



# TheVOTER

Volume LXXVII, #1  
June-July, 2018



LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®  
ROCHESTER METROPOLITAN AREA



## Announcing!

### **Our New 2018-2019 Board of Directors**

#### **Leadership Team**

Gin Busack (2018-2019)

Kim Byers (2018-2019)

Judy Weinstein (2018-2019)

**Treasurer** Elaine Schmidt (2017-2019)

**Recording Secretary** Judy Sternberg (2018-2020)

**Corresponding Secretary** Marion O'Connor (2017-2019)

**Director** Ann Carmody (2018-2020)

**Director** Mary Hussong-Kallen (2018-2019)

**Director** Barbara Kay (2017-2019)

**Director** Kris Rogers (2018-2020)

**Director** Gail Wilder (2018-2020)

#### **Nominating Committee (2018-19)**

Ida Holloran, Chair

Julie Damerell

Joan Rosenthal

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

**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.

**Inside this issue:**

Annual Meeting Announcements.....	1
President’s Corner .....	2
Annual Meeting.....	3-4
LWV-RMA & News 8 Democratic Primary Debate .....	5
Naturalizations .....	5
LWV-RMA Board Reviews LWVUS Transformation Roadmap.....	6
Sunshine Corner .....	7
FEPC .....	7
Election Services .....	7
Naples Florida League Meeting.....	8
Committee Annual Reports 2017-2018 .....	9-14
Calendar .....	15
First Fridays .....	15
Leadership .....	16

**President’s Corner**

Summer at last! Picnics, swimming – and enough Voter Registration events to keep us all busy! Keep checking your email for “invitations” to open the voting process to every eligible citizen at festivals, parades, and gatherings of all sorts throughout the area.

Did you attend or watch our two recent candidate forums for the 25th Congressional District Democratic Primary? Recordings of both are available on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/lwvofrma/>) and also on our YouTube channel ([https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjC9NCupn9AhZpH2k83m5\\_g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjC9NCupn9AhZpH2k83m5_g)). This is a very important primary so if you live in the district be sure to vote on June 26!

And on the topic of elections, did you know that VOTE411 is being replaced by a new electronic voter guide called Ballot Ready? Look for a link on our website or go directly to <https://lwvny.civengine.com/>. LWVNYS is eager for your feedback, so be sure to let us know what you like, as well as any problems, omissions or concerns you may have at [info@lwv-rma.org](mailto:info@lwv-rma.org).

On a very sad note, we recently lost 2 League members: U.S. Representative Louise Slaughter (seems strange to include her last name – she’ll always be remembered as simply “Louise”) and our long-time parliamentarian Ernest DuBois. They leave big shoes to fill, in the League and in the community, but we’re so grateful for all that they so generously gave to us all!

I’d like to extend some important thanks to the outgoing board members, Vice-President Sheila Abeling and Director Mary J. Garfield. Mary served for the past year and brought great energy and ideas to us as she re-created the Membership Committee with Barbara Kay. And Sheila – oh my, where to begin! When Gloria Read and I were elected Co-Presidents back in 2014, we were “young” in the League and needed some history and wisdom in order to be effective. We relied most on Katherine Smith, and Sheila Abeling – and each one has been an inspiration and a treasure. Gloria and Katherine completed their terms as Co-President and Vice-President respectively, in 2016 – though they’ve always been “available for consultation.” Sheila, however, has been indispensable throughout – listening, suggesting, keeping track of details and reminders, and becoming a trusted and valued friend. She loves this League and has made it stronger and better in so many ways!

Finally, thank you for the opportunity to serve these past four years - I’m most eager to become a part of the new board, and especially to work with our new Leadership Team: Gin Busack, Kim Byers and Judy Weinstein!

In League,  
**Mary Hussong-Kallen**  
[mmhkallen@gmail.com](mailto:mmhkallen@gmail.com)



## LWV-RMA 2018 Annual Meeting

On June 7, LWV-RMA members gathered to elect officers, approve a budget for the coming fiscal year, amend the bylaws, and present awards. Bylaws amendments allow membership to all persons at least sixteen years of age, and allow more latitude in leadership positions.

During the meeting two community leaders were recognized for their ongoing commitment to important causes.

Sister Grace Miller of the Religious Sisters of Mercy, and head of House of Mercy, received the "Making Democracy Work" Award for her years-long advocacy for poor and homeless people. In her remarks Sister Grace suggested that members advocate for the poor and conduct voter registration drives for them.

Receiving the Carrie Chapman Catt Award, the highest honor for a LWV-RMA member, was Barbara Grosh, who has served the LWV-RMA in many ways since she became involved. Barbara challenged members to encourage the under-represented to vote.



*LWV-RMA award recipients Sister Grace Miller and Barbara Grosh addressing members after being recognized.*



*Shown here are members socializing before and after the annual business meeting.*



## LWV-RMA 2018 Annual Meeting (cont'd.)

*The montage shows LWV-RMA leaders presiding over agenda items:*

**In the top row** can be seen President Mary Hussong-Kallen opening the session, Vice-President Sheila Abeling introducing award recipients, Treasurer Elaine Schmidt presenting the Treasurer's Report, Judy Weinstein presenting the Budget and Bylaws changes for approval, and Lois Winterkorn presenting the Nominations Committee report.

**In the middle row** Vice-President Sheila Abeling is seen with members being recognized with "You Make Us Proud" Awards: Sandra Frankel, Ida Holloran, Gloria Read, and Judy Wadsworth. Sandy Frankel was also recognized, with Elizabeth Webb, for 50 years of LWV-RMA membership.

**In the bottom row**, President Mary Hussong-Kallen thanking Vice-President Sheila Abeling for her service as she retires from the Board; Georgia DeGregorio receiving a LWVNY Sustainer Plaque from Gin Busack and Lois Winterkorn; and Sheila Abeling presenting a thank-you gift to outgoing President Mary Hussong-Kallen.



## LWV-RMA and News 8 present The 25th Congressional District Democratic Primary Debate

On June 15, the LWV-RMA sponsored the WROC-TV News 8 – broadcast of the debate among the four Democratic candidates for the 25th Congressional District seat in the House of Representatives to help voters determine whom to support in the primary election on June 26.

The discussion among candidates Rachel Barnhart, Adam McFadden, Joe Morelle, and Robin Wilt was moderated by News 8 news anchor Adam Chodak. The issues discussed included jobs, access to jobs, photonics, immigration, federal health insurance, gun control sexual harassment, equal rights, poverty, affordable housing, income disparities, income tax, renewable energy, and the environment.

In addition, we partnered with Rochester People's Climate Coalition and Faith Community Alliance to offer a forum with the same candidates on June 1st at Mt. Olivete Baptist Church, attended by about 200 people.

Links to both recordings are available on our website [lww-rma.org](http://lww-rma.org) and on our FaceBook page <https://www.facebook.com/lwvofrma/>.

## Naturalizations

Marcia Eisenberg welcomed 55 new citizens at an oath ceremony on May 10th at the Monroe County Office Building. All in attendance heard about the importance of voting and then were given the opportunity to register to vote. On May 14, RIT hosted 155 candidates for citizenship at a morning ceremony. Lois Winterkorn and Margaret Supinski represented the League. This was the largest group of new citizens that Monroe County has ever seen at one ceremony! The pictures below show some of the new citizens and Federal Judge Marian Payson. Thank you to all League volunteers!

Check the League website, [lww-rma.org](http://lww-rma.org) to view the Naturalization schedule. You are welcome to attend any oath ceremony. Just contact Sheila Abeling at 585-223-6819 or [sheiler162007@gmail.com](mailto:sheiler162007@gmail.com) and she will give you further information.



### Naturalization Schedule July – December 2018

Naturalization ceremonies are public events and open to all.  
LWV-RMA members are encouraged to attend

July 4	10:00 am	Genesee Country Museum
July 12	10:00 am	Monroe County Office Building
Aug 2	1:00 pm	Rochester City Hall, 30 Church Street
Aug. 9	10:00 am	Monroe County Office Building
Aug. 24	10:00 am	Seneca Falls Women's Rights Museum
Sept. 13	10:00 am	Monroe County Office Building
Sept. 17	10:15 am	College at Brockport/Seymour College Union
Oct. 4	1:00 pm	Rochester City Hall, 30 Church Street
Oct. 11	10:00 am	Monroe County Office Building
Nov. 8	10:00 am	George Eastman Museum
Nov. 15	10:00 am	Monroe County Office Building
Dec. 13	10:00 am	Monroe County Office Building
Dec. 13	1:00 pm	Federal Building





LWV-RMA Board Members Katherine Smith, Gail Wilder, Mary Hussong-Kallen, Kim Byers, Gin Busack, Ida Holloran, Elaine Schmidt, Judy Weinstein, and Judy Steinberg reviewing LWVUS materials.

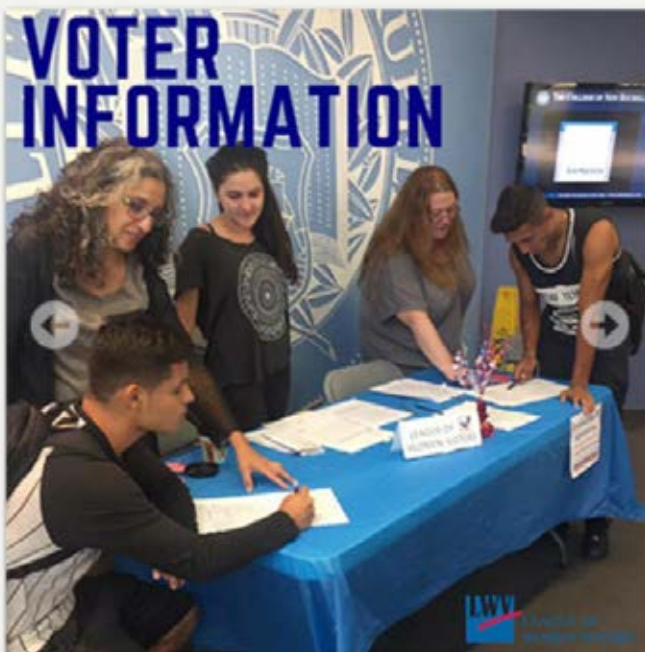
## LWV-RMA Board Reviews LWVUS Transformation Roadmap

The LWV-RMA Board of Directors invited members to join them on May 17 in a discussion of the LWVUS organization plans for the future, Transformation Roadmap. Participants identified areas of agreement and concern with the LWVUS transformation

statement, and asked local delegates to the LWVUS convention to share their input at that meeting. At the same session participants also discussed the LWV-Illinois proposal to make abolishing the electoral college a national action focus.

Countdown to Election Day 2018	FEDERAL PRIMARY TUESDAY, JUNE 26th	STATE and LOCAL PRIMARY THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th	GENERAL ELECTION TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6th
Register in person by	Friday, June 1	Sunday, August 19	Friday, October 12
Register by mail:	Postmarked by Friday, June 1	Postmarked by Sunday, August 19	Postmarked by Friday, October 12
Apply for absentee ballot in person by	Monday, June 25	Wed., September 12	Monday, November 5
Apply for absentee ballot by mail:	Postmarked by Tuesday, June 19	Postmarked by Thursday, September 6	Postmarked by Tuesday, October 30
Deliver ballot in person by	Tuesday, June 26	Thursday, September 13	Tuesday, November 6
Deliver ballot by mail:	Postmarked by Monday, June 25	Postmarked by Wed., September 12	Postmarked by Monday, November 5

Source: "2018 Voters Guide." LWVNYS,  
[http://www.lwvny.org/advocacy/vote/2018/Voters%20Guide\\_1\\_2018\\_final.pdf](http://www.lwvny.org/advocacy/vote/2018/Voters%20Guide_1_2018_final.pdf)



**More information,  
including an electronic  
voter guide can be accessed  
at [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org).**



## Sunshine Corner

**MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE  
MAY 8, 2108 OBSERVED BY  
ELAINE SCHMIDT**



The founder of Camp Good Days and Special Times, Gary Mervis, was recognized by County Executive Cheryl DiNolfo and the Legislature for his outstanding contributions to the community.

Many of the public speakers were from the House of Mercy. They want to end sanctions (cutting off benefits for 30/90/120 days) imposed on people for not meeting program requirements, such as job training or drug rehab appointments. They said sanctions lead to evictions and other problems that make things worse. All of these speakers said they were homeless. They also mentioned gentrification and the lack of low income housing.

Brigit Hurley spoke about the decrease in infant childcare due to childcare provider's preference for Pre-K programs according to Federal funds available. She suggested working together on this and other problems.

All of the agenda items were passed unanimously. The Legislature voted to accept the assets and liabilities of the Greater Rochester Outdoor Sports Facility Corporation into the General Fund and to account for Frontier Field activities in the General Fund.

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

**COMIDA MAY 15, 2018 OBSERVED BY  
ELAINE SCHMIDT AND JUDY WADSWORTH**

The COMIDA (Imagine Monroe) Board reviewed requests for tax abatement and exemptions from an urgent care facility in Perinton to be operated by the U of R, a welcome/entertainment enterprise next to Xerox Tower, a manufacturing plant in Webster that produces specialty parts for international clients, an HVAC firm that works with BOCES to provide apprenticeship programs, an information technology firm working on artificial intelligence, and the City of Rochester School District's School Modernization Project Stage 2. All requested abatements and exemptions were approved. The board also approved changes to abatements and exemptions due to revisions to the scope of three projects.

**Elaine Schmidt**

## FEPC

The Fair Election Practices Campaign is beginning preparation for the 2018 Election Season. The FEPC encourages all candidates to run positive, fact-based campaigns. The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester (TIAR) is the League's partner in this effort. The Fair Election Practices Committee Hearing Panel members are: Jim Morris (Chair), Rob Brown, Ralph Esposito, Susan Kramarsky, Lois Giess, and Channing Philbrick. Alternates are Peter Knapp, Lois Giess, Jim Peters, Sue Roberts, and Patricia Knapp. Once the final candidates list is issued by the Monroe County Board of Elections in August, materials are sent to each candidate and each Party Chair, so that candidates have an opportunity to sign a Fair Election Practices Campaign Pledge ahead of the elections in the fall. We look forward to another positive election season.

**Kris Rogers**

## Election Services

June 1 was the last day to register to vote in a Federal Primary. The Primary Election is June 26 from noon to 9 pm. If you are eligible to vote, please vote!

The League usually opens absentee ballots on Primary Day. If you are interested in volunteering to open ballots, contact Sheila Abeling at 585-223-6819 or [sheiler162007@gmail.com](mailto:sheiler162007@gmail.com). She will give you information.

**Sheila Abeling**

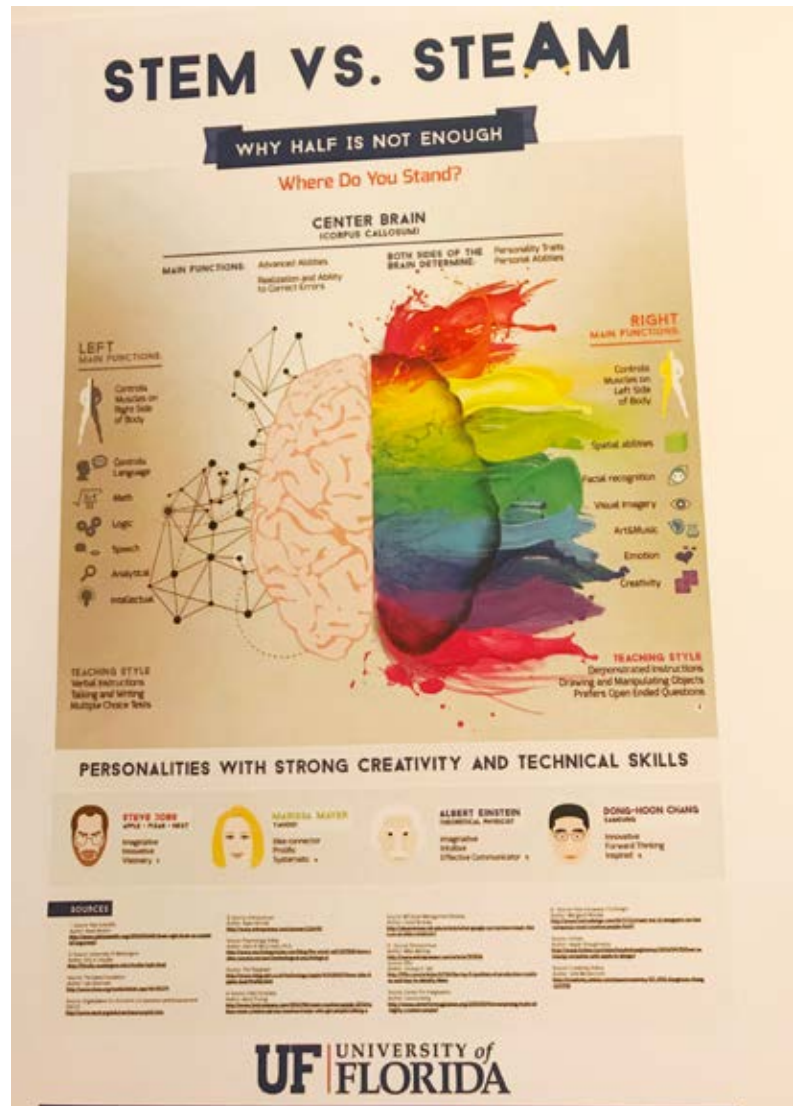




## Naples Florida League Meeting

As a member of the League, I have been fortunate to meet other League members from around the country. The Leagues have been wonderful about keeping me aware of different activities that I could attend/participate, if I were in the area. March brought me to Naples, Florida. I attended their annual meeting luncheon at the Hilton Naples. They greeted me and put me at a table with another New Yorker, from the Bronx, who kept me informed about the Naples League and of course downstate New York. It was a very well attended event with a speaker who was outstanding. As a retired educator myself, I was delighted to hear Kamela Patton, Superintendent of the Collier County Public Schools speak. Apparently, the school system had been struggling for years with a poor graduation rate, poor test scores, etc. She came in and over the past seven years has improved the status of the district tremendously. Cooperating with different organizations and colleges as well as the League of Women Voters has really helped. Very impressive. She had the attention of all in the room. One flyer particularly grabbed my attention, titled STEM VS. STEAM.

**Sheila Abeling**



NATIONAL SECURITY FOREIGN POLICY • FAMILY VALUES  
 FOREIGN TAX CREDITS SOCIAL SECURITY • WALL STREET  
 GOOD JOBS • FAMILIES VOTING RIGHTS • MENTAL HEALTH  
 RURAL COMMUNITIES CORPORATIONS • ILLEGAL ALIENS  
 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FAIR SHARE • AMERICAN WORKERS  
 INCOME TAX REFORM HEALTH CARE • NUCLEAR WEAPON  
 FAMILY BUSINESSES RELIGIOUS LIBERTY • TAX RATE  
 CORPORATE TAX DODGING • LAW-ABIDING GUN OWNERS  
 ILLEGAL EXPORT SUBSIDIES • INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY  
 SPECIAL INTERESTS • CHILD CARE • IMMIGRATION  
 VETERANS • GLOBAL LEADERSHIP • SIMPLE FLAT TAX  
 SMALL BUSINESSES • ESTATE TAX • STABLE DOLLAR  
 TAX CREDIT • GOD-GIVEN RIGHTS • WOMEN'S ISSUES



## **COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2017-2018**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

At our board meeting on July 27, 2017 we adopted 4 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.
4. **"Making Democracy Work for All"**

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

- LWV-RMA has welcomed 24 new members since July 1, 2017! Many of our new Leaguers have already found a niche, and others are getting to know the many opportunities we offer for engagement in "Making Democracy Work For All". Our League is stronger and better for every new member's ideas, energy and skills.
- We have updated and distributed a Member Handbook to all League members. It's filled with information and contacts which we believe will be useful in getting to know our local League.
- We created a PowerPoint presentation offering an overview of our local League as part of the state and national Leagues. It's easy-to-use and available for use when we're invited to present to various community groups.
- We are continuing to offer our excellent monthly forums on topics that are important to the community. This year we presented:
  - ✓ "Breaking Barriers to Voting" (2 events) with Jennifer Wilson (LWVNYS), Tom Ferrarese (Monroe County Board of Elections) and Scott Forsyth (NYCLU),
  - ✓ "A Retrospective on the 2017 Elections" with Tim Kneeland (Nazareth) and Adrian Hale (Rochester Chamber of Commerce),
  - ✓ "Women Voted in NYS – Before Columbus!" with Sally Roesch Wagner Director of Matilda Joslyn Gage Center for Social Justice Dialogue,
  - ✓ "Bail Reform – with Tim Donaher. Monroe County Public Defender; Gary Pudup, retired Monroe County Deputy Sheriff; Iman Abid, Director GVC of the NYCLU; and Precious Bedell, Founder & Director of Turning Point Resource Center (Prison Ministry – Episcopal Diocese of Rochester).
  - ✓ Please Note: Thanks to Elaine Schmidt, all of our forums are available on our YouTube channel: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjC9NCupn9AhZpH2k83m5\\_g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjC9NCupn9AhZpH2k83m5_g)
- Our online presence is growing. We have established wide-reaching notice via our very informative and attractive member-maintained (by Barbara Grosh and Judy Weinstein) website, as well as on Facebook and Twitter.
- We've updated our Board handbook as well as our policies, thanks to Judy Weinstein, Sheila Abeling and Mary Hussong-Kallen's dedicated work. Formalizing board procedures and completing "job descriptions" for all leadership positions remains a work in progress.

- We continually encourage 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.
- Our televised candidate debate partnership with WROC News 8 continues to grow! We co-sponsored 3 debates (primaries and general elections) this past year and expect that collaboration to flourish in future years.
- First Fridays – an informal gathering on the first Friday of each month during the program year, between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM at I-Square in Irondequoit – continues to be a favorite League activity. Members and prospective members gather for coffee or lunch, and discuss League business – or more likely, their stories. We're getting to know one another better, and finding that we not only work well together, we like each other!
- We continue to seek opportunities to network with community groups such as Susan B. Anthony Museum and House, Susan B. Anthony Center at UofR, The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester, the American Association of University Women, Monroe County Board of Elections, NY Civil Liberties Union, Rochester People's Climate Coalition, National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Rochester Section, and a growing list of partners (as seen in Gin Busack's impressive report).
- At Ida Holloran's suggestion, the board is exploring a partnership with the United Way's Latino Leadership Program and African American Leadership Program, which train and promote African American and Latino participants for Board, policy-making and leadership positions within community organizations in the Greater Rochester Area.
- The board (at Judy Weinstein's suggestion) sponsored a League outing to view Geva's presentation of "The Agitators." About 20 members and friends attended.
- League Day at the UN (November) was attended by Elaine Schmidt and Judy Sternberg; LWNYS Lobby Day (May) was attended by Elaine Schmidt and Mary Hussong-Kallen. Excellent information and resources were provided at both events
- LWV-RMA received a substantial donation for our Chalk Project (spray chalking reminders to vote on city sidewalks near election days) from the First Unitarian Church of Rochester – with thanks to member Gail Wilder for recommending us.
- Our online calendar is becoming a wonderful resource for members and the community – with great thanks to our new Calendar Coordinator, Julie Damerell.
- At our January General Membership Meeting, we explored the LWV Utah's position on Death with Dignity, listening to speakers Dr. Timothy Quill (URMC) and Diane Coleman (Not Dead Yet) for the LWNYS proposed concurrence and made recommendations to LWVUS for the June national convention.
- We hosted about 50 League members from the area at the LWNYS Regional Workshop in April.
- And thanks to their dedicated research and open-minded investigation of many topics for possible action, our delegates to the upcoming LWVUS convention (Barbara Kay, Marion O'Connor and Judy Sternberg) will represent us well, bringing back useful information and helpful contacts.

Energized collaboration has been a hallmark of this board. From Judy Weinstein's continually volunteering to take on new challenges like consensus intricacies and tech issues, to our wonderfully organized and tireless new Membership Committee chairs Mary Garfield and Barbara Kay, to Gin Busack's creative approaches to accommodating every voter registration invitation that comes our way, to Elaine Schmidt and Judy Weinstein's fastidious tracking of our finances, to Sheila Abeling's handily juggling the rapidly growing number of naturalizations while mentoring new member Kris Rogers to take over FEPC, to Kim Byers' amazing work in making volunteering easier than ever and increasing our members' participation at events, to Marion O'Connor's reliable handling of mail and correspondence. And everything we accomplish is made doable by the thorough, accurate, amazingly detailed meeting notes of our Recording Secretary, Judy Sternberg.

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

~ Mary Hussong-Kallen



## FAIR ELECTION PRACTICES CAMPAIGN (FEPC)

The FEPC encourages all candidates to run positive, fact-based campaigns. The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester is the League's partner in this effort. The Fair Election Practices Committee Hearing Panel members were: Jim Morris (Chair), Rob Brown, Ralph Esposito, Lois Giess, and Channing Philbrick. Alternates were Peter Knapp, Susan Kramarsky, Jim Peters, Sue Roberts. Once the final candidates list was issued by the Monroe County Board of Elections in August, materials were sent to each candidate and each Party Chair, so that candidates had an opportunity to sign a Fair Election Practices Campaign Pledge ahead of the elections in the fall. We are proud to be part of another positive election season.

~ **Kris Rogers**

## GOVERNMENT/ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

This was another busy year for us! This year we:

- prepared the questions asked of candidates for Vote411, entered all of our races (primary and general), and contacted all 165 candidates
- coordinated the Observer Corps
- made presentations on the Constitutional Convention ballot proposition to several community groups
- invited experts to speak at the January membership meeting about the issue of Death with Dignity to prepare members for the LWNYS concurrence discussion that followed
- met with eight members (or staff representatives) of the Monroe County delegation to the New York State Senate and Assembly to discuss LWNYS pre-budget priority issue – Early Voting

The members of the Government committee are Ann Carmody, Elaine Schmidt, Katherine Smith and Judy Weinstein. We welcome you to join the Observer Corps or the Government/Advocacy committee.

~ **Judy Weinstein**

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

### MEMBERSHIPS

- September through November 2017: 160-plus memberships (including Life members and one member exempt from dues).
- January, February, March 2018: 140-plus memberships (including Life members and one member exempt from dues).
- March, April, May 2018: 150-plus memberships (including Life members and one member exempt from dues).

### NEW MEMBERSHIPS

- October through December 2017: A Fried, Revell, Weaver.
- February through May 2018: Brookstein, Buckley, Ferber, Foo, Hembrock, Hupf, Jackle, Kiley, Lemperle, Maas, Pelz, Shea, Supinski.

## MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES

- Meeting September 13, 2017 to clarify the flow of information from dues received (PayPal and USPS) to spreadsheet. Present: Byers, Garfield, Hussong-Kallen, Kay, Schmidt, Weinstein.
- Social get-together of new members November 4, 2017 at Asbury's Brick House. Present: Byers, Franz, A. Fried, Garfield, Hartmann, Hussong-Kallen, Kay, Olson, Phillips, Reif, Rogers, Sandler, Talarico.
- Dues letters and follow-up thank-you dues letters, approved by Board, were sent (emailed or USPS) to dues-paying members.
- First Friday gathering of new members May 4, 2018. New Members Present: Buckley, Ferber, Kiley, Maas, Supinski, Talarico.

~ **Mary Garfield and Barbara Kay**

## NATURALIZATION, ELECTION SERVICES COMMITTEES

### Naturalization Ceremonies:

In 2017-2018, the number of naturalization ceremonies has increased. Our League volunteers attended an average of two ceremonies per month with a few additional ceremonies added throughout the year. Approximately 1700 new citizens will have been naturalized in Monroe County by the end of 2018. The League volunteers talk about the importance of voting to all in attendance at the ceremonies. The candidates are encouraged to register to vote, and our volunteers assist them with their registration forms. A special thank you to all our dedicated volunteers: Lois Winterkorn, Mimi Wilson, June Talarico, Margaret Supinski, Katherine Smith, Kay Saunders, Joan Rosenthal, Beth Feldman, Kathy Farrar, Marcia Eisenberg, Julie Damerell, Holly Brookstein, Sheila Abeling.

### Election Services:

The League has a four-year contract with the Monroe County Board of Elections (MCBOE) to open absentee ballots for the Primary Election(s) and the General Election. Our League members volunteer to open absentee ballots, so the project is a fundraiser for the League. For each person who volunteers to open ballots, the League receives \$100. During 2017-2018, we earned \$3600.

~ **Sheila Abeling**

## STUDENTS INSIDE ALBANY

This 2018 SIA Conference hosted 59 students from across New York state on May 20 – 23<sup>rd</sup>. Thanks to LWVNYS and Jean Shafer's generosity, our League was able to send two students. I worked with the counselor at School Without Walls to select two exceptional candidates. E'sani Campbell is a senior and Samyla Seymour is a junior. I made the Amtrak reservations for the girls and met family members who dropped them off at the train station for their first train trip and first time to Albany. Feedback and pictures capturing highlights of their takeaways from this exposure to government, legislation and voting issues will be submitted to The Voter.

~ **Bev Kent**

## VOLUNTEER COORDINATION

The Rochester League of Women Voters embraced technology during the past year as they adopted a new tool to volunteer their time and talent. Members have clicked the Sign-up Genius link, seen the events that were planned, and selected one or more events where they could assist. The tool allows both coordinators and volunteers to see, in real-time, who has signed up and where there are resource gaps. In addition, a volunteer receives an automatic email reminder 5 days prior to an event.

This electronic tool is enabling the League to reach out to all members for participation which is something an event coordinator could not do through phone calls. While it does add to our members email in-box, the intent is to reach all interested parties so that they can be involved in the various events that are sponsored. Sign-up Genius has been used largely for voter registration events but we have also used it to solicit help for special study groups and as a means to receive RSVPs for an event.

In the past year, approximately 100 volunteers have signed up and participated in 26 events scheduled through Sign-Up Genius. If you have ideas on how to improve our outreach for volunteers, please feel free to contact the Volunteer Coordinator at [lww.roc.volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:lww.roc.volunteer@gmail.com).

~ **Kim Byers**



## THE VOTER

The LWV-RMA Voter was published nine times during the past program year with breaks during the summer hiatus and winter recess. The publication is based for the most part on input submitted by program leaders and reflects our many activities. The document's professional appearance is provided by Chris Burleigh.

~ **Judy Wadsworth**

### VOTER SERVICES

The primary goal for Voter Services this year has been to encourage voter registration and, possibly more important, participation, through advocacy and education. In keeping with our belief that when we work together as a community we have more impact, we have continued this year to extend our reach by building partnerships with other community groups that share our philosophy. These included the OUT Alliance, LaCumbre, Finger Lakes Donor Recovery, Roc/ACTS, the Rochester Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Faith Community Alliance of Rochester, Trillium Health.

We are only as good as our volunteers and they have excelled this year. With their efforts, we have:

- Participated in over 30 community events including VOTE-TILLA, the PRIDE Fest, Puerto Rican Festival, ROC Women's Fest. Anthony Jordan Health Front Porch, Clarissa Street Reunion, the RCSD Stay Strong Event, the Fairport High School MARCH FOR OUR LIVES day, Project Homeless Connect and Constitution Day at SUNY Brockport – in addition to voter registration days at the YWCA, St. Simon's Tower, TOPS Supermarket, St. John Baptist Church, the Brady Campaign Against Gun Violence, Rochester Rehab, Rochester Psych Center;
- Distributed 4,000 "Who Represents You" brochures to various community organizations and are currently distributing the 2018 editions;
- Co-Sponsored candidate forums with the Center for Disability Rights and The People's Climate Coalition;
- Accepted speaking engagements at Global Connections, the Mental Health Association, Monroe Developmental, Lifetime Assistance Self Advocacy Group, Rochester Monroe Recovery Network, Rochester Psychiatric Center, Zonta International and National Council of Jewish Women;
- Led by Gail Wilder and Georgia DeGregorio, expanded our activity on local college campuses by conducting voter registration drives and working with students at Monroe Community College, SUNY Brockport, the University of Rochester, Nazareth, and Rochester Institute of Technology;
- Our Voter Education Team, guided by Beth Feldman and enhanced by our Wayne County sisters, expanded our civics education/voter registration initiative with presentations at The School Without Walls, School of the Arts, Edison Tech, East High, the World of Inquiry, Northeast Prep, Aquinas, and Integrated Arts & Technology.

The work of our Voter Registration volunteers is never complete. It will be a busy summer season continuing our registration services and encouraging voter participation. Among the scheduled events so far are the PRIDE Fest, Portland Avenue Community Event at Gantt Rec Center, Call to Women at Trillium, Rochester Summer Soul Music Fest, ROC the Park, Project Homeless Connect, Substance Overdose Awareness (S.O.A.R.S.), Anthony Jordan Front Porch, Puerto Rican Fest, Carifest and The RCSD Family Picnic Event.

~ **Gin Busack**

### ANTI-POVERTY COMMITTEE

The committee has had a mission for the past four years of keeping track of the Rochester Monroe Anti-Poverty Initiative (RMAPI) efforts to reduce poverty by 50% in 15 years (from 2015) in Rochester. The committee interviewed representatives from RMAPI and city officials who are working with RMAPI who collect and monitor the data. In addition, two League members met with Connected Communities to offer training for advocacy for legislation that would affect their communities. There was no response to this offer. The committee has decided to individually monitor different activities sponsored by RMAPI. When the committee has a new chair, the meetings will resume. Committee Members: Larry Burnette, Sandra Frankel, Hasana Martin, Chris Pryor and Joan Rosenthal.

~ **Georgia DeGregorio**

### AGRICULTURE, FARM LABOR AND IMMIGRATION STUDY GROUP

The Immigration Study Group hosted a viewing of the locally produced documentary “After I Pick The Fruit” by filmmaker Nancy Gherter at Asbury First UMC. This film follows the lives of five immigrant farmworker women – three of them undocumented – over a ten-year period as they struggle to fulfill their roles as workers, wives, mothers, and members of an isolated community in Sodus, NY, that’s almost invisible to the outside world.

A Go-See tour for the fall of 2018, visiting a local Wayne County farm to experience the life of the migrant farmworker. In addition to the tour, all visitors will be invited to share a meal of traditional Hispanic foods and discuss issues which impact farmers and farmworkers.

Watch our website, Facebook, Twitter and The Voter for information!

~ **Barbara Deming**

### EDUCATION TEAM ACTIVITIES

This year the education team revamped the PowerPoint presentation used in high school classrooms. Moving away from a history-based approach, we now incorporate a more interactive, discussion-based format to engage students in critical issues around voting rights, such as voter ID laws, gerrymandering and voter turnout. The new format has been well-received.

During the 2017-18 program year, we presented to over 20 classrooms in the following schools:

- Franklin Integrated Arts & Technology
- Edison
- SOTA
- School Without Walls
- World of Inquiry School 28 (upon invitation from 8th grade social studies teacher), and
- Aquinas Institute.

In addition to registering eligible students to vote as part of our classroom agenda, upon invitation by SOTA and Aquinas, we conducted separate voter registration drives. A conservative estimate of new high school senior registrations for this school year would be 150.

**Beth Feldman**

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



## Coming Events!

### June

- 7 Annual Meeting
- 14 Naturalization Ceremony (10:00 A.M., Monroe County Office Building)
- 14 Naturalization Ceremony (1:00 P.M., Federal Building)
- 26 Federal Primary Election
- 28 (through July 1) LWV 53rd National Convention

### July

- 4 Naturalization (10:00 a.m., Genesee Country Museum)
- 6 First Friday (11:00 a.m., I-Square, 400 Bakers Park)
- 12 Naturalization Ceremony (10:00 a.m., Monroe County Office Building)

### August

- 2 Naturalization (1:00 p.m., Rochester City Hall, 30 Church Street)
- 3 First Friday (11:00 a.m., I-Square, 400 Bakers Park)
- 9 Naturalization Ceremony (10:00 a.m., Monroe County Office Building)
- 24 Naturalization Ceremony (10:00 a.m., Seneca Falls Women's Rights Museum)

### September

- 7 First Friday (11:00 a.m., I-Square, 400 Bakers Park)
- 13 State/Local Primary Election
- 13 Naturalization Ceremony (10:00 a.m., Monroe County Office Building)
- 17 Naturalization Ceremony (10:15 a.m., College at Brockport, Seymour College Union)

*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.

No need to RSVP. Pencil us in on your calendar and join when you can!

There's a place at the table for you!

July 6

August 3

September 7

October 5

November 2

December 7



Board of Directors meets monthly 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](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

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[www.LWV-RMA.org](http://www.LWV-RMA.org)

**AUGUST-SEPTEMBER VOTER  
DEADLINE IS JULY 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*

## Leadership Team

Gin Busack (2018-2019)

Kim Byers (2018-2019)

Judy Weinstein (2018-2019)

Treasurer Elaine Schmidt (2017-2019)

Recording Secretary Judy Sternberg (2018-2020)

Corresponding Secretary Marion O'Connor (2017-2019)

Director Ann Carmody (2018-2020)

Director Mary Hussong-Kallen (2018-2019)

Director Barbara Kay (2017-2019)

Director Kris Rogers (2018-2020)

Director Gail Wilder (2018-2020)

## 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*

## MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

Individual/Associate	.....\$75
Household	.....\$105
Susan B. Anthony/Frederick Douglass	.....\$150
Carrie Chapman Catt	.....\$200
Student	.....FREE
Low income, call office	.....Sliding Scale