

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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LWV-RMA, The Children's Agenda and The Center for Governmental Research present:

Our Beatrice Bibby Endowment Forum: Stand with Families and Children in Our Community!

Hear the latest report on childcare for all children in Monroe County.

- *Only 22% of all eligible families actually receive subsidies for quality childcare - can we do better?*
- *How do we influence policy makers to make smart investments for all families?*

Our Presenter:

Erika Rosenberg, *Center for Governmental Research (CGR)*

Our Panel:

Erika Rosenberg, *CGR*

Nancy Kaplan, *Rochester's Child & Community Foundation*

Sarah Davis, *Parent*

Carolyn Lee-Davis, *The Children's Agenda & Early Childhood Development Initiative*

Thursday, November 13, 2014 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Asbury First United Methodist Church

1050 East Avenue, Rochester NY

Handicapped Accessible/Parking in Rear

Pre-registration is appreciated:

585-262-3730

or www.lwv-rma.org



Presidents' Corner

November is the time for elections all across our nation, and we in the League are ready! We've registered hundreds of new voters of all ages and offered non-partisan information in print and online (www.vote411.org).

We also joined WROC-TV once again in co-sponsoring a debate - this year between US Representative Louise Slaughter and her challenger Gates Supervisor Mark Assini. And if you missed it, you can view the debate at: <http://www.onenewspage.com/video/20141022/2174446/Louise-Slaughter-and-Mark-Assini-Debate.htm>. We offer sincere thanks to General Manager/VP Louie Gattozzi and the entire staff at Channel 8, and to our own Gloria Read, Barbara Grosh, Katherine Smith, Brian Valenti and Dorothy Borgus for Making Democracy Work!

Redistricting has been a hot topic this year and appears as Proposition 1 on the ballot. LWNYS supports passage of this amendment to our state Constitution, and our monthly forum on October 20 (co-sponsored with The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester and the Social Justice Council of First Unitarian Church of Rochester) presented a dynamic and in-depth look at both sides of the issue. We are grateful to Gin Busack, Judy Weinstein, Elaine Schmidt, Sarah Yaworsky, Katherine Smith, Neil Jaschik, Stu Berger and our moderator, Peter Galie, Professor Emeritus, Canisius College. You may also have heard Katherine, Neil and Stu discussing the issue on WXXI 1370's "Connections with Evan Dawson." Please remember to turn over your ballot to vote for all 3 propositions located on the back of the ballot form.

First Fridays are becoming a great venue to meet members and share ideas. Come and experience a lunch time of camaraderie, food and fun. Stop in even if you only have a short time to chat. We'll be there! The next First Friday will be November 7 between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM at the 1872 Café, 431 West Main Street.

Please mark your calendar for our upcoming November 13th forum, "*Stand with Families and Children in Our Community! A Report on Childcare for All Children in Monroe County.*" The study was conducted by the Center for Governmental Research and funded in large part by the Beatrice Bibby Endowment Fund. It's an important look at an issue that affects us all.

Happy Thanksgiving – we're grateful for all that you do in the name of the League!

Gloria S. Read gloell@rochester.rr.com
Mary Hussong-Kallen mmhk@rochester.rr.com

November Forum: Stand with Families & Children in Our Community

For many years the LWV-RMA has advocated for adequate subsidies for quality day care for working families at or below 200% of the poverty level. Each year we have testified before the Monroe County Legislature, requesting more funding for Pre-K. This issue has been part of the League's National positions on advocating for the welfare of children.

For many low-income families, quality day care is unaffordable. The federal Child Care and Development Fund provides subsidies to many eligible families, but these families represent a small share of the families who are in need of such support. Day care for one child can cost up to \$12,000 a year; a second child in day care can cost a family up to \$24,000 a year. For a minimum-wage earner who earns \$16,640 a year, the cost of quality day care is prohibitive.

The League of Women Voters, in its National position, believes "that the first five years of a child's life are crucial in building the foundation for educational attainment and greatly impact success or failure in later life. Additionally the League believes quality, developmentally appropriate and voluntary early learning experiences should be available to all children, with federally funded opportunities going first to children of poverty and /or with special needs".

Research has shown that children who attend quality day care programs perform better in school than those who don't. Also, parents of children receiving subsidies can become gainfully employed, reducing the need for public assistance.

Thanks to generous support from the Beatrice Bibby Endowment of the LWV-RMA, the Center for Governmental Research has prepared a research report entitled "*Child Care Subsidies in Monroe County – An Analysis of Need and Availability.*" Some of the issues CGR will address are the demand vs. the availability of child care subsidies, recent trends in the availability of subsidies, who are using subsidies in terms of age of children, family income level and other variables.

On November 13th at 7:00 PM the League and The Children's Agenda will sponsor a forum at the Asbury First United Methodist Church on East Avenue to present the findings of the Center for Governmental Research. Please join us to learn more about and discuss this important topic.

Joan Rosenthal

The Beatrice Bibby Endowment

As you (hopefully) noted on the front page of this issue of *The Voter*, our November forum is described as the “*Annual Beatrice Bibby Endowment Forum*.” For newer members who may be wondering what that means, we offer some background information.

Beatrice Bibby, a remarkable, active, community-minded League member, passed away in 2010 at the age of 101, having served as President of LWV-RMA and in numerous other leadership roles locally and at LWVNYS - as well as throughout the Rochester community. Ensuring the continuation of her lifetime commitment to philanthropy, Mrs. Bibby’s endowment fund at the Center for Governmental Research (CGR) was established in 2010 and makes it possible for the League to continue to commission studies of issues important to this community and to present the findings at Public Forums.

Her legacy gift to CGR has enabled us to present forums on such topics as: the feasibility of government consolidation of the Town of Sweden and the Village of Brockport; Monroe County redistricting plans in 2010; Local Development Corporations (LDCs) (issued in 2007 and then updated in 2011); and creation of wetland maps for several towns in Monroe County.

This year our CGR study and resulting forum stem from our decades-long involvement as part of a coalition called the Early Childhood Development Initiative (ECDI) and our more recent affiliation with the Unite Rochester campaign. The issue of poverty in our community and the resulting discussions of ways to help our poorer families change their economic conditions has supported the conclusion that education plays a major role in our present condition. Over the past two years numerous meetings, study groups and committee work with LWV-RMA’s various coalition partners led to our request that CGR research and report on childcare subsidies in Monroe County.

We trust that Bee (and the Bibby family) would be pleased with this forum.

Katherine Smith

1st Vice-President, Advocacy Director

Welcome to Our New Members!

Jackie Smith

Samantha Smith



National Susan B. Anthony Museum & House announces 2015 luncheon speaker

The National Susan B. Anthony Museum & House is proud to announce that its keynote speaker for the 2015 Susan B. Anthony Birthday Luncheon is Lynn Sherr, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and biographer. The annual luncheon will be held Wednesday, February 11, 2015, at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center.

Her most recent work, **Sally Ride: America’s First Woman in Space**, was released earlier this year and aptly illustrates the wonderful legacy of Susan B. Anthony. Sherr, who became close friends with Ride during her coverage of the space shuttle program, says Ride “acknowledged unequivocally that she wouldn’t be at NASA without the women’s movement and the social changes that had taken place”. Ms. Sherr is also the author of **Failure Is Impossible: Susan B. Anthony in Her Own Words**, a 1996 biography of the great reformer.

Throughout her career in journalism, Ms. Sherr has reported on an array of women’s issues, past and present, making her a perfect candidate to speak on the 2015 luncheon theme, *Thanks to Susan B., We Can Reach For the Stars!*, a celebration of the impact Susan B. Anthony’s life and work has had on subsequent generations of women.

“Sally Ride made her way into space, and the history books, over thirty years ago. Yet, recent statistics show that women only make up 24% of those working in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) fields,” says Deborah L. Hughes, President & CEO of the National Susan B. Anthony Museum & House and LWV-RMA member. “This luncheon will interest anyone fascinated by space and those advocates for advancing opportunities for women and girls in STEM.”

The Susan B. Anthony Luncheon is held each year in mid-February to celebrate Susan B. Anthony’s February 15th birthday, to honor contemporary women who continue her legacy, and to raise awareness of the educational and inspirational programs offered by the Museum.

Let’s get together for lunch and support the good work done by the Susan B. Anthony Museum and House. Save the date – details will follow soon!

Book Club Report

Wow! I couldn't wait to get home and report on the best book discussion ever, which was led by Elaine Schmidt today!

The book was **A Mercy** by Toni Morrison, and five of us in Book Club found it filled with rich prose and symbolism. When we thought we had finished a thread of discussion, someone else would say, "Wait, what about this passage?"

Essentially it brings into vivid detail what it was like to live in 1690 in the cold northern colonies (we couldn't agree if it was Milton, MA or not).

The characters included several women, some of whom were slaves or indentured persons or burdened by religious dogma. A husband and wife gathered them all in as a family. Morrison focused on how each of the characters was flung into the world at a young age without any protection, and sought to find their voice, their identity, indeed, their very name. And yet, the impact of the various kinds of slavery revealed how fragile these relationships were.

All in all, this was a good read. If you haven't already read it, we hope you'll enjoy it soon.

Our next book discussion will be Tuesday, November 18 at 1:00 PM at The Greenhouse Cafe, 2271 East Main Street. Please read **The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts** by Maxine Hong Kingston and join us – all are welcome!

Georgia DeGregorio
Membership Committee Chair

Naturalization

October 9th brought our League to the Monroe County Office Building at 10:00 AM. Mimi Wilson welcomed new citizens that day. At the Federal Building on the same day, Kay Saunders and Katherine Smith represented the League in the oath ceremony at 1:00 PM.

If you are interested in observing a Naturalization Ceremony, please contact Sheila Abeling at 585-223-6819 or sheiler162007@yahoo.com. I guarantee it will be memorable time for you and definitely time well spent!

Sheila Abeling
2nd Vice-President, Naturalization Chair

New Citizens - Just in Time to Vote!

Judge Feldman administered the oath to 50 new citizens on the next-to-last day to register to vote. The new citizens, along with family and friends, were waving American flags, cheering and clapping while Judge Feldman encouraged photographs of the new voters be taken in the courtroom - many including him and the certificate of citizenship.

Katherine Smith and Kay Saunders represented LWV-RMA at this very moving ceremony. All League members are **Warmly Invited** and **Strongly Encouraged** (WISE) to contact Sheila Abeling (sheiler162007@gmail.com) to make arrangements to attend a naturalization ceremony!

Katherine Smith
1st Vice-President, Advocacy Director





Sunshine Corner

HENRIETTA TOWN BOARD 10/1/14 OBSERVED BY JANE AND JOHN SCHMITT

No LWV issues were noted.

Henrietta was awarded \$74,000.00 by the Genesee Transportation Council to conduct a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and has hired Barton & Loguidice, DPC to design the plan.

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

IRONDEQUOIT TOWN BOARD 10/16/14 PER TOWN OF IRONDEQUOIT WEBSITE

The Irondequoit Town Board approved the Irondequoit Comprehensive Master Plan, the first master plan to be adopted by Irondequoit in 30 years.

New regulations, in cooperation with a law passed by Monroe County and in cooperation with the Monroe County District Attorney's office, were approved, creating a licensing and reporting program for pawnbrokers, secondhand dealers and jewelry and coin exchange dealers.

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

MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE 10/14/14 OBSERVED BY ELAINE SCHMIDT

No LWV issues were noted.

Thomas Ferrarese was reappointed Elections Commissioner.

The County unanimously authorized CTR Parking Solutions, LLC for construction services for upgrading existing parking at Greater Rochester International Airport. The County authorized the issuance of \$3,250,000 in bonds of the County of Monroe to finance the upgrade.

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

WEBSTER TOWN BOARD 10/16/14 PER WEBSTER TOWN BOARD WEBSITE

In addition to routine business, a measure was approved to authorize the Town Attorney to initiate legal action in a matter concerning encroachment into a town park.

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

Elaine Schmidt
Observer Corps Chair

LWV-RMA Reaching Out

On October 19th League members Sheila Abeling and Kay Wallace spoke at the Sunday Forum at the Downtown United Presbyterian Church (DUPC). The theme for the month of October was "How Do We Form a More Perfect Union?" For the week of October 19th discussion was focused on the topic "How Do We Make Political Campaigns More Positive and Fair?"

Sheila discussed the history and function of the League as a non-partisan, volunteer organization, emphasizing our Voter Service activities as well as the Fair Election Practices Campaign (FEPC). Kay told about her part on the hearing panel of the FEPC.

The audience at DUPC was very welcoming, and we applaud their continuing commitment to asking and answering such important questions in our community.

Sheila Abeling
2nd Vice-President, Naturalization and FEPC Chair



Kay Wallace addressing DUPC



Sheila & Katherine at candidates forum sponsored by Center for Disability Rights 10/14/2014

October Forum Photos - Proposed Redistricting Amendment



Education Update: A Visit With Daniel Delehanty of East High School

"What would Brown say?" This is the question that Daniel Delehanty, teacher and co-founder of the Ford Foundation-funded Teaching and Learning Institute (TLI) at East High School, asked our Education Study Group at its October 3rd meeting. He was referring to Oliver L. Brown, plaintiff in the Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision. Is the segregation seen in the Rochester City School District (RCSD) defacto or is it created by law? It doesn't matter; the outcome is the same. Over 40% of most classrooms in RCSD are filled with students who are impoverished. This is one of the highest percentages in the United States and is, in Mr. Delehanty's opinion, unacceptable.

The author went on to suggest that, given the opportunity to attend suburban schools, many students would experience success. He used the term "social capital" to explain his prediction. Social capital is the concept that students learn through peers and make connections that will last for a lifetime. The peers in suburban districts have high expectations. They are planning on graduating and continuing their education. These same peers have greater opportunities to pursue the arts, athletics and intellectual activities not available to many RCSD students. He suggested that suburban districts allow 20% of their Kindergarten students to come from the City. When asked about the existing Urban-Suburban program, he said that it involves only 140 students out of the district's 30,000 students - a number he regards as inadequate.

"As a city resident, I can use the federal Post Office in Pittsford," Mr. Delehanty wrote. "I can use the canal and its bike path managed by the State of New York, visit the Pittsford branch of the Monroe County Library, drive the streets and walk the sidewalks maintained by the village. But if I dare to attempt to register my children for Pittsford schools, the best in the state, I will be turned away."

There is a passion in Mr. Delehanty's commitment to education. He believes that all students can benefit from integrated classrooms. "Stop trying to shore up the urban schools," he suggests, favoring instead a metropolitan county school system. He cites the success of the Raleigh, North Carolina education system as a model for reform. And he argues strongly that everyone benefits when we have an educated society.

If you have a passion for examining and improving our local education system, please consider attending our meetings and contact me at cphelpsedu@ya

hoo.com. We are committed to helping our children receive a good education, because as the justices in Brown v. Board of Education said, "Separate but equal is not equal."

Cathy Phelps

Education Study Group Convener

Member to Member

As you look through this Voter, you may wonder who it is that is responsible for getting so much done. The short answer is that no one person or small group of people can accomplish what we do.

What you see is the collective contributions of every one of us. Each takes a piece of the responsibility for achieving an objective, and our individual efforts add up to a stupendous whole.

To continue to serve our Rochester Metro community for these many years, it takes a "team" effort.

For instance, on our Membership team, we have a person with skills in organizing events, another makes the phone calls welcoming new members, and all of us have been (or will be) calling you from time to time to make sure your expectations are being met. In addition, we have someone with the ability to manage our database, which helps us keep our files in order for reporting to LWVNYS and LWVUS.

The bottom line: whatever you are doing for our League, from being president to working on a committee to supporting us with your dues, you are part of one whole organization that works with and supports all members in order to achieve the League's goals. Thank you!

Georgia DeGregorio

Membership Committee Chair



From the Slaughter-Assini debate on WROC-TV on 10/21/14



Coming Events!



November

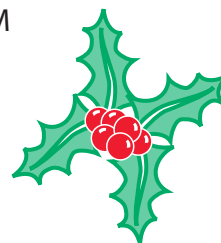
- 4 ELECTION DAY**
- 7** First Friday, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM, 1872 Cafe
431 W Main St, Rochester, NY 14608
- 13** Naturalization Ceremony, Monroe County Office Building, 10:00 AM
- 13** Naturalization Ceremony, Federal Court House, 1:00 PM
- 13** Unite Rochester Justice Forum, 6:00-8:00 PM on Cable Channels 12 & 15
- 13** Rochester Federation of Women's Clubs, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM at Monroe's Restaurant

- 13** Forum: Stand with Families & Children in Our Community, 7:00 PM, Asbury First United Methodist Church
- 20** Board of Directors Meeting, 6:00 PM Brighton Town Hall
- 27 Happy Thanksgiving!**

December

- 5** First Friday, 11:00 AM & 1:00 PM

Happy Holidays!



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

First Fridays

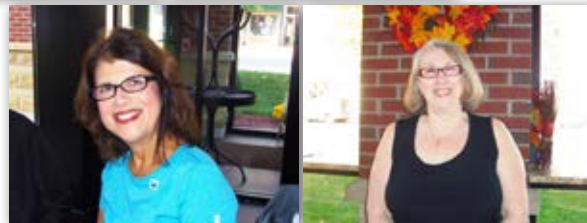
Are you free for lunch or a mid-day coffee break? If so, we'd like to spend it with you!

- When:** First Friday of each month between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM
- Where:** 1872 Café at 431 West Main Street (free parking across the street)
- 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, November 7
- Friday, December 5
- Friday, January 2
- Friday, February 6
- Friday, March 6
- Friday, April 3
- Friday, May 1



Board meets monthly on the second Thursday 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

**DECEMBER/JANUARY VOTER
DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 15!**



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

Rochester VOTER

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

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Georgia DeGregorio
Chair, Membership

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*

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

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