



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! Join Us for Our November Forum

Co-sponsored by the
Social Justice Committee of the First Unitarian Church of Rochester

Sexually Exploited Children Right Here in Monroe County! Who are They?

Why is the League presenting this program?

Please click on this link for the powerful answer:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CKh78vXlfis&feature=player_embedded

Our Panelists:

- Sgt. Mark Freese**, Major Crimes Bureau, Rochester Police Department
- Nolica Murray-Fields**, Safe Harbor Coordinator, Center for Youth Services
- Robert Way**, Senior Caseworker, Child Protective Service, Monroe County Department of Human Services

**Thursday, November 14, 2013
7:00 TO 9:00 PM**

Please Note New Location!

First Unitarian Church
220 South Winton Road, Rochester, NY
(handicapped accessible)

Please register for the forum at <http://lwv-rma.org/signup.php>



President's Corner



You are probably aware that your fellow League members are working hard to respond to the many requests to serve as moderators at debates and to be available for registering voters for the November election. Barbara Grosh, our Voter Services chair, has called on many of you to help

since this is not a "one-woman job."

Our Program chair, Gin Busack, is also working to help our issue committees to present programs which support the positions we hold at the three levels of League governance, especially those that address current concerns. Again, not a "one-woman job", and she has major assistance from her committee members Lois Winterkorn and Cathy Phelps.

Your President acknowledges that her job is made considerably easier with the support of her Board of Directors and other League members. While I was away Brian Valenti, VP, stepped in with competence and good leadership.

These are only three of our leaders who have been outstanding in their efforts for the League this fall. I say "thank you" to them, but, more importantly, I thank each member who responds willingly when called to help out with a specific job - whether it is welcoming visitors at the forums, registering attendees, serving on the ad hoc committees preparing programs, opening ballots on election day, or representing the League with the media - to name just a few important jobs you are doing.

Look over this Voter or check our website to find an area of interest to you, and then give the chair a call. Our League has been called the "gold standard" in its mission to serve the community's political interests. Do you feel the "gold dust" sprinkling upon you when you either make that call or say "yes" to that call?

Georgia DeGregorio
President

Sexually Exploited Children... In Monroe County?

Domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST), the commercial sexual exploitation of American children within U.S. borders, is the subject of a panel discussion which will be held at First Unitarian Church, 220 South Winton Rd., on Thursday, November 14, 2013, at 7:00 PM. Professionals representing the social and legal aspects of DMST will comprise the panel.

Who are these children and how are they found and identified? What are the laws and how is law enforcement involved? What specialized social services are available to protect these children? What remains to be done?

We need answers to these and other crucial questions. Please join us to learn about the extent and seriousness of this problem right here in our own community.

Our League Book Club became interested in this topic after reading the book **Girls Like Us**. Some members formed an ad hoc committee to explore the questions raised (listed above). They have been actively involved in preparing this forum.

The Book Club's review of this book can be found in the October 2013 Voter, available on our League website. To read the LWV's official position on Human Trafficking, please visit <http://www.lwvny.org>.

Mary C. Myers
Committee Member

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

Vote

FOLLOWING UP ON... Our October Forum

The LWV-RMA forum on "The Affordable Care Act: Local Implementation Challenges" was held October 17 at the Asbury First Methodist Church.

Moderator **Sarah Liebschutz**, League Member and Distinguished Professor Emerita of the College at Brockport, opened with a description of the politics involved in passage of the Act, reviewed its mixed fate before the Supreme Court, and touched on current opposition and major provisions.

Joseph Vasile, MD, represented Greater Rochester Independent Practice Association (GRIPA), a group of area doctors implementing an Accountable Care Organization. This organization was provided for under the ACA as a way to achieve the "triple aim" of improved care for groups of patients, improved care for individual patients, and lower cost through changing reimbursement from a "fee for service" model to one based on outcomes and value.

The Finger Lakes Health System Agency (FLHSA) administers a grant exploring another way to accomplish this triple aim through reorganization of individual physician offices. **Michelle Casey**, the Project Manager, spoke of the many practices in the 6-county area participating in the demonstration.

Next up was **Lynne Scalzo**, VP of Business Strategy at Excellus BC/BS, who provided more detail about specific insurance plans and working through the <http://www.NYStateofHealth.NY.gov> website, our "exchange." She revealed the work required of an insurer to meet the regulations and to change its business model from one marketing to businesses to one targeting individuals.

Finally, **Kim Wynn**, Program Manager for Coordinated Care Services, spoke of the challenges her organization faces in teaching individuals how to sign up for health insurance through the exchange.

Each panelist acknowledged that the most important challenge is the education of the consumers, the doctors and their staffs about the ACA and how it applies to them. A second concern is how to recruit enough primary care physicians to serve the people who will now have insurance. One solution being explored is to expand the responsibilities of the RNs, NPs and other current medical staff members.

Details of these excellent presentations will be posted on our League website.

David Newman, M.D.
Health Care Study Group



"Take Me to Vote"

We all know that voter participation is lower than we wish. Some LWV chapters have a program called "Take Me to Vote" designed to encourage kids to encourage their parents to vote. League members visit classrooms of some elementary grade (3rd graders have been suggested).

We tell the kids about voting procedures, registration and deadlines. Shortly before the election, we visit the classrooms again and distribute a certificate they can take with them to the polls. Accompanied by a parent or other adult, they go to a polling place and deposit it in an envelope or ballot box. There are rewards to classes with the highest participation rates.

Do you think we could do this in Rochester? It would take a lot of volunteers to make it possible. If you're interested in working on a committee to explore this, please call Barbara Grosh at 415-8251 or email to voterservices@lww-rva.org.

Barbara Grosh
Director, Voter Services

Prepare Now to Vote On Tuesday, November 5!

Take a careful look at the ballot online before you go to the polls. Visit our own <http://www.vote411.org> or the Monroe County Board of Elections' website <http://www.monroecounty.gov/etc/voter/index.php>, and enter your address.

Either site will show you your entire ballot:

- every race you'll vote in, including which candidates are running and statements/profiles of those who have responded to our invitations, and
- the wording of the six ballot initiatives, together with brief summaries and backgrounds.

Remember that the ballots vary slightly by zip code, but the 6 proposed amendments to the NYS Constitution are the same throughout the state. *(These proposals were listed in last month's Voter; LWVNY does not have a position on any of them, but does offer lots of information in its publication "Voters Guide Part II" available online at http://lwwny.org/advocacy/elections/2013/VotersGuide_Part%20II_2013.pdf.)*

Katherine Smith
Advocacy

Barbara Grosh
Voter Services

October Forum Photos



Lynne Scalzo, Excellus



Michelle Casey, FLHSA



Joseph Vasile, GRIPA



Sarah Liebschutz, Moderator



Kim Wynn, CCS - photo not available

Report from the Book Club

Our League Book Club met on Saturday, October 5th, to discuss **Miracle at Philadelphia** by Catherine Drinker Bowen. To quote one of our members, "... Charles Pinckney told his fellow Carolinians they should be 'astonishingly pleased' that a government 'so perfect could have been formed from such discordant and unpromising material.'"

Four months of deliberations took place from May 29 to September 17, 1787 in a very hot and humid Philadelphia. They agreed to keep total secrecy regarding their discussions which meant the windows were closed. The author described the many factions that were represented, and it took a while for the delegates to finally accept the fact that the Articles of Confederation could no longer work—including some who never agreed to this radical change.

Bowen drew from primary sources to describe the painstakingly slow march, point by point, to hammer out a document, the likes of which had never been attempted before. James Madison's recordings were the most detailed. Bowen provided lively descriptions of each of the men and their personalities. She included several chapters that described what America looked like then and how Europe perceived us. Forests were meant to be cut down; expansion was inevitable while giving lip-service to the treaties with native tribes. Most Americans would be considered "middle class" today in their outlook, mores and interest in political affairs. There was pride in the leveling of class...no titles for us! But there was also fear that if they did not stay united, Great Britain, France or Spain would be waiting at our doorstep to take over.

We discussed the reasons the Bill of Rights had not been included. The question for every state convention was: Do we ratify now and ask for a second convention to consider a bill, or do we vote to not ratify and let all the work go for naught?

We compared our current political turmoil to what concerned our forefathers. Perhaps the most telling difference appeared at the end of the book and described Patrick Henry's opposition to ratification in the Virginia convention: (Having ratified the Constitution by a vote of 89 to 79,) "the angry Anti-federalists, determined to create measures for resisting the new system, held a mass meeting in Richmond with Patrick Henry presiding. But Henry told his wrathful colleagues that he had done his best against the Constitution in the proper place (the Convention). The question was now settled; as true and faithful republicans you had better go home."

Our next meeting will be November 2. The book we'll discuss is **The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion** by Jonathan Haidt. Please join us!

Georgia DeGregorio,
Book Club

Naturalization Quiz

Here's a sample of questions which naturalized citizens must answer. (*Check your answers on page 7.*)

1. What is the supreme law of the land?
2. What does the Constitution do?
3. The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?
4. What is an amendment?

Milestones

With sadness, we note the passing of **Natacha Pehlman Dykman**, a member of LWV-RMA and former president of the LWWNYS.

In addition to her many contributions to the League, she was a member of the judicial nominating committee for the New York State Supreme Court and of the state's medical quality assurance board. She was also a trustee of the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Natacha's many artistic talents and wry sense of humor will be remembered – typified by the bumper sticker her car always sported: "Question Authority".

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



Membership News

When was the last time you visited the LWVUS website <http://www.lwv.org>? I like to visit at least once a week – especially when there is a lot going on to see what WE are doing on a national level. And with its daily press releases, the website is a great place to follow current events.

What about the LWVNY website? What is going on in Albany? Well, look on our NYS website <http://www.lwvny.org> and there you will find a way to stay current on the issues affecting our state.

What about our own LWV-RMA website? I bet you have been there recently. This is our primary method to communicate what we are doing locally. There is a lot going on these days, and I frequently get confused about when things are scheduled. I blame that on my kids, but there really IS a lot going on, and I find that checking in frequently has helped me to avoid missing even one of our events.

Isn't it amazing that we are able to be a member of all three dynamic organizations for one membership fee? It hardly seems possible to have so many resources at our disposal. What is happening at the Supreme Court on the contribution limits? <http://www.LWV.org> has the "scoop." What are the ballot proposals for this upcoming ballot? <http://www.LWV-NYS.org> has the answer. What are they reading at our book club? <http://www.LWVRMA.org> will fill you in. For \$75 for an individual and \$105 for a family, we not only access this information but are able to raise our voice to advocate for important change.

Most members have now had their membership renewal date moved to October 1, so most members have received letters in the mail asking for renewal of your membership. We value you and need your support to maintain a good program all year. Please renew when you receive your letter, and if you have any questions, please let me know.

I'll be looking for you at the next forum. When you arrive, make sure to say "Hi" to the Membership team: Gloria Reed, Mary Myers, Phyllis Walker or Lois Wintekorn. We love to chat!

Yours in the League,

Ellen DeGregorio
Director, Membership



Welcome to Our New Members!

Camille Clayton

Carole Hoffman

Amy Roll

Elmira Washington

FINDING THEIR NICHE

Camille Clayton has joined our new Education Committee.

Carole Hoffman is working on the Human Trafficking issue through the Book Club.

Amy Roll has joined our Book Club.

Have YOU found your niche in the League? There's a committee in need of your talent!

Naturalization and FEPC

NATURALIZATION:

On November 14th there will be approximately 100 new candidates for naturalization. Mimi Wilson will meet them at the Monroe County Office Building at 10:00 AM. Kathy Farrar will be at the Federal Building at 1:00 PM welcoming the new citizens. All League members are welcome to attend Oath Ceremonies. If interested, please contact Sheila Abeling at sheiler162004@yahoo.com or 585-223-6819.

FEPC:

The Fair Election Practices Campaign (FEPC) is running quietly this year. We still have had no complaints filed with the Committee/Hearing Panel. That is a good thing! Hopefully, a fair, issue-based campaign season will continue for all candidates. A special thank-you goes out to our FEPC Committee for volunteering for this wonderful project: Jim Morris (Chairperson), Ralph Esposito, Lois Giess, Channing Philbrick, and Kay Wallace, and Alternates John Curran, Tom Frey, Jean Keplinger, Peter Knapp, Michael Miller, Jim Peters, Sue Roberts and Carol Saum. Please visit our League website <http://www.lwv-rma.org> to learn more about the Fair Election Practices Campaign (FEPC).

Don't Miss This!

Please take a moment to watch this inspirational League video, available at the following link:

<http://library.lwv.org/node/201> "blocked::http://library.lwv.org/node/201" \t "_blank

It is a wonderful way to honor our past, celebrate our present, and remind ourselves what a terrific organization we belong to!

Our Newest Committee: Education

The League of Women Voters here in Rochester has formed a new committee focusing on education. Our next meeting will be on Friday, November 8, 2013, at 1:30 PM at the Winton Road Library.

We are currently researching charter schools in Rochester. If you are interested in education, we would love to have you join our committee. Please contact Cathy Phelps at cphelpsedu@yahoo.com or phone the League at 262-3730.

Cathy Phelps
Education Committee

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

Amendment Reminder

Remember that when you vote on November 5 there are six amendments to the NYS Constitution which were printed in last month's Voter and can be found in the Voter's Guide on the LWVNY website: http://www.lwvny.org/advocacy/elections/2013/Voters-Guide_Part%20II_2013.pdf.

Although LWVNY does not have a position on any of these proposals, please review the amendments. Re-reading them before going to the polling site may be a good idea.

Katherine Smith
Director, Advocacy



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

Answers to Naturalization Quiz questions:

1. The Constitution.
2. Sets up the government; defines the government; protects basic rights of Americans.
3. We the People.
4. A change (to the Constitution); an addition (to the Constitution).



LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK! 

We know you'll "like" us!

www.facebook.com/lwvofrma



Coming Events!



November

- 4** Last day to mail an absentee ballot
- 5** Election Day
- 14** November Forum
- 15** Agriculture Committee Meeting
- 18** Board Meeting, 6 PM Brighton Town Hall

December

Happy Holidays!

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

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

**DECEMBER VOTER
DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 15!**

**VOTE
NOVEMBER 5!**



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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

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Join the League Today!



Name: _____

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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