



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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The League of Women Voters of Rochester Metro Area (LWV-RMA) & The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester (TIAR)

Present

Nuts, Bolts and Monkey Wrenches of a NYS Constitutional Convention

A public forum on the 2017 ballot proposition "Shall there be a convention to revise the constitution and amend the same?"

Our distinguished panelists:

Peter J. Galie, *Emeritus Professor of Political Science,
Canisius College*

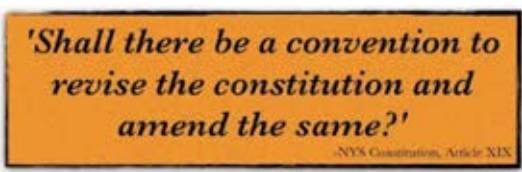
The Honorable Brian M. Kolb, *Assemblyman of the
131st District and the Assembly Minority Leader*

Please join us as our panelists discuss the
Constitutional Convention process.

**October 19, 2015
7:00 - 8:30 PM**

Asbury First United Methodist Church
1050 East Avenue, Rochester NY
Handicapped Accessible/Parking in Rear

Preregister at <http://www.lwv-rma.org> or 262-3730
We look forward to seeing you!



President's Corner

Such a busy time of year – but such wonderful things keep us busy!

One of the goals adopted by the board the last few years has been increasing our visibility in the community, and we continue to reap the benefits of those efforts. Each year we receive more invitations to co-sponsor candidate events and to work together on voter registration (as you'll see in Gin Busack's Voter Services article). We also hope you enjoy hearing League spokespersons frequently interviewed on "Connections with Evan Dawson" on 1370 WXXI.

Save the Date: October 21st at 7:00 PM — WROC-TV and LWV-RMA co-host our annual televised debate between County Executive candidates Rajesh Barnabas, Cheryl Di-nolfo and Sandra Frankel. *Don't miss it!*

We're exploring ways to work more collaboratively with the Susan B. Anthony House. We just celebrated National Voter Registration Day together on September 22 featuring the PowerPoint presentation used by our Education Committee in the local high schools. You'll notice that we're promoting one another's events in our newsletters, honoring and carrying on the great work of our common foremothers.

Our online presence is growing too. You can find us at www.facebook.com/lwvofrma. And now we're on Twitter! Be sure to take a look: www.twitter.com/LWVrochesterNY. Our excellent monthly forums are available to watch at your convenience at www.youtube.com/channel/UCjC9NCupn9AhZpH2k83m5_g (thanks to Elaine Schmidt). Of course our own website (www.lwv-rma.org) is an excellent resource for League info and activities, from finding meetings and events on our calendar to signing up for our monthly forums to finding which books have been chosen by our Book Club.

Two exciting forums are in store: "Nuts, Bolts and Monkey Wrenches of a NYS Constitutional Convention" on October 19 with TIAR (thanks to Nathan Jaschik, Elaine Schmidt, Judy Weinstein and TIAR reps); and "Money in Politics" on November 16 with the Social Justice Council of the First Unitarian Church (thanks to Ann Carmody, Carole Hoffman, Elaine Schmidt, Katherine Smith and Judy Weinstein).

The Fair Election Practices Campaign (FEPC) is well underway with a record number of candidates signing the pledge. Our Total Energy Committee recently joined forces with the Rochester People's Climate Coalition to present a candidate forum and will continue working together on "green" issues.

And so much more! You cannot be a League member in Rochester and be bored!

As always, your comments, questions and suggestions are most welcome...

In League,

Gloria S. Read gloell@rochester.rr.com

Mary Hussong-Kallen mmhk@rochester.rr.com

Nuts, Bolts and Monkey Wrenches of a NY State Constitutional Convention

Why are we talking about a New York State Constitutional Convention now? Voters will be deciding in 2017 whether or not a Constitutional Convention should be held. Considering that voters last faced this ballot question in 1997 (when the voters rejected holding a convention) and the last convention was held in 1967 (when the voters rejected the recommendations of the convention), LWV-RMA and The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester (TIAR) believe it is time to start educating voters on the process of holding a Constitutional Convention. We anticipate having additional forums on this topic as the November 7, 2017 election approaches.

We are very pleased to have two distinguished panelists for our October 19th forum: Peter J. Galie, Emeritus Professor of Political Science, Canisius College, and the Honorable Brian M. Kolb, Assemblyman of the 131st District and the Assembly Minority Leader.

Professor Galie is an expert on the New York State Constitution, author of several books on NYS government and its constitution, as well as co-editor and contributor to a collection of essays titled *New York's Broken Constitution: The Governance Crisis and the Path to Renewed Greatness* to be published in 2016. He will discuss all the steps involved in the Constitutional Convention process from now through the presentation of the recommendations of a convention, if one is held, to the voters. He will also provide insight into the contents of the 45-page New York State Constitution.

Assemblyman Kolb has a long history as a strong advocate for reforming New York State through constitutional change. He will talk about the importance of having a State Constitution that permits the effective and efficient governance of the state and, from his perspective, how the current Constitution helps and/or hinders that purpose.

Please join us on Monday, October 19th, at 7:00 PM at Asbury First United Methodist Church for an informative presentation by two lively speakers.

Judy Weinstein

Government Committee Member



So, Why Don't We Vote?

LWV-RMA's September 21st forum "Why Don't We Vote?" examined some reasons why our recent primaries had turn-out rates as low as 10% in some districts and no more than 30% in others. After the excellent presentations by Nazareth Professor Timothy Kneeland PhD, Andrea Cain PhD and Community Activist/Organizer George Moses, a far-ranging discussion among the 50 people in attendance focused on what the League and other advocates can do to change the current voting rules so that people will feel more connected to the political process.

Mr. Moses also strongly encouraged becoming active within the political system long before voting takes place.

By a large margin, people across the nation responding to the 2014 US Census community survey reported that they did not vote in 2012 because they were too busy and/or they believed their vote would not make a difference in how government operates.

IT WOULD SEEM THAT TWO MAJOR CHANGES ARE NEEDED:

- People need to know their involvement in the political system does influence officials' votes, and
- changes are needed in the voting system so busy people can participate.

HOW CAN THE LEAGUE LEAD IN MAKING THESE CHANGES? WHAT CAN YOU DO?

LWV-RMA takes every opportunity to inform citizens of the choices being made by officials that affect their daily lives. We give media interviews frequently, we present informational forums, and we keep our community updated on issues through our newsletter (The Voter), our website, FaceBook (www.facebook.com/lwvofrma), eblasts, brochures such as the Voter Guide, and our excellent tool Vote411 (www.VOTE411.org). We have recently set up a Twitter account (www.twitter.com/LWVrochesterNY), and we post our informative monthly forums to our YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/channel/UCjC9NCupn9AhZpH2k83m5_g). We hope you're using some or all of these resources.

For years LWVNY has advocated for changes in the election process, most importantly supporting paperless registration, same day registration and early voting. The NYS Assembly has passed a bill allowing for early voting, but there has been only discussion in the NYS Senate. Details on LWVNY positions on these changes can be found at www.lwvny.org.

What else can YOU do? Senator Rich Funke chairs the NYS Senate Committee on Elections and can call for hearings on these changes. His contact informa-

tion is: Funke@nysenate.gov or 585-223-1800 or 230 Packetts Landing, Fairport NY 14450.

Same-day registration requires a change in the NYS Constitution, so it's a two-year process. The 2016 session of the NYS Senate, a Presidential election year as well as the year all NY Legislators are running for office, is a good time to get the process started.

Katherine Smith

1st Vice-President



Deportation 101

... is an intensive workshop on the detention and deportation system to be held on October 17th from 8:30 AM through 4:30 PM at the Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 North Fitzhugh Street.

For information and to register, please contact Grania Marcus (917) 579-0199 or grania_marcus@yahoo.com.

Election Services

On September 10th, Primary Day, three members of our League opened absentee ballots. As a result of their efforts, the League earns \$300 from the Monroe County Board of Elections. A special thank you goes to Chris Burleigh, Katherine Smith and Sheila Abeling.

On November 3rd, Election Day, the League will again be opening absentee ballots. Just before then, we will notify the membership to see if anyone is interested in volunteering to open ballots. Please consider participating in this very worthwhile project.

Sheila Abeling

Election Services Chair

Do You Tweet?

If you use Twitter, consider following LWVUS, LWVNY and LWV-RMA. You'll find great information on many topics. Please visit www.twitter.com/LWVrochesterNY next time you're online!



VOTE411.ORG

ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

Did you attend the LWV-RMA forum on “Why Don’t We Vote?” One reason for not voting is that potential voters can’t distinguish between the candidates. Judging by the election mailings that we receive, all candidates are in favor of improving services and not increasing taxes, talk to their constituents, and have a photogenic family and/or dog. But what are their positions on issues? That is harder to determine.

This is where Vote 411 comes in. Vote 411 is the League of Women Voters’ interactive electronic voter guide. Vote 411 allows voters to receive personalized information about what elections will be on their ballot and compare candidates. The League poses nonpartisan questions to candidates specific for their office. For example, questions for County Legislature candidates include: “What do you see as the main challenge the County faces and what solution do you propose?”; and “In addition to state mandate reform, what proposals do you have to improve the long term financial stability of the County?” Questions for candidates for town councils and town supervisors include: “If you could achieve one major improvement for our town, what would it be and how would you accomplish it?”; and “How would you balance the promotion of development in our town with protection of the environment?”

Visit www.vote411.org to see your candidates’ positions on issues. If any of your candidates has not yet posted information, please ask why not, and suggest that the candidate write to voterservices@lww-rma.org in order to receive a password for the site. If a candidate has posted on Vote411, please express your appreciation.

The League of Women Voters encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government. Let’s work to get citizens to vote and also give them the tools to become informed!

Judy Weinstein
Vote411 Coordinator



SUFFRAGETTE—THE MOVIE

The National Women’s Hall of Fame and Smith Opera House present a FREE advance screening of the film *Suffragette* followed by a discussion with screenwriter Abi Morgan, moderated by Chris Woodworth.

Thursday, October 1 at 7:30 PM
Smith Opera House
82 Seneca Street, Geneva

To reserve your FREE ticket, please call 315-781-5483 or email boxoffice@thesmith.org

**NOVEMBER 3rd IS
ELECTION DAY
TAKE A FRIEND TO VOTE!**

UN Day

LWVNYS is pleased to offer its annual League Day at the United Nations on Thursday, December 3, 2015. This year’s briefings will cover two topics: Global Healthcare Issues and Educating the Youth of the World. The briefings this year will be held in the morning, from 10:00 AM - noon, followed by lunch in the Delegates’ Dining Room and optional tours of the UN in the afternoon. Registration form is available at: <http://files.ctctcdn.com/37d635eb001/750bb205-e758-4f8b-8b67-b1747fb9c33c.pdf>.



VOTE!

Membership Corner

Many of you have already paid your annual dues to our League. And many will be writing that check in the next few days as you receive the reminder email. Thanks to you all!

There will be a few who express uncertainty about rejoining. Not because they do not believe in the League, but because they cannot participate in or attend the many forums and committee meetings that are scheduled each month.

This is what I shared with one such member: Being a member of the League comes in many flavors. There are those who have the time to participate personally in committees or one-time events. These are valuable contributions.

However, there are members who do not have the time or opportunity to participate and yet support all the good work we do in providing information to our voting citizens. This is equally valuable. This support is expressed:

- in keeping up to date on civic issues through receiving our Voter and other communications,
- in responding from home to our calls for action
- by being our ambassadors in sharing League's action and information with friends and families.

We need this support as much as the former, and we welcome your continued membership.

Please tell us if we got that right by continuing as a valuable and valued member of the League of Women Voters.

Georgia DeGregorio
Membership Committee Chair



Save the Date!

Our November forum, Money in Politics, will be presented on Monday, November 16th, at the First Unitarian Church of Rochester, 220 South Winton Road, at 7:00 PM. This forum will be co-sponsored by the Social Justice Council of the Unitarian Church, and panelists will discuss the pros and cons of the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision.

Susan B. Anthony Museum and House

Are you interested in volunteering at the Susan B. Anthony Museum? Informational open houses will be held: October 3, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, and October 6, 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Fall volunteer training begins October 24, 8 AM - Noon, and finishes up the following week at the same time. The training requires pre-registration; please contact Deb Coffey at deborah.coffey@susanbathonyhouse.org or 585-235-6124 x 16.

The Susan B. Anthony House has announced the 13th season of its popular Monday Lecture Series. Guest speakers cover a wide range of topics inspired by the life, work and legacy of Susan B. Please check the schedule for 2015-16 at http://susanbathonyhouse.org/programs/mondaylecture2015_2016.php and make your reservation early!

Poverty

The National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Rochester Section, presents "Poverty: Our Crisis and Our Response" at 7:30 PM on October 7, 2015, at Temple Sinai, 363 Penfield Road, Rochester 14625. This event is free and open to the public, but registration is requested: visit www.ncjwgrs.org or email frishman@rochester.rr.com.

Do You Have...

- Comments?
- Suggestions?
- News We Can Use?
- Contact The Voter at:

lwwrma-voter@rochester.rr.com

Where's the Passion?

That's the question that was posed to me at a recent voter registration drive. The inquirer was a gentleman who obtained his right to vote as a naturalized citizen. A citizen for the last twenty-seven years, he told us that he had voted in every election since. He could not understand how those who obtained the right to vote based simply on birth and age would fail to register, or if registered, fail to vote. How do we respond?

Well, our goal as a local League is and always has been to encourage registration and to educate ourselves and the public on important issues. This year has been amazing! We have conducted first-time registration drives on the RIT, MCC and College at Brockport campuses in conjunction with freshman orientation. In addition to our twice monthly presence at the Naturalization ceremonies, we assisted with registration at the downtown Project Homeless Connect event and joined with The Susan B. Anthony House on National Voter Registration Day offering registration services and a neighborhood canvass. In partnership with the Finger Lakes Donor Recovery Network we began introducing the new NYS voter registration form which now offers the opportunity to register as an organ donor.

On the education front, we co-sponsored a candidate forum with the Rochester People's Climate Coalition, and we offered the monthly information forum "Why Don't We Vote?" with moderator Timothy Kneeland, PhD (Professor and Chairperson, History & Political Science, Nazareth College) as well as guest panelists Andrea Cain (Vice President & Interim CEO of The Community Place of Greater Rochester, Inc.) and George Moses (Executive Director, Northeast Area Development, Inc.). Our Education Study Group has spent the month preparing its Civics presentation for the juniors and seniors in our City schools during this school year.

Before we give ourselves the "high five," is that enough? Getting people educated and registered is only half of the job, at best. The next challenge is motivating our registered and educated voters to participate – to get to the polls on election day and use that VOTE!

Come help us! J. Ernest DuBois has agreed to be our Volunteer Coordinator. He will be looking for "a few good people" to help. Don't be surprised if you get a call. We know you'll enjoy chatting with him and hopefully finding your own passion for getting out the educated, informed vote!

Gin Busack

Voter Services Chair

Fair Election Practices Committee (FEPC)

On September 8th at noon in the Atrium of the Monroe County Office Building, the League and The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester (TIAR) sponsored a Signing Ceremony/Press Conference. At that time candidates signed the Pledge to conduct a fair, issue-focused campaign. The Pledge List of candidates who have signed was read aloud and then sent to the media.

All the documents of the FEPC, an updated Pledge List and any complaint/hearing results or additional info can be found on the League website www.lwv-rma.org. The League will continue to encourage candidates to run a positive, issue-oriented, fair campaign until Nov. 3rd, Election Day.

Members of our Hearing Panel this year are: Jim Morris (Chairperson), Ralph Esposito, Tom Frey, Lois Giess and Channing Philbrick. Alternates are: Rob Brown, Peter Knapp, Jim Peters, Sue Roberts and Mary Ann Thorpe.

Thank you to Katherine Smith and Judy Weinstein for all of your help at the Signing Ceremony/Press Conference!

Sheila Abeling

FEPC Chair

Naturalization

September 10th brought Marcia Eisenberg to the Monroe County Office Building. She welcomed fifty-one new citizens for Naturalization at 10:00 AM. On September 17th we celebrated Constitution Day at The College at Brockport. Thirty candidates were naturalized that day, and Marcia Eisenberg represented the League at the ceremony. Thanks, Marcia, for all your volunteer time during September!

If you are interested in attending Naturalization ceremonies, please contact Sheila Abeling at 223-6819 or sheiler162007@gmail.com. I can guarantee you that it will be time well spent!

Sheila Abeling

Naturalization Committee Chair



Meet Sarah Liebschutz

BACKGROUND

Sarah graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science one fine June day, was married to the love of her life within 2 months, and within 4 years gave birth to 2 beautiful babies. She found herself living a near-perfect life – except for a nagging need for an intellectually stimulating time-out.

WHY SHE JOINED THE LEAGUE

Enter the League. Sarah began a balancing act that would last for many years: full-time mom, full-time League member, full-time student (working on her doctorate in Political Science at the U of R) and before long, full-time professor at The College at Brockport. She recalls the League as a wonderfully intelligent, challenging group of women who would become lifelong friends, but also as a springboard to involvement in the community. Among other organizations, she chaired the Board of Directors of Rochester General Hospital, The Children's Agenda, and The Jewish Book Festival. She published prolifically – scholarly books about government, politics and health care. And after retiring from Brockport after 27 years of teaching in the Political Science and Public Administration Departments, she returned to the U of R and taught as an adjunct professor. Her League activities have always been part of that balance of family, professional life, community work and friendships.

HER LEAGUE ROLE/ACTIVITY

Sarah first joined the International Affairs Committee through the unit meeting structure then in place. She chaired a local arm of a federal program called "Food for Peace," distributing surplus food around the world. She served on the Board of Directors with Gerri Reddig and Natacha Dykman, eventually as Treasurer and later as Vice President. She chaired the Fundraising Committee. She gave talks throughout the community for the League. And after a lifetime of studying and teaching political science and government, she took the opportunity to experience politics firsthand, serving 2 terms as Chair of the Fair Election Practices Campaign (FEPC). Most recently, Sarah researched and presented 2 forums on the Affordable Care Act (ACA), explaining its intricacies in the fall of 2013 and then evaluating its implementation in the spring of 2015. (She recently analyzed the implementation of the ACA in NYS for a 40-state national study published by the Rockefeller Institute and the Brookings Institution.)

QUOTE

It's no surprise that one of Sarah's favorite quotes is "*Carpe diem*" - seize the day, with determination and

always with one's best effort. She also cites a quote from another wise, positive, powerful woman, Eleanor Roosevelt: "It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness."

We – all of us – are the LWV-RMA.

The better we get to know one another, the more we can accomplish together!

WROC-TV and LWV-RMA

CO-HOST ANNUAL DEBATE

WROC-TV Channel 8 and the League will once again present a live, televised candidate debate – this year featuring candidates in the Monroe County Executive race, Rajesh Barnabas, Cheryl Dinolfo and Sandra Frankel. Save the date: Wednesday, October 21, at 7:00 PM! Watch in the Channel 8 studios (info on tickets will be out soon) or watch on TV – but don't miss it!

Looking Back at the Suffrage Movement

In celebration of the soon-to-be-released movie *Suffragette*, please take a few moments to look over this wonderful timeline:

<http://www.suffragist.com/timeline.htm>

We think you'll discover a heroine or an event you didn't know!

League Lingo

There are certain terms unique to the League of Women Voters "League Lingo." Some examples:

CONSENSUS: Collective opinion of a substantial number of League members, representative of the membership as a whole, after objective study of an issue.

CONCURRENCE: Agreement by members of one League with a position on an issue reached by another League.

MEMBERSHIP AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (MLD): A collaborative national, state and local League program and set of best practices to grow membership and develop leadership.

Voter Registration Day Photos at Susan B. Anthony House



Constitution Day at The College at Brockport Photos



First Friday Photos





Coming Events!



October

- 2 First Friday (Corner Bakery Café, 1367 Mt. Hope Avenue)
- 6 Board Meeting (6:00 PM at Gates Library)
- 6 Book Club (1:00 PM at The Greenhouse Café)
- 8 Naturalization Ceremony (10:00 AM at Monroe County Office Building)
- 8 Naturalization Ceremony (1:00 PM at Federal Building)
- 8 Rochester Federation of Women's Clubs Luncheon (11:00 AM)
- 15 LWV-RMA/CDR Candidate Forum (6:30 PM at The Strong Museum)
- 21 Channel 8/LWV-RMA County Executive Candidate Debate (7:00 PM at WROC Studio)

November

- 3 **Election Day! Take a Friend to Vote!**
- 6 First Friday (Corner Bakery Café, 1367 Mt. Hope Avenue)
- 10 Board Meeting (6:30 PM at Brighton Town Hall)
- 12 Naturalization Ceremony (10:00 AM at Monroe County Office Building)
- 12 Naturalization Ceremony (1:00 PM at Federal Building)
- 16 Forum: Money in Politics (7:00 PM at First Unitarian Church)
- 17 Book Club (1:00 PM at The Greenhouse Café)

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 – and note our new location: the Corner Bakery Café in College Town!

When: First Friday of the month between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM

Where: 1367 Mt. Hope Avenue (free parking behind)

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 6
- Friday, December 4
- Friday, January 8
(New Year's Day moves us to the 2nd Friday)
- Friday, February 5
- Friday, March 4

- Friday, April 1
- Friday, May 6
- Friday, June 3

FREE PARKING (ramp garage and open air lot) BEHIND THE RESTAURANT!

Board meets monthly on the first Tuesday 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

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www.LWV-RMA.org

Rochester VOTER

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

**NOVEMBER VOTER
DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 15!**



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

Officers:

- Mary Hussong-Kallen**
Co-President
- Gloria S. Read**
Co-President
- Katherine Smith**
First Vice-President
- Sheila Abeling**
Second Vice-President
- Ida Holloran**
Treasurer

Board of Directors:

- Gin Busack**
Director
- Ernest DuBois**
Director/Parliamentarian
- Patrina Freeman**
Director
- Carole Hoffman**
Director
- Brian Valenti**
Director
- Judy Weinstein**
Director

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

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