



## 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 of Rochester Metro Area (LWV-RMA)*

*The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester (TIAR) &*

*The Social Justice Committee of the First Unitarian Church of Rochester*

**Present**

## **Proposed NYS Constitutional Amendment on Redistricting: Will It Kill The Gerrymander?**

A public forum on the proposed amendment to establish a new process and a commission to redraw NYS election district lines after the 2020 census.

### **Our moderator:**

**Peter Galie**, *Professor Emeritus,  
Political Science Department at Canisius College*

### **Our presenters:**

**Judy Weinstein** *of the LWV-RMA  
Government Committee*

**Stuart Berger**, *Past President of  
Citizens for a Better New York*

We sincerely hope that this balanced presentation will help you decide how you will cast your vote in November on this important proposition.

**Monday, October 20, 2014  
7:00-8:30 PM**

First Unitarian Church of Rochester  
220 South Winton Road, 14610

Preregistration is appreciated  
at [www.lwv-rma.org](http://www.lwv-rma.org) or 585.262.3730



## Presidents' Corner

As in September, we're looking forward to an exciting month of League activities in October.

Did you attend our first First Friday? It was a fun opportunity to meet socially with members – and we love the 1872 Café! We were able to move tables around to make it easier to chat, and of course the food was delicious. If you haven't been there yet, think about joining us on Friday, October 3 between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM. Stay for a few minutes or an hour – or more!

If you missed the recent outstanding forum on the proposed farmworker rights legislation, you won't want to miss the next one. On October 20 we'll offer important information on the Redistricting Amendment which will appear on the November ballot as Proposition #1. We're partnering with The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester (TIAR) and the Social Justice Committee of the First Unitarian Church of Rochester to present the pros and cons. Mark your calendar now and don't miss the preview interview on WXXI's "Connections with Evan Dawson" radio show.

Have you ever attended a naturalization ceremony? It's a surprisingly moving experience. At each of two ceremonies held every month right here in Rochester, between 50 and 100 people choose to give up their native country to become citizens of the USA. Such a monumental decision! At a recent ceremony, new citizens came from 47 countries; many of them bring their families to the ceremony, and you can feel the emotion in the room. Representatives from our League attend every ceremony, and shake the hand of each new American – welcoming them and inviting them to fill out a registration form so that they can exercise their new right to vote. If you've never had this experience, we heartily recommend it. Contact Sheila Abeling ([sheiler162004@yahoo.com](mailto:sheiler162004@yahoo.com) or 585-223-6819) to make arrangements. We don't know a better way to spend a couple of hours.

Just a reminder: October 10 is the last day to register to vote in the November election – remind your kids and grandkids and all their friends! And if you have a friend who's moved, please remind him or her to fill out a new application.

We hope to see you often throughout October!

In League,

**Gloria** [gloell@rochester.rr.com](mailto:gloell@rochester.rr.com)

**Mary** [mmhk@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mmhk@rochester.rr.com)

## Proposed NYS Constitutional Amendment on Redistricting: Will it Kill the Gerrymander? You Decide!

Voters must make a decision this November whether to approve Proposal # 1, the New York Redistricting Amendment to the State Constitution. The proposal would create a redistricting commission to redraw the electoral districts after the 2020 census. The LWVNYS and Citizens Union urge a "Yes" vote on this amendment. In addition to creating a 10 member commission to redraw electoral lines, the proposed amendment would codify important criteria for drawing district lines and curtail majority party dominance of the approval process.

Although LWVNYS supports the amendment, viewing it as a step in the right direction, some organizations working for government reform are questioning whether it will really produce the benefits claimed. The League fears that if the amendment is not passed, no reforms will be made before the next redistricting.

To encourage the active and informed participation of citizens in government, we will co-sponsor a forum with The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester (TIAR) and the Social Justice Council of The First Unitarian Church of Rochester on Monday, October 20, presenting the pros and cons of this amendment. Be informed on this important amendment by attending the forum, and decide whether to vote for the amendment in the hope that it will kill the Gerrymander or vote against it in the hope of a better solution before the 2020 census!



## News From LWVUS: League Endorses Senator Gillibrand's Online Voter Registration Bill

The League endorsed the Voter Registration Modernization Act which promotes the use of online voter registration. The LWV worked closely with Senator Gillibrand's office in the development of the legislation and let the Senator know that we endorsed the bill as it reached the final drafting stage. You can read the League's endorsement letter online at <http://lwv.org/content/league-endorses-s-2865-voter-registration-modernization-act>



## AmazonSmile

The State League has joined a new program to help raise funds.

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support the State League every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as you find at Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the State League's Education Foundation.

To shop at AmazonSmile, simply go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) instead of just amazon.com and search for the League of Women Voters of NYS as your selected charitable organization.

## Naturalization

Anyone interested in observing a Naturalization ceremony, please contact Sheila at 585-223-6819 or email at [sheiler162004@yahoo.com](mailto:sheiler162004@yahoo.com).

On September 11th at 10:00 AM Joan Rosenthal welcomed 45 new citizens at the Monroe County Office Building. Constitution Day was on September 17th. After the ceremony Barbara Grosh, Kathy Farrar and Sheila Abeling registered new voters and answered questions for first-time voters.

### Sheila Abeling

2nd Vice-President, Naturalization & FEPC Chair

## Advocacy - November Ballot Proposals

In addition to Proposal #1, the Redistricting Amendment to the NYS Constitution (please refer to the September edition of The Voter), two other proposals will appear on the November ballot. Candidates are not the only decisions to be made on November 4.

Proposal #2, "permitting electronic distribution of state legislative bills," changes the requirement for bills before the Assembly and NY Senate to be printed and on the desks of elected officials. Instead, they may be sent electronically at least three days in advance of a vote.

Proposal #3, "the smart school bond act of 2014," allows local school districts to borrow up to \$2 billion in order to:

- provide access to classroom technology and high speed internet,
- add classroom space for Pre-K to replace classroom trailers and
- install smart security features to schools.

Although LWVNY has taken a stance supporting the Redistricting Amendment, State does not have positions on these other two proposals. LWVNY urges you to read about all these proposals and to remember to vote on them as well as for the candidates of your choice for state and local offices.

### Katherine Smith

1st Vice-President, Advocacy Director





## League Memorabilia

Do you have League mementos, memorabilia, records, logs, pictures, meeting minutes, studies or other treasures? Unfortunately, our office cupboard is nearly bare.

Specific items we've heard about but cannot find include a framed picture of Susan B. Anthony, a gavel and a pamphlet of speeches given by Carrie Chapman Catt as well as many souvenirs and records.

If you have any of these items – or other items which keep our League history alive for coming generations – please contact us!

Gloria (585-436-4476 or [gloell@rochester.rr.com](mailto:gloell@rochester.rr.com))

Mary (585-637-5183 or [mmhk@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mmhk@rochester.rr.com))

## First Fridays

Are you free for lunch or a mid-day coffee break? If so, we'd like to spend it 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, October 3

Friday, November 7

Friday, December 5

Friday, January 2

Friday, February 6

Friday, March 6

Friday, April 3

Friday, May 1

## Have YOU found your niche in the League?

There's definitely a committee, study group or activity in need of your talent! We'd like to suggest:

### COMMITTEES & STUDY GROUPS:

Action/Advocacy

Environment Committee

Agriculture/Farm Labor Study Group

Total Energy Picture/Fracking Study Group

Wetlands Demonstration

Fair Election Practices Campaign (FEPC)

Government Committee

Observer Corps

Membership Committee

Naturalization Committee

Program Committee

Public Relations

Social Policy Committee

Education Study Group

Health Care Study Group

Human Trafficking Study Group

Immigration Study Group

Poverty (ACT Rochester)/Affordable Housing Project

VOTER Newsletter

Voter Service Committee

Vote411 Project

Voter Registration

### ACTIVITIES

Archives

Book Club

Go-See Tours

Hospitality at Events

Speakers' Bureau

Website Maintenance

If any of these sound like what you've been looking for, please contact us at [info@lww-rma.org](mailto:info@lww-rma.org) or 585-262-3730!

## Member to Member

Would you like to engage in an activity that increases League visibility and provides an example of civic engagement in our community? Some League members did just that on September 4, 2014. Georgia DeGregorio, Elaine Schmidt and Brian Valenti, along with a potential new League member, registered voters at the Week of Welcome event at Monroe Community College (MCC).

This opportunity came about through the efforts of League member/MCC student Jeffrey Wagman. The hustle and bustle of students searching for classrooms and parents escorting their children to the bookstore provided ample opportunity for quick conversations about the importance of registering to vote. The wonderful LWV signage attracted many to the table and the assortment of literature was a wonderful conversation starter.

In addition to voter registration forms in English and in Spanish there was plenty of LWV literature available for distribution. Our 2014 *Who Represents You: A Guide to Your Elected Officials for Monroe County*, *First Vote: Your Right To Vote in NYS – College Students*, and *VOTE 411* brochures and pamphlets were offered to those registering to vote, as well as to those who were already registered.

Approximately 45 new voters were registered at this event. League teamwork and willingness to donate time and effort definitely were rewarded. An added benefit of the event was the opportunity to boost the membership of LWV-RMA. At least one person has indicated a strong interest in joining and may in fact be a member by the time this edition of *The Voter* is published.

It is vitally important that the League reach out to the surrounding communities in order to build awareness of the issues and processes that affect of us locally. As future events are planned we invite all League members to volunteer to educate and inform a wider audience. In addition to the MCC event, voter registration events were held on Constitution Day at SUNY Brockport and at RIT.

If you're asked to participate, please say YES! Better yet, don't wait to be asked - contact Georgia DeGregorio (585-787-9692 or [gerogiatd1@gmail.com](mailto:gerogiatd1@gmail.com)) or Barbara Grosh (585 - 264 -1691 or [barbara@grosh.net](mailto:barbara@grosh.net)) and ask if you can help!

**Hasana Martin**

*Membership Committee Member*

## Fair Election Practices Campaign (FEPC)

The Fair Election Practices Campaign (FEPC) officially started on August 11th. On September 3rd at the Monroe County Office Building in the Atrium, the Signing Ceremony/Press Conference was held. We had a wonderful turnout. Please check our website, <http://lwv-rma.org>, to view the Pledge signers of FEPC 2014.

Thank you to all the League members who attended. Your presence was very much appreciated. A special thank to Brian Valenti for all of his help throughout the campaign, including at the ceremony. The enthusiasm and positive vibes in the Atrium were amazing. Hopefully, this will carry throughout the campaign season.

**Sheila Abeling**

*2nd Vice-President, Naturalization & FEPC Chair*

## Absentee Ballots

On Primary Day, September 9, representatives from the League volunteered at the Board of Elections Service Center opening absentee ballots. This is a fundraiser for the League. We will need volunteers for the General Election on November 4. If you are interested, please contact Sheila at 585-223-6819 or email at [sheiler162004@yahoo.com](mailto:sheiler162004@yahoo.com). Thank you in advance for your help!

**Sheila Abeling**

*2nd Vice-President, Naturalization & FEPC Chair*



## United Nations Day

The annual League Day at the United Nations will be held on Thursday, November 13. All members, family and friends are invited to join us for a fun and educational day. The day includes a tour of the UN building, lunch in the Delegates Dining Room and a briefing by key UN experts. The topic this year is "Water for Life," part of the UN International Decade for Action 2005-2015.

To sign up, please download and complete the registration form at: [http://www.lwvny.org/LLresources/SBR\\_StateNews/2014/August/UN-Registration-Form.pdf](http://www.lwvny.org/LLresources/SBR_StateNews/2014/August/UN-Registration-Form.pdf)

Deadline for registration is October 24.



FEPC Signing Ceremony Photos

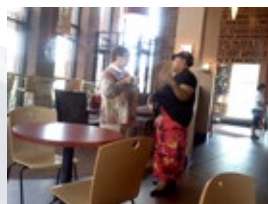
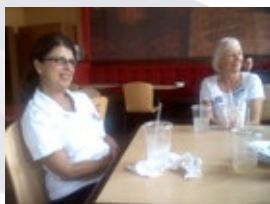
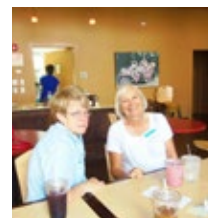
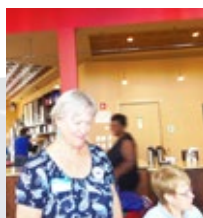




## Naturalization Ceremony Photos

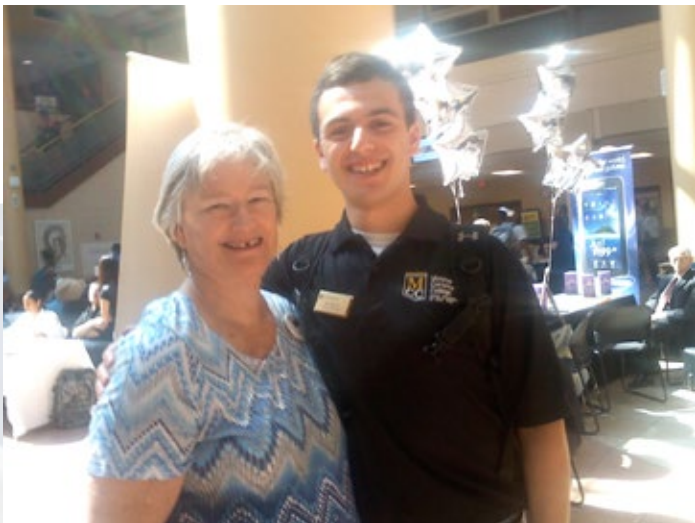


## First Friday Photos





Voter Registration at MCC Photos







## Coming Events!



### October

- 3** First Friday, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM, 1872 Cafe  
431 W Main St, Rochester, NY 14608
- 7** Redistricting Program - Men in Transition (MIT)  
9:00 AM, JCC, Edgewood Avenue (coffee & bagels @ 8:30 AM)
- 9** Board of Directors Meeting, 7:00 PM  
Brighton Town Hall
- 9** Naturalization Ceremony, Monroe County Office Building, 10:00 AM
- 9** Naturalization Ceremony, Federal Court House, 1:00 PM
- 10** **Last day to register for November election!**
- 20** Forum: Redistricting Amendment

### November

- 4** **ELECTION DAY**
- 7** First Friday, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM, 1872 Cafe  
431 W Main St, Rochester, NY 14608
- 13** Naturalization Ceremony, Monroe County Office Building, 10:00 AM
- 13** Naturalization Ceremony, Federal Court House, 1:00 PM
- 13** Pre-K Funding & Programs in Monroe County  
Asbury First United Methodist Church
- 20** Board of Directors Meeting, 7:00 PM  
Brighton Town Hall
- 27** Happy Thanksgiving!

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

### Sunshine Corner



#### HENRIETTA TOWN BOARD 8/20/14 OBSERVED BY JANE AND JOHN SCHMITT

No LWV issues.

A large crowd of citizens attended and spoke on issues of concern to them, such as backyard sanctuaries and problems with student parking blocking their driveways.

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

#### ROCHESTER CITY SCHOOL BOARD

Not active in summer months.

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

#### WEBSTER TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP 9/3/14 OBSERVED BY LOIS WINTERKORN

No LWV issues.

The policy guidelines for special permits for parks, 5K races, festivals and similar events were reviewed. Issues discussed included a sliding fee scale based on the numbers and a policy of no exceptions for non-profit groups; a public hearing is planned on these matters.

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

#### **Elaine Schmidt**

*Government Committee Member*

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](http://www.LWV-RMA.org), call 262-3730 or e-mail us at [info@lwv-rma.org](mailto:info@lwv-rma.org)



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
ROCHESTER METROPOLITAN AREA

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

**NOVEMBER VOTER  
DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 15!**



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

**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)

# 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

## Board of Directors:

**Brian Valenti**  
Director

**Gin Busack**  
Director

**Barbara Grosh**  
Director

**Ernest DuBois**  
Director/Parliamentarian

## Off-Board:

**Georgia DeGregorio**  
Chair, Membership

## Goals of the League of Women Voters:

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

*The Voter is a monthly publication of the LWV-RMA  
Editor, Mary Hussong-Kallen  
Layout/Design, Chris Burleigh*

**LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK!**   
We know you'll "like" us!  
[www.facebook.com/lwvofrma](http://www.facebook.com/lwvofrma)

## 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