

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 persons who are at least 16 years of age.

Those under 16 can be associate members.

Inside this issue:

NYS Constitutional Convention	1
President's Corner	2
Annual Meeting.....	2
February Forum: History as Argument for Voting	3
March Forum: Election Day: Yesterday & Tomorrow	4
Naturalization	5
Fair Election Practices Campaign.....	5
Participaint in LWV Activies in Portland, OR	6
Sunshine Corner	6
Calendar	7
First Fridays	7
Leadership	8



Whether or not to convene a NEW YORK STATE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION will be on the ballot in November 2017.

See the President's Corner on page 2 to learn more.

The LWV-RMA Forum on poverty originally scheduled for April 24 has been cancelled due to a scheduling conflict for some of the panelists.

The event will be re-scheduled.

President's Corner

Dear League Members and Friends,

Let's begin with the best news: we continue to welcome new members! If you are a new member, please know that we're eager to help you find your niche here in the Rochester League – and to learn about you and your talents and interests. We held an open orientation session in February and will hold another one soon.

As you know, every 20 years New York is mandated to ask citizens whether to hold a Constitutional Convention to review and possibly amend our state constitution – and that question will appear on the November 2017 ballot. The League supports a convention, and wants voters to make their own informed decisions. LWVNY has partnered with the SUNY Rockefeller Institute of Government and several experts to help provide the information necessary – please take time to read the outstanding collection of materials on the RI website and share it freely: www.rockinst.org/NYS_ConCon2017/.

The May edition of The Voter will present the proposed 2017-2018 budget and the slate of candidates for our Board of Directors and Nominating Committee – all to be voted on at the Annual Meeting on June 15 at 4:30 at Locust Hill Country Club. Mark your calendar!

Are you familiar with our Fair Election Practices Campaign? It's our attempt to ensure (to the best of our ability) that candidates pledge to not only run fair and issue-oriented campaigns, but that they encourage their supporters to do so as well. Sheila Abeling has led that effort for many years, but she's ready to step aside and help other members take over. The campaign involves sending the Pledge to all candidates by mail and email, hosting a signing ceremony, staffing a hearing panel and publicizing the results of any hearings (of complaints filed by candidates). It's not time-consuming, but it's interesting, challenging and rewarding. Are YOU the next FEPC Coordinator? Please contact Sheila for more information at sheiler162007@gmail.com or 585-223-6819.

As always, thank you for ALL that you do to Make Democracy Work for All!

In League,

Mary Hussong-Kallen
president@lww-rma.org



*Newest LWV-RMA Member –
"Susan B. Anthony",
who joined the League
after the March 27 forum.*

*To learn more about the forum,
go to page 5.*

Annual Meeting!

It's nearly time and you will be WISE (Warmly Invited and Strongly Encouraged) to attend our **Annual Meeting!**

**Please plan to join us on Thursday, June 15,
2016 at 4:30 PM at Locust Hill Country Club.**

Vote for:

- New slate of candidates to our Board of Directors and Nominating Committee
- Budget for 2017-2018

Honor Milestone League members

Celebrate Carrie Chapman Catt & Making Democracy Work Awards

Acknowledge the members who earned You Make Us Proud Awards this year

Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, punch, coffee, tea, cash bar – and wonderful company

Cost is just \$10 again this year!

RSVP at www.lww-rma.org or 585-262-3730 – we look forward to seeing you!

**Democracy is not a
spectator sport.
Tag! You're It!**

If you'd like to receive your **VOTER** in color, please forward your email address to info@lww-rma.org or 585.262.3730. Receiving your **VOTER** electronically also allows for more immediate delivery and saves postage costs.

February Forum: History as an Argument for Voting

During the February 27 LWV Forum at Asbury First Methodist Church, more than 60 attendees heard Sister Anne Urquhart, Sister Barbara Lum and Sister Josepha Twomey of the Sisters of St Joseph of Rochester tell the story of their work in Selma, Alabama. The Sisters of St. Joseph began their work in Selma in 1940 with black families living in poverty and grew through the decades to include teaching and nursing and starting a nursing school at Good Samaritan Hospital. This hospital treated blacks at a time when other hospitals in the area did not. In 1965 when marchers at the Edmund Pettis Bridge were beaten and no other hospital in the area would treat them, Good Samaritan with its 64 beds treated more than 100 victims. Among those seriously injured was John Lewis, currently a U.S. Congressman from Atlanta, Georgia, who visits the Sisters at the Mother House in our area whenever he is in town. The Sisters' first-hand accounts of the Civil Rights Movement in Selma and Alabama were riveting.

The Reverend Marvin McMickle, President of Colgate Rochester Crozier Divinity School, continued the Forum with a presentation on voting rights since Selma. He reviewed Constitutional Amendments that address voting rights, then traced the history of voter suppression tactics that led to the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and later its chief provision being overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2013. This ruling in the *Shelby County v. Holder* case created today's new challenge for equal access to the voting box. He also shared a family tragedy about a relative who was shot and killed while trying to register to vote.

The presenters' personal histories as part of the turbulent 1960s gave attendees a unique view of those times, made clear what was sacrificed for the vote, showed how *Shelby v Holder* has constricted voting rights, and challenged each person there to continue the fight for equal access to the voting booth.

Mary Myers
 Program Committee Chair
marymyers@itainc.com

Some of the 60 people who gathered to hear the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Rev. Dr. McMickle.



Ida Holloran and Mary Myers welcoming participants at the registration table.



LWV-RMA President Mary Hussong-Kallen with Sr. Josepha Twomey.



Sr. Anne Urquhart, Sr. Barbara Lum, Mrs. Peggy McMickle, Dr. Marvin McMickle, Sr. Josepha Twomey.



March Forum

100 Election Day: Yesterday and Tomorrow

BECAUSE OF WOMEN LIKE HER

Rochester WOMAN SUFFRAGE 1917-2017

LWV-RMA members helped to commemorate the New York Suffrage Centennial year during their forum on March 27, 2017. Helping them to remember the voting rights history that occurred during the past 100 years in New York State were Christine Ridarsky, Rochester City Historian; Deborah L. Hughes, President and CEO of the National Susan B. Anthony Museum & House; and Barbara Blaisdell who portrays Susan B. Anthony.

The presenters outlined activities that will occur in coming months to commemorate the 100th anniversary, including an exhibition at the Central Library in Rochester from June 2 through October, and the VoteTilla packet boat flotilla on the Erie Canal between Seneca Falls and Rochester from July 17-21.

To learn more about suffrage commemorative events, visit WWW.RocSuffrage.org.



LWV-RMA President Mary Hussong-Kallen and "Susan B. Anthony".



Forum presenters Christine Ridarsky, "Susan B. Anthony", and Deborah Hughes.



"Susan B. Anthony" AKA Barbara Blaisdell with Judy Weinstein.



Lois Winterkorn, Hasana Martin, and Georgia DeGregorio at the forum.

Naturalization

NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES IN MARCH WELCOME MORE THAN 100 NEW CITIZENS

On March 9, LWV-RMA representatives attended naturalization ceremonies in two venues.

At 9:30 A.M., Lois Winterkorn and Ida Holloran greeted 96 candidates for citizenship at the George Eastman House Museum.

Also on March 9, at the Monroe County Office Building at 10:00 A.M., Sheila Abeling met a different group of newly naturalized citizens. The pictures show some of the new citizens with Monroe County Family Court Judge James E. Walsh, who presided; retired State Supreme Court Justice Joseph Valentino, who was the speaker; and Monroe County Clerk Adam Bello, who also participated in the ceremony.

The League welcomes volunteers who are interested in assisting with Naturalization ceremonies. It's a wonderful project that you won't regret. Please contact Sheila Abeling if you are interested in observing/helping out.

Sheila Abeling

585-223-6819 or sheiler162007@gmail.com



Fair Election Practices Campaign (FEPC):

We are still in need of 2 volunteers to chair this campaign. Sheila Abeling will mentor you. It is a much needed project and a very respected project in the county. We should begin putting the campaign together in April, with the bulk of the planning in July and August. PLEASE consider it. Thank you! Contact Sheila at 585-223-6819 or sheiler162007@gmail.com.

Participating in LWV Activities in Portland, Oregon

By Sheila Abeling



While visiting my family and friends on the west coast, I contacted League of Women Voters chapters because I was interested in attending their activities/meetings. League of Women Voters PDX (Portland, Oregon) responded with an invitation. I was delighted to hear from them again. A couple of years ago I attended a media luncheon held by that chapter, which is a very welcoming group. This time I went to another, very well attended, media luncheon. The theme of the luncheon was, "After the Election: What's Next for Portland and Oregon?" Panelists included a League member as moderator, a columnist of the OREGONIAN (newspaper in Portland), a journalist who covers politics/government, and a Professor of Political Science at PSU (Portland State University) who earned her Ph.D at Cornell University. The luncheon was held in January, after the Inauguration and the Marches. There was a lot of audience participation and much emotion. I heard these quotes more than once: "Where were the younger voters? I can't get in the head of white women. What about the white women's vote?" This LWV chapter has about 200 members and was seeing an increase in membership since the election.

I was also able to attend a Unit Meeting in the southeast of the PDX area. Areas/neighborhoods meet at members' houses to discuss issues and plan actions. The meeting that I attended involved twelve members. They appeared to be an active group that started with only five people, but grew with interest. Topics of action included local issues, i.e., education, candidates for upcoming elections, clean water supply, shortage of lower-cost housing, effects of increased population on roads/transportation, etc. This group keeps me in their email distribution list. I enjoyed meeting these dedicated members.

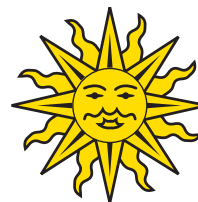
In addition to these League activities, on the day after the Inauguration I joined the women's march in Portland. For any of you who joined a march somewhere in the country on that day, you know that it was a memorable experience. I marched on a very rainy day with my granddaughter, daughter-in-law and her friend. What an inspiring experience! There were well over 100,000 walkers that included diversity in all aspects. A couple of days before there had been a protest that made the news in Portland, that wasn't as calm and respectful as this one.

Sheila Abeling

585-223-6819 or sheiler162007@gmail.com

Sunshine Corner

HENRIETTA TOWN BOARD
MARCH 1, 2017 PER TOWN WEBSITE



LaBella Associates has been authorized by Henrietta to provide professional design services in the preparation of contract documents for Task 01 of the Asbestos Abatement Design for the Town Hall and Tinker Museum projects, for a total amount not to exceed \$5,750.00.

A public hearing will be held April 5, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. at Henrietta Town Hall, Main Meeting Room, to consider rezoning 67.4 acres on the west side of John Street and north side of Lehigh Station Road to allow for the development of an industrial/business park.

The Town has appointed Thomas J. Rzepka, Esq. as Prosecuting Attorney for a nine-month term.

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

IRONDEQUOIT TOWN BOARD
MARCH 21, 2017 OBSERVED BY ELAINE SCHMIDT

The Town of Irondequoit will take over the operation of Irondequoit Bay State Marine Boat Launch from Monroe County. Supervisor Seeley hopes to develop more recreational options there.

A resolution passed approving the Special Event License for the Sunset House 15th Annual 5K Run and Fitness Walk. Supervisor Seeley challenged Councilman John Perticone to a race.

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

MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE
MARCH 14, 2017 CANCELLED DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER.

The meeting has been rescheduled for March 28, 2017 at 6pm.

MONROE COUNTY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FEBRUARY 28, 2017 OBSERVED BY ELAINE SCHMIDT

Referral 17-0084 authorizes amendments to the 2017 Capital Budget to increase Project Authorizations for various capital projects related to the dissolution of Local Development Corporations.

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

Elaine Schmidt

Observer Committee



Coming Events!



April

- 7 First Friday (11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M., I-Square)
- 13 Rochester Federation of Women's Clubs Susan B. Anthony Benefit Card Party (10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M., Penfield Country Club)
- 13 Naturalization Ceremony (10:00 A.M., Monroe County Office Building)
- 13 Naturalization Ceremony (1:00 P.M., Federal Building)
- 13 LWV-RMA Board Meeting (3:00 P.M., Asbury First UMC)
- 18 LWV-RMA Book Club Meeting (1:00 P.M., Greenhouse Café, East Main Street near Winton Road)
- 24 April Forum, Poverty (7:00 P.M., Asbury First UMC)
- 25 Lobby Day (for more info: 585-262-3730 or info@lww-rma.org)

May

- 5 First Friday (11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M., I-Square)
- 11 Naturalization Ceremony (10:00 A.M., Monroe County Office Building)
- 11 Naturalization Ceremony (1:00 P.M., Federal Building)
- 11 LWV-RMA Board Meeting (3:00 P.M., Asbury First UMC)
- 11 Rochester Federation of Women's Clubs Luncheon/Meeting (11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M., Ridgetmont Country Club)

June

- 9 - 11 LWVNY Convention (Syracuse)
- 15 Annual Meeting (4:30 - 7:00 P.M., Locust Hill Country Club)

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

Don't miss First Fridays with LWV-RMA

Join League colleagues for lunch or a mid-day coffee break each First Friday of the month, 11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. at I-Square, 400 Bakers Park, at Titus Avenue, Irondequoit, NY 14617

April 7

May 5

June 2

First Fridays help us get to get to know one another by chatting informally. No need to RSVP. Pencil us in on your calendar and join when you can! There's a place at the table for you!



Board of Directors meets the second Thursday of each month at 3:00 P.M. at Asbury First UMC. Board meetings are open to all members.

Government Committee meets monthly. For details, call Elaine Schmidt at 530-7414.

On second Thursday of each month at 10:00 A.M. Naturalization Ceremonies are held at Monroe County Office Building at 39 W. Main Street.

On second Thursday of each month at 1:00 P.M. 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@lww-rma.org



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
ROCHESTER METROPOLITAN AREA

PO Box 10573
Rochester, NY 14610
585-262-3730
www.LWV-RMA.org

Rochester VOTER

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

Officers:

- Mary Hussong-Kallen**
President
- Sheila Abeling**
First Vice-President
- Ida Holloran**
Treasurer
- Judith Sternberg**
Secretary

Board of Directors:

- Gin Busack**
Director
- Ernest DuBois**
Director
- Mary Myers**
Director
- Judy Weinstein**
Director

**MAY VOTER
DEADLINE IS APRIL 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

*The Voter is a monthly publication of the LWV-RMA
Editor, Judy Wadsworth
Layout/Design, Chris Burleigh*

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

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