



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.

Inside this issue:

Upcoming Forums	1
Presidents' Corner	2
LWV National Convention	2
Book Club Report	3
First Fridays	3
Naturalization & FEPC	3
Statement of Position-Human Trafficking	3
From Member to Member	4
Notice to Members	4
LWV-RMA Voter Registration Highlights	4
Welcome to Members	4
Sunshine Corner	5
Genesee Country 4th of July Photos	5
WEA Rally Photos	6
Juneteenth Photos	6
Foodlink Go-See Photos	7
Noblehurst Go-See Photos	8,9
Calendar	10
5 Things You May Not Know About Human Trafficking	10
Leadership	11



Upcoming Forums

Monday, September 22

FARM LABOR ISSUES

(3rd in our Agriculture Committee's series)

7:00-8:30 PM

ASBURY FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Monday, October 20

NON-PARTISAN COMMISSION ON REDISTRICTING

(A presentation of LWVNYS)

7:00-8:30 PM

ROCHESTER UNITARIAN CHURCH

Thursday, November 13

PRE-K FUNDING AND PROGRAMS IN MONROE COUNTY

7:00-8:30 PM

(B. Bibby Endowment Fund Annual Program)

ASBURY FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

***Watch this space for details on
these and other upcoming events!***

Presidents' Corner

What a busy summer we're having! There's so much to learn in our new shared leadership role! We are so grateful to our Vice-Presidents Katherine and Sheila and to all the former leaders who've so generously shared their experience and expertise with us. We have enormous respect for all those who've led the League in the past – you leave us with big shoes to fill, but you also leave a great legacy which continually inspires us.

The Board of Directors will meet on August 14, and among the many tasks we'll undertake will be selecting goals for the year. Additionally, we look forward to attending committee and study group meetings in order to get to know each of you better and to become more familiar with the great work you're doing.

We've begun to realize that we League members often don't get to know many other members outside our own committees or projects. As strong believers in working hard but making work fun, we'd like to invite you to gather at lunchtime on the first Friday of each month – **First Fridays** – just to chat about League issues and about who we are and what we have in common. On Friday, September 5, you're invited to the **1872 Café** at 431 West Main Street between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM – we're not sure who will be there, but we feel confident you'll find some interesting conversations. Parking is free across the street, and you can have a cup of coffee or lunch. (By the way, this is the site where Susan B. Anthony first registered to vote in 1872.)

We can't close without reminding you that our outstanding monthly forums will start up again in September. Our Program Committee has been hard at work all summer working with the Agriculture and Advocacy folks to prepare the first three: September 22, October 20 and November 13. Please check your email and our website calendar www.lwv-rma.org – and of course, **The Voter** each month – for details.

In League,

Gloria and Mary

2014 LWV National Convention

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) held its 51st biennial national convention June 6-10, 2014, in Dallas, Texas. It was attended by 643 voting delegates representing 47 states and the District of Columbia.

Attending the convention from Rochester were Elaine Schmidt, Ellen DeGregorio, Georgia DeGregorio and Gloria Read. The four-day gathering gave League members from around the country the opportunity to celebrate the organization's accomplishments to date on voting rights, campaign finance reform and the environment, and to discuss important public policy issues.

Throughout the gathering, delegates rallied around the League's 2014 "Power the Vote" initiative for their elections work this year and to set the LWVUS program agenda for the next two years, vowing to continue our fight for voting rights and campaign finance reform.

There were inspiring and fascinating speakers, and informative workshops. All of the speakers commended the League for our work on behalf of neighborhoods and voters throughout the country. They urged the organization to press forward using our community-based power on the critical issues of the day, including money in politics, voter protection and environmental issues.

The members re-elected National President Elizabeth MacNamara to a third term of leadership of this historic organization approaching its 100th anniversary.

It was a wonderful sharing of ideas with other League delegates on common issues. The next LWVUS Convention will be June 2016 in Washington, DC. Our local League will benefit from all we learned!

Gloria S. Read
Co-President

VOTE411.ORG
ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED



Book Club Report

We combined a pleasant lunch with a grand discussion about the books we would like to read this coming year. We tried to pick books that include a wide variety of interests: fiction, non-fiction and biographies. All can be related to a position the League has taken over the years. The following are our choices:

October:

A Mercy by Toni Morrison

November:

The Women Warriors: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among the Ghosts by Maxine Hong Kingston

January:

Dear Abigail: The Intimate Lives and Revolutionary Ideas of Abigail Adams and Her Two Remarkable Sisters by Diane Jacobs

February:

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander and Cornell West

March:

Infidel by Ayaana Hirsi Ali

April:

Oil and Honey: The Education of an Unlikely Activist by Bill McKibben

We are going to survey our Book Club members to decide the best time and day to meet each month. You will be notified of the times chosen in the next Voter, but the above list is for those who would like to get started reading.

Not part of our group? Then give us a call, and we will add you to our list. The more the merrier!

Georgia DeGregorio (787-9692)

Elaine Schmidt (530-7414)

First Fridays

Are you free for lunch or a mid-day coffee break? If so, we'd like to spend that time with you!

When: First Friday of each month between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM

Where: 1872 Café at 431 West Main Street (free parking across the street)

What: Chatting with other League members – topics are up to you

If you've wanted to get to know more members, here's an opportunity – because we think the work we love to do is more fun when we get to know one another better.

See you on Friday, September 5!

Naturalization & FEPC

NATURALIZATION:

Follow the Naturalization schedule for citizenship ceremonies in Monroe County on our League website www.lwv-rma.org – click on "Naturalization Ceremonies" and scroll down. If you would like to observe a ceremony, please contact Sheila Abeling at sheiler162004@yahoo.com or 585-223-6819.

Independence Day, July 4th, brought the League to Genesee Country Village and Museum. Kay Saunders and Katherine Smith welcomed new citizens. On July 10th at the Monroe County Office Building, Sheila Abeling met new candidates for Naturalization at 10:00 AM.

FEPC:

The Fair Election Practices Campaign (FEPC) 2014 begins on August 11th! Our League co-sponsors the campaign with The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester (TIAR). We promote running a fair, issue-based campaign for the 2014 Election Season. Watch for more details in our next Voter.

Statement of Position on Human Trafficking

AS ADOPTED AT THE LWVUS 2014 NATIONAL CONVENTION

The League of Women Voters opposes all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking. We consider human trafficking to be a form of modern day slavery and believe that every measure should be taken and every effort should be made through legislation and changes in public policy to prevent human trafficking. Prosecution and penalization of traffickers and abusers should be established, and existing laws should be strictly enforced. Extensive essential services for victims should be applied where needed. Education and awareness programs on human trafficking should be established in our communities and in our schools.

This position was originally submitted by LWV New Jersey.



From Member to Member

It was a pleasure to see some of you at our Annual Meeting and to see others through the summer at committee meetings as well. By now you have received a brief survey from our committee to determine the preferred time to have our General Membership meetings: January's Program Planning and the May Annual Meeting. Thank you for responding quickly. It helps to get member input so we are serving the greatest number. A final decision will be made at the next board meeting in August so you can put these dates on your calendar.

You will notice that we have already had two new members join us this summer: Ann Carmody and Sandra Drummond. Lois Winterkorn and I had the pleasure of having lunch with each of them giving us the opportunity to know each other. When you see Ann and Sandra at our forum on September 22, please give them a warm Rochester welcome.

Our committee is focusing this month on preparing the Dues Renewal letters. They will be sent out around Labor Day. October 1st is our standard renewal date, and we encourage all of you to join us for a new year of good programs and action on the issues we all care about.

We have a wide variety of opportunities to be active with our League and many ways – big and small – for you to be involved. We encourage you to contact one of our Membership Committee people or the committee chairs directly to offer to join in on the fun ... with lots of knowledge gained in the process. Here's a hint: there is a special need for people to assist with Advocacy and Voter Registration. The chairs are noted on the back of this Voter.

Georgia DeGregorio (585-787-9692)
Chair, Membership Committee

Notice to Members

Once a year we like to send members an up-to-date membership list for your convenience. This is for our own League and not for general use outside the League. If your information needs correcting, please notify your Membership chair. For those who have no email, call the office number, and we will send you a copy.

Georgia DeGregorio
Chair, Membership Committee

georgiatd1@gmail.com

2014 LWV-RMA High School Voter Registration Highlights

The May-June 2014 Voter Registration Drive was a very encouraging experience. Twelve LWV-RMA volunteers went to Charlotte, Brighton, Monroe, School of the Arts, School Without Walls, Northeast Preparatory and East High Schools to spread the word about the importance of voting. There are now approximately 324 newly registered voters as a result of these volunteer efforts!

The students were attentive and engaged. Many of them were very knowledgeable about current issues and were willing to share their thoughts and ideas on a variety of topics. The host teachers were very welcoming and offered technical support to any volunteers who wished to use websites for additional resources. It was a pleasure to enter various classrooms and see the displays of student work as well as various signs, books, and other visuals that supplemented the student coursework.

In addition to a NYS voter registration form, students and teachers were provided with *LWVNYS First Vote: A Guide for New Voters in New York State*, our own 2014 edition of *Who Represents You: A Guide to Your Elected Officials for Monroe County*, *LWVNYS 2014 Legislative Agenda*, and supplemental materials for students who are headed to college in the fall.

As we look ahead to next year, our Voter Services Registration Team is seeking to expand its reach to more schools and thereby increase registrations. Please consider donating some of your time to share the importance of voting with area high-school students. Barbara Grosh and Beth Feldman will provide training. There is also a debriefing session which follows the May-June voter registration high school outreach. I highly recommend this volunteer activity as a way to encourage the civic involvement of our young people.

Hasana D. Martin
Education Committee

Welcome to our new members!

Ann Carmody
Sandra Drummond





Sunshine Corner

HENRIETTA TOWN BOARD 5/21/14 OBSERVED BY JANE & JOHN SCHMITT

No LWV issues were observed.

Between 13 and 20 members of the public were present.

About 12 citizens spoke at the meeting regarding agenda items of concern for them, ranging from parking issues to the proposed dog park.

Citizens have two opportunities to address the Board: they speak to the board before the meeting on agenda items; and they speak to the Board after the meeting on any concerns that they have.

HENRIETTA TOWN BOARD 6/4/14 OBSERVED BY JANE & JOHN SCHMITT

No LWV issues were observed.

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

IRONDEQUOIT TOWN BOARD 7/17/14 OBSERVED BY ELAINE SCHMIDT

via Irondequoit Cable Access Television (ICAT)

No LWV issues were observed.

Supervisor Bello spoke about the importance of resolving the problems with the Medley Center. He said that the town must know what the status of the mall is and where it is headed in the future. He stressed the importance of updating Irondequoit's Master Plan so that Irondequoit is competitive with other towns. A Master Plan Public Forum will be held August 7 at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall.

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

MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE 5/13/14

Citizens packed the Legislature meeting room and spoke regarding two main issues: the lack of a contract with County Workers for the past five years and opposition to a casino in Henrietta.

The Legislature authorized \$7,500,00 in tax-exempt bonds to finance the cost of the settlement of a claim brought by Frank Sterling against Monroe County.

MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE 7/8/14

Citizen Eddie Gartz spoke to the Legislature regarding his plan to manage the Monroe County Golf Course so that the County's profit would be maximized.

The Legislature approved the Capital Improvement Plan for Monroe County.

County Legislator Haney addressed his fellow legislators regarding the County's contract with the Red

Wings. Rent which the Red Wings are expected to pay has rarely been paid although it is expected to be paid in the future. He said he hopes rent payments will be better dealt with when the contract is renegotiated in 2016.

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

ROCHESTER CITY SCHOOL BOARD 6/24/14 OBSERVED BY GEORGIA DEGREGORIO & HASANA MARTIN

No LWV issues were observed.

A representative from Aramark was present at the meeting.

Our observers report that some speakers were barely audible due to a problem with the microphones.

(To view the full minutes from this and other meetings, please click here: <http://www.rcsdk12.org>)

WEBSTER TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP 5/22/14 OBSERVED BY LOIS WINTERKORN

The workshop members looked at agenda items for the next Town Board meeting. Among the items discussed were improvements to the Public Safety infrastructure, permit processes for 5K races in town and discussion of the Lexis Nexus MVA report.

(To view the full minutes from these and other meetings, please click here: <http://www.ci.webster.ny.us>)

4th of July at Genesee Country Museum



Women's Equality Act Rally at AAUW - June 16th



LWV-RMA VP Katherine Smith was one of the speakers at the AAUW-led rally on 6/16/14, demanding a vote on the WEA before the state Senate recesses at the end of the week. Also attending the rally from the League were Co-Presidents Gloria S. Read and Mary Hussong-Kallen, VP Sheila Abeling, and member Mary Myers.



Speakers included Director of ABW (green shirt), Barbara LeSavoy of SUNY Brockport Women's Studies Dept (pink shirt), Katherine Smith of LWV-RMA (in blue), Town of Brighton Supervisor Bill Moehle, AAUW President Marilyn Tedeschi (white shirt)



And the Raging Grannies were there – singing a new song for the occasion



Demonstrators lining East Avenue at 5:00 received positive reactions from passing cars

Juneteenth Celebration in Susan B. Anthony Square - June 14th

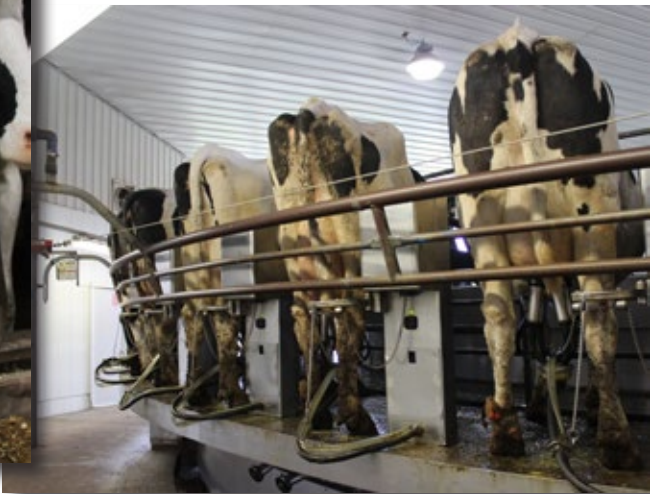


Foodlink Go-See Tour Photos - May 16



Noblehurst Go-See Tour Photos - May 23rd







Coming Events!



August

- 6** Voting Rights Amendment Act
49th Anniversary
Women's Suffrage Convention
166th Anniversary
- 14** Board of Directors Meeting, 7:00 PM
Brighton Town Hall



September

- 3** FEPC Signing Ceremony, Noon, The Atrium at
the Monroe County Office Building
- 5** First Friday, 11:00AM - 1:00PM, 1872 Cafe
431 W Main St, Rochester, NY 14608
- 9** New York State & Local Primary Elections
- 17** Constitution Day, The College at Brockport
- 22** Forum: Farm Labor Issues, 7:00PM-8:30PM
Asbury First United Methodist Church
- 23** National Voter Registration Day

Be sure to check your email and our website for other events as they are scheduled!

FIVE THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING from the U.S. Department of State

This article is available at:

<http://blogs.state.gov/stories/2014/06/27/five-things-you-did-not-know-about-human-trafficking>

1. Modern slavery exists in the 21st century, even in the United States.
2. Human trafficking does not require movement or the crossing of borders.
3. Anyone can be a victim of human trafficking.
4. The illegal profits made from the use of forced labor in the private economy worldwide amount to \$150.2 billion per year, according to the International Labor Organization. Two-thirds of the profits (\$99 billion a year) are generated by commercial sexual exploitation exacted by fraud or force. One-third of the profits (\$51.2 billion each year) are made from forced labor exploitation.
5. The food you eat, the products you buy, and the consumer items you use on a daily basis may have been produced by the victims of forced labor.

For more information, see the State Department Trafficking in Persons Report 2014 at

<http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2014/index.htm>

LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK! 

We know you'll "like" us!

www.facebook.com/lwvofrma

Board meets monthly on the second Thursday of each month. Board meetings are open to all members.

Government Committee meets monthly. For details, call Elaine Schmidt at 530-7414.

Membership Committee meets monthly. For details, call Georgia DeGregorio at 787-9692.

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, call 262-3730 or e-mail us at info@lwv-rma.org



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
ROCHESTER METROPOLITAN AREA

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

Rochester VOTER

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

Officers:

Mary Hussong-Kallen
Co-President

Gloria S. Read
Co-President

Katherine Smith
First Vice-President

Sheila Abeling
Second Vice-President

Ellen DeGregorio
Treasurer

Barbara Kay
Interim Secretary

Board of Directors:

Brian Valenti
Director

Gin Busack
Director

Barbara Grosh
Director

Ernest DuBois
Director/Parliamentarian

Off-Board:

Georgia DeGregorio
Chair, Membership

**SEPTEMBER VOTER
DEADLINE IS AUGUST 15!**



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

Goals of the League of Women Voters:

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

LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK! 

We know you'll "like" us!

www.facebook.com/lwvofrma

Join the League Today!



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Check Amount: _____

Level of Membership: _____

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

LWV/RMA

PO Box 10573

Rochester, NY 14610

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

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

Individual/Associate	\$75
Household	\$105
Susan B. Anthony/Frederick Douglass	\$150
Carrie Chapman Catt	\$200
Student (full-time/under 25)	\$25
Low income, call office	Sliding Scale