is to expand access to voting **and** to increase the number of citizens voting. We need Section 4 restored to the Voting Rights Act so we continue with our important work.

For more information about the Supreme Court decision, the future of the Voting Rights Act and the effect on Rochester, Monroe County and New York State, please join Monroe County Board of Elections Commissioners Thomas Ferrarese and Peter Quinn on September 24 at 7 PM at Asbury Methodist Church.

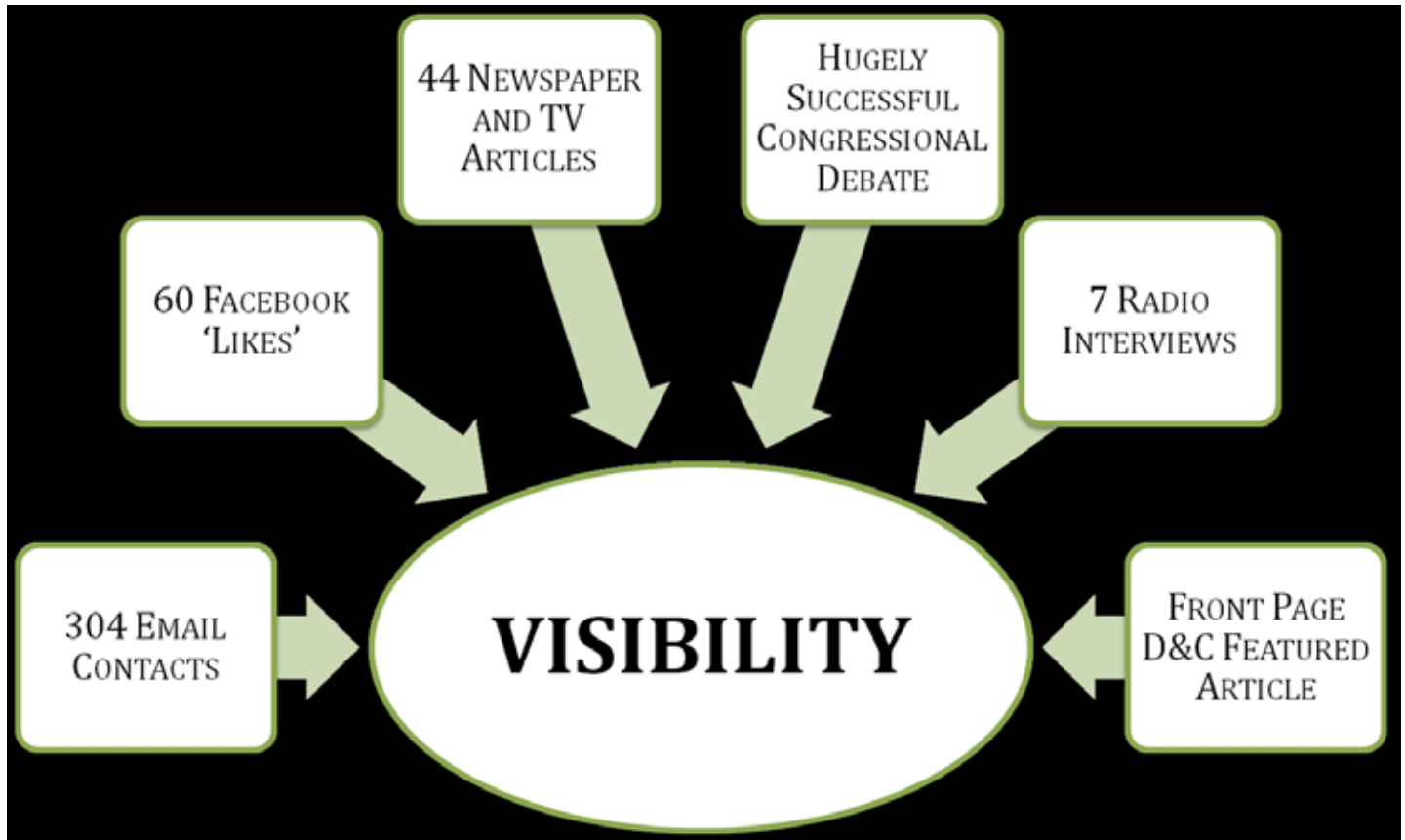
Katherine Smith
Director, Action/Advocacy

League Visibility

During our planning meeting in 2012 we identified 'Visibility' as our main goal for the upcoming year. After reviewing our progress in 2012 and into 2013 during our annual planning meeting this past July, I thought it important to show all of our members the outcome of our efforts.

I think we accomplished our goal. What do you think? I would love to know! Please email me at pr@lwv-rma.org.

Brian Valenti
Director, Public Relations



Race, Community & Immigration Bias with Dr. Luis Barrios

Saturday, September 28th

7 PM

Workers United Hall

750 East Avenue (use back entrance)

Dr. Luis Barrios is Chair of the Department of Latin American Studies at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City, the Co-Director of IFCO/Pastors for Peace and an Episcopal priest at St. Mary's Church in West Harlem, NY.

A native of Puerto Rico, Father Barrios has done extensive study of immigration policy and practice, including the effects on families of U.S. deportations to the Dominican Republic and on the exploitation of Haitians on the Haitian/Dominican border.

This free event is open to the entire community. Come listen, share and discuss our unjust immigration policy. Learn what we can do to change the broken system.

Immigration Reform Rally... We Were There!

At a rally on July 30, sponsored by the Greater Rochester Coalition for Immigration Justice, about 100 people from all across the state met to show support for fair immigration reform in Congress. We met in front of the Batavia Detention Center for Homeland Security and heard speakers representing all walks of life: immigrant farmworkers, a NYCLU member, a PhD candidate from the University of Arizona-Tucson, a variety of religious leaders, an 8 year-old boy speaking for his parents, and, of course, the Raging Grannies. One union leader commented that she was glad to see the League was there.

Perhaps the most important statement made was that the human rights of the undocumented farmworkers are being violated in spite of their Constitutional guarantees: freedom from search and seizure, freedom of assembly and the right of due process. To be clear, they are covered by Constitutional guarantees because our Constitution says these are basic rights of all "persons", not just "citizens" of our country.

Since 2008 the League has supported immigration reform which promotes reunification of immediate families, meets the economic, business and employment needs of the U.S., and guarantees fair treatment for all persons under the law. We support an efficient, expeditious system for legal entry of immigrants. In transition to a reformed system, the League supports provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status. (For a complete statement of the League position on immigration, please go to www.lwv.org and type "League position on immigration" in the search box.)

While our representatives are now home on an extended vacation from Washington, DC, we need to individually express our support for passage of a fair bill. In addition, we are opposed to the part of the just-passed Senate bill that includes another \$30 billion to double the number of border patrol personnel and add miles of fencing.

Both of us were proud to be part of this rally, joining our friends and fellow League members Sr. Gratia L'Esperance and Lory Ghertner. We strongly encourage you to join us the next time.

**Lois Winterkorn
Georgia DeGregorio**

*Sexual and labor trafficking generates \$32 billion annually.**



Sr. Gratia L'Esperance and Lory Ghertner, League members and organizers of the rally thru Greater Rochester Coalition for Immigration Justice.



LWV-RMA and WROC Channel 8 Co-Sponsor Debate

Channel 8 and LWV-RMA will co-sponsor a City Mayoral Primary Debate between the two Democratic candidates, incumbent Tom Richards and City Council President Lovely Warren. Mark your calendar for August 29.



Book Club Meets; Books Chosen

Six members of the book club had a picnic meeting at Elaine Schmidt's home near the lake. We enjoyed discussing our proposed selections and finally chose seven books for September to May. They represent a wide variety of interests: history, environment, politics, judicial issues, and civil rights including human trafficking.

We meet monthly and invite anyone interested to join us at the Rundel Library on Saturday mornings at 10:15 AM.

The first meeting will be September 7. We hope to see you there!

BOOKS FOR 2013 - 2014

September 7, 2013

Girls Like Us: Fighting for a world where girls are not for sale, an activist finds her calling and heals herself by *Rachel Lloyd*.

October 5, 2013

Miracle at Philadelphia: The story of the Constitutional Convention, May to September, 1787 by *Catherine Drinker Bowen*.

November 2, 2013

The Righteous Mind: Why good people are divided by politics and religion by *Jonathan Haidt*

December 7, 2013

Negro President: Jefferson and the slave power by *Garry Wills*

February 1, 2014

Devil in the Grove: Thurgood Marshall, the Groveland boys and the dawn of a new America by *Gilbert King*.

March 1, 2014

Darwin and the Beagle by *Alan Moorehead*

April 5, 2014

The Parties Versus the People: How to turn Republicans and Democrats into Americans by *Mickey Edwards*

May 3, 2014

The Roberts Court by *Marcia Coyle*

The fall election is coming - are you ready?

October 11 is the last day to register.

October 16 is the last day for the Board of Elections to receive a change of address.

October 29 is the last day to request an absentee ballot.

November 4 is the last day to mail an absentee ballot.

November 5 is ELECTION DAY!

Remind your friends and family!

FEPC & Naturalization

NATURALIZATION:

On September 12th at 10 AM at the Monroe County Office Building, we will have an Oath Ceremony.

Our Constitution Day, September 17th, Naturalization will be at SUNY Brockport in the morning.

October 10th brings us back to the Monroe County Office Building at 10:00 AM with Beth Feldman representing the League. In the afternoon of the 10th, Kathy Farrar will be at the Federal Building welcoming new candidates.

All League members are welcome to attend Naturalization ceremonies. If you are interested, please contact Sheila Abeling at sheiler162004@yahoo.com or 585-223-6819. Also, be sure to visit our website <http://lwv-rma.org> to learn more about Naturalizations.

FAIR ELECTION PRACTICES CAMPAIGN (FEPC):

Our FEPC started on August 13th! All signatures of candidates for our FEPC Pledge are due August 28th. The League and The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester (TIAR) are hoping that all candidates will take the opportunity to sign the Pledge.

The Signing Ceremony/Press Conference will be held on September 3rd at noon in the Atrium of the Monroe County Office Building. Everyone is invited to attend.

September 10th is the Primary Election. If you are eligible to vote in the primary, please do so!

We are hoping for a fair, issue-focused campaign.

Please visit our website <http://lwv-rma.org> to learn more about the Fair Election Practices Campaign.

Sheila Abeling

Director, FEPC & Naturalization Committee

*Human trafficking is now more profitable than drug trafficking. **

Important Fall Advocacy Issues

Several LWVNY lobbying issues need to be highlighted with NY Assembly members and NYS Senators throughout the fall. When you attend a community event(s), please take the opportunity to advocate for our positions if a state representative is present. A one-minute statement by you and many other League members will be noted by him.

Three top topics that constantly need to be brought to their attention are:

FAIR ELECTION ACT

This act was not brought to the Governor's desk to be signed. It provides for some public funding of elections. It passed the Assembly but was not brought to the floor of the NY Senate for a debate. Reports in local media this summer show who is paying for candidates' races. We need to change the current system of large donors (\$100,000 or more) advocating for one issue to a system where thousands of citizens give a modest amount (\$10-\$100) to elect candidates who represent their viewpoint on numerous issues. Check www.lwvny.org for bill provisions.

WOMEN'S EQUALITY ACT

This 10-provision bill passed the Assembly, but only nine individual bills passed the NY Senate. Unfortunately, the language was not the same, so the Governor had no women's equality bill(s) to sign in 2013. These bill(s) must be reintroduced in January 2014. The Governor supports them. The vote(s) need to be held soon after the session starts.

Local media continue to cover the issues of affordable housing, pay equity, domestic violence and other parts of the WEA. In a recent interview on **1370 Connection** (WXXI), LWVRMA's Katherine Smith was asked to explain pay equity provisions. She continues to inform the community on this important legislation. Please keep your calls and emails going to Assembly and Senate offices this fall asking their support for a bill(s) in January.

*Out of 1.7 million runaways each year in the US, over 200,000 will be sex-trafficked. **

* Statistics highlighted throughout this edition of The Voter are provided by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. More info is available at www.missingkids.com.

ELECTION LAWS

The LWVNY supports many ways to make voting easier for our NY citizens and lobbies against any bill that would reduce the numbers of citizens voting. We strongly oppose photo ID laws. We support early voting, statewide on-line registration and same day registration. Make sure your state representative knows your position! We need to continue to be watchful for any changes in election laws that may be barriers for voters.

Our Assembly Members and NYS Senators are in their home districts working hard this fall. Now is the time to meet them in their office, at a community event or a public forum. Speak up. Tell them you support the LWVNY position, available at www.lwvny.org.

Katherine Smith
Director, Advocacy



Membership Update

We continue to be busy at Membership – because we continue to welcome new members to the League.

All new members are invited (and strongly encouraged!) to attend the September 24th forum – besides offering important information on the impact of the recent Supreme Court decision limiting the Voting Rights Act, we plan to formally welcome our new members, and offer a short orientation. It's a great way to meet other members, and become familiar with the full scope of League activities.

In addition, we'd like to remind all members that dues notices will be sent out by September 1st. You'll recall that last year we began the process of changing everyone's renewal date to October 1st. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

See you all on the 24th!

Ellen DeGregorio

Director, Membership Committee

Dear LWV-RMA Member,

Every fall, Rochester Area Community Foundation announces the recipients of its Philanthropy Awards and makes its report to the community. The Community Foundation's 2013 Philanthropy Awards and Annual Report to the Community Luncheon will be held on September 18th at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center. The financial support of the Community Foundation makes possible the printing of our Who Represents You publication. Please show your support to those who support us.

The League is purchasing a table and each ticket is \$50. You can pay via our website www.lwv-rma.org or by sending a check for \$50 to the League's address: PO Box 10573, Rochester, NY 14610.

Sit with the League and show your support to those who support us!

Thank you,

LWV-RMA

PS - Seats will fill up fast so don't wait!

Update on the Great Lakes Ecosystem Concurrence

According to LWVNYS, the concurrence proposal on the Great Lakes Ecosystem has passed and is now adopted by all eight Great Lakes states (LWVNYS passed it in March 2013).

The Leagues can now speak as a regional body when addressing conservation and restoration concerns. This will be a most useful tool when communicating with our respective elected representatives! The Lake Michigan LWV board will discuss implementation procedures (now open to all 8 states) at its next board meeting in early September.

"And I pledge you that we will not delay, or we will not hesitate, or we will not turn aside until Americans of every race and color and origin in this country have the same right as all others to share in the process of democracy"

-President Lyndon B. Johnson, August 6, 1965



Did you know...

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

Milestones

If you have League-related news about our members to share (recognitions, obituaries, etc.), please send info to LWVRMA-VOTER@rochester.rr.com.



Coming Events!



September

- 3** Fair Election Practices Campaign Pledge Signing at County Office Building
- 3** Naturalization Ceremony
- 12** Naturalization Ceremony
- 17** Constitution Day: The College at Brockport Naturalization Event
- 24** Celebrating Voter Service with BOE Commissioners Presentation & Honor Rochester Votes 2013 volunteers & new members
- 28** Voter Registration at Livingston County's Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Avon, NY. Volunteers are needed!

October

- 11** Last day to register to vote
- 16** Last day for the Board of Elections to receive a change of address
- 17** Health Care Forum
- 29** Last day to request an absentee ballot

November

- 4** Last day to mail an absentee ballot
- 5** Election Day

Naturalization Photos



Board meets monthly. Call Georgia DeGregorio at 787-9692 for details. Board meetings are open to all members. Local Government Committee meets monthly at the Brighton Town Hall, Stage Room. For details, call Elaine Schmidt at 530-7414. Membership Committee meets monthly at Brighton Town Hall, Stage Room. For details, call Ellen DeGregorio at 473-3502. 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
p 585-262-3730
www.LWV-RMA.org

Rochester VOTER

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

Officers:

Georgia DeGregorio
President

Brian Valenti
Vice President

Ellen DeGregorio
Treasurer

Barbara Kay
Secretary

Board of Directors:

Gin Busack
Director, Program

Ellen DeGregorio
Director, Membership

Elaine Schmidt
Director, Local Government

Barbara Grosh
Director, Voter Services

Ernest DuBois
Director, At-Large

Mary Hussong-Kallen
Voter Editor

Off-Board Directors:

Sheila Abeling
Director, FEPC & Naturalization

Katherine Smith
Director, Advocacy

**OCTOBER VOTER
DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 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

LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK!



We know you'll "like" us!

www.facebook.com/lwvofrma

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