

The TER

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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The League of Women Voters/RMA and the Greater Rochester Coalition for Immigration Justice Invite You to Our Forum

Untold Truths: Immigration & You

Monday, April 22, 2013

Brighton Town Hall Auditorium 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Our speakers for the evening are:

Andrea Callan, Constitutional lawyer with the NYCLU

Rev. Richard Witt, Director of the Rural & Migrant Ministry

Rev. Chava Redonnet, Chaplain at The Church of Oscar Romero at St. Joseph's House of Hospitality Discussion to follow



Please register for the event by calling 585-262-3730 or visit our website at: http://lwv-rma.org/signup3.php



President's Corner



To pick up on a cliché we roared into March like a lion but did not tiptoe out like a lamb. Buoyed by the great attendance of more than 100 people at our February 26 event, we had more than 35 people attend our "Go-See" tour entitled "Race: Are We So Different?" at the Rochester Museum and

Science Center. Congratulations to all who worked to bring this together: Gin Busack, Ida Hollaran, Barbara Grosh, Ernest DuBois and Gloria Read.

April brings another excellent program on immigration which you will read about on this page. In this case, Program Chair Gin Busack worked with another outstanding group of people: John (Lory) Ghertner, Allison Wilder and Betty Schaeffer. We are sad that we lost our League member, Sally Chamberlin, who was our League liaison with Greater Rochester Coalition for Immigration Justice (GRCIJ).

On March 16 we hosted a western region training session provided by state League on how to use www.VOTE411.org for the fall elections.

During this Advocacy season Kathy Smith is visiting our legislators regarding the LWVNY Legislative Agenda. She is asking League members to accompany her to those legislative offices that are in their districts.

We have had good visibility in the last few months including interviews on Bob Smith's WXXI 1370 Connections radio show and in the D&C, including our 'op ed' piece on Sunshine Week published in the March 10th issue. When we joined the Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) program led by national League coaches, we were told such visibility does attract new members. We have welcomed 7 new members in the past 6 months, confirming this Best Practice. Be sure to welcome our new members when you see them at upcoming meetings and events!

Finally, the board thanks the Budget Committee (Brian Valenti, chair; Thomas Ferrarese; Rita Garretson and John Schmitt) for their hard work on preparing the budget for your vote on May 30. And thank you to Lois Winterkorn and her Nominating Committee including Ernest DuBois, Judy Weinstein, Carly Wise-Levick. We appreciate your hard work.

Georgia DeGregorio President

Untold Truths: Immigration & You

What happens in a society that allows its government to discriminate against an entire class of its members? Martin Luther King, Jr. gave us the answer from the Birmingham Jail in 1963: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

And what happens when that same government is allowed to codify derogatory language against that same population? We learned our lesson on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel not long after that Birmingham letter.

I once stood at that place and felt the earth move under my feet. Everyday I see firsthand the result of discriminatory, anti-Constitutional law against my neighbors who happen to be farmworkers, attempting to find their American Dream, away from the extreme poverty and sometimes danger and violence of their homelands. Everyday I see the results of codified pejorative language in our laws: Illegal aliens. Aggravated felons. Children of undocumented farmworkers living in depression and fear. Fathers crying because their children cannot engage in community activities. Mothers cowering in their cars on their way to church, afraid their families will be destroyed by Immigration & Naturalization Service (INS) agents looking for bonus Home Depot cards or trying to fill their quotas of meaningless arrests.

Today the League of Women Voters supports "Embracing Race" in Rochester. Come engage in conversation on April 22 as our League leads the community in a look at the issues of our farmworkers and their families. Andrea Callan, a Constitutional and civil rights lawyer for the New York Civil Liberties Union; Reverend Richard Witt, Director of the Rural and Migrant Ministry; and Reverend Chava Redonnet, Chaplain at St. Joseph's House of Hospitality, a small migrant community, will discuss the realities of migrant life today with a vision of where we are heading with this most important human rights issue tomorrow.

Lory Ghertner *Member, Immigration Committee*

Welcome to the League

Lisa Slater

Our newest LWV/RMA member!



Book Club Update

It may have been cold outside, but we all felt a warm glow of anticipation after our League book club met for the first time. If you wanted to be with us but were not able to attend on March 2, please join us on April 6. We'll continue to meet monthly on Saturdays at 10:15 am (note that the original meeting time has been changed since the library does not open until 10 am).

Meeting dates and books to be discussed are:

- April 6 Republic, Lost: How Money Corrupts Congress--and a Plan to Stop It by Lawrence Lessig
- May 4 On a Farther Shore: The Life and Legacy of Rachel Carson by William Souder
- June 8 *The Uninvited Guests* by Sadie Jones

The League issues addressed by these books are: Government Campaign Financing, Environmental Protection, and Social Policy related to Meeting Basic Human Needs.

For additional information, please visit: http://www.lwv-rma.org/bookclub.php.

Preparing for the Annual Meeting

The Nominating Committee will present for membership consideration at the Annual Meeting the following slate of candidates to serve two-year terms on the Board of Directors (2013 to 2015):

Gin Busack, Program

Ernest DuBois, At-Large

Barbara Grosh, Voter Services

Mary Hussong-Kallen, Voter Editor

Barbara Kay (to complete term as Secretary ending 2014)

Treasurer (candidate needed!)

The following members will continue their terms to 2014:

Georgia DeGregorio, President

Brian Valenti, Vice President

Ellen DeGregorio, Membership

Elaine Schmidt, Local Government

All members attending the Annual Meeting on May 30 will have an opportunity to vote for the above listed candidates.

Help Needed!

Do you like numbers? Get a thrill in seeing your checkbook balance?

Well, do we have a job for you!!! Yes, you!!!

Our League needs a treasurer - someone who is comfortable with Excel and Quicken or Quickbooks, someone who can put in an hour or two a week (on YOUR schedule) recording dues and sending checks, along with some extra time once a year filling out simple tax forms. A mentor will be provided.

We offer pleasant surroundings (your office or home) and even more pleasant co-workers (our board, which meets once a month). Isn't this an offer you cannot refuse?

Please contact Lois Winterkorn at 585-671-1257 or loiswinterkorn@rochester.rr.com for information or to get started.

Save the Dates! April 25 & 26, 2013

GREAT LAKES NEED GREAT FRIENDS: PROTECTING THE GREAT LAKES FOREVER

In keeping with our November discussion regarding the Great Lakes, we want to support this forum developed by the Sierra Club, FLOW, MCC, and RIT.

On Thursday, 4/25/13 at MCC from 7-9 pm: keynote speaker is Maude Barlow, world renowned champion of water as a human right

On Friday, 4/26/13 at RIT beginning at 9 am: three workshops will be offered focusing on issues from policy to "do it yourself" topics

Our Natural Resources Committee chairs, Jane Schmitt and Chris Fredette, are planning to present their wetlands demonstration and could use some members (you!) to help them. Call Jane at 334-0588 to find out what you can do.

For additional information, please visit:

http://lwv-rma.org/SierraClub.pdf

or contact:

Peter Debes, 585-820-2018 or phdebes@frontiernet.net

Wayne Howard, 585-738-8242 or greatlakes@newyork.sierraclub.org



Hydrofracking Legislation Update from LWVNY

LWVNY has issued a Memorandum of Support for S.0674/A.1046 which "relates to the uniform treatment of waste from the exploration, development, extraction, or production of crude oil or natural gas," requiring hazardous waste produced from oil and natural gas activities to be subject to the requirements for treatment of hazardous waste."

Current Department of Environmental Conservation rules exempt "drilling fluids" from regulation as

hazardous waste. This legislation would ensure that when such waste "meets the definition of hazardous waste, that it be treated in a manner consistent with other hazardous wastes."

LWVNY strongly urges all League members to support S.0674/A.1046.



Milestones

We are sad to report the death of long-time league member, Sally Chamberlin. Sally was a native of Chappaqua, NY who went on to Wellesley College. She married, had two sons and a daughter, and was widowed at an early age. She volunteered at many organizations, including The Greater Rochester Coalition for Immigration Justice, The Raging Grannies, The Rochester Voters Alliance (on which she served as a co-chair) and The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester (on which she served as a former president). She had also been involved in Moving Beyond Racism and served on the board of One World Goods and the Pittsford Village Planning and Zoning Boards. She joined the League when we undertook our national study on immigration in 2008. She served as our liaison to the GRCIJ, and was instrumental in bringing the two groups together to plan our April 22 forum.

Sally had been recruited recently to help plan the League's April program on immigration. A memorial service will be held at 1PM on April 6 at the First Unitarian Church.

~ submitted by Alison Wilder

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

Save This Date!

LWV/RMA Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 30, 2013 11:30 am - 2:00 pm Locust Hill Country Club

Lunch

Guest Speaker:

James Sheppard, Chief of Police, Rochester, NY

Short Business Meeting

More info will be posted on our website www.lwv-rma.org as it becomes available!

Correction

Gin Busack & Julie Johnson at Marketplace Mall. Valentines from the LWV/RMA 2/9/13. The Local Government Committee hosted a table at Marketplace Mall in front of Bon Tons. Anyone who stopped by got a Valentine with our next programs on it.



LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK!

We know you'll "like" us! www.facebook.com/lwvofrma





Sunshine Corner

HENRIETTA TOWN BOARD 2/6/13

Observed by Jane & John Schmitt

Town board meeting addressed no major issues; only 6-12 members of the public attended; no LWV issues were discussed.

HENRIETTA TOWN BOARD 2/20/13

Only 6-12 members of the public were present; no LWV issues were addressed.

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

MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE 2/12/13

Observed by Elaine Schmidt

The Democrats proposed using the Democrat & Chronicle to post important notices, in addition to posting in The Daily Record and Rochester Business Journal; the Republican majority did not pass the item, stating that the D&C is more expensive. The Democrats stated that there could be a transparency issue with sweeping laws such as the resolution prohibiting the sale, use or possession of synthetic drugs and other compounds.

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

WEBSTER TOWN BOARD 2/21/13

Observed by Lois Winterkorn

Town board meeting was attended by 13-20 people - good attendance by the Webster citizens! Town is looking for ways to cut costs in anticipation of higher health care costs next year; no LWV issues were addressed.

WEBSTER TOWN WORKSHOP 2/28/13

Observed by Lois Winterkorn.

Fewer than 5 citizens attended this workshop; agenda consisted of discussion of development of State Rd. property with James Barbato of Pride Mark Homes. Inc. and a Certiori matter; no LWV issues were addressed.

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

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YWCA: Another Community Partner Raising Race Awareness

Each April the YWCA of Rochester and Monroe County spearheads the local effort for the national Stand Against Racism. This year's Stand is planned for April 26.

For more information, please visit the Stand website at www.standagainstracism.org/.

2013 Budget

Just one year ago we met to discuss fiscal year 2013, a year of unforeseen success. Our accomplishments this year can be attributed to the dedication of our board, active members and the community we call home. I want to give special thanks to our Budget Committee – Rita Garretson, John Schmitt, Georgia DeGregorio (ex-officio), Tom Ferrarese and Ellen DeGregorio – for their insights, diligence, and leadership.

Today we have increased our cash reserves and our development funds, are 131 members strong and continue to invest in our community through our educational and programmatic activities. I'm proud to report that our projected income has increased 70.29% over last year.

Revenue increases are a result of increased development efforts, funds donated by B. Bibby at the Center for Governmental Research (CGR), and increased receipts from membership dues. I would be remiss if I failed to mention our membership is up over 10% this year, illustrating our impact and increased public awareness. Because the funds that come from CGR are restricted we have to spend the monies on an approved project.

We have been good stewards and have committed to a responsible amount of expenses. Sending 3 active members to the League of Women Voters National Convention will prove to be a good investment. Upon return from a convention of this magnitude our delegates will bring home invaluable knowledge, ideas and experiences to make our local League the best it can be.

I have included last year's budget on the following page, along with projected numbers for comparison reasons. Our budget committee hopes you find this format informative and understandable.

Yours truly,

Brian Valenti Vice President



Membership

2013-2014 LWV/RMA Budget

131 surrent members	2013	-2014	l LW\	//KMA Budget			
131 current members (97 single, 18 household			•	1	Desile of Con-	Destructed	Davidson Com
16 honorary)	Budget for 2012-2013	Projected 2012-2013	2013-2014		Budget for 2012-2013		Budget for 2013-2014
remendiny,	2012-2013	2012-2013	2013-2011		2012-2013	2012-2013	2013-2011
Income:				Programs (continued)			
Member Dues	\$8,905	\$6,072	\$9,300	Food	(\$750)	(\$351)	(\$400)
Donations				Room Rental	\$0	(\$85)	(\$100)
Annual Appeal	\$1,100	\$709	\$1,000				
Member	\$650	\$1,119	\$350	Annual Member Meeting			
Non-Member	\$250	\$300	\$400	Food/Room	(\$750)	(\$1,200)	(\$1,200)
Monroe County Election Counts	\$2,000	\$2,200	\$1,500	Supplies	\$0	(\$200)	(\$200)
Moderator	\$100	\$0	1	Speaker	\$0	(\$100)	(\$100)
							, ,
Programs				CGR Program - Topic TBD	\$0	\$0	(\$10,000)
Annual Meeting (40x\$50)	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$2,000		·		. , ,
Monthly Prog /Events (6 x \$80)	\$0	\$0	\$480	Administrative Expense			
Go-See Tours (Environ'l)	\$0	\$0	\$150	PO Box-1 yr	(\$35)	(\$73)	(\$73)
(=,		, ,	, , , ,	Office Phone (12 mo x \$59)	(\$700)	(\$708)	(\$720)
Restricted Funds				Paper/Printer Supplies	(\$500)	(\$115)	(\$184)
B. Bibby NYS Ed Fund (501c3)	\$600	\$3,000	\$2,500	Postage	(\$500)	(\$38)	(\$46)
B. Bibby -CGR Fund, Project TBD	\$0	\$0	1	Misc Fees	\$0	(\$85)	(\$50)
NYS Education Fund (501c3)	\$500	\$770	1	Whise rees	٥	(503)	(550)
RACF Grant (WRY '13)	\$1,000	\$1,200		Development Costs			
Gretchen Shafer Fund (SIA)	\$1,000	\$1,200	\$1,200	Annual Appeal	(\$430)	(\$184)	(\$175)
Gretchen Shaler Fund (SIA)	٥	7,00	\$700	Ailliuai Appeai	(\$450)	(5104)	(\$173)
Other				Public Relations	(\$350)	\$0	(\$100)
	\$1,500	\$0	\$0	Public Relations	(\$550)	٥٦	(\$100)
Making Democracry Work Lunch	\$1,500			Voter Services			
Other	\$0	\$153	ŞU		(61,000)	(61.200)	(61.200)
Total Income	Ć17.605	ć40 222	ć20.000	Who Represents You '13	(\$1,000)	(\$1,200)	(\$1,200)
Total Income	\$17,605	\$18,223	\$29,980	Vote 411	60	40	(625)
Formania				Web service thru LWVNY	\$0	\$0	
Expense:	(62.720)	(62.650)	(62.425)	Flyers to promote (1500)	\$0	(\$240)	(\$250)
National Dues	(\$3,720)	(\$3,658)		Naturalization/FEPC Postage NYS	\$0	(\$58)	(\$75)
State Dues	(\$2,160)	(\$2,114)	(\$1,989)	Printing-other	\$0	\$0	(\$225)
Commentions				The Makes			
Conventions	60	60	(64.500)	The Voter	(64,000)	(62,000)	(62.000)
Nat'l Conv. Dallas (\$1500 x 3)	\$0			Design/Layout (10 issues)	(\$1,000)		(\$2,000)
NYS Conv. Albany (\$200 x 3)	(\$600)	(\$600)	\$0	Postage /Print Hard Copies	\$0	(\$198)	(\$126)
6							
Student Inside Albany		(600)	(600)	Membership Committee	(6250)	(604)	(405)
Transportation For 1 Student	\$0	(\$90)	(\$90)	Postage	(\$250)	(\$21)	(\$25)
Gretchen Shafer Student	\$0	(\$700)	(\$700)	Printing/Supplies	(\$150)	(\$85)	(\$75)
			(4)	Networking Events (3 @ \$200)	(\$600)	\$0	
Support Allied Org Events	\$0	\$0	(\$150)	Welcome New Members	\$0	(\$282)	(\$350)
				PayPal Fees	(\$50)	(\$57)	(\$50)
Programs							
Forums/events			,,,,,,,,	Other			
Honorariums	(\$200)	(\$160)		Making Dem'cy Work Lunch	(\$1,500)	\$0	
Printing/Supplies	(\$75)	\$0	1	Donations	\$0	(\$50)	\$0
Postage	(\$75)	(\$85)	(\$150)	Accounting Services	(\$1,045)	\$0	
				Liability Insurance	(\$250)	\$0	\$0
Go-See Tour (bus rental)	\$0	\$0	(\$150)				
				Total Expense	(\$16,690)	(\$14,822)	(\$29,803)
Program Planning Meeting							
Postage	\$0	(\$85)	(\$100)	Net Change in Cash	\$915	\$3,401	\$177



Naturalization and FEPC

On March 14th two oath ceremonies were held. At the Monroe County Office Building, Mimi Wilson welcomed naturalization candidates at 10 am. In the Federal Building, at 1:00 pm, Lois Winterkorn met the new candidates.

April 11th will bring the League to two locations to participate in naturalization ceremonies. In the morning at Minerva Deland School in the Fairport School District, Mimi Wilson and Lois Winterkorn will welcome new citizens. At the Federal Building at 1:00 pm, Marcia Eisenberg will greet naturalization candidates.

All members are always welcome and encouraged to attend ceremonies.

Sheila Abeling *Chair, Naturalization and FEPC*

What Happens at Naturalization Ceremonies?

On the afternoon of February 14, 2013 I decided to attend a naturalization ceremony and see what all the excitement is about. Here is what I found:

They came from all over the world: People's Republic of China, Latvia, Ukraine, Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Korea, Colombia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Trinidad and Tobago, Somalia, Pakistan, Australia, Cuba, India, Singapore, Romania, Jamaica, Qatar, Ethiopia, Poland, Bangladesh, Dominican Republic, Russia and Nigeria!

We all recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by a 10 year- old and her father from Ukraine. There were 48 new citizens in the morning session as well. In fact, an average of 100 new citizens are welcomed each month according to Sheila Abeling, our League director, who makes sure that League members attend the ceremonies and give the citizens a warm welcome and a pamphlet, "First Vote", along with a voter registration form.

Whenever you feel pessimistic about the future of our country, I urge you to come to a naturalization ceremony. I volunteered to help our representative on February 14th. I'll never forget the smiles and joy expressed by these happy people. And I simply had to share my delight with you. Especially moving was the young woman who "waited 12 years to get to this day" and came on crutches because of an accident damaging her knee. The tears in her eyes touched us all.

Georgia DeGregorio

Join Us

On our upcoming

Go-See Tour

Golisano Institute for Sustainability (GIS) Hall on the RIT Campus

Thursday, May 23, 2013 at 10:00 am

See the newly opened 170,000 sq. ft. LEED-certified research building, designed to demonstrate sustainable building technologies and energy systems.

Advocacy

The Governor of the State of New York, after two years of talking about changing the way elections are funded in our state, has begun speaking about a program bill he plans to introduce to the New York Senate and Assembly in April. Governor Andrew Cuomo is indicating that the bill will have a proposed system of public and private monies for candidates to use during campaigns. LWVNY supports a matching of public and private funds for this purpose.

LWVNY favors a comprehensive bill which has not only a public funding component, but also lowers the limits on liability corporations, limits money for political party expenses and establishes an independent enforcement board. The present influence of money in campaigns, lax laws governing spending and the amount of time that elected officials spend raising this money are the reasons citizens want these changes.

When the bill is introduced, LWV/RMA will send an email alert. Please call your New York State Senator and Assembly Member stating your strong support for fair elections with limits on spending and lower limits on donations. We need fair elections where the number of small donors increases and the number of people able to run for office increases.

Contact information for all representatives is available in our annual brochure, Who Represents You.

Find it online at:

http://www.lwv-rma.org/WRY13.pdf.

Katherine Smith Chair, Advocacy





Coming Events!



April

- **6** Book Club at the Rundel Library
- 15 Income Taxes Due
- **19** National Volunteer Week through the 25th
- 22 Earth Day
- **22** LWV/RMA Immigration Forum
- 25 LWV/RMA Board Meeting

May

- 1 Law Day
- 10 Mother's Day
- 23 Go-See Tour at RIT
- 30 Annual Meeting, Locust Hill Country Club
- **31** LWVNY Convention begins in Albany

Photos from Our Wetlands Seminar







Photos from Our Go-See Tour on Race at RMSC



Board meets monthly. Call Georgia DeGregorio at 787-9692 for details. 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.



Rochester/Metro **League of Women Voters**

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

MAY VOTER DEADLINE IS APRIL 15!





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Rochester VO?

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

Georgia DeGregorio

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Brian Valenti

Vice President

John Schmitt

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Voter Layout & Production Carly Wise-Levick

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Director, Program

Ellen DeGregorio Director, Membership

Elaine Schmidt

Director, Local Government

Barbara Grosh

Director, Voter Services

Ernest DuBois

Director, At-Large

Mary Hussong-Kallen

Voter Editor

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:		Zip:	
Telephone:			
Check Amount:	<i></i>		

Please send this form and your check payable to League of Women Voters/RMA to: LWV/RMA

Level of Membership:

PO Box 10573

Rochester, NY 14610

or join us online at: www.lwv-rma.org/join.php

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

Individual/Associate	
Household	\$105
Susan B. Anthony/Frederick Douglass	
Carrie Chapman Catt	\$200
Student (full-time/under 25)	
Low income, call office	\$liding \$cale