



PRESENTS

Program Planning & General Membership Meeting

LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®
ROCHESTER METROPOLITAN AREA

All members are cordially invited to share a day of information, discussion, planning, food and good times!

*What key initiatives should be our focus in 2019?
This annual membership meeting will include an active discussion of YOUR interests.
Come and share your LWV passions.*

Saturday, January 12, 2019

10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

AAUW Perkins Mansion

494 East Avenue

To ensure that we prepare enough food, please register for this event.

by visiting our website at:

<http://www.lwv-rma.org>

or calling 262-3730 by Monday, January 7.

If you have any dietary restrictions, please let us know when you register.

We look forward to seeing you and hearing your input!

MORE ON PAGE 4.



↑ Enter driveway off East Avenue here; park behind building.

Leadership Corner

Thank you to all the energetic LWV members who devotedly participated in activities to support participation in the November 6 election. Our presence was seen at the Board of Elections on November 6 as we opened absentee ballots once again. With an LWV member at the Board of Elections in both Monroe and Wayne counties, we reported vote totals as the polls closed. This hired work was at the request of the LWVNYS through a connection with Edison Research, a firm that supports ABC, CBS, CNN, & NBC with election night reporting results. And, while not an official League activity, several of our members were at the polls working as election inspectors.

To conclude this election season, our forum “#MeToo to Midterms: Election 2018 Results” presented a view of the political landscape. With two distinguished community leaders, we explored the implications of the elections results. Our sincere thanks to Timothy Kneeland, Ph.D., Chair and Professor, Political Science & History, Nazareth College, and to Adrian Hale, Strategic Initiatives Manager, Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce, for leading an insightful discussion with the audience. Did the election achieve the results you expected? If you weren’t able to attend, a video of the dialogue is available on our website.

With candidate debates and voter registration events behind us, we can take a breath and feel satisfied with our accomplishments. According to the Monroe County Board of Elections, we registered 1,372 new voters leading up to this mid-term election. And, we hope that our various ‘Get Out The Vote’ activities contributed to the increased turnout levels seen at the polls.

Looking to the future, we begin to consider what key initiatives should be our focus as we enter 2019. Our annual meeting in January will include an active discussion of YOUR interests. Where do your passions lie? We hope you will plan to join the Annual League Membership Meeting on January 12 at Perkins Mansion. Your participation keeps this League active and vital!

To all our members and to their families, may the holiday season bring you joy. As the Leadership Team of the Rochester League of Women Voters, we are thankful to have your vigor, initiative, and your friendship. How fortunate we are to have one another, to have fun together while serving the community.

In League,
Gin, Kim, Judy



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#MeToo to Midterms: ELECTION 2018 RESULTS A Review of the Political Landscape

On November 19, interpretations of the November 2018 election results and the political climate that produced them were shared by:

- Timothy Kneeland, Ph.D, Professor & Chairperson Political Science & History, Nazareth College; and
- Adrian Hale, Strategic Initiatives Manager, Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce.

Among their comments were the following:

- The campaign for the 2018 midterm elections began immediately after the election of Donald Trump, with women's marches and the #MeToo movement.
- Women used tactics employed by the Tea Party Movement, and worked with existing political groups to register voters and to gain supporters.
- Currently, 40% of voters identify themselves as Independent, 31% as Democrats, and 23% as Republicans.
- Women and younger voters are more likely to identify themselves as Democrats. Republicans are more likely to be older and male and white—and in 10 years are likely to be far fewer in number. Rural and small town voters are more likely to vote Republican; cities and suburbs are more likely to vote for Democrats. Republican voters are likely to be less educated and are more likely white.
- Women candidates and voters have organized and are spending their own money. Much of the money used by female candidates came via small donations from individuals.

- The 2018 midterms made history with the highest turnout of voters for midterms—49.27%—this century.
- Shifting campaign contributions at state and national levels were evident in the 2018 elections. Big money donors switched party support or held back on donations.
- At the national level, more women were elected to Congress in 2018 than ever, and most of them are Democrats. In addition, Congress will now be more multi-cultural than ever, and the average age of the House of Representatives just dropped by a decade. Since the size of the Republican majority rose in the U.S. Senate, Congress will likely see gridlock on many issues.
- The House of Representatives is likely to investigate White House staff. Divisions exist between new, younger House of Representatives members and older, better established Members of Congress (moderates vs. progressives). Republicans are also divided between Trump supporters and non-supporters.
- Instances of voter suppression were evident in Florida, Georgia, Texas, and elsewhere.
- In New York State, now that the Senate and Assembly are both controlled by Democrats, legislation is more likely in support of bail elimination, labor protections, the Child Victims Act, gender expression, immigrant rights, and voting rights.

January Membership Meeting and Program Planning

The League of Women Voters is a grassroots organization at all levels and we are all an important part of the process. Our January meeting serves two purposes – a chance for us to all catch our breath after the busy fall election season and to add our voices to those of other NYS Leagues in evaluating our current positions for State Convention in June and in preparation for our local Annual Meeting in June.

We invite all members to join us. We need to hear the ideas of seasoned members as well as new members. Before catching up with old friends and making new ones over a light lunch, we will discuss the LWVNYS and LWV-RMA positions on various issues that have been agreed upon over many years. We will discuss whether current positions should be kept as is, updated or dropped for the coming year, as well as the topics that our members think LWVNYS or our local League should study. This is your opportunity to speak about the direction in which you would like to see our League go and to recommend forums that you would like to help plan for our next program year.

We suggest that you review the current League positions in advance. Our local positions can be found at

www.lwv-rma.org//POSITIONS%20%20LOCAL%20LEAGUE.pdf.

Positions of LWVNYS can be found at the link provided at the end of this article.*

Your local board thanks you in advance for seeing this as the best opportunity you will have to help steer the League in the direction that best represents your views.

To paraphrase the LWVNYS t-shirt: “grumble, rumble, complain, blame, or come to Program Planning and let your voice be heard!” Our Program Planning meeting will be held on Saturday, January 12, 2019, at the Perkins Mansion (AAUW House) from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. So that we can provide enough food, please register for this event by visiting our website at:

www.lwv-rma.org or call 585.262.3730 by Monday, January 7.

I look forward to greeting you.

Judy Weinstein

Leadership Team Member

* <https://www.lwvnyonline.org/advocacy/impact/2017/Complete-Impact-on-Issues-2017.pdf>



Let's celebrate Susan B. Anthony's birthday together!

Keynote speaker, Dr. Irma McClaurin,

co-chair of 2018 Seneca Falls Revisited Conference & Retreat held in Rochester, past president of Shaw University, activist anthropologist, black feminist speaker and author, diversity champion and consultant.

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

Noon to 1:30 p.m.

**Joseph A. Floreano Rochester Riverside Convention Center
123 East Main Street, Rochester**

Hosted by the Susan B Anthony Museum and House
Ticket price: \$75.00

To allow us to reserve a League table, RSVP by Monday, January 21, 2019 at
info@lwv-rma.org or 585-262-3730.

Voter Services

GETTING OUT THE VOTE... That's what those last 10 DAYS leading up to the Election were all about.

THE COUNTDOWN :

Day 10 – Halloween at the Market Event. Our team members Elaine Schmidt (our witch), Brad Freeman (posing as a ballot box), Judy Sternberg and Gail Wilder staffed our booth, encouraging celebrants to make use of the new picture poster while taking the pledge “I WILL VOTE THIS YEAR”. We were told by the City, that we were one of 85 non-profit community organizations to participate, and that attendance was estimated at over 5,000.

Day 6 – Ida Holloran and Julie Damerell participated in formulating activities to bring attention to the Latina Equal Pay issue, culminating in a press conference on November 1 – the day on which rate of pay for Latinas catches up with the rate of pay for white males from the prior year.

Day 4—At the invitation of the Rochester Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, 11 of our

members joined in a phone bank, encouraging registered voters in low turn-out districts to vote. Our crew included Sherri Armstrong, Gin Busack, Kim Byers, Barbara Grosh, Judy Hartmann, Barbara Kay, Patrick Macey, Kris Rogers, Judy Sternberg, Margaret Supinski, and Gail Wilder.

Also on Day 4—Gin Busack, Barbara Grosh, and Deb Leary met with new citizens at the Maplewood Library to answer questions and to familiarize them with sample ballots.

Day 3 – Ida Holloran and Gin Busack joined LaCumbre volunteers in a sidewalk chalk spraying event focused on the Hudson/Clinton area, using our LWV stencils and chalk, reminding people in English and Spanish to “VOTE TUESDAY”.

Day 2 & Day 1 —Working at Rochester General Hospital with RGH staff, Gin Busack, Barbara Grosh, and Vandy Humphrey helped patients to vote, first distributing and collecting absentee ballot requests and then on Election Day morning collecting and delivering their ballots to the Board of Elections.

You might think it's all done for the season. Nope! Now the planning for next year starts. We need all the help that we can get. Come join the GET OUT THE VOTE initiative. Contact me at the email below.

Gin Busack
ginbusack@aol.com



Brad Freeman and Judy Sternberg on October 29 at the Rochester Public Market encouraging visitors to vote on November 6.

Naturalization Ceremonies

On October 4, Beth Feldman attended the naturalization ceremony at Rochester City Hall during which 43 new citizens were naturalized. Mimi Wilson helped new voters to register at the October 11 ceremony at the Monroe County Office Building.

On November 8, a large oath ceremony was held at the George Eastman House Museum. Kathy Farrar, Margaret Supinski, and Lois Winterkorn greeted 103 new citizens. The pictures below show the Honorable Paul R. Warren with some of the new citizens.

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers!

Our naturalization schedule for 2018 is coming to an end. Please check our League website, lww-rma.org, for updates on naturalization ceremonies in 2019. Consider attending one. You won't be disappointed. Contact Sheila for additional info at sheiler162007@gmail.com.

Sheila Abeling

sheiler162007@gmail.com



Naturalization ceremony on November 8, Justice Paul R. Warren presiding.

Election Services

I'm pleased to say that Monroe County had a wonderful voter turnout for the midterm elections! Hopefully, this is a positive sign for many more voter election turnouts!

On Election Day, November 6, twenty League volunteers opened absentee ballots at the Monroe County Board of Elections Service Center. A special thank you to all who helped raise \$2,000 for the LWV-RMA by performing this service. Our volunteers were: Sheila Abeling, Katrina Arndt, Jane Beck, Gin Busack, Ann Carmody, Nancy Charlton, Debbie Gill, Ida Holloran, Mary Hussong-Kallen, Beverly Kent, Judy Kiley, Deb Leary, Moira Lemperle, Linda Lowenstein, Myra Pelz, Kris Rogers, Elaine Schmidt, Judy Sternberg, Margaret Supinski, and Judy Weinstein.

Sheila Abeling

sheiler162007@gmail.com

2018 Fair Election Practices Campaign Ends

The 2018 Fair Election Practices Campaign (FEPC), promoted jointly by the Interfaith Alliance of Rochester (TIAR) and the League of Women Voters-Rochester Metropolitan Area, has come to an end. The FEPC provides all candidates the opportunity to sign a Fair Campaign Pledge to publicly commit to running positive, issues-oriented campaigns. In 2018, twenty-one local candidates signed the Pledge.

The Fair Election Practices Committee did not have to review any complaints this campaign season. No formal complaints were filed. TIAR and the League congratulate all of the local candidates for their participation and efforts to focus on the issues that matter to voters in the Rochester Metro Area.

Kris Rogers

krogers8@rochester.rr.com

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

TV8 and LWV-RMA Co-Sponsor Congressional Candidate Debate

On November 1, Congressional candidates Dr. James Maxwell and Joseph Morelle participated in a debate at WROC TV8 that was co-sponsored by the LWV-RMA and moderated by TV8 newswoman Maureen McGuire. Among the topics covered were prevention of mass shootings, the solvency of social security, gun violence, taxation, the immigrant caravan, immigration, the proposed border wall, high poverty rate in Rochester, undocumented farm workers, affordable health care, and government funding for a new arts center in Rochester.



LWV-RMA Communications Chair Mary Hussong-Kallen introducing the debate.

Congressional candidates Joseph Morelle and Dr. James Maxwell with moderator Maureen McGuire.



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. All LWV members and the public can become members of the Book Club. Anyone who has read the book is welcome to participate in the discussion.

Meetings are held at 10:00 A.M. at

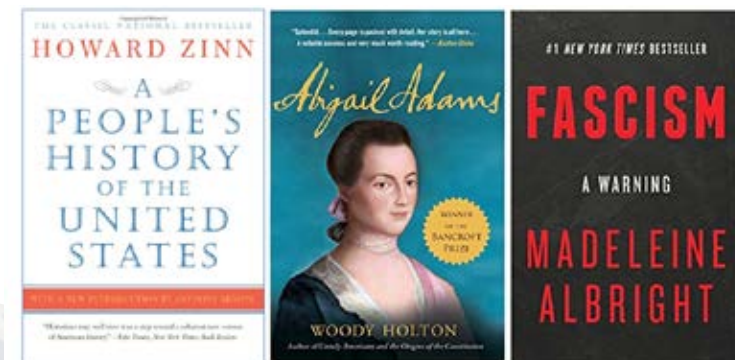
The Greenhouse Cafe
2271 East Main Street, Rochester 14609

The remaining books to be read during this program year:

Thursday, February 14 *A People's History of the United States*
by Howard Zinn

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

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



Learning Fair for New LWV-RMA Members

On November 11, the leaders of LWV-RMA committees met at the Irondequoit Public Library with new members to explain the goals and projects of their working groups. The pictured display boards show which committees were involved. The other photos show LWV-RMA leaders and new members interacting with one another during the learning fair.

New LWV-RMA members who participated in the fair to learn more about our activities included Joan Alden, Lisa Dwyer, Renée Frazier, Brad Freeman, Debbie Gordon, Julie Johnson, Patrick Macey, Margaret Supinski, Susan Weinberg, and Kim Yaekel. The fair was organized by the Membership Committee Chairs, Barbara Kay and Mary Garfield.





Coming Events!



December

- 10 Board of Directors Meeting (Noon, Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word, 597 East Avenue)

January

- 4 First Friday (11:00 A.M., I-Square, 400 Bakers Park)
- 12 Program Planning and General Membership Meeting (10:00 A.M., AAUW Perkins Mansion, 494 East Avenue)
- 14 Board of Directors Meeting (Noon, Asbury First UMC, 1010 East Avenue, red brick building)



February

- 1 First Friday (11:00 A.M., I-Square, 400 Bakers Park)
- 11 Board of Directors Meeting (Noon, Asbury First UMC, 1010 East Avenue)
- 12 Program Planning and General Membership Meeting (10:00 A.M., AAUW Perkins Mansion, 494 East Avenue)
- 14 Book Club (10:00 A.M., Greenhouse Café, 2271 East Main Street, Rochester) – *A People's History of the United States* by Howard Zinn

Dates for 2019 Naturalization Ceremonies are not yet available.



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!

December 7	April 5
January 4	May 3
February 1	June 7
March 1	



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

FEBRUARY VOTER DEADLINE IS JANUARY 15!

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.

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