



The Supreme Court— Distinct and Independent



Tuesday, October 9, 2018 at 7:00 P.M.
Peace Theater, Arts Center, Nazareth College

Our Distinguished Panelists:

Richard C. Wesley, J.D.

Senior U.S. Circuit Judge,
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit

Daan Braveman, J.D.

President, Nazareth College of Rochester
Former Dean, Syracuse University College of Law

Moderator:

Sarah Liebschutz, Ph.D.

Distinguished Service Professor Emerita,
The College at Brockport

Panelists will discuss the appointment process, judges and judging, and whether the Court is the "Least Dangerous Branch."

Invite family, friends, colleagues.

Please register at 585-262-3730 or lww-rma.org.

Leadership Corner

If you’ve been on the campuses of Brockport, Eastman School of Music, MCC, Nazareth, or RIT, there is a good chance you have seen the LWV logo in front of a table staffed by League members as they assist students with voter registration. And, we haven’t forgotten about community events either, spending time at Project Homeless Connect, ROC the Park, and the Bullshead Community Fair. Let’s not forget about the marchers in the Suffragist Parade (televised briefly on WROC TV8’s 11:00 P.M. news on September 15) or the various naturalization ceremonies where we welcomed newly naturalized U.S. citizens and invited them to register to vote. Support for all these events would not be possible without the energy and dedication of YOU, our members. It is heartening to see our democracy work through you.

Once again, we opened absentee ballots at the Board of Elections on the evening of the primary election on September 13. This is a fund-raising event for the League plus an opportunity to engage in the election process. Thanks to those who volunteered their evening as well as to those who served as election inspectors at the polling sites.

We opened our season of community education on September 24 with an insightful program on the 2020 Census entitled “Stand Up and Be Counted.” Our panel of speakers took us through the impact that the census has on our democracy, public policy, and economy. After evaluating our learnings, we will be considering how we can advocate for census participation and fair use of the results of the census in such matters as redistricting. Thanks to Ann Carmody for arranging and moderating the forum.

On October 9, our second forum will be “The Supreme Court: A Distinct and Independent Body.” With distinguished speakers and a contemporaneous topic, it is expected to be an event you won’t want to miss. See the details for the forum outlined on page 1. You’ll want to add it to your calendar!

With the November election just a few weeks away, the Get Out The Vote (GOTV) committee is looking at new ways to impact turnout. In addition, we are trying to determine if we can measure the effectiveness of new approaches. You will be hearing more about the committee’s ideas and resource support needs as they develop.

Please check our calendar regularly over the next few weeks as we finalize our participation in various candidate forums. On November 1, LWV-RMA will be co-sponsoring a debate with WROC-TV8 for the candidates for the NY 25th Congressional district. In addition, we will be co-sponsoring a candidate forum

with The Children’s Agenda on October 30. Details will be further publicized as available. Please pass on the email notifications for these events to relatives, friends and neighbors.

The Leadership Team would like to formally welcome all our new members. With 19 people joining the League since July 1, we may not have all met one another in person yet. Please know that we are pleased to have you join our team and look forward to working with you throughout the year.

Thank you all for your continued support of this leadership team and your ongoing active involvement.

In League,
Gin, Kim, Judy

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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.

STAND UP AND BE COUNTED! Census 2020

Join us for a conversation
about Census 2020



2020 Census Briefing

On September 24, the LWV-RMA hosted a briefing on the upcoming Census, focused on the stakes involved, current challenges, and what communities can do to achieve an accurate Census.

The stakes include -

- Fair Reapportionment - representation in Congress of relatively equal population
- Fair Redistricting - boundaries for political districts maintaining equal population
- Fair Government Funding Disbursements.

The Census Bureau will conduct a 100% review of the nation's address list. The census bureau plans to alert people to the importance of census data. The 2020 Census will be the first time people are asked to fill out census forms on-line. Challenges include insufficient funding, the proposed question regarding citizenship status, and a leadership vacuum at the Census Bureau.

Panelists included:

- Jeff Behler, Regional Director, U.S. Census Bureau
- Liz Burakowski, Office of Governor Andrew Cuomo
- Melody Lopez, Director, Civic Engagement Round Table
- Pete Nabozny, The Children's Agenda

The discussion was moderated by LWV-RMA member Ann Carmody.



TOP: Ann Carmody being interviewed by the media and Gin Busack welcoming participants to the discussion.

MIDDLE: Some of the participants.

BOTTOM: Moderator Ann Carmody with presenters Jeff Behler, Liz Burakowski, Pete Nabozny, and Melody Lopez.

LWV-RMA Board sets goals for the program year

The LWV-RMA Annual Goals for the 2018-2019 fiscal year were adopted at the July 26 Board meeting. They reconfirm our focus from the prior year and incorporate initiatives voted on at the recent national convention. If you have ideas that would help to achieve these goals through active participation in an event or learning experience, please reach out to the leadership team or join us at First Friday (from 11:00 to 1:00 at I-Square in Irondequoit) to discuss your ideas in a relaxed, conversational format.

2018-2019 LWV-RMA GOALS

1. **Advocacy** – To increase and enhance our efforts to advocate for positions supported by LWV-RMA, LWVNYS and LWVUS, by incorporating an advocacy component to League activities wherever possible.
2. **Voter Registration and Participation** – To increase and enhance our efforts to register 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" – to join LWV-RMA)
4. **Making Democracy Work for All**
5. **Diversity and Inclusion**

LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK! 

We know you'll "like" us!

www.facebook.com/lwvofrma

Voter registration tables at MCC, the Bulls Head Community Fair, and the Trillium Call to Women. Deb Leary and Ida Holloran are seen at the Bulls Head booth. Deb Leary, Yolanda Gavin, Gin Busack, and Barbara Grosh are seen at the Trillium event in Genesee Valley Park.

Voter Registration Activities

While September 25th was the official National Registration Day, our League celebrated all month long, taking part in 11 events.

- We started with the City-sponsored ROC the Park and the Bulls Head Community Fair, celebrating the neighborhood revitalization program.
- We took part in the community involvement fairs and registration events of Nazareth College, RIT, U of R, MCC and The College at Brockport.
- We participated in the Suffragist Parade and Party in the Park.
- We participated, as always, in Project Homeless Connect
- We appreciated being included for the first time in the Trillium Call to Women of Color.
- We joined both the When We All Vote and the nationwide LWV efforts encouraging voter registration events during the week of September 22 - 28, presenting our events at MCC, Nazareth and the Call to Women of Color.

Our volunteers, a mixture of new and "seasoned" members, once again made our work possible. We could not have covered this much ground without them – Holly Brookstein, Ann Carmody, Lakeyva Catala, Camille Clayton, Georgia DeGregorio, Julie Demarell, Sue Eisinger, Brad Freeman, Yolanda Gavin, Deborah Gordon, Barbara Grosh, Carole Haas, Judy Hartmann, Ida Holloran, Deborah Leary, Patrick Macey, Annie McQuilken, Kathleen Mock, Myra Pelz, Joan Rosenthal, Elaine Schmidt, Judy Sternberg, Margaret Supinski, John Tritten, Susan Weinberg, Paula Zeman, and, especially, Gail Wilder who organizes all of our campus activities.

But, we are not done. Our calendar is beginning to fill up for October. We will be doing voter registration at the Midtown YMCA, adding support to their neighborhood canvassing effort, and taking part in the Autumn Roots Festival at the South Wedge Mission. We will cap off our month by taking part in the City-sponsored Halloween at the Market. There are still open spots for volunteers on our schedule, so we urge you to check out the *SignUpGenius* invites that you receive.



2018 Fair Election Practices Campaign Update

The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester (TIAR) and the League of Women Voters-Rochester Metropolitan Area (LWV-RMA) held a joint press conference and signing ceremony on Thursday, September 6 in the atrium of the Monroe County Office Building recognizing candidates who signed the Fair Election Practices Campaign (FEPC) Pledge as of that date.

TIAR and LWV-RMA encourage all candidates for public office to run positive, issues-oriented campaigns. Our organizations believe that positive campaigns that address important issues are winning campaigns. The FEPC provides all candidates the opportunity to sign a Fair Campaign Pledge to publicly commit to running positive, issues-oriented campaigns. The names of all candidates who sign the Pledge are listed on the LWV-RMA website.

The Fair Election Practices Committee will accept and hear properly filed complaints from candidates who signed the Pledge until November 5th, the day before Election Day. Hearing decisions will be released to the media and posted on the LWV-RMA website: www.lwv-rma.org.

Kris Rogers krogers8@rochester.rr.com



TOP ROW: Kris Rogers, Chair of LWV-RMA Fair Election Practices Campaign (FEPC), and Dr. Gaynelle Wethers, President of FEPC co-Sponsor TIAR, welcoming candidates; candidates signing the FEPC pledge.
OTHER ROWS: Some of the 16 candidates who signed the Pledge as well as spectators.

Candidate Forums

Just two days before the Primary Election, LWV-RMA co-sponsored a Candidate Forum with The Children's Agenda at the Mt. Olivet Baptist Church. Two of the candidates for the Democratic Party nomination in the 136th Assembly District, Todd Grady and Jamie Romeo, participated. Jaclyn Richard, the third candidate, was unable to attend due to her observance of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. The forum was skillfully moderated by Shirley Thompson, who ensured the program flowed smoothly to allow for as many questions as possible. The candidates both provided knowledgeable and detailed responses to the questions they were asked. They respected our guidelines by speaking to the issues in a civil dialogue.

We will co-sponsor another forum with The Children's Agenda for candidates in contested general election races for the NYS legislature on October 30. We will also co-sponsor with WROC-TV8 a televised debate for the candidates for NY Congressional District 25, Joe Morelle and Jim Maxwell. Other forums are still being discussed with possible co-sponsors. Look to our website and e-blasts for information about all upcoming forums.

Judy Weinstein



Seen in images captured from the video of the forum are:
TOP ROW: Brigitt Hurley of The Children's Agenda and moderator Shirley Thompson;
BOTTOM ROW: Assembly candidates Jamie Romeo and Todd Grady.
The video of the candidate forum is accessible via the LWV-RMA website at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjC9NCupn9AhZpH2k83m5_g.

Save the Dates

October 30 – Candidate Forum, details TBA
November 1 – Congressional Debate on Channel 8 at 7:00 P.M.

Naturalization Ceremonies:

LWV-RMA members in August attended three Naturalization Ceremonies. Beth Feldman greeted 50 new citizens at Rochester City Hall at 1:00 pm on August 2. At a morning oath ceremony on August 8, Beth Feldman met 50 more candidates for citizenship at the Monroe County Office Building.

Margaret Supinski and Sheila Abeling participated in a Naturalization ceremony at the Women's Rights National Historical Park on August 24. They had the pleasure of sharing the day with the Geneva

League. Twenty-one candidates were awarded citizenship that day. All three ceremonies allowed the new citizens to register to vote with the help of the League representatives and to have their questions about voting answered.

If you have never attended a Naturalization Ceremony, please do so one day. You won't be disappointed. Check our League website (lww-rma.org) for the schedule.

Sheila Abeling sheiler162007@gmail.com



Scenes from the August 24 Naturalization ceremony at the Women's Rights National Historical Park



Volunteer sought to observe Rochester City School Board Meetings

The Rochester Board of Education meets at 6:30 P.M. on the third Thursday of each month in the District Office, 131 West Broad Street, Rochester 14614. Coverage of these meetings would allow us to inform members about the issues being dealt with by that governmental group.

To learn more, contact Elaine Schmidt, e.schmidt8@frontier.com

Sunshine Corner

**MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE
9/11/2018 OBSERVED BY ELAINE
SCHMIDT**



People spoke to the Legislature regarding the waiting list of children in need of Special Education services due to County cuts in reimbursements. One speaker said she is giving parents the names and phone numbers of their legislators so they can call their offices. A representative of the Homeless Union spoke. There were complaints of high rent, too many sanctions and denials for assistance from the Monroe County Department of Social Services. Some warned of a pending day of judgment. Sister Grace told the Legislature that homelessness was a death sentence in that the average lifespan for a homeless woman is age 42 and for a man it is 55. The Observer had to leave after this portion of the meeting.

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

**COMIDA SEPTEMBER 18, 2018 OBSERVED BY
ELAINE SCHMIDT AND JUDY WADSWORTH**

The COMIDA (Imagine Monroe) Board reviewed and approved requests for tax abatement and exemptions from a business offering pharmaceutical alternatives in Henrietta, a software developer that will offer jobs in inner city Rochester, an IT services company expanding into the former Kodak Riverwood campus in Henrietta, an optical science company expanding in Brighton, a residential development of 100 low to moderate income units on Goodman Street at Route 490, the transformation of a Rochester lumber yard into a fitness center, the establishment of a company in a renovated Kodak Hawkeye Facility and surrounding parcels, the modernization of an existing building on Lake Avenue to create a long term health care center to be operated by Rochester Regional Health.

An additional request for similar tax abatement and exemptions from a child care center expanding into Brighton was denied because the service is already provided nearby and there will be no sliding scale of fees dependent on family income.

The board also approved changes to abatements and exemptions due to revisions to the scope of a project of American Packaging.

(To find out more about COMIDA, please click here: <https://www.nysedc.org/news-type/general-news/>)

Elaine Schmidt and Judy Wadsworth

Meeting with Open World Delegation

The League received an invitation from Linkages, the organization that sponsors the sister city relationship with Velikiy Novgorod, Russia, to meet with a delegation of Open World visitors from Novgorod. Some of you may recall that the League hosted several Open World delegations starting in 2002. Open World is a federal government program funded by Congress and managed by the Library of Congress which sponsors visits to the US of small delegations of young leaders from Russia and the former republics of the Soviet Union. The groups stay with American families and learn about American culture, society and institutions, especially those related to the development of democratic institutions. They are accompanied throughout their stay by a professional interpreter.

The group of six Russian women arrived in Rochester on September 14 to engage in a full week of program activities around the theme of Women Civic and Political Leaders. The group met with key women political and civic leaders in the area to learn about the role of women in the American political system. Gin Busack and I had the honor of meeting with the group to discuss the League. After telling them about the founding of the League once women won the right to vote, we quickly moved to the current day and discussed our Voter Services activities including candidate forums and VotingNewYork.org; monthly forums; League studies and advocacy. When told that our local league has no paid staff and that all our work is done by volunteers, we were asked, "How do you make a living while doing this work?" Gin replied, "When you believe strongly in the importance of voting to preserve our democracy, you find the time."

Our only regret after the meeting was that they were so interested in the League, that we didn't have an opportunity to learn about them. We hope that the League will be invited to meet with future Open World delegations.

Judy Weinstein



Gin Busack and Judy Weinstein (third and second from the right) with young women from Novgorod.

Read with LWV-RMA Members

The LWV-RMA book club focuses on both fiction and non-fiction relating to advocacy positions our League has adopted. All LWV-RMA members and the public can become members of the Book Club. Anyone who has read the books is welcome to participate in the discussions which are held at 10:00 A.M. at The Greenhouse Café, 2271 East Main Street, Rochester.

In September the group discussed *Reign of Error: The Hoax of the Privatization Movement and the Danger to America's Public Schools* by Diane Ravitch, noting how the current educational reform movement has harmed public education.

On October 11, the group will discuss *The Hellfire Club* by Jake Tapper.

Our schedule for the remainder of the program year is:

Thursday, Nov. 8, 2018 - *How the Other Half Lives: Studies Among the Tenements of New York* by Jacob Riis

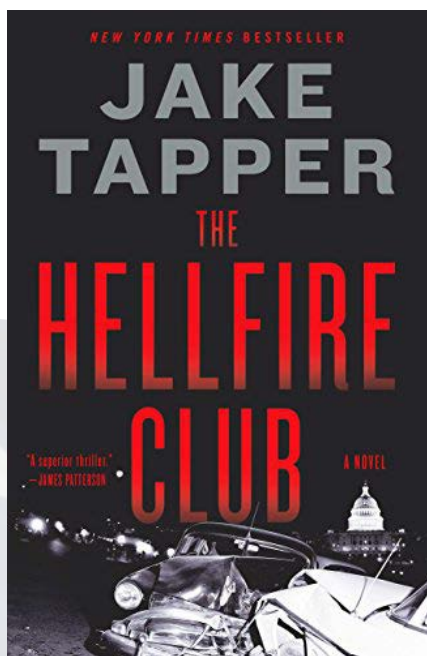
Thursday, Dec. 13, 2018 - *It Can't Happen Here* by Sinclair Lewis

Thursday, Feb. 14, 2019 - *A People's History of the United States* by Howard Zinn

Thursday, March 14, 2019 - *Abigail Adams: A Life* by Woody Holton

Tuesday, April 11, 2019 - *Fascism: A Warning* by Madeleine Albright

We hope you'll join us, whether for one book or the whole year.



Election Services:

Your League volunteers opened absentee ballots after the polls closed on Primary Day, September 13. This activity serves as a fund-raiser for the LWV-RMA. Thank you to all who volunteered!!

Sheila Abeling sheiler162007@gmail.com



The Membership Committee, a Road Less Traveled

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I –
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

(From "The Road Not Taken," by Robert Frost)

Take a road less traveled.

Join the Membership Committee. It will make all the difference!

Contact Mary Garfield
senecamary@yahoo.com

or Barbara Kay
bbskay@frontiernet.net



Suffragist Parade

On September 15, LWV-RMA members participated in the 2018 Suffragist City Parade sponsored by the National Susan B. Anthony Museum and House. Some of our marchers were Joan Buckley, Deborah Gordon, Myra Pelz, Elaine Schmidt, Judy Sternberg, and Judy Weinstein. The annual parade celebrates Rochester's key role in the movement for human rights—celebrating our heritage and encouraging participation in our democracy. Immediately following the parade a celebration was held at the Susan B. Anthony Square Park where the LWV-RMA hosted a voter registration table.

If the idea of marching in a parade intimidated you, think of it as a twenty-minute stroll down the middle of Main Street chatting with friends and join us next year.



Annual Dues Are Due NOW

LWV-RMA membership dues were due on October 1 but it's still not too late. Payments can be made online or by check. Make checks payable to League of Women Voters/RMA, and mail to:

LWV-RMA
P.O. Box 10573
Rochester, New York 14610.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

Individual Membership, \$75.00

Household Membership, \$105.00

Susan B. Anthony/Frederick Douglass Membership, \$150.00

Carrie Chapman Catt Membership, \$200.00

Student Memberships are now free! (Please suggest to young people you know who are interested in current issues that they join to become better informed and to influence League members.)

Dues are not tax-deductible. Additional contributions made to the LWV/NYS Education Foundation are tax-deductible.

Barbara Kay, bbskay@frontiernet.net

Mary Garfield, senecamary@yahoo.com

Coming Events!

October

- 4 Naturalization Ceremony (1:00 P.M., Rochester City Hall)
- 5 First Friday (11:00 A.M., I-Square, 400 Bakers Park)
- 8 Board Meeting (Noon, Asbury UMC, 1050 East Avenue - red building)
- 9 The Supreme Court—Distinct & Independent (7:00 P.M., Peace Theater, Arts Center, Nazareth College)
- 11 Naturalization Ceremony (10:00 A.M., Monroe County Office Building)
- 11 Book Club (10:00 A.M., Greenhouse Café, 2271 East Main Street, Rochester) – The Hellfire Club by Jake Tapper
- 30 The Children's Agenda and LWV-RMA forum for candidates for NYS Legislature

November

- 1 WROC-TV8 & LWV-RMA sponsored televised debate Congressional District 25, Joe Morelle and Jim Maxwell

- 2 First Friday (11:00 A.M., I-Square, 400 Bakers Park)
- 8 Naturalization Ceremony (10:00 A.M., George Eastman Museum, 900 East Avenue)
- 8 Book Club (10:00 A.M., Greenhouse Café, 2271 East Main Street, Rochester) – How the Other Half Lives by Jacob Riis
- 12 Board Meeting (Noon, Asbury UMC, 1050 East Avenue - red building)
- 15 Naturalization Ceremony (10:00 A.M., Monroe County Office Building)

December

- 7 First Friday (11:00 A.M., I-Square, 400 Bakers Park)
- 10 Board Meeting (Noon, Location TBD)
- 13 Book Club (10:00 A.M., Greenhouse Café, 2271 East Main Street, Rochester) – It Can't Happen Here by Sinclair Lewis
- 13 Naturalization Ceremony (10:00 A.M., Monroe County Office Building)
- 13 Naturalization Ceremony (1:00 P.M., Federal Building)

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.

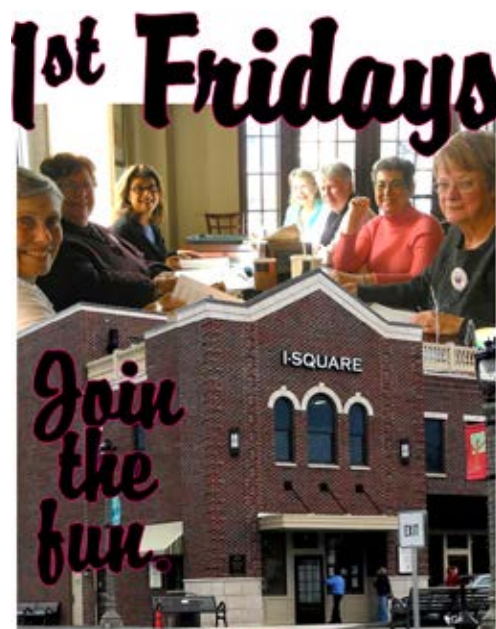
No need to RSVP. Pencil us in on your calendar and join when you can!

There's a place at the table for you!

October 5

December 7

November 2



Board of Directors meets monthly on the second Monday of each month from noon - 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.

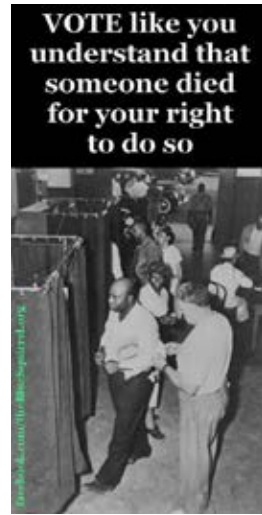
For more complete information, consult our website at www.LWV-RMA.org, call 262-3730 or e-mail us at info@lwv-rma.org



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
ROCHESTER METROPOLITAN AREA

PO Box 10573
Rochester, NY 14610
585-262-3730
www.LWV-RMA.org

NOVEMBER VOTER DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 15!



SPEAK UP, BE HEARD,
IF YOU DON'T SAY A WORD, EVERYTHING WILL STAY THE SAME WAY
Join the League Today!



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Check Amount: _____

Level of Membership: _____

Please send this form and your check payable to
League of Women Voters/RMA to:

LWV-RMA
PO Box 10573
Rochester, NY 14610

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

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