

## 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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## CALLING ALL LEAGUE MEMBERS!

### The Toastmasters Club of Monroe Community College

Presents

## A Workshop on Speaking in Public

Thursday, February 20, 2014

7:00 PM

Brighton Town Hall

(see the article on page 2 for further info)

Please register at 585.262.3730 or [www.lwv-rma.org](http://www.lwv-rma.org)

## I WANT YOU!



## TO NOT FEAR PUBLIC SPEAKING

## President's Corner



Our Annual Membership Meeting ("Picnic in the Park") attracted some 40 members, half of whom were new this year. Our facilitators and note-takers should be congratulated for their able presentation of the League positions and their skill in generating some lively discussions at each

table. In addition, we extend a big thank you to our Membership and Program Committees for preparing this day for us.

On page 8 of this Voter you'll find a summary of the comments and recommendations made. It became apparent that there is some overlap between National and State positions, with State usually expanding on the National as they apply specifically to New York. I recommend that you go to our website (<http://www.lwv-rma.org>) to the links that can take you directly to the positions at each League level for further in-depth exploration. Besides a full statement of each position, you will find a history of action taken over the years.

In our summary we note the local committees currently studying a particular issue that was raised, and you have an open invitation to attend their meetings.

A special thank you to Jane Schmitt for demonstrating the Wetland Protection Project which she has presented to school children for several years. Please email her at [mjane@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mjane@rochester.rr.com) to volunteer to go with her to learn how to do the demonstration. The principles being presented are straightforward, and you do not need a science background. It is a great way to introduce the League to students and teachers and to promote a very important part of our League position on Water Quality. (I challenge you to go to the LWVUS website and look up the page of history of League action on wetlands.)

Please email either me or our Program Chair if you have any questions, or, even better, if you would like to be part of a committee addressing any of these issues.

**Georgia DeGregorio, President**  
[georgiatd1@gmail.com](mailto:georgiatd1@gmail.com)

**Gin Busack, Program Chair**  
[Vbusack@gmail.com](mailto:Vbusack@gmail.com)

## Calling All LWV-RMA Members!

### You Asked – We Listened!

At a recent board meeting members were asked what skills or talents they would most like to develop. By far, the most common answer was "being comfortable speaking in public..." Since the board represents all members, we wonder:

- Maybe you've attended a monthly forum and have been approached by a reporter who asks you a question. Do you avoid her?
- Perhaps you're attending one of our informative events, and you have a question for the presenter. Do you shy away from asking?
- What if you're a member of a committee working on a topic you love, and the chairperson steps down. You know you're the most knowledgeable person to take over, but do you panic at the thought of chairing the meetings?

If you're like us, you answered "yes" to all three! And we really surprised one another! We all thought we were the only ones! We thought everyone else took all these challenges in stride.

Well, now that we've discovered this amazing truth, let's conquer our fears and move forward together.

As League members, we're well informed and always learning. Let's take the next step and learn what it takes to become even more effective educators and advocates.

The Toastmasters Club of Monroe Community College is offering a FREE (to members) workshop just for us on Thursday, February 20, at 7:00 PM at Brighton Town Hall. You'll even receive a booklet with helpful information and hints for you to keep. (*The League will cover the very reasonable cost of this workshop so please register in advance so we can order enough booklets.*)

Please join us for this wonderful opportunity – for the League and for ourselves!

*"The mind is a wonderful thing. It starts working the minute you are born and never stops until you get up to speak in public."*

–Roscoe Drummond

## Following Up On... Annual Membership Meeting "Picnic in the Park"

About 40 members and guests gathered on Saturday, January 11, at Buckland Lodge to discuss LWV issues and make recommendations for national direction and local goals for 2014. The day's activities included orientation, exchange of ideas, consensus and a meal. The end result was all of the above and a good dose of old fashioned "getting to know you" moments.

Four issues for discussion and information gathering were presented to participants, using issue facilitators and note-takers. Facilitators stated the LWV policies on the topics, and discussion followed. At the end of the event, after summaries of the discussions were presented, participants were given an opportunity to rank the four LWV issues in terms of how the local League should guide 2014 work, along with an opportunity to commit their time and energy to one of the issues. The consensus ranking tool we used put the issues discussed in the following order starting with the highest interest ranking:

1. Representative Government – Voting Rights
2. Social Policy – Education
3. Natural Resources – Water Resources
4. Social Policy – Pay Equity

The event also created opportunities for networking and information exchange. The participants have contacts in the community and personal experiences outside the League that add unique insights into the issues discussed and show how rich the League is in terms of what its members have to offer to the League organizationally and to each other.

The synergy and goodwill were evident in the conversations and discussions and made this a great event on many levels. If you could not attend this year, the LWV Rochester Metro Area invites you to put it on the top of your list for next year.

In closing, we offer a special thanks to all who worked behind the scene and on January 11 to make this event such a success. Please look at the pictures posted on page 11 of this newsletter and also on Facebook!

**Mary Myers**

*Member, Membership Committee*

## Book Review

We met on December 7 to discuss **Negro President: Jefferson and the Slave Power** by Gary Wills. In high school we all remember studying the US Constitution and one of the major compromises it contains: the three/fifths clause. This clause gave the Southern states additional votes in the Electoral College by counting their slaves as 3/5 of a person to add to their electoral college numbers in order to counterbalance the growing population of the Northern states.

But we never understood the impact this compromise had on our early political history. It drastically affected most governmental action as soon as the Constitution was ratified. As new states were being added, the tension between the North and the South increased as they argued to be either "free" or "slave" states because of this agreement. In addition, it was one of the major reasons the District of Columbia was put in between two slave states. It's also the reason four of our first five presidents were Southerners. The seeds for the Civil War were sown in 1787.

Our next book will be **Devil in the Grove: Thurgood Marshall, the Groveland Boys, and the Dawn of a New America** by Gilbert King. Join us on Saturday, February 1 at The Greenhouse Café, 2271 East Main Street at 10:00 AM.

**Georgia DeGregorio**  
*Member, Book Club*

## Finding Their Niche:

### NEW COMMITTEES/STUDY GROUPS AND NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

**EDUCATION** (My Dream School...): Lois Winterkorn (Convener), Camille Clayton (Note-taker), Ernest DuBois, Judy Engerman, Hasana Martin, Ruth Messinger, Mary Myers, Cathy Phelps, Carrie Remis.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** Barbara Grosh, Ida Hol-loran, Betty Schaeffer

**AGRICULTURE** (Consensus on proposed update of National position) Joint program with Geneva and Wayne County Leagues: Anna Bundschuh (Convener), Ellie Drake (Note-taker), Dorothy Borgus, Sandra Frankel, Linda Howland, Sandra Keller, John Schmitt, Jane Schmitt, Beverly Verbridge, Lenore Youngman.

**GOVERNMENT:** Joanne Panzarella

Have YOU found your niche in the League? There's a committee in need of your talent!



## Advocacy: Education

The Monroe County 2014 budget cut \$1.5 million from childcare subsidies. Cuts were enacted on a party line vote: 19 Republicans voting for cuts, 10 Democrats voting against. LWVNY has a thirty-year position supporting childcare dollars. Our local League has spoken at county budget hearings on this issue for decades. Katherine Smith spoke at the December 10 meeting supporting the restoration of the full amount. (On this issue our local coalition group had sent a letter to the County Executive asking for a \$1.1 million increase.)

The Early Childhood Development Initiative (ECDI) is currently lobbying New York State and US Legislatures for increased money for childcare subsidies, as well as for Head Start and universal Pre-K programs. In fact, ECDI will be part of the Albany Rally for funding for these programs on Monday, February 10. A bus (free) will leave Rochester that morning to transport advocates to the NY Capitol in Albany. Visits with Senators and Assembly Members from Monroe County will be scheduled.

2014 looks like the first year of a five-year plan by New York State to pay for full-day Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten programs. Monroe County has been asking for this state support for a decade. Now is the time to focus our lobbying efforts on this long term LWVNY issue.

LWV-RMA needs a member to follow these issues, speak about them and lobby.

If you are interested in joining this cause, please call Katherine Smith at 334-3991 for details.

**Katherine Smith**  
*Director, Advocacy*



## Capitol Beat Blog Returns

Visit <http://www.lwvny-capitolbeat.blogspot.com/> every Thursday for updates and musings from League Legislative Director, Barbara Bartoletti.

## A Call to Action from LWV:

### CARBON POLLUTION

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has published a groundbreaking new proposal, creating the first-ever federal carbon pollution standard for every new power plant built in America. This is a game changer for the climate – especially because power plants are our single largest source of carbon pollution.

Stand with the League and support this groundbreaking regulation to ensure a cleaner, healthier future for everyone.

The unlimited dumping of carbon pollution is the chief cause of climate change. Reducing the amount of carbon pollution from power plants is a life-saving measure that will protect our children, our nation and the world from the devastating effects of climate change.

We have 60 days to tell the EPA we support this effort to reduce the deadly effects that carbon pollution has on the health of our children and our environment. The EPA needs to hear from you—add your voice in favor of this historic regulation!

Corporate polluters are already doing everything they can to block this important health protection. Will you join others around the country in saying you believe we must put people before polluters and protect our children and future generations from climate change?

Submit a public comment to the EPA in support of the standard (<http://www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards>) and your voice will be part of the official record.

Sincerely,

**Elisabeth MacNamara**  
*President, League of Women Voters*

**LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK!** 

We know you'll "like" us!

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

## Advocacy: Voting Issues

Large voter turnout is essential for a thriving democracy. New York State turnout rate in 2012 was 44th in the US.

LWVNY testimony in December 2013 restated our long-standing position on expanding voting procedures and processes in order to increase voter turnout in our state.

First, we strongly support a single Primary Date in June. Two or three primary days confuse voters and cost counties \$50 million for each election.

Second, LWVNY supports paperless registration and same-day registration. We support all regulations that promote more citizens voting at every election.

Third, we encourage better ballot design (in NYC) and better trained election inspectors. This is money well spent since bad experiences at polls tend to discourage voters from returning next election time.

Fourth, LWVNY does support early voting. A single Election Day is outdated. Only 14 states do not allow for early in-person voting or no-excuse absentee voting. This would require an amendment to the New York State Constitution.

LWVNY is also promoting the 2010 Election Law amendment which allows for split shifts for election inspectors. Few counties have made this change.

It is essential that voting processes and procedures be convenient and understandable in order to increase voter turnout.

**Katherine Smith**  
Director, Advocacy

## Welcome to our New Member!

Mary Logan (transferred from Michigan)

*Did you know that agriculture is responsible for 70% of fresh water usage on our planet?*

*As we need to expand our food production to feed a booming population, where will the water come from?*

## Meet Gin Busack

### BACKGROUND

Gin retired as a Vice-President from J.P. Morgan-Chase Bank in 2007 after 40 years in banking. She wore many hats in her career, most in the area of commercial banking. While working she raised her family and volunteered extensively in the community, holding board positions on Rochester Mental Health Association and Rochester General Hospital and serving on many youth and civic groups. As many moms know, working with sports and school groups is a way to give to the community and help your children at the same time, so her volunteer activities revolved around her family and her job.

### WHY SHE JOINED

Once she became an "empty nester," Gin shifted her volunteer focus. She became a volunteer EMT with her local Volunteer Fire Department. And she joined the League – a group she'd always been aware of and admired but never had time to explore. With the luxury of retirement and self-sufficient adult children as incentive, she hit the ground running in the League and has been gaining speed ever since.

### LEAGUE ROLE/ACTIVITY

Gin started out serving on the Membership Committee which she soon chaired and put her organizational skills to good use. After two years she took over leadership of the Program Committee and is currently in the process of its complete restructuring. The Program Committee is assisting with our forums and other programs. In line with her core belief that growth and success form a circle, and the keys to program growth and success are excellent programs, active and engaged members, and good publicity, she has encouraged the formation of many new committees and study groups which allow members to work on specific issues and make a short-term commitment. In addition, these single-issue groups provide excellent input for forums, and they both revitalize current members and help to draw in new members.

Gin is always looking for her next challenge within the League – and to serve as a mentor to her successor.

### GIN'S QUOTE

*Voting is the most important right we have. We need to learn how to use it well. The League is a conduit for encouraging access to voting and providing education and awareness of issues.*

We – all of us – are the LWV-RMA.

The better we get to know one another, the more we can accomplish together!



## New Study Committee Examines Economic Health of Agriculture

A committee made up of Monroe County and Wayne County League members has been meeting since the fall of 2013 to become familiar with questions concerning financial support for farmers and a number of technological issues, including pesticides, herbicides, genetically modified seeds, agricultural water pollution, aquifer depletion, antibiotics in livestock and accurate food labeling. We will have an informational meeting in March or April to prepare us to try to reach consensus to update the League's national position.

For many years, major government subsidies have gone to producers of commodity crop programs, e.g., corn, soybeans, sugar, cotton and wheat. Other amounts have paid for crop insurance, conservation programs, disaster programs and subsidized credit. Between 1995 and 2012, the USDA farm programs paid out \$494 billion in subsidies, of which \$17.6 billion were direct payments, \$53.6 billion were crop insurance subsidies, \$38.9 billion were conservation subsidies, and \$22.5 billion were disaster subsidies. According to one source, 10% of the farms collected 75% of all subsidies, and 62% of the farms did not receive any subsidies.

The purpose of the subsidies is to provide financial support for farmers who each year face uncertain profits due to the vagaries of weather and the many issues that affect the market prices of farm products. The nature and structure of subsidies are being debated as part of the Farm Bill. The subject is also part of the League's study,

Another issue is whether farmers other than those growing commodity crops should be eligible for greater financial support. This would include those growing specialty crops, e.g., fruits, vegetables and nuts, and those who supply local and regional markets.

Also included in finance issues are consolidation in agriculture industries and the role of government in the federal agricultural regulatory process.

**Anna Bundschuh**

*Convener, Agriculture Study Committee*

## Naturalization:

***Happy New Year to all!***

The Naturalization Committee met on January 13th to complete the Oath Ceremony 2014 Schedule. Thank you to all who have volunteered to help with naturalizations this year: Sheila Abeling, Marcia Eisenberg, Kathy Farrar, Beth Feldman, Barb Hendry, Joan Rosenthal, Kay Saunders, Katherine Smith, Mimi Wilson and Lois Winterkorn.

On January 9th, Joan Rosenthal kicked off the new year at the Monroe County Office Building morning ceremony. Beth Feldman welcomed the candidates in the afternoon at the Federal Building. Thank you!!

The 2014 Naturalization schedule can be found on the League website, <http://www.lwv-rma.org>. If anyone is interested in observing a naturalization ceremony, please don't hesitate to contact Sheila Abeling at [sheiler162004@yahoo.com](mailto:sheiler162004@yahoo.com) or 585-223-6819.

**Sheila Abeling**

*Director, FEPC & Naturalization*



**Front row:**

*Gin Busack, Sandy Frankel, Ellie Drake (Wayne County)*

**Back row:**

*James Walfrand (USDA), LeeTelega (USDA), Anna Bundschuh, Lenore Youngman (Wayne County), Sandy Keller (Wayne County), Candice Celestin (USDA)*

***Between 1995 and 2012, the  
USDA farm programs paid out  
\$494 billion in subsidies.***

***According to one source, 10% of farms  
collected 75% of all subsidies, and  
62% of farms did not receive any subsidies.***

## Sunshine Corner

### MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE 1/14/14

#### Observed by Elaine Schmidt

Newly elected legislators were sworn in at a special session of the Legislature at 5:30 PM. Congratulations to all!

Cheryl Rossi has left her position as Clerk for the Legislature after serving in that position from 2002-2013.

The meeting was well run regarding transparency issues, except that legislators don't raise their microphones when they speak making it difficult to hear everything they say.

The Legislature passed a resolution hiring Loewke Brill Consulting Group for "Initial Decision Maker Term Services" for Monroe County construction projects. The vote was along party lines (yes: 19 and no: 8). Mr. Haney, a Democrat, stated that this service has never been purchased by the County previously and questioned why this expense was incurred. He also pointed out that this company was dismissed from the War Memorial project by the City (he did not state the reasons) and that there were issues with its work on the 1990's rehab work at Monroe Community Hospital. The majority party expressed confidence in the company.

The Monroe County Water Authority has two new appointees: Mr. Bernstein, a Republican, and Mr. Nasca, a Conservative. Carrie Andrews, the Democratic Minority Leader, brought to the Legislature's attention the fact that there was no Democrat appointee and that there should be a true representation of citizens in the Water Authority per law. President Adair said he interviewed three candidates and that one of them was a Democrat, however the two appointees he selected had a "unique set of skills" that made them a good fit, and he encouraged the Democrat to apply again.

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

### HENRIETTA TOWN BOARD 12/4/13

#### Observed by Jane and John Schmitt

No issues with transparency were observed. The meeting was attended by 6-12 members of the public.

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

### ROCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

#### Observed by Amy Roll

Concerns were reported regarding Rochester Police Department violence towards community members and oversight of the RPD.

Members of the community spoke against the Drug Free Zones as an infringement of the right to gather and argued that the zones are not a solution to the drug problem.

One citizen spoke of the need for youth programs between the hours of 3:00 and 6:00 PM, to include teaching gardening/nutrition skills.

One citizen addressed poverty and the need for council to promote a living wage.

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

### IRONDEQUOIT TOWN BOARD 1/16/14.

#### Observed by Gin Busack and Julie Johnson

##### Of note:

Johnson & Busack were introduced as LWV Observer Corps representatives; LWV-RMA information was distributed.

2013 elections resulted in an all-Democratic Board (a change from three Republicans and two Democrats). This was the first meeting of the new Board, chaired by the new Irondequoit Town Supervisor, Adam Bello.

Meeting principally dealt with: an unaudited financial report for the year ended 12/31/13, approval of new appointments and resolutions involving the Aldi Project public improvements, mileage reimbursements and disposal of surplus land.

Going forward, Town Board will meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm. This is a change from the third Tuesday. The workshop will now meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 4:00 pm as opposed to the 2nd Wednesday.

##### Concerns:

Discussion regarding the above referenced resolutions was minimal. Supervisor and Board members referred to discussions held at previous workshop. While workshops are open to the public, they are typically poorly attended, and afternoon timing could present a barrier for attendance.

Updated web page continues to describe workshops as being held to "discuss particular topics," advising that they are "open to the public, although there is no public input." Historically, this meeting has on occasion been used to vote on resolutions. While considered meetings of the Board, it is the opinion of the League that the web page should reference that from time to time the Board does conduct business at its workshops.

Both of these issues were discussed briefly with the Town Supervisor.

(To view the full minutes from this and other meetings, please click here: <http://www.irondequoit.org/>)



## Picnic in the Park

### *A Summary of the Day's Discussions*

**EDUCATION:** Facilitator, Ellen DeGregorio; Note-taker, Erin Meyers

**POSITION:** "The League of Women Voters believes that the federal government shares with other levels of government the responsibility to provide an equitable, quality public education for all children Pre-K through grade 12. A quality public education is essential for a strong, viable, and sustainable democratic society and is a civil right."

**Local Issue?** Yes. Discussion emphasized impact of poverty on equal educational opportunities for students.

What can local League do? Support programs that:

- Work towards eliminating poverty;
- Provide equal access to educational opportunity for all students;
- Provide public with information about impact of educational funding;
- Research, provide studies to support case for necessity of "good" education.

**National Issue?** Yes. Explore pros and cons of Common Core process.

**NOTE:** A local League committee is in the process of exploring ways to reach out to students of the city school system to assess what they see would meet their needs for successful education. (*Please see Lois Winterkorn for more information.*)

**NATURAL RESOURCES:** Facilitator, Phyllis Walker; Note-taker, Judy Weinstein

**POSITION:** "The LWVUS believes that natural resources should be managed as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems. Resources should be conserved and protected to assure their future availability. Pollution of these resources should be controlled in order to preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystems and to protect public health." [1958-1986]

**Local Issue?** Yes. Discussion focused on how our whole ecosystem is interrelated.

What can local League do? Address such topics as:

- Hydrofracking including disposal of its contaminated waste water.

**NOTE:** Our local League is part of a statewide League coalition addressing this problem. The state is working under the Water and the Air national positions.

- GMO's [Genetically Modified Food]

**NOTE:** A local League committee is in the process of studying this issue as part of the broader national League Agricultural Update consensus. Information regarding this study will be in this and next month's Voter. Consensus meeting is expected in early April.

- Study of Energy Supply

**NOTE:** In part the national position states "consumption of non-renewable resources should be minimized."

- Promote clean water as a right which should not be privatized.

**National Issue?** Yes. Support of League position that water is a right and should not be privatized as well as exploring alternative sources of energy.

**Future national League study?** More emphasis on hydrofracking and privatization of water in support of current positions.

**SOCIAL POLICY: PAY EQUITY** Facilitator, Katherine Smith; Note-taker, Elaine Schmidt

**POSITION:** "Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice, and the health and safety of all Americans." (Note: an expanded position can be found at the state level under "Pay Equity" at <http://www.lwvny.org>.)

**Local issue?** Yes.

What should local League do about this issue? Establish a committee to use rights and regulations as a lens to:

- Check voting records of elected officials on this issue;
- Find out what GRC's policy is regarding this issue; publicize results;
- Establish a forum on negotiating pay;
- Explore tax breaks for those entities who pursue equity;
- Find out what New York State Labor Department does to support this issue with focus on job listings;
- Find out if there is transparency on the public record regarding this issue.

**National issue?** Yes.

- National position seems to be "too narrow" while New York State's position is broader;
- Expand position beyond "comparable worth;"
- Study disparity among different classes of people, i.e., race, age, gender;
- Explore working conditions, workers' rights, protections.

(continued on p. 9)



## Picnic in the Park

(continued from p. 8)

Areas for national League study:

- Update current position as noted re “comparable worth;”
- Include flexibility for states;
- Establish a position on minimum wage.

**GOVERNMENT: VOTING RIGHTS** Facilitator, Lois Wintekorn; Note-taker, Mary Myers

**POSITION:** “The LWVUS believes that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed” [1982]

*Local issue?* Yes with one nay.

What should local League do about this issue? Voter Service and Government committees should:

- Support one primary per election year;
- Address reasons voting turnout is so low;
- Address disparity in voter registration among county districts;
- Register school students as they become 18;
- Study effect of ending term limits in County Legislature;
- Review Board of Election policies regarding bilingual people at polls, adequate election inspectors;
- Be poll watchers for unfair & inappropriate practices at polls.

*National issue?* Yes.

- Continue to support national efforts such as filing amicus briefs;
- Investigate using mail-in ballots; smart phones; early voting;
- Investigate impact of redistricting;
- Support efforts to improve campaign financing laws.

Areas for national League study:

- Study term limits at national level.

**NOTE:** LWVUS currently opposes Congressional term limits. LWVNY is currently preparing a state study for consensus on term limits for state offices.

- Support changes in campaign finance laws;
- Educate citizens on issues; reason for voting;
- Require transparency in campaign contributions.

**NOTE:** Most of the discussion focused on ideas that are the responsibility of the states in setting primary dates; campaign finance reform; setting rules for keeping polls open more than on Election Day, etc.

For further information on LWVNY positions, please visit our link on our website: [www.lwv-rma.org](http://www.lwv-rma.org).

## Advocacy: Women’s Equality

LWVNY, as a member of New York Women’s Equality Coalition, responded positively to the Governor’s 2014 State of the State speech which supported women securing equal pay, accessing reproduction health care and freeing themselves from discrimination and violence at the workplace and home.

New York State must update and strengthen its laws to reflect the reality of women’s lives in the 21st century. Call your own State Assemblymember and State Senator to express your expectation that this agenda become law during the 2014 session. Details of each of the 10 points can be found at <http://www.nywomensequality.org>.

The Governor supported the Women’s Equality Act of 2013, which LWVNY helped to craft, with a strong statement at last year’s State of the State speech, as well as at numerous informational meetings across the state. The Assembly and Senate each passed its version of the Act to address domestic violence, human trafficking, abortion and gender discrimination in housing and employment. However, there was no conference committee assigned to work out the differences on all 10 points for the governor to sign.

Although the WEA was not enacted into law, the Women’s Equality Coalition remains strong in advocating for the 10 point agenda. The time is now to make the change. Women, breadwinners, mothers, family health care managers and caregivers need their lives improved by ending discrimination that has held back progress for women, families and communities.

New York State laws must be as strong as New York State women!

**Katherine Smith**

*Director, Advocacy*



Naturalization Ceremony Photos





## Annual Membership Meeting Photos "Picnic in the Park"







## Coming Events!



### February

- 3** Lobby Day
- 7** Education Committee Meeting
- 7** Agriculture Committee Meeting
- 10** Childcare Lobby (Albany)
- 14** Agriculture Committee Meeting
- 20** Toastmaster's Club: Speaking in Public

- 21** Agriculture Committee Meeting
- 24** LWV-RMA Board Meeting
- 28** Agriculture Committee Meeting

*Be sure to check your email for other events as they are scheduled!*

### Naturalization Quiz

*(Sample questions from actual Naturalization Exams.)*

#### Questions

1. What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?
2. What is freedom of religion?
3. What is the economy in the United States?
4. What is the "rule of law?"

For more questions, go to:

<http://tinyurl.com/y8o6thb>

1. Life, Liberty, Pursuit of happiness.
2. You can practice any religion, or not practice any religion.
3. Capitalist economy, Market economy.
4. Everyone must follow the law.  
Leaders must obey the law.  
Government must obey the law.  
No one is above the law.

#### Answers

### LWVNYS Lobby Day

#### ADVOCACY TRAINING DAY

February 3, 2014 10am-2pm

Albany Convention Center Meeting Room #5

Lobby Day Presenters will include:

- **Sally Robinson**, LWVNYS President
- **Barbara Bartoletti**, LWVNYS Legislative Director
- **Carol Mellor**, LWVNYS Grassroots Director
- along with LWVNYS Issue Specialists (women's equality, election reform, environment, campaign finance reform, transportation and more)

For more information:

518-465-4162 or <mailto:lwny@lwny.org>



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.  
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@lwny.org](mailto:info@lwny.org)



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
ROCHESTER METROPOLITAN AREA

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[www.LWV-RMA.org](http://www.LWV-RMA.org)

# 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

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**MARCH VOTER  
DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 15!**

**SPEAK UP, BE HEARD,**  
IF YOU DON'T SAY A WORD, EVERYTHING WILL STAY THE SAME WAY

**Join the League Today!**



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