

TheVOTER

Climate Change: This time It's Personal Small Steps Towards Reducing Global Warming



Climate Change: This Time It's Personal. Small Steps Towards Reducing Global Warming

Monday, March 23, 2020 7:00 P.M.
Asbury First United Methodist Church

Register at info@lwv-rma.org or 262-3730.
Invite others to attend!

Inside this issue:

Climate Change: This Time it's Personal	1	Resources on Housing in Our Community	5
Leadership Corner	2	City and County Honor LWV	6
From Passion to Action	2	Naturalization Ceremonies	6
Forum: Climate Change: This Time it's Personal	3	Honor a Suffragist	7
LWVNYS Regional Training Workshop	3	Susan B. Anthony Benefit Card Game & Party	7
Program Planning Meeting	4	Calendar	8
Voter Services	4	First Fridays	8
Dealing with Housing Issues in Our Community	5	Leadership	9

Leadership Corner

FROM OUR CO-PRESIDENTS: ACT ON YOUR PASSION !!

Are you ready to Act? Are you ready to Organize? Are you ready to Raise Your Voice?

At our January 18 Member Meeting, we discussed various ways we could expand our Advocacy work within LWV-RMA. At our February 8 Program Planning meeting, we discussed the Advocacy priorities in LWNYS and LWVUS. Now we have a chance to define how we want to get involved – how YOU want to get involved.

Under the LWVUS and LWNYS “Making Democracy Work Campaign”, the top priorities we voted to support at the Program Planning meeting were:

1. Voting Rights (Protection)
2. Improving Elections (Legislative Reforms)
3. Redistricting/Fair Maps Campaign
4. Court Consolidation.

Each of these topics is broad and offers several areas where LWV-RMA members could focus their time and effort to advocate for change. Which of these calls to you most?

On March 6th at 10:00 A.M. at I-Square (an hour before the March First Friday gathering), the inaugural meeting of the LWV-RMA Advocacy Committee will be held. The goal of this meeting is to select an advocacy focus for a pilot project, testing our League’s interest in expanding advocacy efforts.

What are your ideas on how we could engage? What priorities would bring you to the table? Letters to the editor? Postcards to our representatives supporting proposed legislation? Following-up on requests from LWVUS and LWNYS? Participation in rallies? Broadened outreach to the community to get our messages to a wider audience? There are many worthy topics and many actions that we could decide to take.

Join this inaugural Advocacy Committee and help to define our pilot project. Your passion can grow the reach of LWV-RMA.

We look forward to your engagement and participation.

In League, your Co-Presidents

Kimberly Byers
lww.roc.volunteer@gmail.com
585 683 7690

Judy Sternberg
Jsternberg3b@gmail.com
585 247 4958



From Passion to Action

INAUGURAL MEETING of the LWV-RMA Advocacy Committee

March 6, 2020 at I-Square

10:00 A.M. (an hour before the March First Friday gathering)

GOAL: Select an advocacy focus for a pilot project.

Climate Change: This Time It's Personal.

SMALL STEPS TOWARDS REDUCING GLOBAL WARMING

Monday, March 23, 2020

7:00 P.M.

Asbury First United Methodist Church

Learn about the New York Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act that sets a statewide target of 100 percent, economy-wide net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, and discover some of the many ways that energy consumers in the Rochester area can help meet that target while managing their energy costs. One of the options we will discuss is Community Choice Aggregation (CCA), a program that allows local municipalities to procure power from an alternative supplier on behalf of their community while still receiving transmission and distribution services from their existing utility.

CCA has already come to several local communities and could soon be coming to you. Hear local community success stories and learn about a local youth program working to address climate change.



PRESENTERS:

Al Hibner, Former Pittsford Middle School Physical Science Teacher; Member, Rochester Chapter, Citizens Climate Coalition that helped influence Representative Joe Morelle's Co-Sponsorship of H.R. 763: Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act; Founder of the Penfield Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) Residents' Committee;

Eric Koski, Vice-President, Rochester, NY March for Science; Board member, Rochester People's Climate Coalition;

Margaret Peete, Member, Roctricity; B.S. degree in Urban Planning, M.S., Public Administration;

Linda Saalman, LWV-RMA member with 40 years energy-related experience;

Hridesh Singh, Brighton High School Senior and co-founder of the BHS Climate Club.

LWV-RMA would like to thank Rochester People's Climate Coalition and Gillian Griffin for assistance in planning this forum.

Program Committee Chair Ann Carmody: ann.carmody2012@gmail.com

Register at info@lwv-rma.org or 262-3730.

Invite others to attend!

IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

LWVNYS REGIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP

MARCH 14, 9:30-3:00

Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word | 597 East Ave, Rochester

Topics Include Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Beyond Just Race; Get Out the Vote; After Parkland: Keeping Youth Engaged; The Census; Attracting and Engaging Your Community with the League.

Come meet and interact with some of your LWVNYS leaders such as Laura Ladd Bierman, Executive Director, and Jennifer Wilson, Deputy Director. Come meet and network with members from nearby local Leagues. Come learn and be energized!

Register online at https://secure.lgfforms.com/form_engine/sHOHQ-CqnO8wQHms7-w8Kg.

Or call LWVNYS at 518-465-4162. \$25 registration fee includes lunch (affordability should not be a factor; for fee waiver call LWV-RMA at 585-262-3730).

Program Planning Meeting to Help Identify LWV Priorities

Fifteen intrepid League members came out on a blustery Saturday morning to participate in our February 8 Program Planning meeting! The group included veteran members, brand-new members and those somewhere in-between. Ann Carmody, Katherine Smith and Judy Weinstein of the Government Committee led the group in a discussion of:

- The update to the LWVNYS [NYS] Constitutional Convention position – we approved the proposal;
- Our recommendation to LWVUS on program for the 2020-2022 biennium – we suggested that making Election Day a paid federal holiday should be included in Making Democracy Work and we should also focus on Support for ERA and on Climate Change;
- Our top 3 suggestions to LWVNYS for legislative priorities: Voting Rights, Census & Redistricting, and Court Consolidation (not in priority order);
- Our local program: we agreed that our positions need a deeper review to ensure that they are still valid. Recommendation for creation of a position review group was referred to the Board.

The comfortable atmosphere made it easy for all to participate in the lively discussion about a wide range of topics and how the League can be most effective. Thanks to Kim Byers for providing the refreshments that fueled the meeting.

Judy Weinstein j.weinstein.roc@gmail.com



TOP: Program Committee members who helped to lead the February 8 discussion: Katherine Smith, Ann Carmody, and Judy Weinstein (Co-President Kim Byers is seen standing.)

BOTTOM: Program Committee members with their backs to the camera (Judy Weinstein, Ann Carmody, and Katherine Smith) with (left to right) Margaret Roberts, Barbara Kay, Marilyn Hare, Barb Murphy, Co-President Judy Sternberg, Co-President Kim Byers, Connie Flahive, Shea Hanford, Jane Romal, and Kris Rogers.

VOTER SERVICES

Judy Sternberg

February saw our final push to inform and reach voters about change of party enrollment prior to the February 14 deadline. Information and links for registration forms were posted on our social media and website, as well as through our texting service and our community partners. Voter registration events took place at The College at Brockport, MCC and a Community Blood Drive at School #19. The Poor People's Campaign on February 7 was cancelled due to severe weather. Additional events took place at RIT and a "Racial Justice in Rochester" program at FIGHT Village Community Center. Our High School Education Program engaged with four classes at School of the Arts during the last week in February. Presenters are excited that 16- and 17-year-old students are now eligible to complete voter registration forms and become pre-registered. More high school events are being planned for March.

A deeper college connection was made on February 15 at the U of R campus where Myra Pelz and Katherine Smith took part in a regional meeting of political engagement groups from a number of upstate NY colleges and universities. The coalition's focus is VOTING, and LW-RMA was invited to facilitate dialogue on the topics of Voter Registration, Voter Education and Beyond the Vote (civic engagement). Myra was impressed with the high level of interaction and dynamism in the group of around 30 students.

Elsewhere, progress is being made on our "How to Vote" video, and a new partnering opportunity for broadcasting our videos and producing new ones is being explored.

As always, thanks to the many volunteers who staff our registration events. Special thanks go out to Kim Byers, Julie Damerell, and Barbara Grosh who play large parts in getting the word out through social media, texting, website and SignUpGenius, as well as to Mary Garfield and Annie McQuilken for the update and revision of our HS Education Program.

VOTER SERVICES CONTACTS:

Judy Sternberg – Voter Registration, jsternberg3b@gmail.com

Barbara Grosh – GOTV, barbara@grosh.net

Dealing With Housing Issues in our Community

About 40 LWV-RMA and other community members gathered on February 22 to discuss the acute need for low-income housing in our area as well as some initiatives to deal with the crisis. Panelists included:

Carol Wheeler, Manager of Housing, City of Rochester, who outlined major housing issues in the City, including affordability, eviction, homelessness, and poverty as well as some of the city's recent housing developments to help alleviate housing issues;

Patrick Braswell, National Board Member and East Coast Political Educator, The National Union of the Homeless; President and Founder, Rochester Homeless Union, who emphasized the need for housing among our poorest neighbors, noting that efforts to provide housing to date have not come close to meeting the need for very low-income and transitional housing;

Bret Garwood, CEO, Home Leasing LLC, who described several housing projects involving his company as well as some of the regulations and economic principles governing the creation of housing for low-income households and persons with special needs.

It was noted by speakers and those who asked questions later in the program that a major cause of the housing crisis in our area is the lack of jobs that pay living wages, and that two inhibitors for those seeking to rent space in public and private housing is lack of credit and lack of security deposits. Anyone interested in making a donation to help low-income households or homeless households with their security deposits can reach out to the Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network (RAIHN) at www.raihn.org or 585-506-9050.



TOP: Ann Carmody, LWV-RMA Program Chair, introducing the program; Kris Rogers, LWV-RMA Board Member, introducing presenters (Carol Wheeler, Patrick Braswell, and Bret Garwood).

BOTTOM: Presenters Carol Wheeler, Patrick Braswell, and Bret Garwood.

RESOURCES ON HOUSING IN OUR COMMUNITY

- Democrat and Chronicle series on historic housing practices in Rochester;
- NYS Attorney General's office online resource for reporting housing discrimination: <https://ag.ny.gov/source-income-discrimination>;
- The book, *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America*, by Richard Rothstein;
- Short film (17.5 minutes) based on the above book, *The Color of Law*, by Richard Rothstein, accessible at <https://www.segregatedbydesign.com/>.

City and County Honor LWV

In February, on the occasion of the Centennial Anniversary of the League of Women Voters of the United States, Monroe County and the City of Rochester delivered proclamations honoring the League and recognizing the work of LWV-RMA locally.

On February 11 at a meeting of the Monroe County Legislature, the proclamation was presented by County Executive Adam Bello and Legislature President Dr. Joseph Carbone. On February 18 at a City Council meeting, the proclamation was presented by Mayor Lovely Warren and Council President Loretta Scott.

The statements praised the efforts of the LWV over 100 years to educate and empower all voters and to eliminate barriers that keep individuals from voting; recognized the League as a trusted, nonpartisan, grass roots organization; and praised the LWV-RMA as a dedicated and active nonpartisan presence in our county advocating, educating, registering, and turning out voters. On both occasions the recognition was received by LWV-RMA Co-Presidents Kim Byers and Judy Sternberg.



LEFT: Seen on February 8 are County Executive Adam Bello and County Legislature President Dr. Joseph Carbone with LWV-RMA Co-Presidents Kim Byers and Judy Sternberg.

RIGHT: Seen on February 22 are City Council President Loretta Scott; LWV-RMA Co-Presidents Kim Byers and Judy Sternberg; and Mayor Lovely Warren

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

Naturalization Ceremonies

During naturalization ceremonies on January 30 at the Federal Building, 51 new citizens were welcomed by Sheila Abeling as the Honorable Charles Siragusa held court. On February 13, Mimi Wilson and Margret Roberts met 54 candidates for citizenship during ceremonies officiated by Judge Victoria Argento at the Monroe County Office Building. On February 27, Sheila Abeling met 50 new citizens during naturalization at the Federal Building. All members of the League of Women Voters are welcome to attend naturalization ceremonies. Upcoming ceremonies include March 26th at the Lyric Theater and April 30th at Minera Deland School in Fairport. If you are interested in attending and/or volunteering to help at naturalizations, please contact Sheila Abeling at sheiler162007@gmail.com or 585-223-6819.



The Honorable Charles Siragusa with new citizens.

Honor a Suffragist

2020 is a year to honor our Suffragist Sisters. With the 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters, the 200th anniversary of the birth of Susan B. Anthony, and the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, there is much to celebrate! But while these auspicious events are being celebrated widely, it is also important to remember and recognize that they are possible because of the support and voices of many women who do not share the historical limelight.

Was your grandmother, great aunt, or distant cousin an active member of the suffrage movement? Be a part of the team that is documenting the gravesites of these important voices.

Women and the Vote NYS is hosting "Suffragist Search Parties" to document the work of these important voices in history. Learn more by visiting the website at www.womenandthevoteny.com or plan to attend one of the "Suffragist Search Parties":

- Saturday, March 14 from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. at the 1872 Café, 431 West Main St, Rochester, NY
- Friday, March 27 from 9:00 A.M. to Noon at the Department of Rare Books, Special Collections, and Preservation, River Campus Libraries. University of Rochester
- Saturday, April 4 from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. at the 1872 Café, 431 West Main St, Rochester, NY
- Friday April 24 from 9:00 A.M. to Noon at the Department of Rare Books, Special Collections, and Preservation.



SUSAN B. ANTHONY BENEFIT CARD & GAME PARTY

Thursday, April 9, 2020 – 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
Penfield County Club

Sponsored by Rochester Federation of Women's Clubs

Door Prizes * Raffles * 50/50 * Lottery Board

Coffee, Tea, Juice and Water Station with Mini Muffins & Danishes

Catered Luncheon Menu: Sauteed Chicken Picatta, Baked Cod, or Vegetable Napoleon.

Donation: \$29.00

Net Profits to Susan B. Anthony Museum & House.

Registration deadline: MARCH 31, 2020.

To learn more, contact Elena Wilkonski at 585-265-4167.



Coming Events!



March

- 6 Advocacy Committee Meeting (10:00 A.M., I-Square, 400 Bakers Park)
- 6 First Friday (11:00 A.M., I-Square, 400 Bakers Park)
- 11 LWV-RMA Board Meeting (Noon – 2:00 P.M., Asbury First UMC)
- 14 LWWNYS Regional Training Workshop/ Rochester, (9:30 A.M. – 3:00 P.M., Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word, 597 East Ave, Rochester) *Registration required.*
- 19 Book Club – *Educated: A Memoir* (10:00 A.M – Noon, Greenhouse Café, 2271 East Main Street, Rochester)
- 23 Forum: Climate Change (7:00 P.M., Asbury First UMC)

April

- 3 First Friday (11:00 A.M., I-Square, 400 Bakers Park)
- 8 LWV-RMA Board Meeting (Noon – 2:00 P.M., Asbury First UMC)
- 16 Book Club - The Death and Life of the Great Lakes (10:00 A.M – Noon, Greenhouse Café, East Main Street, Rochester)

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



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 6

May 1

April 3

June 5



Board of Directors meetings are held at Asbury First UMC. Board meetings are open to all members. See calendar for dates and times.

Advocacy/Government Committee meets monthly. For details, call Ann Carmody at (585) 748-5848.

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

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

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

**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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Co-Presidents Kim Byers (2019-2020) Judy Sternberg (2019-2021)

Treasurer Judy Weinstein (2019-2021)

Secretary Julie Damerell (2019-2020)

Director Ann Carmody (2018-2020)

Director Myra Pelz (2019-2021)

Director Kris Rogers (2018-2020)

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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

Advocacy/Government, Ann Carmody

Advocacy@lwv-rma.org
government@lwv-rma.org

Communication/PR, Julie Damerell

communications@lwv-rma.org

Election Services/Naturalization, Sheila Abeling

Sheiler162007@gmail.com

Fair Election Practices Campaign, Kris Rogers

fepec@lwv-rma.org

Membership, Mary Garfield

membership@lwv-rma.org

Nominating, Mary Hussong-Kallen

nominations@lwv-rma.org

Programs, Ann Carmody

ann.carmody2012@gmail.com

VOTE411, Judy Weinstein

vote411@lwv-rma.org

Voter Services, Judy Sternberg

jssternberg3b@gmail.com

*The Voter is a
monthly publication
of the LWV-RMA*

*Editor,
Judy Wadsworth*

*Layout/Design,
Chris Burleigh*

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	