

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 persons who are at least 16 years of age.

Those under 16 can be associate members.

Inside this issue:

- Consensus Meeting NYS Legislative Procedures 1
- President's Corner 2
- Save the Date..... 2
- Help Wanted!..... 2
- Amazon Smile 2
- Gen'l. Member Meeting: State Government Issues..... 3
- LWV-RMA Book Club..... 4
- It's a New Year & We Need You! 4
- Participating in the Women's March on Washington ... 5
- Consensus Session: NYS Legislative Position Update ... 6
- New Citizens Naturalized in December & January 7
- Equal Justice Initiative 7
- Sunshine Corner 8
- New Members 8
- Rochester Federation of Women's Clubs..... 8
- Roch. Fed. of Women's Clubs Luncheon & Speaker Sched.. 8
- Calendar 9
- First Fridays 9
- Leadership 10

Join Us for History as an Argument for Voting

Monday, February 27, at 7:00 P.M.
Asbury First United Methodist Church
1050 East Avenue, Rochester
Handicapped Accessible/Parking in Rear

FEATURING

The Reverend Marvin McMickle,
President and Professor at
Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, and
Members of the Rochester Sisters of Saint Joseph
who saved U.S. Representative John Lewis's life
on the Edmund Pettus Bridge on Bloody Sunday in 1965.



Representative Lewis with the Sisters of Saint Joseph.



The Rev. Marvin McMickle.



Preregister at www.lwv-rma.org or 262-3730
We look forward to seeing you!

President's Corner

2017 – can you believe it? What an ambitious agenda it brings us!

In celebration of Black History Month, Rev. Marvin McMickle, president and professor at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, and several of the Rochester Sisters of Saint Joseph, who saved U.S. Representative John Lewis's life on the Edmund Pettus Bridge back on Bloody Sunday in 1965, will speak to us on "History as An Argument for Voting." Save the date: Monday, February 27 – see you at Asbury First United Methodist Church at 7:00 P.M.

We have important League and suffrage anniversaries coming up. Judy Weinstein has begun meeting with the City of Rochester to coordinate our efforts, and Judy Sternberg and Elaine Schmidt are already at work on LWV-RMA squares for the Susan B. Anthony Museum's quilt project. We also hope to participate in their Vote-till-a project. If this sort of work, as well as helping to plan some celebrations, intrigues you, please contact us (585-262-3730 or info@lww-rma.org)! And if you have archive materials, let us know that as well!

The board has identified two exciting semi-new focus areas for the coming year:

- First, we'll be working to educate the community on the November referendum on holding a NYS Constitutional Convention. We're in the early stages, but we will soon be looking for writers to draft letters to the editors of local newspapers – we want our neighbors to cast informed votes in November on this issue (and others, of course). Is this something that piques your creative interest? Please contact us (585-262-3730 or info@lww-rma.org).
- Second, we'll be looking to expand our efforts to identify areas where voting access can be expanded, and then advocate for needed change. Look for more on this as the plans come together...

League members Elaine Schmidt and Judy Sternberg joined over 500,000 others who attended the Women's March on Washington, DC, on January 21. They've generously offered to share their experience with us in this issue. To all who attended the national event or regional "sister" marches, thank you for standing up and speaking out!

Finally, thank you for renewing your membership in our local League, and welcome to our new members. We are all better for your part in Making Democracy Work!

In League,

Mary Hussong-Kallen
president@lww-rma.org

HELP WANTED!

We have important anniversaries coming up – otherwise known as opportunities to celebrate! If the thought of celebrating any or all of these bring out your inner party planner, please contact us at 585-262-3730 or info@lww-rma.org!

- November 6, 2017 - 100th Anniversary of Woman Suffrage in New York State
- November 19, 2019 - 100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters of New York State
- February 14, 2020 - 100th Anniversary of National League of Women Voters
- August 26, 2020 - 100th Anniversary of the official certification of the ratification of the 19th Amendment by the US Secretary of State

Save the Date!

LWV-RMA Annual Meeting

June 15, 2017 at 4:30 P.M.

Locust Hill Country Club

Amazon Smile

The state League has joined a 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 you'll find the same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a 0.5% of the purchase price to the state League's Education Foundation. To shop at Amazon Smile, simply go to smile.amazon.com instead of just amazon.com and search for the League of Women Voters of NYS as your selected charitable organization.

General Membership Meeting: State Government Issues

On January 14, LWV-RMA members met to learn more about the coming vote on a Constitutional Convention as well as about lawmaking processes used by the NYS Legislature.

THE 2017 VOTE ON A NYS CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Judy Weinstein provided an overview of the process needed to approve the convening of a state constitutional convention as well as potential pros and cons that could result. She noted that:

- Every 20 years voters must be offered the opportunity to approve a Constitutional Convention and 2017 is such a year.
- If voters approve holding a convention, another election must be held to identify delegates.
- Once convened, delegates have the freedom to organize themselves and establish rules of procedure.
- A Constitutional Convention offers the only opportunity for citizens to directly seek changes to the Constitution. Such a process is expensive but could result in savings that would cover the cost. A Convention presents risks to current benefits and services.

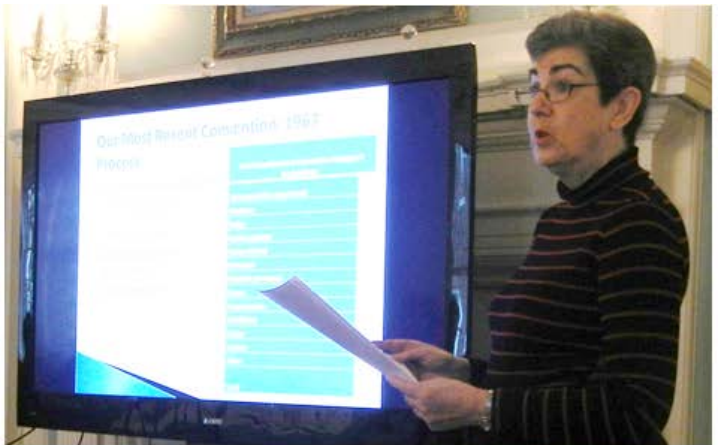
- Any changes to the Constitution recommended by a Constitutional Convention would then be presented to voters for approval, either as separate resolutions or as one total package.

Following this presentation there was discussion about how LWV members could be involved in the discussion about whether or not to approve a Constitutional Convention. There was consensus that the LWV could seek to educate the public about the convention process and issues that could be discussed.

NYS LEGISLATIVE RULES AND PROCESSES

Katherine Smith described how the NYS Legislature really works, with rules that impede consideration and passage of bills. Among the issues she reviewed are the rules that allow the accumulation of power by a few individual legislative leaders, and the court decision that allowed the governor to assume great powers of setting policy through the budget process.

At the end of the day, committee and study group leaders described their needs and goals, so members could consider how they might support different LWV-RMA activities.



LWV-RMA Book Club

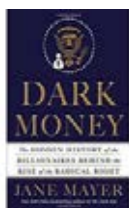
The LWV/RMA book club focuses on both fiction and non-fiction books relating to advocacy positions our League has adopted. LWV members and non-members can join the Book Club. Anyone who has read the book is welcome to participate in the discussion. Meetings are held on Tuesdays at 1:00 P.M. at The Greenhouse Café, 2271 East Main Street, Rochester.

We have a planning meeting each spring to identify which books to discuss during the coming year. We then vote and decide who will lead the discussion for each book. We try to have a balance of books - theme, weightiness, etc.

February 14, 2017

Georgia DeGregorio

Dark Money: The Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right
by Jane Mayer



March 14, 2017

Barbara Grosh

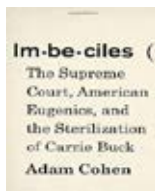
The Autobiography of Eleanor Roosevelt



April 18, 2017

Judy Weinstein

Imbeciles: The Supreme Court, American Eugenics, and the Sterilization of Carrie Buck
by Adam Cohen



In January, we discussed “Arguing About Slavery: The Great Battle in the United States Congress” by William Lee Miller. The book explores a part of our history that none of us knew, covering a nine-year period beginning in 1836 when southerners in the House of Representatives were so angered by the introduction of petitions against slavery that they passed a gag rule that was supposed to prevent any discussion of the issue. The gag rule failed, thanks to the intelligence and perseverance of John Quincy Adams, and for that they tried to censure him twice and failed. A book about the speeches and floor fights in the House might sound boring but Miller is a great writer with a terrific sense of humor. This is a part of our history ignored in history classes but it sets the stage for the Civil War and helps explain events we see in politics today. We highly recommend this book.

Chris Pryor, Book Club Member
cpryor1@rochester.rr.com

It's a New Year and We Need You!

Remember Ann Richards? In her keynote address at the 1988 Democratic National Convention, Richards noted that Barbara Jordan had been the only other woman keynote speaker (1976) “in 160 years.” (First Democratic National Convention was in 1832.)

“Par for the course,” Richards said. “But, if you give us a chance, we can perform. After all, Ginger Rogers did everything that Fred Astaire did. She just did it backwards and in high heels.”

Ann Richards, by the way, was keynote speaker at the LWVUS National Convention in Washington, D.C. in 2000. I, Barbara Kay, was there.

I'm thinking of Ann Richards these days – and other influential American women (many of them League members) – as our Nominating Committee works to fill the positions of Directors and Officers for the LWV-RMA.

We need your help. We can “perform” - in heels or laces! Let Ann Richards be a model. Take inspiration from Carrie Chapman Catt who, in 1919, proposed the creation of a league of women voters. Or, follow the example of Eleanor Roosevelt who joined the League after its founding in 1920 and then, as Vice-President, worked to strengthen women's role in politics and the world.

Today, make a commitment! Air your ideas! Show your spirited self! Make Democracy Work!

Your opportunities include Director on the Board, Corresponding Secretary, Membership Chair. Let us know your interest. We want to hear from you.

Thank you from the Nominating Committee 2016-2017:

Barbara Kay
bbskay@frontiernet.net

Gloria Read
gloell@rochester.rr.com

**Democracy is not a spectator sport.
Tag! You're It!**

Participating in the Women's March on Washington: Two Accounts from LWV-RMA Members

ELAINE SCHMIDT

When I heard there was going to be a Women's March on Washington, I thought this better have good attendance or it's better not to have one at all! Well, I guess we did GREAT! Women came together in Washington DC, across the country, and across the world! It takes a lot of work to put a march like the Women's March together. Paul Minor, from the First Unitarian Church Social Justice Committee hired the two buses that left from there and did practically all the organizing associated with our trip. Thank you, Paul!

Thinking of going to the march was a little scary. Ours was to be a peaceful march but there could be infiltrators or opposition groups that would taunt us or even attack us. We could not be 100% sure that everything would go as planned, but there is an upside to going to a march like this. You meet wonderful, uplifting people! The comradery is great! Taking a stand right now feels pretty good. I was hyped to see Gloria Steinem, too!

My little group of marchers stopped in to visit Louise Slaughter's office. She arrived at her office while we were there and we had a very informative meeting with her. It became apparent that who you elect as your representative is so important.

An important concern of all my fellow marchers is where to go from here. Don't agonize, organize! Just two years from now, we have another election.

Elaine Schmidt

e.schmidt8@frontier.com



A view of the marchers in Washington, D.C.

JUDY STERNBERG

Most of you have undoubtedly heard, read and seen pictures of the massive Women's March on Washington (and sites worldwide). Aside from the incredible number and assortment of people who turned up to be counted as defenders of Women's and Human Rights, what impressed me most was the number of people I heard saying "I've never taken an active role in politics or issues before but this is just the beginning for me." Also impressive and important was the urging by many WMW speakers for participants to go home and funnel their energies into electoral politics in the form of: getting out the vote and voter registration efforts; promoting the importance of congressional, state and local elections; and standing to run for elected offices. What a great and needed shot in the arm of forward-thinking determination and positivity!

Judy Sternberg

jsternberg3b@gmail.com



Georgia DeGregorio, Gin Busack, and Lois Winterkorn at the Rochester Women's March on Saturday, January 21.

Consensus Session: NYS Legislative Position Update

At the 2015 State Convention, League members agreed that it was time to update our position on whether or not we should have a full time or part time legislature and how long the terms of state legislators should be.

The update addresses the ambiguities in the current position and aims to re-focus the position on the policies most significant to ethics reform and performance of the Legislature.

The LWV-RMA was one of many local Leagues to have organized membership meetings to consider this update. At a meeting in December, consensus background was provided by Government Committee members Elaine Schmidt, Judy Weinstein and Ann Carmody. Discussion was led by Katherine Smith.

Results of our discussion will be sent to LWVNYS to help in crafting an updated position.

Among those who participated in the consensus discussion were:

**New to the League?
Join Us at
First Friday**

**February 3, 2017
11:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.
at I-Square**

LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK! 

We know you'll "like" us!

www.facebook.com/lwvofrma



Judy Sternberg, Ida Holloran, Mary Myers, Gin Busack, Barbara Kay, and Judy Weinstein.



Elaine Schmidt, Katherine Smith, Ann Carmody, and LWV-RMA President Mary Hussong-Kallen.

New Citizens Naturalized in December and January

As a new year for naturalizations in Monroe County begins, our committee of volunteers—Sheila Abeling, Marcia Eisenberg, Kathy Farrar, Beth Feldman, Joan Rosenthal, Kay Saunders, Betty Schaeffer, Katherine Smith, Mimi Wilson, and Lois Winterkorn—will again be greeting candidates for naturalization.

On January 12th, at 10:00 A.M., Joan Rosenthal met new citizens at the Monroe County Office Building. On the same day at 1:00 P.M., Beth Feldman attended the naturalization ceremony at the Federal Building. Many thanks to our volunteers!

Any member who would like to attend an oath ceremony, please contact Sheila Abeling.

You won't be disappointed. It is a rewarding experience.

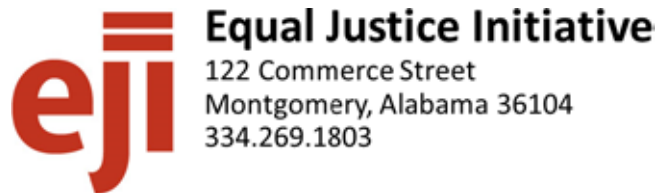
Sheila Abeling.

sheiler162007@gmail.com



Pictured here are new citizens who were naturalized on December 8, 2016 at the Federal Building, the Honorable Charles Siragusa presiding.

On January 12, 2017 at the Monroe County Building, Judge Richard Dollinger officiated at naturalization ceremonies with County Clerk Adam Bello also in attendance. The County Clerk always participates in the State Ceremonies.



November 30, 2016

Elaine Schmidt
League of Women Voters-RMA Book Club
9 Scenic View Dr.
Rochester, NY | 4622-1332

Dear Ms. Schmidt:

On behalf of the Equal Justice Initiative, I am writing to thank the League of Women Voters-RMA Book Club for the generous donation of \$120 supporting the work of EJI, which we received on November 21, 2016. This support is crucial to the success of our expanding programs to reform the administration of criminal justice, protect the rights of children who are sentenced and jailed as adults, educate the public, and create hope in marginalized communities. We also continue to expand and intensify our work on race and poverty in America, and to bring increased knowledge and awareness of the connections between our nation's history of racial injustice and the current era of mass incarceration, disproportionate education and economic opportunity, and police abuse of minorities. With so much important work ahead, we are energized by this commitment to EJI and are grateful that you choose to stand with us. Your support makes our work possible.

All the best,

Renee Cleveland
Donor Relations

If you missed the fall LWV programs on the attorney general's office and voting procedures you can access them via the LWV-RMA YouTube site at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjC9NCupn9AhZpH2k83m5_g.

If you're receiving The Voter as a printed black and white document, please know that you **COULD** receive The Voter in color electronically instead. To do so, send your email address to editor Judy Wadsworth at judithw@frontiernet.net.

Sunshine Corner

MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE
12/13/2016

OBSERVED BY ELAINE SCHMIDT

The Monroe County Legislature passed the budget for 2017 at this meeting after hours of deliberation. This meeting was well attended due to the interest of many groups seeking funding allocations. The budget was amended to “fully fund” Child Protective Services in response to open forum speakers who cited concern for the safety of our vulnerable children. The full time Department of Motor Vehicles Office in the City of Rochester was not funded as previously anticipated.

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

MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE 1/10/2017
OBSERVED BY ELAINE SCHMIDT

January 2017 marks the 50th anniversary of the Monroe County Legislature. Three appointments by Legislature President Anthony Daniele to the Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council—William Moehle, Sean Delehanty and James Schnell—were confirmed by the Legislature.

Coach Cardon of Irondequoit High School’s boys’ varsity basketball team was honored on the occasion of his 400th career win. Only 12 others coaches in Section 5 have achieved this milestone.

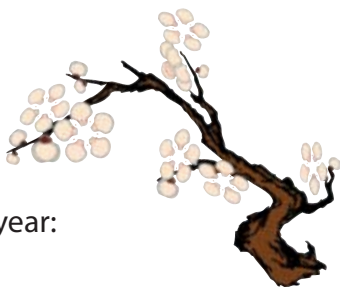
(To view the full minutes from this and other meetings, please click here: <http://www2.monroecounty.gov>)

Elaine Schmidt
e.schmidt8@frontier.com

New Members

Welcome to all those who have joined us in the past year:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Kali Ander | Kate Greenberg |
| Barbara Boyd | Mary Hamlin |
| Beverly Brooks | Judy Hartmann |
| Rome Celli | Agnes McClear |
| Rebecca Courtright | Theresa McFarland-Porter |
| Courtney Forbes | Sally Merrill |
| Scott Forsyth | Bobbie Reif |
| Martha Fried | Pamela Schenk |



Rochester Federation of Women’s Clubs

Organized in 1898 when Susan B. Anthony invited the presidents of 73 women’s organizations to join together to enhance their influence, the Rochester chapter is alive and well as a member of the New York State Federation of Women’s Clubs. Fourteen local organizations (including the LWV-RMA and Susan B. Anthony Museum and House) meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month, September through June, for a business meeting at various local restaurants. Each meeting features an interesting speaker.

The February 9 meeting will be held at Joey B’s at Brickstone in the Winter Garden, 1325 Elmwood Avenue, at 11:00 A.M. The speaker will be Ward Stare, RPO Music Director.

If you’re interested in attending, please contact Mary Hussong-Kallen (mmhkallen@gmail.com) or Elaine Sfikas (865-5308).

You’ll find information on future meetings on our online calendar (www.lwv-rma.org/calendar.php) and in the Voter calendar. Please consider joining us for good company, good food and support for the work Susan B. began!

Mary Hussong-Kallen
President, LWV-RMA
president@lwv-rma.org

Rochester Federation of Women’s Clubs Luncheon/ Meeting & Speaker Schedule

Thursday, February 9 – 11:00 at Joey B’s at Brickstone (Speaker: Ward Stare, “The RPO’s 2017-18 Season”)

Thursday, March 9 – 11:00 at Rick’s Prime Rib House (Speaker: Charles Sparnecht, “The 60’s: A Magical Mystery Tour”)

Thursday, April 13 – 10:00 til 3:00 at Penfield Country Club (Susan B. Anthony Benefit Card Party)

For additional information or to make a reservation, please contact Elaine Sfikas at 585-865-5308, 585-230-6573 or elainesfikas@frontier.com.



Coming Events!



February

- 3 First Friday (11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M., I-Square)
- 9 Naturalization Ceremony (10:00 A.M., Monroe County Office Building)
- 9 Naturalization Ceremony (1:00 P.M., Federal Building)
- 9 Rochester Federation of Women’s Clubs Luncheon/Meeting (11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M., Joey B’s)
- 9 LWV-RMA Board Meeting (3:00 P.M., Asbury First UMC)
- 15 Susan B. Anthony Annual Birthday Luncheon
- 16 Naturalization Ceremony (1:00 P.M., Federal Building)
- 27 February Forum, Celebrating Black History Month: History As An Argument for Voting (7:00 P.M., Asbury First UMC)

March

- 3 First Friday (11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M., I-Square)
- 9 Naturalization Ceremony (9:30 A.M., George Eastman Museum)
- 9 Naturalization Ceremony (10:00 A.M., Monroe County Office Building)
- 9 Rochester Federation of Women’s Clubs Luncheon/Meeting (11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M., Rick’s Prime Rib)
- 9 LWV-RMA Board Meeting (3:00 P.M., Asbury First UMC)
- 27 March Forum, Celebrating Women’s History Month (TBA)

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

First Friday with LWV-RMA

Have you wondered about First Fridays but felt a little uncertain about dropping by? Please consider this your personal invitation to walk right in, have a cup of coffee or lunch, and join the conversation!

HERE’S THE BACKGROUND:

A few years ago a group of Leaguers attended the ACT Rochester breakfast presentation of its first annual poverty report. We were so moved by the information, we decided to meet for coffee right afterward to discuss it, and decide how to respond. Two wonderful things came from that chat: our Poverty Committee (which will be presenting a monthly forum in April) and our First Friday gatherings. We realized that we needed a way to just get to know one another even if we weren’t working on the same League committees.

FIRST FRIDAYS TODAY:

So here we are, usually about 15-20 members (and an occasional potential member), meeting each month, happily discussing our committees, League news, politics, families, movies – you name it! It’s a different group each month, and some people stay the whole 2 hours while others come and go as their schedules permit. Somehow, with whomever shows up, we have a great time and never run short of conversation!

We currently meet at I-Square in Irondequoit. No need to RSVP – check the online or Voter calendar, then just pencil us in on your calendar and join when you can! There’s a place at the table for you!

Mary Hussong-Kallen

president@lww-rma.org 585.729.5183



February 3

March 3

April 7

May 5

June 2

Board of Directors meets the second Thursday of each month at 3:00 P.M. at Asbury First UMC. Board meetings are open to all members.

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

On second Thursday of each month at 10:00 A.M. Naturalization Ceremonies are held at Monroe County Office Building at 39 W. Main Street.

On second Thursday of each month at 1:00 P.M. 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@lww-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**
President
- Sheila Abeling**
First Vice-President
- Ida Holloran**
Treasurer
- Judith Sternberg**
Secretary

Board of Directors:

- Gin Busack**
Director
- Ernest DuBois**
Director
- Mary Myers**
Director
- Judy Weinstein**
Director

**MARCH VOTER
DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 15!**



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, Judy Wadsworth
Layout/Design, Chris Burleigh*

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

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