



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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Announcing Our New BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Co-President	Gloria S. Read (2014-2016)
Co-President	Mary Hussong-Kallen (2014-2016)
1st Vice-President	Katherine Smith (2014-2016)
2nd Vice-President	Sheila Abeling (2015-2017)
Treasurer	Ida Holloran (2015-2017)
Secretary	Patrina Freeman (2015-2016)
Director	Gin Busack (2015-2017)
Director	Ernest Dubois (2015-2016)
Director	Carole Hoffmann (2015-2017)
Director	Brian Valenti (2014-2016)
Director	Judy Weinstein (2015-2017)

Terms begin July 1, 2105

And our new NOMINATING COMMITTEE (2015-16)

Lois Winterkorn, Chair

Barbara Kay

Phyllis Walker

(and 2 members to be appointed from the Board of Directors)

President's Corner

Where has the year gone? It's hard to believe that the 2014-15 program year is nearly over! Join us as we take a look back at a year filled with challenges and learning, hard work and lots of fun.

At our opening board meeting back in July, 2014, we adopted three goals for the current year:

1. Advocacy – To increase and enhance our efforts to advocate for positions supported by LWV-RMA, LWVNY and LWVUS, by incorporating an advocacy component to League activities wherever possible.
2. Voter Registration – To increase and enhance our efforts to register new voters, especially in low-enrollment areas, and to encourage all registered voters to vote in all elections through the use of creative reminders and continued contact.
3. Visibility – To continue the League's commitment to increasing our visibility in the community, especially through our community collaborations, committee activities, forums and individual initiative (including "Making the Ask") – and promotion of all these.

We're proud to report that we've made great progress in each of these areas.

In addition, we've found success in several other areas:

- We're now recording our excellent monthly forums and posting them on our own YouTube channel. They're available for viewing at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjC9NCupn9AhZpH2k83m5_g.
- We're encouraging every committee and study group to keep the board informed by submitting monthly reports or committee meeting minutes. The board is very interested in every group's activity and is very grateful to have first-hand, current information on the great work being done in so many areas of interest to us all.
- We're strengthening our relationship with WXXI 1370AM. Panelists from each of our monthly forums have been guests on "**Connections with Evan Dawson**" on WXXI 1370AM. In addition, 1st VP and Advocacy Director Katherine Smith has become something of a regular on "**Connections**" and several news programs on WXXI radio and TV, including election night coverage.
- Our 3rd annual candidate debate co-sponsored with WROC-TV Channel 8 was another great success and we're planning to continue with another in 2015.

- We continue monthly conference calls with newly-elected LWVNY President Dare Thompson regarding implementing the principles of the League's Membership Leadership Development program with particular emphasis on mentoring new members in their selected roles.
- Perhaps our favorite innovation has been First Fridays – an informal gathering on the first Friday of each month from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM during the program year. Members and prospective members gather for coffee or lunch and discuss League business – or more likely, their stories. We're getting to know each other better and finding that we not only work well together, we like each other!
- Our website continues to offer expanded content. In addition to news and signup functions, the calendar, state and local newsletters, **Who Represents You** and naturalization schedules, you'll find links to online resources such as our forums and interviews on WXXI. Please check it regularly!
- Thanks to Gretchen and Jean Shafer's wonderful support, we were able to send two students to Albany in the Students Inside Albany (SIA) program. They both were most impressed with the entire experience, and we're committed to making sure that two students will be sponsored every year.
- And perhaps saving the best for last, during the fall we took full advantage of Bee Bibby's generosity in funding a Center for Governmental Research (CGR) study of Child Care Subsidies in Monroe County and added a follow-up study this spring. Both studies received strong public notice and will provide a solid basis for future public policy and funding decisions.

On behalf of the current board, please accept our thanks for your help, for your enthusiasm, and for this opportunity to serve the League and the community!

And on behalf of our incoming board, we're looking forward to getting started so please feel free to contact us with ideas, suggestions and questions – or just to chat.

In the meantime, enjoy the summer!

In League,

Gloria S. Read gloell@rochester.rr.com

Mary Hussong-Kallen mmhk@rochester.rr.com

Advocacy

During this Legislative session in Albany the NYS Senate and Assembly have passed five (5) bills that were part of the Women's Equality Agenda. The "Family First" bills are:

Equal Pay - Titus in the Assembly and Savino in the Senate;

Sexual Harassment Prohibition in Businesses of All Sizes - Galef in the Assembly and Valesky in the Senate;

Pilot Program for Temporary Orders of Protection by Electronic Means - Joyner in the Assembly and Young in the Senate;

Human Trafficking Victims Protection and Justice - Paulin in the Assembly and Lanzara in the Senate;

Requirement for Reasonable Accommodation for Pregnancy in the Workplace - Gunther in the Assembly and Hannon in the Senate.

The Assembly also passed the Reproductive Health Act (Glick), Paid Family Leave Act (Nolan) and the act prohibiting employers from denying work or promotion because of family status. (S4432 Stuart- Cousins and S3004 Addabbo)

LWVNYS calls on the NYS Senate to pass these measures this session.

Senate bill S5 (Robach) was passed last month and was strongly supported by the League. We urge the Assembly to pass this legislation that prohibits discrimination in housing based upon domestic violence status.

All bills and status can be found at www.assembly.state.ny.us/leg/.

Please call your Assembly Member and Senator stating your support of all these measures.

Katherine Smith,
1st Vice-President and Advocacy Director

LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK! 

We know you'll "like" us!

www.facebook.com/lwvofrma

Do You Tweet?

If you use Twitter, consider following LWV-NYS. You'll find great information on many topics. Look for <https://twitter.com/LWVNYS> next time you're online!



The Annual Meeting Recap

In case you missed the Annual Meeting at Locust Hill Country Club, here's a quick recap of the highlights:

The "Making Democracy Work" Award was given to **Rev, Lawrence Hargrave** of Asbury First United Methodist Church.

The "Carrie Chapman Catt" Award was given to **Dorothy Borgus**.

The new "Lifetime of Service" Award was given to **Anna Bundschuh**.

Five members were honored with the new "You Make Us Proud" Awards:

Georgia DeGregorio

Beth Feldman

Sarah Liebschutz

Hasana Martin

Judy Weinstein

Barbara Grosh was thanked for her service on the Board of Directors as she completes her term.

Our new 50-year members, **Nancy Brush** and **Ann Weintraub**, were presented with yellow roses and a pins.

The budget was adopted, the new Board and Nominating Committee were elected, and the proposed revisions to our bylaws were adopted.

The punch and hors d'oeuvres were delicious, the slideshow presentation entertaining, the air conditioning strong on a very hot day, and in summary, it was a wonderful way to close out 2014-15. Thanks to all who planned, participated and attended!

Watch and Listen to our Forums on YouTube!

The League is trying something new, something that has had success in other cities. We are now recording our forums and posting the videos on YouTube for your viewing pleasure. Can't make the forum? Not a problem. Catch a 'replay' on YouTube!

To access the League's YouTube videos, please click on this link:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJC9NCupn9AhZpH2k83m5_g

Enjoy!

Students Inside Albany

This year LWV-RMA sponsored two "Students Inside Albany" (SIA), thanks to generous funding from Gretchen and Jean Shafer!

Both students (Violet on the left and Nazreen on the right, below) are 10th graders who attend the School Without Walls.

According to the girls and their parents, it was a wonderful experience for both, exposing them to the inner workings of our state government.

Each student met with her representatives and began building a foundation for active participation in government.

Future Leaguers, we hope!



LWVNYS Constitutional Convention Position Update

LWVRMA members met on May 4 to determine whether there was member agreement on updating the Delegate Selection portion of the League 1993 Constitutional Convention position:

- to make it more flexible and adaptable for the future (bringing it more in line with most League positions), and
- to clarify how the board should consider any reforms or lack thereof to the delegate selection process as part of the decision on whether or not to support the proposal for a constitutional convention when it comes up again for a vote in 2017.

The question was: Do we wish to retain the current position or do we wish to adopt the new position?

Judy Weinstein created an excellent PowerPoint presentation which explained the history of the process and the implications of our options. Thanks to Neil Jaschik's summarizing skills, we reached early consensus, in favor of the new wording and all stayed on to discuss other issues, possible problems and expectations involved in a constitutional convention. As always, Judy came prepared with answers!

For the complete text of current and proposed wording, please visit http://lwvny.org/LLresources/SBR_StateNews/2015/January/Final-Materials-to-Bd-on-Con_0115.pdf

Thanks to all who participated.

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Do You Have...

Comments?

Suggestions?

News We Can Use?

Contact The Voter at:

lwvrma-voter@rochester.rr.com

Naturalization

Everyone is welcome to attend the monthly Naturalization Ceremonies. Observing a candidate receiving his/her American citizenship is very special. Helping the new citizens register to vote is an added bonus. If you are interested in experiencing an oath ceremony, please contact Sheila Abeling at sheiler162004@yahoo.com or call 585-223-6819.

On April 9 at 10:00 AM, Joan Rosenthal welcomed new citizens at Minerva Deland School in Fairport. At 1:00 PM on the same day, Kathy Farrar met candidates for citizenship at the Federal Building.

The League went to the Monroe County Office Building on May 14th at 10:00 AM. Lois Winterkorn participated in the oath ceremony for 45 citizens on that day. May 18th brought us back to RIT for our annual visit, and 87 candidates were welcomed by Katherine Smith and Kay Saunders.

On June 11th the League will be participating in two ceremonies. At 10:00 AM at the Monroe County Office Building, Marcia Eisenberg will meet new citizens. At 1:00 PM on the same day, Kathy Farrar will be welcoming candidates for citizenship.

A special thank you to all League members who participate in these oath ceremonies!

Sheila Abeling,
2nd Vice-President and Naturalization and Election Services Chair

Check This Out!

If you've never checked out LWVNYS Legislative Director Barbara Bartoletti's Capitol Beat Blog, here's a look at just one timely item:



THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2015

The end (of session) is near!

The League extended its support for A.3874b (Brennan) this week, which would allow any voter to request an absentee ballot and vote by mail without declaring any reason for doing so. We watched the bill move through the Election Law Committee Wednesday morning and will keep an eye out for its appearance on the Judiciary committee, where it was referred to. To read our memo of support for this bill, click on http://lwvny.org/advocacy/election-law/2015/MOS-A3874b_060315.pdf.

Be sure to check Barbara's blog often at <http://www.lwvny-capitolbeat.blogspot.com/>. She's our eyes and ears on Albany!

Registering our Youngest Voters

Are you passionate about voter registration? Would you like to be part of a growing, dynamic team? If you share our commitment to educating and registering newly eligible voters, we have an exciting opportunity for you! Over the past several years our Voter Services group has expanded its outreach to area high schools. In 2013 we visited five schools; in 2014 the number increased to seven schools and 250 newly registered voters. We are ready to expand our program and are gearing up for the 2015-16 school year. Building upon our experience and benefiting from the talents of a League member who taught social studies, we have developed a formal PowerPoint presentation that engages and educates high school students and enables us to get our message across. We schedule our visits within the social studies classes, meet in the classroom so groups are manageable, present, have some Q&A and encourage students to complete the registrations. The school administrations coordinate our visits, and it is exciting and rewarding to interact with the students.

Have we piqued your interest? If so, we encourage you to join our awesome team! If you don't feel particularly comfortable with technology or public speaking, not to worry. Training will be provided, a script is available, and we always work in pairs. The time commitment depends on your own schedule. We will be starting up again in the late summer to prepare for the school year. If you would like more information, please contact Gin Busack (ginbusack@aol.com or 585.467.6131) or Beth Feldman (bfeldman@rochester.rr.com or 585.576.1033).

Beth Feldman,
Voter Services Member

Capitol Beat Blog

Check in for important updates from League Legislative Director Barbara Bartoletti!

Please visit frequently:

<http://www.lwvny-capitolbeat.blogspot.com/>

Check for this week's post!

Did you know...

that registering in advance for League activities is easy and very helpful to our planners? Visit our website (www.lwv-rma.org) to find out about upcoming events and while you're there, register for an event!

Annual Meeting Photos



Annual Meeting Photos



Annual Meeting Photos



Naturalization Photos



RIT Naturalization Photos





Coming Events!



June

- 5-7** LWVNYS State Convention (Albany)
- 11** Rochester Federation of Women's Clubs Luncheon, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM
Locust Hill Country Club
- 11** Naturalization Ceremony 10:00 AM
(Monroe County Office Building)
- 11** Naturalization Ceremony 1:00 PM
(Federal Building)

- 13** 10th Annual Juneteenth Parade & Celebration:
Parade at 10:00 AM, Activities until 6:00 PM
Frederick Douglass, Susan B. Anthony Park
(between Madison & King Sts.)

- 13** LWV-RMA Board Orientation

July

- 4** Happy Fourth of July!

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

First Friday Photos



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

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Rochester VOTER

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

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Director

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Director

Ernest DuBois
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Off-Board:

Georgia DeGregorio
Chair, Membership

**AUGUST/SEPTEMBER VOTER
DEADLINE IS JULY 31!**



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

The Voter is a monthly publication of the LWV-RMA

Editor, Mary Hussong-Kallen

Layout/Design, Chris Burleigh

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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