



## 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.

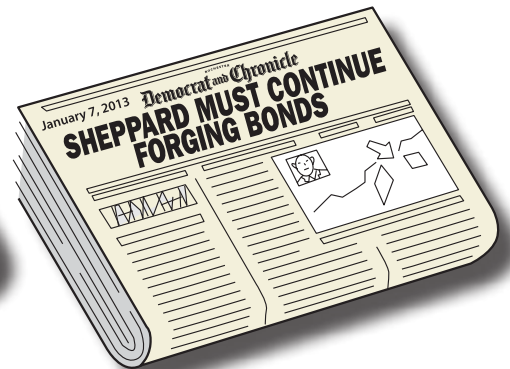
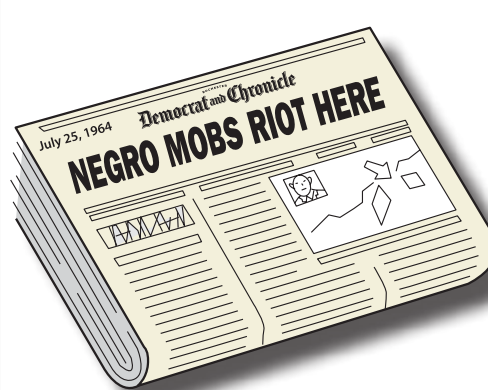
Membership in the League is open to all citizens of voting age.

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# Join Us!

**Thursday, February 28,  
7:00pm to 9:00 pm**



*Discussion for Today*

***Five Decades Later:  
What has Changed in the Community?  
What can we do to have better headlines  
in the future?***

Brighton Town Hall  
Conference Room - Lower Level

Visit our Website to sign up:

<http://www.lwv-rma.org>

Questions? Call us at 585-262-3730



## President's Corner



Dear Leaguers,  
When I arrived in Rochester in 1972, I heard such references as "Smugtown" and "the riots" but did not realize the impact that these two iconic descriptions would have on future social progress of my new hometown. Years later it has become more

and more obvious that to understand the current problems of our county and its city, one must start with 1964: discover what the environment was that existed then and explore how (or whether) Rochester has met the challenges. As part of a community-wide exploration entitled **FACING RACE EMBRACING EQUITY**, we invite all members and non-members to join in this discussion on February 28. (Please refer to the companion article on this page for more food for thought.)

The League has had many studies and advocacy agendas that have focused on areas of education, employment, non-discrimination and affirmative action, pay equity, fair housing and equal rights, as well as income assistance, housing supply and transportation. For an in-depth history on these issues and our advocacy, please visit our national League website ([www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)), type in the Search box "meeting basic human needs" or "equality of opportunity" and click on the "more" button for extended descriptions of League activity in these areas.

I am sure you appreciate, as I do, the creative work that our Program and Membership chairs, Gin Busack and Ellen DeGregorio respectively, and their committees are doing to bring insightful and challenging programs to our members and the community. I hope you all had a chance to enjoy the Picnic in the Park membership and program planning meeting on Jan 12th. I certainly did!

Georgia DeGregorio,  
President

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

## February Forum

**July 25th, 1964:** Rochesterians were stunned when they learned that their quiet, seemingly-progressive community had erupted in riots. Neighborhoods were in flames; almost 1,000 people were arrested; eventually the New York State Police and National Guard were brought in.

They asked themselves: how could this happen? There was full employment (with an unemployment rate of 2-3%); the major companies offered health care; the educational system was in good repair. But as subsequent investigation and reports revealed, these benefits were not available to all residents. Underneath the placid appearance, genuine rage was simmering over the inability of black people to share in these fruits of a productive society.

**February 28, 2013:** Almost fifty years later we are asking: what has changed? Are things better or worse? Our goal for this evening is to briefly review this past with clips from a documentary and to begin to focus on an even more important question: what issues should be addressed today and how can the League be a part of the process? Our discussion leader will be Bishop Willie Davis of Emanuel Missionary Baptist Church. We will break into smaller groups to address these questions focusing on jobs, education and housing, and exploring action that can have an impact.

This forum is part of a larger community dialogue entitled **FACING RACE EMBRACING EQUITY** sponsored by several community organizations including Rochester Community Foundation, Action for a Better Community and Rochester Museum & Science Center. For further information regarding this effort, please visit [FaceRaceRoc.org](http://FaceRaceRoc.org).

The future? Date unknown. It's up to you!!!

This is OUR community: black, white, Asian, Native American, Middle Eastern and Hispanic. **Join us on February 28 at 7 pm at Brighton Town Hall** and bring your friends to join in the dialogue.

**Social Policy Committee**

## Redistricting – The Results

As you know, New York State's Assembly and Senate districts were redrawn at the end of 2012, based on the results of the 2010 Census. Updated maps of the districts in our area, including a wealth of demographic information, are available on our website.

Please take time to review them at [http://www.lwv-rma.org/district\\_maps.php](http://www.lwv-rma.org/district_maps.php).

# Pharmaceutical Waste Disposal

## FROM THE MONROE COUNTY WEBSITE

<http://www.monroecounty.gov/des-PharmaceuticalWasteDisposal.php>

To reduce potential sources of environmental contamination, the Monroe County Department of Environmental Services organizes pharmaceutical waste collections to provide our residents with a safe and proper way to dispose of their unused or unwanted medications. This service is free-of-charge to Monroe County residents. Pharmaceuticals include, but are not limited to, prescription and over-the-counter medications, veterinary medications and nutritional supplements.

## HOW CAN YOU PROPERLY DISPOSE OF PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE?

The Monroe County ecopark accepts unwanted medications during its Special Collections. Additionally, various law enforcement agencies and pharmacies accept pharmaceuticals on certain dates. Call 585-753-7600 (Option #3) for available drop off dates and locations.

## WHO MAY PARTICIPATE?

Monroe County residents with household medications ONLY. (Doctor offices, veterinary offices and pharmacies are not covered under this current program.)

Please keep your medications in their original containers. You may cross off your name and PERSONAL information ONLY. Please DO NOT cover up or remove the name or the dosage of the medication. All medications and their containers will be incinerated under law enforcement supervision.

## YOU CAN BRING:

Prescription and over-the-counter medications, ointments, sprays, inhalers, creams, vials and pet medications.

## YOU CANNOT BRING:

Illegal drugs, or household hazardous waste (paint, pesticides, oil, gas).

Never Flush or Dispose of Unwanted Medications in the Trash

According to research done by the Kaiser Family Foundation in 2006, the average number of prescriptions per person per year increased from 7.9 in 1994 to 12.5 in 2005. Often older or chronically ill Americans have many more. After the death of a parent or loved one, surviving family members are left with large amounts of powerful and potentially dangerous narcotics. Until recently in New York state, there has not been an easy way to dispose of unwanted, unneeded or expired over-the-counter and prescribed medications.

Accidental overdose or the misuse of prescription medications has become a significant problem. Older adults may make simple identification mistakes or decide to use a medication previously prescribed for another medical condition. Prescription narcotic abuse has become an epidemic among adolescents. The source of those medications is typically their parents' or grandparents medicine cabinets.

There has also been a growing concern regarding trace amounts of pharmaceuticals found in some drinking water sources within the United States. Scientists have been watching the feminization of fish increase and hypothesize the presence of hormones flushed into watersheds as a possible explanation.

Current federal law prohibits the return of controlled substances to a pharmacy. Similarly, over-the-counter and non-controlled substances are not normally accepted for disposal by pharmacies. The result is an increasing stockpile of unwanted medications in homes all across the country.

## WHY IS PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE AN ISSUE?

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) reported that pharmaceuticals such as steroids, prescription and nonprescription medications, antibiotics and hormones, have been detected in the nation's streams, rivers and lakes. Studies have shown that pharmaceuticals are present in water bodies around the US but more research is needed to determine the extent of ecological harm and the impact that it may have on human health. Although the concentrations are low, their effect could be potentially harmful to aquatic and human life.

## WHY IS FLUSHING MEDICATIONS BAD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT?

In the past, flushing down the drain was considered a proper way to dispose of unwanted medication. Due to increasing awareness, this method is no longer recommended. Medications flushed down the drain can contaminate our water bodies and have adverse effects on our environment. Wastewater treatment facilities are not currently designed to remove these contaminants from their effluent (wastewater discharged after treatment).

## WHY IS THROWING MEDICATIONS IN THE TRASH BAD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT?

Throwing medications in the trash is also discouraged. It can lead to accidental swallowing by children or pets or could lead to misuse and or abuse. When disposed of in the trash, these chemicals can contaminate the leachate (water that comes in contact with trash) from the landfill.

**Thank You for being part of the solution!**



## Sunshine Corner

### FAIRPORT VILLAGE BOARD 12/10/12

Alice McCormick-Ennis and I made our first Observer Corp visit to the Fairport Village Board. We found the meeting to be cordial and efficiently conducted. There were 1 or 2 members of the public present. There were no participants in the Citizens Forum at 7 pm. The meeting is broadcast on their local cable channel, and the meeting room is equipped with modern audio and video equipment. The major items of business for the evening were the Winterfest celebration scheduled for February 9-17, 2013 and a motion to authorize a local law to override the tax levy limit established by General Municipal Law. As with almost every town or Monroe County Legislature meeting, there was little public discussion of the motions presented. The members of the board seemed to be familiar with the issues and voted without discussion at the meeting.

(To view the full minutes from this and other meetings, please click here: <http://ecode360.com/documents/list/FA0327/quick?CFID=8328473&CFTOKEN=45561207#sub67170>)

### IRONDEQUOIT TOWN WORKSHOP 12/12/12

Observed by Gin Busack

No LWV issues encountered. In an improvement to the usual workshop meeting, a microphone system was used allowing members of the public in attendance to hear the discussion by board members.

(To view the full minutes from this and other meetings, please click here: <https://www.irondequoitrec.com/weblink7/Browse.aspx>)

### WEBSTER TOWN BOARD 12/6/12

Observed by Lois Winterkorn

Fewer than 5 members of the public attended the meeting. No LWV issues were discussed.

(To view the full minutes from this and other meetings, please click here: <http://www.ci.webster.ny.us/index.aspx?nid=323>)

### MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE 12/11/12

I did not attend this session of the Legislature. It was the usual session to pass the budget for 2013 and lasted until after midnight.

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

**Elaine Schmidt**

*Chair, Local Government*

## LWVUS Urges Obama Action on Climate Change

On Saturday, January 5, 2013, the League ran a full page, color ad in the Honolulu Star-Advertiser, while President Obama and his family were vacationing there, urging him to set tough standards for new and existing power plants under the Clean Air Act.

The ad is part of a broader push by LWV for executive action on climate change, and is a follow up to a letter sent to The White House in December. The full text and image of the ad can be seen at <http://salsa.wiredforchange.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=YQ29i8ugdmXnab2o4uKHlgFD5g1PTPX%2B>

## Our New Book Club!

Thank you to all who have expressed interest in joining our book club, focusing on both fiction and non-fiction books relating to Advocacy positions our League has adopted.

An organizational meeting will be held on Saturday, March 2, at 10 am at Rundel Memorial Library downtown. We have chosen this location because it is centrally located for all our members, and the parking is free (use Ground Level 1, near the library door).

Please contact me if you wish to join or have questions. I can be contacted at 585-787-9692 or [georgiatd@gmail.com](mailto:georgiatd@gmail.com)

**Georgia DeGregorio**

*President*

## Capital Beat Blog Returns

Capitol Beat blog has returned! Please spread the word to all members so they can follow the happenings in the Capitol during the legislative session with LWNYS Legislative Director Barbara Bartoletti.

Please use the link below to visit Capital Beat:

<http://lwny-capitolbeat.blogspot.com/>

## Milestones

If you have League-related news about our members to share (recognitions, obituaries, etc.), please send info to [LWVRMA-VOTER@rochester.rr.com](mailto:LWVRMA-VOTER@rochester.rr.com).

## Good Friends, Good Discussions and Food – Oh My!

On Saturday we hosted a Program meeting at the Buckland Lodge in Brighton. It was super fun as so many established members interacted with new and potential members. I'd say it was downright exciting! We also had amazing cannolis and wonderful home-made cookies (thanks, John!). I think life is at its best with good friends, intelligent discussion and good food. I will be working with my team to compile the information we gained from these discussions about League positions.

As a newer member, I am in awe and sometimes left in confusion on the League Advocacy positions. In preparing for the meeting, I had read all of the US League positions and was amazed at the breadth and depth of our positions. It is a testament to all who have been in the League over the years and participated in those studies and consensus activities.

But, here we are in January, 2013 and the questions are: what do we see when we look out the front door, and how can we leverage the information gathered by those who have come before us to make our neighborhood - our community – better? So, look for more emails as we explore the results of the Saturday meeting and move into smaller discussion groups to more fully explore our local options. It looks to be a VERY active Advocacy year.

Of course, since I am the Membership Committee chair, I will end with a reminder that we have annual reporting to LWVUS on our membership count. This count will determine how much we owe the New York State and US Leagues for the support they provide to us in our local work. If you haven't paid dues in a long time, you are most likely on my "expired" list. I will be sending reminder emails and letters and will be joined by other volunteers in making phone calls, but please, if you plan to remain a member, mail your dues payment ASAP.

National is offering a variety of incentives for our League, including the potential to win a free trip to the national convention in Dallas if we show an increase in our membership. Since our membership has been increasing, we should be eligible to enter that drawing if all current members send in their dues payments. Please contact me if you are not certain what you owe ([etdegregorio@hotmail.com](mailto:etdegregorio@hotmail.com) or 585-451-0615). Thank you!

**Ellen DeGregorio,**  
Chair, Membership

*PS - My team, consisting of Phyllis Walker and Gloria Read, was amazing in pulling together the Saturday meeting. When you see them, make sure to say thank you. They really worked hard!*

## LWVNY Announces Legislative Agenda for 2013

The LWVNY Legislative Agenda for 2013 has been agreed to by the state Board of Directors. Emphasis will be placed on the campaign finance reform bill, and we're awaiting Governor Cuomo's proposal this month. LWVNY supports lower contribution limits, increased disclosure and a system of smaller donor matching funds.

In the area of election reform, LWVNY supports paperless registration, Election Day registration, early voting and a single June Primary date, among other items intended to increase voter turnout. The Speaker of the Assembly has introduced a bill for early voting.

The complete LWVNY legislative agenda for 2013, including our positions on natural resources, health care, judiciary restructuring and transportation, will be published by the middle of the month. If you are interested in attending meetings with Monroe County representatives to the NYS Senate and Assembly, please call Katherine Smith at 334-3991. Meetings will be scheduled on Fridays in the local offices.

Be sure to check your new state Senate and Assembly districts on our website: [http://www.lwv-rma.org/district\\_maps.php](http://www.lwv-rma.org/district_maps.php).

If you do not have internet access please call 585-262-3730.

**Katherine Smith**  
Chair, Advocacy

## FEPC and Naturalization

### NATURALIZATION

Our first naturalization ceremonies of the new year were held on January 10th at the Monroe County Office Building and at the Federal Building. Sheila Abeling welcomed the new citizens at both ceremonies.

The Naturalization Committee met on January 11th to choose oath ceremony dates for 2013. Thank you to our dedicated volunteers: Sheila Abeling, Marcia Eisenberg, Kathy Farrar, Beth Feldman, Barb Hendry, Joan Rosenthal, Mimi Wilson and Lois Winterkorn.

**Sheila Abeling,**  
Chair, FEPC & Naturalization

## Save the Date for our Go See Tour!

*RACE: Are We So Different?*

**Rochester Museum and Science Center**

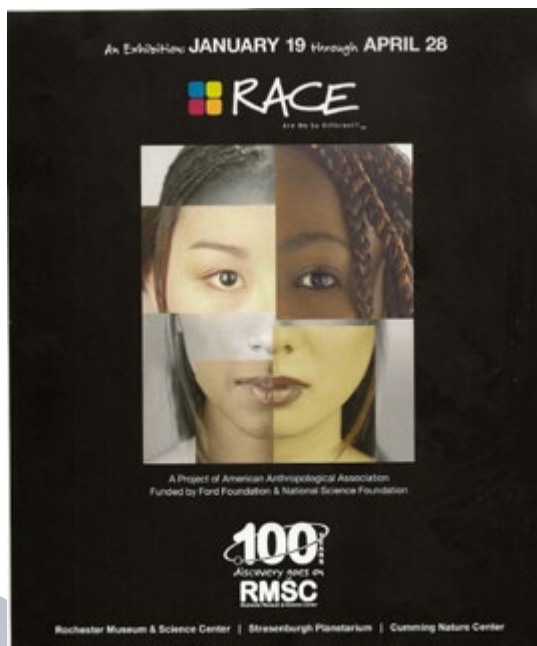
Thursday, March 14th at 6:00 pm  
(networking and light refreshments available at 5:30 pm)

Group Rate Ticket \$6.00 per person

Join us for a docent-led opportunity to experience a new traveling exhibit at the Rochester Museum & Science Center.

The exhibit, developed by the American Anthropological Association in collaboration with the Science Museum of Minnesota, explores the issue of RACE through biological, cultural and historical viewpoints.

*Really .... Are we so different??*



To register for the event, call 262-3730 or visit our website at:  
<http://lwv-rma.org/signup2.php>





## Coming Events!



### February

#### Youth Voter Month

- 10** Immigration Film/Book Discussion  
Temple Sinai 4:00 pm
- 13** Susan B. Anthony Luncheon (contact  
Shirley Eberly)
- 14** League Birthday
- 14** Program Planning Meeting
- 21** LWV/RMA Board Meeting
- 26** Health Care Committee
- 28** League Forum, 7pm-9pm  
Brighton Town Hall

### March

#### Women's History Month

#### Sunshine Month

- 2** 1st Meeting, LWV/RMA Book Club
- 8** International Women's Day
- 14** Go See Tour RMSC
- 28** LWV/RMA Board Meeting

### Women's Federation Holiday Luncheon.

*Two of our members attended: Dorothy  
Borgus, Event Chair and Terri Robach.*



### Naturalization Photos



Board meets at 5:30 pm on the fourth Thursday of each month. Board meetings are open to all members.  
Local Government Committee meets monthly at the Brighton Town Hall, Stage Room. For details, call Elaine Schmidt at 530-7414.  
Membership Committee meets monthly at Brighton Town Hall, Stage Room. For details, call Ellen DeGregorio at 473-3502.  
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](http://www.LWV-RMA.org), call 262-3730 or e-mail us at [info@lwv-rma.org](mailto:info@lwv-rma.org)

# January Forum Photos







**Rochester/Metro  
League of Women Voters**

PO Box 10573  
Rochester, NY 14610  
p 585-262-3730  
[www.LWV-RMA.org](http://www.LWV-RMA.org)



**MARCH VOTER  
DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 4!**

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# Rochester VOTER

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

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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

## 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](http://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 |