

TheVOTER

LWV-RMA and Rochester People's Climate Coalition present:

Climate Change: Paths for Solutions



Monday, March 25, 2019

7:00 – 9:00 P.M.

**Asbury First United Methodist Church
1050 East Avenue, Rochester, NY**

Accessible Parking & Building Access in the Rear

Preregister at www.lwv-rma.org or 262-3730.

More information on page 3

LEARN ABOUT –

Advocacy for legislation that would help mitigate effects of global warming.

PACE tax abatement for commercial property owners to make environmental improvements.

Positive results of steps taken to date and expected results of suggested further steps.

Leadership Corner

We need a few Great Leaders and we think You Are One!

As we enter the second half of this program year, we begin to look at building the LWV organization to ensure continuity of our existing programs and growth into new focus areas. We are sad to announce that two valued and key leaders in the league are stepping down as chairs of their respective committees. Gin Busack, chair of the Voter Services Committee, and Barbara Kay, co-chair of the Membership Committee, will each open a vacancy in these important areas that support the League’s mission. In addition, new opportunities are surfacing to fulfill our mission and to celebrate our accomplishments.

Gin has been an active and visible leader, building relationships with various organizations to expand the participation of LWV in voter registration events. With leaders in place to handle coordination of activities with colleges, high schools, libraries, and hospitals, we have one pressing need: coordination of city-sponsored community events. A partnership with the city exists whereby we are provided with a list of activities that will occur over the spring/summer/fall months. The LWV-RMA City Coordinator(s) would work to select the events in which LWV will participate. It is as simple as registering LWV with the events chosen. Kim Byers will then work with the coordinators on developing a Sign-up Genius form to recruit the volunteers to work the events. We think YOU could be the right person to take on this coordination role, either alone or with a friend!

Barbara is the welcoming voice or the author behind that ‘thank-you’ call or letter you received when joining or contributing to the League. Mary Garfield is her partner and the dedicated mind and hands behind the LWV-RMA membership roster. Mary will assume the title of Membership Chair in the coming year but the committee is in need of additional support. Do you like to reach out to people with a warm “Hello”? Are you a person who doesn’t like to travel but would be happy to write ‘thank-you’ notes from the warmth of your kitchen table? We are looking for YOU – reach out and become a partner in supporting our member relations!

Perhaps you would rather be part of a team that assembles the online voters’ guide for the upcoming elections. Would you like to communicate with candidates running for office? Would you be willing to do some data entry? VOTE411 Needs YOU! Help us to fulfill our core mission: to encourage informed and active participation in government. See the article on page 4 of this issue of The Voter for further details.

Finally, are you interested in meeting fellow LWV members from across the state? Do you want to be inspired by the accomplishments realized across the state as well as the State’s vision for the future? Do you want to get new ideas on ways we could improve the effectiveness of our local League? Consider attending the New York State LWV Convention, June 7 – 9 in Albany. We will organize some carpools! It would be great to hear that YOU are interested in attending. Call or email to let us know.

Contact one of US and we can provide more details on these opportunities to support the continuity of the League’s mission.

In League,

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Judy Weinstein: (585) 721-8515,
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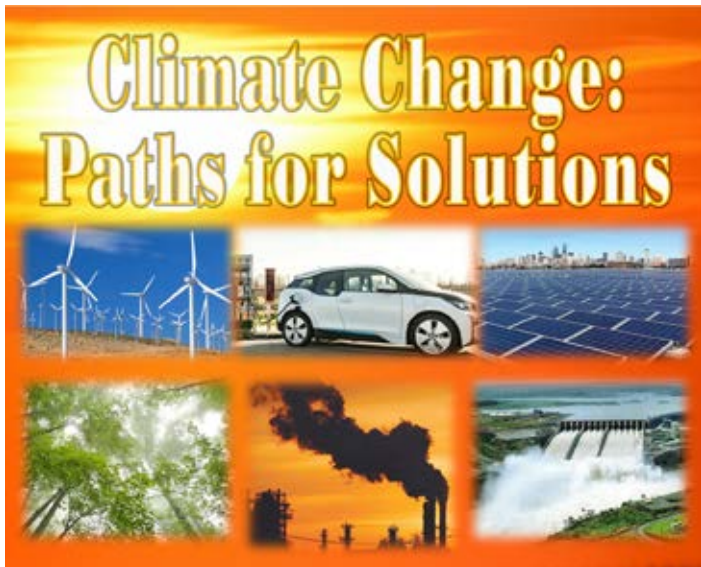
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LWV-RMA Spring Forums

LWV-RMA members are planning three forums this Spring.

CLIMATE CHANGE: PATHS FOR SOLUTIONS- MARCH 25, 2019



PANELISTS:

Susan Hughes-Smith, Adjunct Professor of Environmental Health at The College at Brockport and of Environmental Studies at RIT, Co-founder of the Rochester People’s Climate Coalition – will discuss advocacy for legislation that would help to mitigate the effects of global warming.

Barbara Grosh, PhD, Member of League of Women Voters, Member of Mothers Out Front - will discuss PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) financing which, if approved, would provide tax abatement for commercial property owners to make environmental improvements.

A third panelist will describe the positive results of steps taken to date and the expected results of suggested further steps.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM: WHAT LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE FIGHTING FOR - APRIL 2019



Date to be determined

The April forum will concentrate on reform of the criminal justice system. Co-sponsored with the Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, this forum will take a look at the statewide and local Criminal Justice issues that people in Rochester are hard at work on. Issues range from Solitary Confinement Reform, Police Transparency and Statistics, Pretrial Detention Reforms, a Rochester Police Accountability Board and the 2019 District Attorney Election (the DA’s role and discretionary powers). Details on the date, location, and speakers will follow.

2020 CENSUS: DISPELLING MYTHS & CONCERNS – MAY 2019



Date to be determined

The May forum will involve Susan Perry of the US Census Bureau who will aim her remarks to the interfaith community and urban congregations. The program will attempt to dispel some myths and concerns, and strategize ways to ensure that everyone is counted. The public is invited. Details on time and place will be announced in the near future.



VOTE411.ORG

ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED

Vote411 Needs You!

LWVNYS is returning to the Vote411 online voters' guide for the 2019 elections! Vote411 relates to the core of our mission: to encourage informed and active participation in government. LWV-RMA will be covering all the primary and general election races in Monroe County. There are slightly over 100 offices on the ballot. With contested races, as we hope most will be, that's a lot of candidates to gather information from. We'd like to have a Vote411 team this year to ensure that no one has too much to do. Not only is Vote411 very user-friendly, but LWVNYS will provide training and Judy Weinstein, who has been our Vote411 coordinator for several years, will remain on our team and assist you. Now that the primary for local elections will take place in June, there will be a more leisurely process between the primary and general election than in past years.

A brief explanation of the process:

We enter information about the races that we will be covering into the Vote411 system. We then send letters and emails to all candidates inviting them to post information about themselves and to post their responses to League questions. They enter their own information and responses, not us. Voters go to Vote411.org and enter their address to see all the races and candidates that will appear on their ballots when they vote.

The tasks are:

- Acquiring information from the Monroe County Board of Elections for the next three steps;
- Entering the races into Vote411—that is, Monroe County Executive and Monroe County District Attorney...through the town and village offices;
- Entering the candidates for each race;
- Preparing the mailing to candidates;
- Gathering candidates' email addresses and forwarding them to those entering data into Vote411;
- Following up with candidates who haven't responded to our invitation.

Entering the races into Vote411 can start immediately and does not have to be completed until just before the Board of Election releases the primary ballot shortly after May 2. The rest of the

work takes place after the primary ballot is released and again after the general election ballot is released shortly after September 12.

Please consider joining the Vote411 team to help the League provide voters with information on both the offices and the candidates that will be on their ballots. You can volunteer for a specific task (and we can have more than one person for each task) or just join the team and decide later how you would like to participate.

To volunteer or ask questions, contact Judy Weinstein at Vote411@lww-rma.org or 585.721.8515.

Fair Election Practices Campaign 2019

The League of Women Voters-Rochester Metropolitan Area (LWV-RMA) and The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester (TIAR) are beginning the 2019 Fair Election Practices Campaign (FEPC) earlier this year to include primary candidates in the upcoming consolidated June 25 primary election day.

The FEPC provides all candidates the opportunity to sign a Fair Campaign Pledge to publicly commit to running positive, issues-oriented campaigns. The names of all candidates who sign the Pledge are then listed on the League's website. A press conference to enable candidates to be publicly acknowledged for signing the Pledge will also be scheduled.

Later in the summer, a second round of Pledges from the general election candidates will be solicited with a separate press conference. A Fair Election Practices Hearing Panel is established to review properly filed complaints and issue decisions ahead of the elections.

If you are interested in assisting with the FEPC mailings or with coordinating the press conferences, please contact Kris Rogers at FEPC@lww-rma.org.

Celebrating Suffragists

The Women's Suffrage movement in the United States was a decades-long initiative involving thousands of women, most of whom we know nothing about. With this paragraph we begin a series on suffragists we don't hear as much about but who were influential in achieving voting rights for women.

HARRIET TUBMAN

In 1849, Harriet Tubman escaped slavery at age 29 and spent the next several years helping more than 300 others to flee human bondage as well via the Underground Railroad.

During the Civil War, Tubman became a Union spy, and for that reason is known as the first African-American woman to serve in the U.S. military. In addition to her abolition work, Tubman also became a prominent activist for women's suffrage, traveling around the United States speaking on behalf of the cause and attending suffrage meetings and conventions. When once asked whether she believed women should have the right to vote, Tubman replied, "I've suffered enough to believe it."



(<https://www.stuffmomnevertoldyou.com/blogs/9-african-american-suffragists.htm>)



Correction

In the page 6 memorial to Jane Chase in the February 1 edition of Voter, mention was made of the passage by a law to prevent childhood lead poisoning but the year of the legislation was mis-stated. The City of Rochester Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Act was passed in 2005.

LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK!



We know you'll "like" us!

www.facebook.com/lwvofrma

LOOK

LWV-RMA ONLINE CALENDAR UPDATE

Do you use our online calendar? It's a terrific tool, now that Julie Damerell has taken over!

Send her the details on your upcoming events and meetings (including date, time, location, contact info and a short description) at calendar@lwv-rma.org and she'll post them, along with other activities in the community – so finding something to do, or scheduling your committee's events, is easier than ever!

Be sure to bookmark this site: <http://www.lwv-rma.org/calendar.php>. You'll be so glad you did!

Naturalization Report

January started a new year and a new Naturalization schedule for 2019. On January 24, Jane Beck and Julie Damerell welcomed 52 new citizens at the Federal Building in a naturalization ceremony. At each ceremony, League volunteers speak to all those present about voting. Then the volunteers help the new citizens register to vote. Often guests who attend also request voter registration forms and the League helps them as well.

On February 7, Sheila Abeling met 51 candidates for Naturalization at the Federal Building overseen by the Honorable Charles Siragusa (see pictures). On Valentine's Day, 53 more citizens were greeted by Mimi Wilson at the Monroe County Office Building. What a great way to spend February 14! Julie Damerell welcomed candidates for citizenship during naturalization ceremonies on February 28.

Thank you to all LWV-RMA volunteers and congratulations to all new citizens! The new schedule for 2019 Naturalizations can be found on our website, lww-rma.org. All are welcome to attend ceremonies. If you would like to attend a ceremony, contact Sheila Abeling at 585-223-6819 or sheiler162007@gmail.com and she will arrange your visit.



LWV-RMA Members at the Susan B. Anthony Luncheon

Attending the annual Susan B. Anthony Luncheon held this year on February 13 at the Riverside Convention Center were several LWV-RMA members:

UPPER: Shirley Eberly, Katherine Smith, Sheila Abeling, and Sandra Frankel with Barbara Blaisdell (aka Susan B. Anthony).

LOWER: Mary Hussong-Kallen, Guest Cynthia Langford, and Mary Myers.





Coming Events!



March (Women's History Month)

- 1 First Friday (11:00 A.M., I-Square, 400 Bakers Park)
- 8 International Women's Day
- 11 Board of Directors Meeting (Noon, Asbury First UMC, 1010 East Avenue)
- 14 Naturalization (10:00 A.M. Monroe County Office)
- 14 Book Club (10:00 A.M., Greenhouse Café, 2271 East Main Street, Rochester) – *A People's History of the United States* by Howard Zinn
- 18 Frenemies for Suffrage: Stanton, Gage & Anthony (7:00 P.M., 5 Star Bank, 395 Westfall Road)
- 26 Naturalization (9:30 A.M., George Eastman Museum)



April

- 5 First Friday (11:00 A.M., I-Square, 400 Bakers Park)
- 8 Board of Directors Meeting (Noon, Asbury First UMC, 1010 East Avenue)
- 11 Book Club (10:00 A.M., Greenhouse Café, 2271 East Main Street, Rochester) – *Fascism: A Warning* by Madeleine Albright
- 25 Naturalization (9:00 A.M., Minerva Deland School, Fairport)
- 30 League Lobby Day (NYS Museum, Albany)
- 30 Naturalization (1:00 P.M., Rochester City Hall)



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.

No need to RSVP. Pencil us in on your calendar and join when you can!

There's a place at the table for you!

- March 1
- April 5
- May 3
- June 7



Board of Directors meets monthly on the second Monday of each month from noon - 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, call 262-3730 or e-mail us at info@lwv-rma.org

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www.LWV-RMA.org

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Leadership Team

Gin Busack (2018-2019)
Kim Byers (2018-2019)
Judy Weinstein (2018-2019)

Treasurer Elaine Schmidt (2017-2019)
Recording Secretary Judy Sternberg (2018-2020)
Corresponding Secretary Marion O'Connor (2017-2019)

Director Ann Carmody (2018-2020)
Director Mary Hussong-Kallen (2018-2019)
Director Barbara Kay (2017-2019)
Director Kris Rogers (2018-2020)
Director Gail Wilder (2018-2020)

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Looking for info on a League committee or activity? Look no further!

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Judy Wadsworth*

*Layout/Design,
Chris Burleigh*

**APRIL VOTER
DEADLINE IS MARCH 15!**

**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.

Goals of the League of Women Voters:

- To encourage informed citizen participation in government and politics
- To influence public policy through education and advocacy

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	.....	FREE
Low income, call office at 262-3730	.....	\$sliding \$scale
or send an email to: info@lwv-rma.org		