

Bail Reform: What's It All About? A Look at the Current State of Affairs and Legislative Proposals

**REFORM
BAIL**



On any given day thousands of legally innocent New Yorkers sit in jail because they cannot afford bail. Come find out more about New York's money-bail system and efforts to reform it.

**Monday, February 12
7:00 P.M.**

Asbury First United Methodist Church
1050 East Avenue, Rochester, NY
Accessible Parking & Building Access in the Rear

Preregister at www.lwv-rma.org
or 262-3730.

Don't miss this!

More information on page 3.

Co-sponsors for this February Forum include:

LWV-RMA; Metro Justice & NY Civil Liberties Union, Genesee Valley Chapter

**League of Women Voters
Rochester Metro Area
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.



**THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS**
of New York State

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**PRESS STATEMENT
State of the State
Ethics and Voting Reform Proposals
Miss the Mark**

Contact: Jennifer Wilson, 518-465-4162

January 3, 2018

For the last two years, Governor Cuomo has included ethics, campaign finance, and voting reform proposals in his State of the State address. Once again the Governor has laid out these reforms, but this year he didn’t spend nearly as much time or effort touting the proposals. Instead, his ethics proposal was limited to a single proposal, banning outside income for state legislators. He spent less than a minute total discussing his remaining reforms.

The Governor has proposed closing the LLC loophole, instituting public financing for state legislators, early voting, no-excuse absentee voting, same day registration, and automatic voter registration. The League is supportive of all these reforms but we fear that the Governor’s quick, one minute coverage of the proposals may be a sign that he is reluctant to use his political muscle to pass these initiatives.

We continue to push for funding in the state budget for early voting and automatic voter registration and we hope that the Governor will finally recognize the importance of this funding. We believe that this year the public is demanding ethics and voting reforms and we hope that, even with the brief mention of these proposals today, Governor Cuomo is truly committed to securing passage of these proposals.

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Bail Reform: What's It All About? A Look at the Current State of Affairs and Legislative Proposals

7:00 P.M.

Monday, February 12, 2017

Asbury First United Methodist Church

1050 East Avenue

Handicapped Accessible/Parking in Rear

On any given day thousands of legally innocent New Yorkers sit in jail because they cannot afford bail.

Come find out more about New York's money-bail system and efforts to reform it.

- What is it, how is it imposed?
- Who pays bail, who sits in jail? How are lives impacted?
- How extensive is the problem, what does the data show?
- What are initiatives for Bail Reform calling for?
- What does Governor Cuomo's legislative proposal look like?
- Keeping up the pressure - what advocacy actions and groups can people connect with?

PRESENTERS:

Iman Abid, *Director, Genesee Valley Chapter NYCLU*

Tim Donaher, *Monroe County Public Defender*

Precious Bedell, *Founder and Director of Turning Points Resource Center (Prison Ministry - Episcopal Diocese of Rochester)*

Gary Pudup, *Retired Monroe County Sheriff's Command Officer, Former Chapter Director of the Genesee Valley Chapter NYCLU*

Co-sponsors for this February Forum include:

LWV-RMA; Metro Justice & NY Civil Liberties Union,
Genesee Valley Chapter

REFORM
BAIL



Program Planning & General Membership Meeting

The January 20 LWV-RMA membership meeting focused on two issues: the proposed LWNYS concurrence, and recommendations to LWVUS of issues we would like to be considered for its 2018-2020 program.

To help members understand the Death with Dignity issues, two nationally known knowledgeable sources shared their input on the issue:

Dr. Timothy Quill, MD, palliative care specialist with the Palliative Care Division of UPMC;

Ms. Diane Coleman, founder and leader of the national organization Not Dead Yet.

Dr. Quill described situations at the end of life where assisted suicide could be offered as a last resort.

Ms. Coleman described assisted suicide situations in which a patient's best interests could be circumvented.

The animated discussion that followed led to a

number of comments that were submitted to LWNYS for consideration as it determines the consensus among local leagues.

Members also suggested a number of program proposals for the LWVUS convention later this year:

- Privatization of public education;
- Full voting rights for U.S. citizens living in U.S. territories;
- Climate change;
- Every state incented to create a voting system with a paper trail.

In addition, members agreed that the abolishment of the electoral college, for which a LWVUS position already exists, should become a national focus for the 2018-2020 biennium. To access information on the electoral college issue and other national positions, go to <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/program-planning-leaders-guide-2018-2020>.



Presenters Diane Coleman and Dr. Timothy Quill.



Judy Weinstein introducing the program; seen with her are Katherine Smith, Lois Winterkorn, Joan Rosenthal, and Chris Rogers.

LWV-RMA President Mary Hussong-Kalen leading the discussion of recommendations to LWVUS.



Photo credit: "Toujours Vivant-Not Dead Yet" (sister organization of Not Dead Yet in Canada).



Members Gail Wilder, Barbara Grosh, Chris Burleigh, Ida Holloran, Gin Busack, Jim Revell, and Judy Sternberg.

Naturalization:

Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers who loyally attend oath ceremonies and help new citizens register to vote!! You are very much appreciated. 2017 was an exceptionally busy year with Naturalizations. The following League members were the volunteers at ceremonies:

Sheila Abeling, Cathleen Burnham, Julie Damerell, Marcia Eisenberg, Kathy Farrar, Beth Feldman, Joan Rosenthal, Kay Saunders, Ellen Scott, Katherine Smith, Kim Wightman, Mimi Wilson, and Lois Winterkorn.

On November 9, Lois Winterkorn and Katherine Smith welcomed 97 new citizens at the George Eastman House Museum during naturalization ceremonies. Sheila Abeling and Julie Damerell helped new citizens register to vote at the November 29 oath ceremony at the Monroe County Office Building.

At 10 A.M. on December 14 at the Monroe County Office Building, Beth Feldman welcomed new citizens. Also on that day at 1:00 P.M., Kathy Farrar greeted new candidates for citizenship at the last ceremony of 2017.

A new list of ceremonies for the coming year should be published soon. As soon as we receive the confirmed schedule, we will have it available on our website. If anyone is interested in volunteering for this wonderful project, please contact Sheila Abeling at 585-223-6819 or sheiler162007@gmail.com. You won't be disappointed that you did.

Sheila Abeling

Election Services:

The November 7 Election provided an opportunity to raise funds for the League. Many thanks to all who helped open absentee ballots at the Monroe County Board of Elections Service Center after the polls closed at 9:00 P.M. that day. Sixteen of our dedicated League members worked on this project:

Sheila Abeling, Dorothy Borgus, Chris Burleigh, Camille Clayton, Julie Damerell, Barbara Gosh, Ida Holloran, Barbara Kay, Bob Kay, Deb Leary, Kris Rogers, Kay Saunders, Bertha Simpkins, Katherine Smith, Judy Sternberg, and Judy Weinstein. THANK YOU!!

Sheila Abeling sheiler162007@gmail.com

Join the NCJW Armchair World Tour!



NCJW will take you on a fabulous world tour! You won't leave your armchair, that is for sure. No need to buy tickets or pack bags to go, Sit down at your computer, click the link below.

Your trip leaves from Rochester to world renowned sites, It stops on several continents for a traveler's delight.

No worries about airports, connections or delays, Enjoy your world tour right from your chaise. If the price is concerning, we're here to ensure, You alone can determine the cost of this tour.

So sit back and relax and away you go, We truly hope you enjoy the show!

For more information visit: <http://tinyurl.com/y8fd4sjg>

In Memoriam



LWV-RMA Member Beth Keigher passed away on October 9, 2017.

Beth was a strong supporter of the LWV and empowerment of women throughout her life.

While at college she participated in civil rights marches in the South. Throughout her adult life, she was involved in numerous civic and social justice organizations and served on the boards of several, including Rochester's Child, Historic Brighton, Rochester Downtown Development Corp, and the League of Women Voters-RMA.

She served as Public Relations Director and then

Executive Director of the Monroe County Bar Association and served there for 25 years. The National Association of Bar Executives awarded her the Bolton Award for Professional Excellence in 2001.



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Memorable Moments in Voter Services

Why do we volunteer our time to work on voter service events? Why do we agree to sit at tables at all manner of venues registering people, to stand up in front of high school classes talking to our young people about why their vote matters, to take our services to populations who feel disenfranchised? For me personally, it's all about personal encounters....the people we help.

We have asked our volunteers to share a few of their experiences and would like to hear from you about encounters you may have had.

Nancy Brush: All of my experiences have been positive, and I especially enjoyed seeing the Puerto Rican Festival this summer – I never would have gone without the voter registration job.

Gin Busack: For me, a truly memorable moment came at the end of our civics presentation at Edison Tech. The bell rang, the classroom emptied... except for one young fellow. He hung back, slowly (very slowly) packing his back pack. As he passed our materials table, he palmed one brochure – “YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE – HOMELESS” – and I knew why I was there.

Julie Damerell: My first experience was a race at Seneca Park. One young man told me that he would not vote since there was so much voter fraud. I countered that, briefly, but could see that he was not changing his mind so I walked away. I chatted with a young girl, too young to vote, who was dancing and running around. When I approached a young man I had met earlier who said he might register at the end, I discovered that she was with him. He registered to vote!

Barbara Grosh: I went to the Rochester Psychiatric Clinic to help patients prepare to vote. I described the races and ballot measures and the requirements to register to vote. Some of the patients were on the forensic side of the center, meaning that they were confined while awaiting trial or awaiting an assessment of whether they were competent to stand trial. One man, probably aged 35-40, listened carefully while I explained that if you've been convicted of a felony, once you complete your sentence, you can vote again. He realized that for the first time in his adult life, he was eligible to register and vote. He got all choked up as he realized that he counted. I got choked up too, being the one who told this gentleman, who'd obviously had a very hard life, that, indeed, he counts.

Joan Rosenthal: One experience I had illustrates how difficult it is to convince some people to register. I finally convinced one person to register by using

this rationale: A college student insisted she was not interested in voting because she hates both candidates and it really doesn't make a difference which one wins because they are all alike. I explained to her that if she registers now, she does not have to vote, but some day she might want to choose one candidate over the other and, by being registered, she will have the OPPORTUNITY to vote. That explanation resonated with her and she did register.

Gail Wilder: I was really touched at the PROJECT HOMELESS event at the War Memorial. We were able to reach so many folks who have been marginalized. The event was so well organized with college students escorting the clients around to tables so they could connect with all sorts of services. The homeless were delighted to know they could vote even without a permanent home address. Some had served time and were surprised they could vote at all. It was really rewarding.

Lois Winterkorn: I was at Rochester's Elementary School #42 on Lake Avenue. We had been asked by the principal to set up a table at a parents' night. A family of four came in and wandered over to our table, and I asked them if they were registered to vote. They weren't. The father decided to register and needed a fair amount of help doing it. The children were very impatient to have them look at the work they were doing in the classroom, but as they were passing our table on the way out, Dad looked over at us and said thank you with a great big smile. Yes!!

Let's make this sharing a regular feature in our VOTER.

Gin Busack, ginbusack@aol.com

Voter Services

We are starting the New Year with a BANG !!

Our Voter Education Group debuted their newly revised civics education PowerPoint with a presentation by Mary Garfield and Camille Clayton for three classes at Edison Tech on January 12. The new presentation has been designed to focus on voter engagement and the power of the vote, allowing us a broader range of audience.

Barbara Grosh spoke on “Politics 101” at a meeting of the All Together Rochester Alliance on January 23, while Ida Holloran and Gin Busack staffed a table at the University of Rochester Martin Luther King Community Action Fair focusing on student volunteer opportunities at the Frederick Douglass Recreation Center on January 25. We have also accepted an invitation from the Rochester Institute of Technology to participate in their Community Service Fair on February 14.

Gin Busack, ginbusack@aol.com

LWV-RMA Presents: Women Voted in New York – Before Columbus

A talk by Dr. Sally Roesch Wagner, Professor at Syracuse University and Director of Matilda Joslyn Gage Center for Social Justice Dialogue

Monday, March 19, 2018, 7 pm to 9 pm
Linehan Chapel in the Golisano Academic Center, Nazareth College

Imagine that women have the right to choose all political representatives, removing from office anyone who doesn't make wise decisions for the future. Living in a world free from violence against them, women will not allow a man to hold office if he has violated a woman. Economically independent, they have the final say in matters of war and peace and the absolute right to their own bodies.

This is not a dream. Haudenosaunee (traditional Iroquois) women have had this authority — and more — since long before Christopher Columbus came to these shores. Haudenosaunee women had more authority and status before Columbus than New York State women have today. Women of the Six Nation Iroquois Confederacy (the Haudenosaunee) had the responsibility for putting in place the male leaders. They had control of their own bodies and were economically independent. Rape and wife beating were rare and dealt with harshly; committing violence against a woman kept a man from becoming Chief in this egalitarian, gender-balanced society. When women in New York State began to organize for their rights in 1848, they took their cue from the nearby Haudenosaunee communities, where women lived in the world that non-native women dreamed. Amazingly, despite the assimilation policy of the United States, Haudenosaunee women still maintain much of this authority today.

The talk will include little-known stories of the suffragist movement, including the connection between the suffragists and the Haudenosaunee. The format of the talk is an informal, story-telling presentation followed by interaction with the audience designed to give a platform to share knowledge, insights and experiences.

The program will be followed by a book signing and a reception with light refreshments provided by our host, Nazareth College, in recognition of the Helen Guthrie Memorial Lecture. The Friends of Ganondagan, The American Association of University Women, The Friends of Ganondagan, The National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Rochester Section, The Susan B. Anthony Center at the University of Rochester and The National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Rochester Section, are our cosponsors.

This program, which is free and open to the public, is made possible through the support of the New York Council for the Humanities' Public Scholars program.

Registration is required. Visit our website, www.lwv-rma.org or call (585)262-3730.

Women's Suffrage Valentines

February 14th isn't just Valentine's Day — it's also League of Women Voters' Day! The League was founded by suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt on February 14, 1920. Catt was instrumental in helping pass the 19th Amendment, which secured women the right to vote. Prior to passage of the 19th Amendment, suffragists used holidays like Valentine's Day to promote the cause of "Votes for Women." The National Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA), the League's predecessor, even created its own suffrage postcards!

Here are a few vintage suffrage Valentines.



Courtesy of the Catherine H. Postcard Archive.



This Valentine by American illustrator Ellen Clapsaddle was created in 1918, two years before passage of the 19th Amendment.



This 1916 Valentine attempted to court men by suggesting that women loved and respected men who supported suffrage.

For more suffrage Valentines, visit the link below.

Source:

"Votes for Women!" Vintage Women's Suffrage Valentines

By: Renee Davidson 02/12/2015

lwv.org/blog/votes-women-vintage-womens-suffrage-valentines



Coming Events!



February

- 2 First Friday (11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M., I-Square)
- 12 Forum: Bail Reform: What's It All About? The Ethical, Practical and Legislative Issues (Asbury First UMC, 7:00 – 8:30 P.M.)
- 13 Book Club- The Jungle by Upton Sinclair (1:00 P.M., Greenhouse Café, 2271 East Main Street)
- 14 Susan B. Anthony's Birthday Luncheon (Noon – 1:30 P.M., Joseph A. Floreano Rochester Riverside Convention Center)

Keynote speaker, Elaine Weiss, journalist and author of *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*. Ticket price: \$75.00. Hosted by the Susan B Anthony Museum and House. To learn more, go to info@lww-rma.org or 585-262-3730.

March

- 2 First Friday (11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M., I-Square)
- 19 Forum- Women's Rights History; Women Voted in New York--Before Columbus (7:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M., Linehan Chapel, Golisano Academic Center, Nazareth College. Parking in lots R, Q, and P; accessible parking in front of the building. To learn more, go to info@lww-rma.org.



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

Don't miss First Fridays with LWV-RMA

Join League colleagues for lunch or a mid-day coffee break each First Friday of the month, 11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. at I-Square, 400 Bakers Park, at Titus Avenue, Irondequoit, NY 14617

- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| February 2, 2018 | May 4, 2018 |
| March 2, 2018 | June 1, 2018 |
| April 6, 2018 | |

No need to RSVP. Pencil us in on your calendar and join when you can! There's a place at the table for you!



Board of Directors meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 2:00 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.

Naturalization ceremonies are usually held on second Thursday of each month. Check League website for updated info each month.

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

**MARCH VOTER
DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 15!**

Happy Valentine's Day!



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

Rochester VOTER

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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

*The Voter is a monthly publication of the LWV-RMA
Editor, Judy Wadsworth
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 |