



## *The LWV-RMA Presents* **Program Planning & General Membership Meeting**

All members are cordially invited to share a day of information, discussion, planning, food and good times!

*Our topic:*

**Death With Dignity**

*See page 6 for details*

**Saturday, January 20, 2018**

**10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.**

**AAUW Perkins Mansion**

**494 East Avenue**

To ensure that we prepare enough food, please register for this event by visiting our website at:

[www.lwv-rma.org](http://www.lwv-rma.org)

or calling 262-3730.



Enter driveway off East Avenue here; park behind building.

We look forward to seeing you and hearing your input!

**League of Women Voters  
Rochester Metro Area  
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.

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**President’s Corner**

Western New York is once again a winter wonderland! Although travel is sometimes daunting, it certainly won’t slow the League...

Looking back on 2017, we welcomed over 30 new members – and we are so grateful for the new energy and enthusiasm you’ve brought to us! If you haven’t found your niche here in the League, please consider some of our areas of greatest need:

- Tech skills – we’re always looking for help with our website and social media (Facebook and Twitter);
- Voter registration and our new group focused on Getting Out The Vote (GOTV);
- Planning our monthly public information forums – reviewing ideas for topics, selecting presenters, and generally “making it happen” 6 times each year;

Please contact our Volunteer Coordinator Kim Byers at [lwv.roc.volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:lwv.roc.volunteer@gmail.com) if you have interest in working on these (or other) areas.

And mark your calendar for these upcoming events:

- January 20 – Annual Program Planning and General Membership Meeting (AAUW’s Perkins Mansion, 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.)
- February 12 – Forum: Bail Reform: What’s It All About? The Ethical, Practical and Legislative Issues. Presenters: Tim Donaher, Monroe County Public Defender; Pat Mannix, Racism Educator (Racial Justice Initiative/Metro Justice); and Gary Pudup, Monroe County Sheriff Deputy, retired. (Asbury First UMC, 7:00 – 8:30 P.M.)
- March 19 – Forum: Dr. Sally Roesch Wagner, nationally recognized lecturer, author and performance interpreter of woman’s rights history (Nazareth College)
- April – Advocacy Workshop (TBA)
- June 7 – Annual Meeting (Locust Hill Country Club, 4:00 – 600 P.M.)

And of course there’s First Friday on the first Friday of every month – 11:00 AM til 1:00 P.M. (or so). Arrive when you can, leave when you must!

Note too that our Book Club will meet in January, February and March – check out the reading selections at <http://www.lwv-rma.org/bookclub.php>.

As we look forward to 2018, the challenges are greater than ever – but there’s no better company to be in than the League. Thank you for making that truer than ever.

Best wishes for safe and happy holidays – and a wonderful new year of Making Democracy Work For All!

**Mary Hussong-Kallen**  
*President@lwv-rma.org*

## “Elections Have Consequences”

A forum co-sponsored by the National Council of Jewish Women Greater Rochester Section and the League of Women Voters-Rochester Metro Area on December 5, 2017 reviewed the outcomes of the recent local and federal votes. Leading the discussion were Dr. Timothy Kneeland, Professor and Chairperson, History & Political Science Department, Nazareth College, and Adrian Hale, Strategic Initiatives Manager, Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce.

Among their comments were:

- Local elections in 2017 were affected by national issues.
- Republican voters tend to be older and male; Democratic voters tend to be younger and female. One half of Monroe County Republicans are 55 or older.
- In 2017, fewer Republicans voted and in Monroe County, fewer Republicans associated themselves with President Trump.
- Democrats, many of whom are just entering politics, are filing in record numbers to run for office in 2018.
- In Monroe County suburbs, the numbers of registered Democrats and Republicans are almost equal; the numbers of Democrats have increased while the numbers of Republicans have decreased. The numbers of independent and several other minor parties have also increased.
- More voters vote for individuals rather than parties, making the cult of personality more relevant.
- Republicans organized against President Obama; Democrats are now organizing against President Trump.
- Republicans elected fringe candidates who didn't vote in support of the wishes of their voting base.
- Voter turnout is affected by what previously elected officials are doing. If previous voting has not produced desired results, some people stop voting.
- Younger voters perceive political parties as part of the political problem.



Seen at the December 5 forum -

TOP: Dave & Debbie Gordon; Ed & Elena Wilkonski.

MIDDLE: Katherine Smith, Lois Winterkorn, Ida Holloran; Presenters Dr. Timothy Kneeland & Adrian Hale.

INSET: Amy Stein, President, Local Chapter, National Council of Jewish Women Greater Rochester Section, with Mary Hussong-Kallen, President, LWV-RMA.

BOTTOM: Adrian Hale, Amy Stein, Sandra Frankel, Gin Busack (back to camera), Dr. Timothy Kneeland, and Judy Weinstein.

## League Day at the UN, November 16, 2017

LWVNYS's annual day at the United Nations focused this year on the topics of "Forced Labor and Human Trafficking" and "Gender Issues." Approximately 50 friendly League members from around New York State participated in the day-long event that also included a tour of the United Nations building and a lovely luncheon.

The first hour-long, private briefing was jam-packed with information on the extent and various forms of trafficking found worldwide, populations most vulnerable to being exploited, and the history of UN involvement in combating these abuses. Current campaigns are largely focused on shining a light on the demand side and on pushing for both governmental and private sector initiatives, e.g., training and certification of employees in key industries to be aware of and report signs of trafficking.

The second briefing provided an overview of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). The Commission (in which LWV played a formative role in 1944), is the principal international body devoted to promoting women's rights and shaping global standards on gender equality. Each year it puts on a two-week meeting at the UN which includes approximately 5,000 delegates and addressees from around the world. The 2018 Meeting will run from March 12-23, and cover the Priority Theme: Rural Women – Challenges and Opportunities, and the Review Theme: Women in the Media – Participation and Access. The LWVUS has special consultative status with CSW and will have a delegation of 20 members participating in the sessions. **An additional 20 attendee slots are available to League members.**

League Day at the UN offered an illuminating glimpse into the vast array of NGOs having working relationships with the UN. It was a memorable experience, one I highly recommend to all. To learn more about any of these events, contact me.

Judy Sternberg [jsternberg3b@gmail.com](mailto:jsternberg3b@gmail.com).



*LWV members meeting in UN Briefing Room.*



*Some of the LWV members gathering for luncheon at the UN.*



*LWV-RMA Member Judy Sternberg with Sally Metzger of the LWV Buffalo Niagara, at the UN Security Council.*

LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK!

We know you'll "like" us!

[www.facebook.com/lwvofrma](http://www.facebook.com/lwvofrma)

## THANK YOU! From Voter Services

Thank you, one and all, for the support you gave Voter Services this past year.

Together over the past 12 months we have taken part in 37 events, registering over a thousand new voters and working to achieve our goal of *Getting Out The Vote* (GOTV) through education and advocacy. The events covered the gamut – civic presentations at our City high schools, orientation sessions at our local colleges, health fairs, farmers markets, festivals – anywhere we could carry our message.

We have continued to strengthen our ties with our community friends, working with:

- The Rochester Alumna Chapter Delta Sigma Theta and the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sigma Sororities at the Clarissa Street Reunion;
- La Cumbre at the Puerto Rican Fest, Puerto Rican Pageant and several registration events;
- The OUT Alliance at the Pride Fest and the National Unity & Pride and PULSE events;
- The Susan B. Anthony House, AAUW and the City of Rochester in the celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Our Right to Vote; and
- The Rochester City School District's annual *Stay Strong* kick-off event.

In addition, we were invited for return engagements by the Rochester Psych Center, The Anthony Jordan Health Center, Trillium, and the YWCA.

None of this could have been accomplished without you.

BUT, of course, our work never ends. 2018 brings us the interim elections and we are already beginning to fill our calendar. STAY TUNED...

**Gin Busack** [ginbusack@aol.com](mailto:ginbusack@aol.com)



Seen during naturalization ceremonies at the Monroe County Office Building on November 29 are new citizens with NYS Supreme Court Justice William Taylor and Monroe County Clerk Adam Bello.

## Naturalization

Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers who loyally attend oath ceremonies and help new citizens register to vote! 2017 was an exceptionally busy year with naturalizations. The following League members volunteered at ceremonies: Sheila Abeling, Cathleen Burnham, Julie Damerell, Marcia Eisenberg, Kathy Farrar, Beth Feldman, Joan Rosenthal, Kay Saunders, Ellen Scott, Katherine Smith, Kim Wightman, Mimi Wilson, and Lois Winterkorn.

On November 9, Lois Winterkorn and Katherine Smith welcomed 97 new citizens at the George Eastman House Museum. Sheila Abeling and Julie Damerell helped new citizens register to vote at the November 29 oath ceremony at the Monroe County Office Building.

On December 14, Beth Feldman welcomed new citizens at the 10 A.M. ceremony at the Monroe County Office Building. Also on that day at 1:00 P.M., Kathy Farrar greeted new candidates for citizenship at the last ceremony of 2017 at the Federal Building.

The list of ceremonies for the new year will be available in January 2018. If you are interested in volunteering for this wonderful project, please contact Sheila Abeling at 585-223-6819 or [sheiler162007@gmail.com](mailto:sheiler162007@gmail.com). You won't be disappointed that you did.

**Sheila Abeling** [sheiler162007@gmail.com](mailto:sheiler162007@gmail.com)

## Election Services

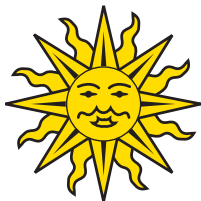
Each general election provides an opportunity for the League to earn a payment from the Board of Elections by counting absentee ballots. Many thanks to the sixteen dedicated League members who helped open absentee ballots at the Monroe County Board of Elections Service Center at 9:00 P.M. on Election Day, November 7: Sheila Abeling, Dorothy Borgus, Chris Burleigh, Camille Clayton, Julie Damerell, Barbara Grosh, Ida Holloran, Barbara Kay, Bob Kay, Deb Leary, Kris Rogers, Kay Saunders, Bertha Simpkins, Katherine Smith, Judy Sternberg, and Judy Weinstein.

Happy Holidays to all!

**Sheila Abeling** [sheiler162007@gmail.com](mailto:sheiler162007@gmail.com)

## Sunshine Corner

### MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE NOVEMBER 14, 2017 - PER NOTES FROM D&C ARTICLE 11/14/2017 AND MONROE COUNTY LEG AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 14, 2017



The 2018 Monroe County budget has been presented by Cheryl Dinolfo, Monroe County Executive. A public hearing on the budget was held December 7 at 5:35 P.M. by the Ways and Means Committee in the County Office Building.

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

### WEBSTER TOWN BOARD NOVEMBER 2, 2017 - OBSERVED BY LOIS WINTERKORN

The Webster Town Board passed a resolution to allow a large scale Solar Array for Heritage Christian Services located at 1763 Ridge Road, Webster.

A resolution to approve the proposed 2018 Webster Town Budget was tabled until a later date.

The Board passed a resolution to advertise for engineering firms to develop the Lake Road Sanitary Sewer Project for properties 808-1024 Lake Road and 401-410 Bittersweet Lane, Webster.

The Board passed a resolution to schedule a public hearing to consider a local law to create a Civil Service position in the town of Webster.

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

**Elaine Schmidt** [e.schmidt8@frontier.com](mailto:e.schmidt8@frontier.com)

## Getting to Know You

New members were welcomed warmly at a social gathering on November 4, 2017 at the Asbury Methodist Church House:

Kim Byers, Adele Fried, Mary Garfield, Judy Hartmann, Bev Kent, Suzanne Olson, Kate Phillips, Bobbie Reif, Kris Rogers, Sarah Sandler, and June Talarico.

Other League members present were Gin Busack, Ida Holloran, Mary Hussong-Kallen, Barbara Kay, Judy Weinstein, Lois Winterkorn.

In "teams" of two, each person interviewed the other using prepared questions focused on a member's reason for joining the League, her education or employment, her interests/hobbies, her present work in the League, and her possible work in the League.

The teammates reported their findings aloud to the group.

Answers to our members' reasons for joining were (among others): the election of 2016, the importance of voter registration, the Women's March, and the opportunity to meet people with similar values.

Our president, Mary Hussong-Kallen, presented an impressive list of League jobs – especially tech-related - that need workers NOW.

Kim Byers, new member, is our Volunteer Coordinator.

Mary Garfield, new member, is Membership Co-Chair.

This Getting-To-Know-You program was planned by Membership Co-Chairs Mary Garfield and Barbara Kay.

**Barbara Kay** [bbskay@frontiernet.net](mailto:bbskay@frontiernet.net)

**Mary Garfield** [senecamary@yahoo.com](mailto:senecamary@yahoo.com)

## Program Planning and General Membership Meeting Agenda: Death With Dignity Concurrence

During the 2017 LWV New York State Convention in June, a proposal to consider concurrence with LWV Utah's position on Death with Dignity was approved by convention delegates.

After study, LWV Utah crafted the following position:

1. The League of Women Voters of Utah believes state laws should grant the option for a terminally ill person to request medical assistance from a relevant, licensed physician to end one's life.
2. The League of Women Voters of Utah believes such legislation should include safeguards against abuse for the dying and/or medical personnel.

Death with Dignity legislation has become of increasing public interest and concern. Currently five states have legislation allowing physician aid in dying: Oregon, Washington, Montana, Vermont and California. Additionally, interpretation of physician-assisted dying legal standing is under review in New Mexico. It is anticipated that this issue will remain on legislative agendas not just in Utah, but many other states as well.

All local Leagues in NYS are asked to review this position (along with the study undertaken to draft it and other relevant information) and determine whether we concur with the position. Please take time to read the Death With Dignity materials at <http://www.lwvny.org/programs-studies.html#death> and bring your thoughts/opinions/questions to the meeting on January 20!



# Coming Events!



## December

- 1 First Friday (11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M., I-Square)
- 5 Forum: The 2017 Local Election: What Happened? What Does It Mean? by Prof. Timothy Kneeland (7:00 P.M., Asbury First UMC)
- 14 Naturalization Ceremony (10:00 A.M., Monroe County Office Building)
- 14 Naturalization Ceremony (1:00 P.M., Federal Building)

## January

- 5 First Friday (11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M., I-Square)
- 9 Book Club- The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women by Kate Moore (1:00 P.M., Greenhouse Café, 2271 East Main Street)  
*Because many of the regulars will be traveling, we may be meeting by Skype. If you wish to participate either in person at the Greenhouse Cafe or by Skype, contact Judy Weinstein at j.weinstein.roc@gmail.com by January 7*

## January (cont'd)

- 20 General Membership Meeting (10 A.M. – 2:00 P.M., AAUW Perkins Mansion 494 East Avenue)

## February

- 2 First Friday (11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M., I-Square)
- 12 Forum: Bail Reform: What's It All About? The Ethical, Practical and Legislative Issues (Asbury First UMC, 7:00 – 8:30 P.M.)
- 13 Book Club- The Jungle by Upton Sinclair (1:00 P.M., Greenhouse Café, 2271 East Main Street)



**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

- |                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| January 5, 2018  | April 6, 2018 |
| February 2, 2018 | May 4, 2018   |
| March 2, 2018    | June 1, 2018  |

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 on the fourth Thursday of each month at 2:00 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.

Naturalization ceremonies are usually held on second Thursday of each month. Check League website for updated info each month.

Forums are open to the public. Calendar information is subject to change.

For more complete information, consult our website at [www.LWV-RMA.org](http://www.LWV-RMA.org), call 262-3730 or e-mail us at [info@lwv-rma.org](mailto:info@lwv-rma.org)



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
ROCHESTER METROPOLITAN AREA

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# Rochester VOTER

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

**FEBRUARY VOTER  
DEADLINE IS JANUARY 15!**

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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

*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**  
**Join the League Today!**

**LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK!**   
We know you'll "like" us!  
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