

# TheVOTER

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
ROCHESTER METRO AREA

**your VOTE  
is your VOICE**

## Annual Meeting

June 4, 4:00 P.M.  
in the comfort  
of your own home



You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting  
of The League of Women Voters-Rochester Metropolitan Area

Thursday, June 4, 2020

4:00 P.M.

From the comfort of your own home via Zoom

*Detailed information on pages 5 – 9*

Celebrate another year of League excellence.

See you there!

**Inside this issue:** \*Pages 5 - 10 comprise the required information for the Annual Meeting and are in red

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## Leadership Corner

### ADVOCACY = EDUCATION

#### TELL YOUR NEIGHBORS AND CONTACTS THEY CAN VOTE VIA AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

Members often talk about the focused efforts that drive the work of the League of Women Voters in a presidential election year. With the goal to drive voter turnout, the presence of the League is usually seen throughout the city at various public events.

The presence of the League continues in 2020, albeit our methodologies have changed to meet the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. With advocacy from LWVNYS and LWV-RMA, two major changes have been adopted for the primary season:

1. The presidential primary was moved from April to June 23rd.
2. Mail-in or Absentee ballots can be used in June by citing the reason of "temporary illness".

Citizens do not have to choose between their health and exercising their right to vote.

BUT we have to get the word out on the right to vote via an absentee ballot on June 23rd.

Many voters have NEVER voted via absentee ballot.

Let's make sure the right to vote absentee is well known. AND, let's make sure everyone knows how to vote via absentee ballot. This is our "new" focus to drive voter turnout for the primary election.

We urge you to communicate this option to the members of any organization to which you belong or are connected. To facilitate your role in this education and advocacy effort, see the information on page 3.

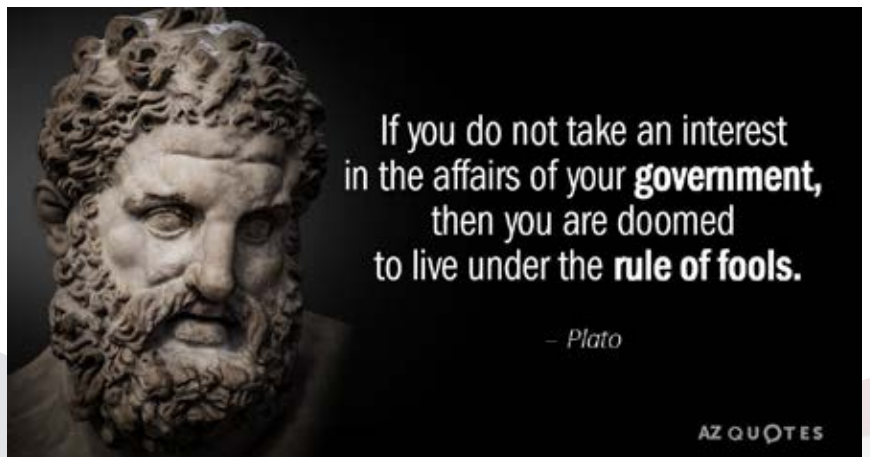
Thank you for participating in this important advocacy effort.

In League, your Co-Presidents,  
**Kimberly Byers**  
[lww.roc.volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:lww.roc.volunteer@gmail.com)  
585 247 4958

**Judy Sternberg**  
[jsternberg3b@gmail.com](mailto:jsternberg3b@gmail.com)  
585 683 7690.

*P.S. - As this edition of The Voter was going to print, Governor Cuomo issued Executive Order No. 202.23 Section 8-400, stating:*

*"... every voter that is in active and inactive status and is eligible to vote in a primary or special election to be held on June 23, 2020 shall be sent an absentee ballot application form with a postage paid return option for such application. This shall be in addition to any other means of requesting an absentee ballot available, and any voter shall continue to be able to request such a ballot via phone or internet or electronically..." ([www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-20223-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency](http://www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-20223-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency)) At this time, the Monroe County Board of Elections has not responded to this newly issued order.*



## YOU CAN VOTE IN THE JUNE 23 ELECTION FROM THE SAFETY OF YOUR HOME

Due to the coronavirus health risks, Governor Cuomo has issued an executive order enabling any citizen to vote via absentee ballot for the June 23 election. (For further details on this procedure, visit

<https://www2.monroecounty.gov/elections-absentee.php>.)

**First:** Obtain an Absentee Ballot Application by June 16.

If you have not received or you do not wish to wait to receive an Absentee Ballot application, a voter can obtain an Absentee Ballot Application in one of the following ways:

- Visit the Board of Elections in person to request an application and possibly to vote in office if ballots are available. NOTE: Office open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 9 :00 – 12:00 during COVID-19 restrictions.
- Write to the Board of Elections at 39 West Main St., Rochester, NY 14614.
- Call the Board of Elections absentee department 585-753-1509.
- Contact the Board of Elections via e-mail ([mcboe@monroecounty.gov](mailto:mcboe@monroecounty.gov)) and ask to have an application mailed to you.
- Download and print an Absentee Ballot Application:

<https://www.elections.ny.gov/NYSBOE/download/voting/AbsenteeBallot-English.pdf>

<https://www.elections.ny.gov/NYSBOE/download/voting/AbsenteeBallot-Spanish.pdf>

**NEW!!** Submit an absentee ballot application electronically.

**Second:** Complete the Absentee Ballot Application and Submit to the Board of Elections.

In section 1. of the Application, you are asked for the reason why you are requesting an absentee ballot.

Select the following:

Temporary illness or physical disability

In section 2. of the Application, you are asked to identify the election to which this request pertains. Select the following:

Any election held between these dates:

absence begins: (current date) absence ends: 06/24/2020

This selection requests your allowance to vote absentee only for the June 23, 2020 election. This is currently the only election that was approved for expanded absentee ballot voting.

Remember to sign the application.

**Third:** Mail or deliver the Absentee Ballot Application to the Board of Elections no later than JUNE 16.

**Fourth:** Your ballot will be sent to you via mail. (Note that ballots will not be available until late May.) Complete the ballot. Deliver in person by JUNE 23; postmark no later than JUNE 22.

## Climate Change: This Time It's Personal

The LWV-RMA forum on climate change held via Zoom on April 27 attracted 42 participants. Panelists used slides to present information about climate issues and steps being taken by individuals and groups at the federal, state, and local levels to reduce carbon emissions. Among the actions described were the following:

- Advocacy at the state and federal levels to reduce dependence on fossil fuels;
- Adoption of Community Choice Aggregations (CCA) which allow local municipalities to procure power from alternative suppliers for their communities (CCAs already serve several local communities);
- Specific options available to individuals and families to reduce their carbon footprints;
- Advocacy efforts by a statewide youth coalition to get NYS to move its investments (income from taxes, support for retirement and other funds) from fossil fuels to sources of renewable energy.

Presenters included:

**Eric Koski**, Board Member, Rochester People's Climate Coalition;

**Al Hibner**, Founder, Penfield Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) Residents' Committee;

**Sue Hughes-Smith**, Co-Founder, Rochester People's Climate Coalition;

**Linda Saalman**, LWV-RMA member with 40 years energy experience;

**Hridesh Singh**, Brighton High School Senior; Co-Founder, BHS Climate Club.

**Celia Darling**, Treasurer, New York Youth Climate Leaders.



*Caption: Superimposed on a graphic showing the goal of climate control activists (clockwise from upper right) are LWV-RMA Program Chair Ann Carmody who moderated the discussion; LWV-RMA Past President Judy Weinstein who moderated the questions and answers portion of the meeting; and panelists Celia Darling, Linda Saalman, Allen Hibner, Susan Hughes-Smith, and Eric Koski.*

## LWV-RMA Book Club Meets via Zoom

Members of the LWV-RMA Book Club (which is open to ALL LWV-RMA members) met via Zoom on April 18 to discuss *Educated*, a memoir written by Tara Westover. The group will meet again via Zoom on Saturday, May 23 at 10 A.M. to discuss *The Death and Life of the Great Lakes* by Dan Egan. ALL LWV-RMA members are welcome to join in. Just let Georgia DeGregorio ([georgiatd1@gmail.com](mailto:georgiatd1@gmail.com)), who organizes our Zoom sessions, know your interest so you receive the Zoom link via email before the scheduled meeting.



*Seen participating during the April 18 Zoom session are:  
Top Row: Georgia DiGregorio, Judy Wadsworth, and Ann Carmody;  
Middle Row: Judy Weinstein, Jane Romal, and Chris Pryor;  
Bottom Row: Elaine Schmidt.*



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**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF LWV-RMA HONORS SOCIAL DISTANCING**

**YOU ARE INVITED TO A VIDEO/TELE - CONFERENCE ON JUNE 4 AT 4:00 P.M.**

As we near the end of the 2019-2020 fiscal year, the Board of Directors, the Nominating Committee, the Budget Committee, and the Membership

Committee are preparing to meet with the LWV-RMA members at our annual Business Meeting. Honoring the social distancing guidelines and anticipating their continuance through May, we invite you to a gathering of faces and voices on June 4 at 4:00. Our meeting will be hosted via Zoom technology, a conferencing service that allows video and audio connection through your computer, tablet or smartphone and audio connection through a phone.

Your participation at this annual meeting is extremely important to our 2020-2021 fiscal year. Our goal is to make this meeting informative, efficient, and easy to access. And, remember, you will be able to call in if you do not have a computer.

It is disappointing that we will not have the facility to share appetizers and drinks at this meeting, but we hope to be able to have an in-person gathering in late summer or early fall, as the health environment permits. With this in mind, our intent is to conduct only the business required in our by-laws on June 4. Our agenda will include the following:

1. Report of the Nominating Committee
  - a. Election of Officers and Directors, including nominations from the floor
  - b. Election of Nominating Committee, including nominations from the floor
2. Financial Report for 2019-2020
3. Budget Proposal for 2020-2021, including hierarchy structure of member dues
  - a. Adoption of Dues hierarchy
  - b. Adoption of Budget
4. Membership Report
5. Proposal and Adoption of Local Program for 2020-2021

This issue of The Voter has been largely dedicated to providing the information supporting the agenda described. Please review each of the committee/director reports included in this issue. If you have any questions or would like to suggest modifications, we are open to feedback in advance of the meeting. Please feel free to contact any Board Member or the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Mary Hussong-Kallen (585-729-5183; mmhkallen@gmail.com). This is especially recommended if you are considering making a nomination at the meeting.

If you haven't used the Zoom technology yet, I believe you will find its click-and-access capability relatively straightforward. The ability to see people on your screen does establish a connection that you do not get with just a phone call. And, the ability to be a part of the conversation, asking questions or participating in a discussion, does provide the framework to conduct an effective meeting. If you would like to try a short practice meeting in advance, feel free to contact Myra Pelz or Judy Weinstein.

Please register for the Business Meeting in advance. With your registration, we will provide instructions for accessing the Zoom Meeting. The meeting will open 15 minutes early to allow for organization time with those attending. Note that this is a members-only meeting due to voting requirements in our by-laws.

You can register to attend the meeting in one of the following ways:

- Visit the Home Page of our website ([www.lwv-rma.org](http://www.lwv-rma.org)) and click on the "register" link
- Leave a voice mail with your name on the LWV-RMA phone service (585-262-3730)
- Send an e-mail to the LWV-RMA account: [info@lwv-rma.org](mailto:info@lwv-rma.org)

Looking forward to "seeing" you on June 4 and planning for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

With regard for the safety and good health of members and the broader community,

**THE 2019-2020 LWV-RMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

<b>Kimberly Byers, Co-President</b>	585-247-4958	<a href="mailto:lwv.roc.volunteer@gmail.com">lwv.roc.volunteer@gmail.com</a>
<b>Judith Sternberg, Co-President</b>	585-683-7690	<a href="mailto:jssternberg3b@gmail.com">jssternberg3b@gmail.com</a>
<b>Judy Weinstein, Treasurer</b>	585-442-9815	<a href="mailto:j.weinstein.roc@gmail.com">j.weinstein.roc@gmail.com</a>
<b>Julie Damerell, Secretary</b>	585-473-7418	<a href="mailto:secretary@lwv-rma.org">secretary@lwv-rma.org</a>
<b>Ann Carmody, Director</b>	585-748-5848	<a href="mailto:ann.carmody2012@gmail.com">ann.carmody2012@gmail.com</a>
<b>Myra Pelz, Director</b>	585-747-2072	<a href="mailto:myra.pelz@gmail.com">myra.pelz@gmail.com</a>
<b>Kris Rogers, Director</b>	585-746-6157	<a href="mailto:krogers8@rochester.rr.com">krogers8@rochester.rr.com</a>




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## REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The LWV-RMA Nominating Committee expanded its focus this year, presenting as usual a slate of candidates for the Board of Directors and the Nominating Committee for Program Year 2020-2021, while also filling a number of needed committee roles. This dual focus allowed us to invite a larger number of members to “find their niche” in the League. Our work was made possible

in large part due to the response to our Member Survey, indicating areas of interest and skills. (Many thanks to those who have completed this survey; to those who have not, please consider doing so when you receive the next email request!)

It is important to note that one of the Co-President positions was unable to be filled at this time for the 2020-2022 term. Nominations for this position may be made by the LWV-RMA membership during the annual meeting. Due to the flexibility adopted in our bylaws, we are able to structure our board leadership for next year based on the available talents and commitments of our members, absent this position.

The Nominating Committee presents for membership consideration at the Annual Meeting the following slate of candidates to serve on the Board of Directors:

<b>Kris Rogers</b> , <i>Secretary</i>	(2020-2022)
<b>Kim Byers</b> , <i>Director</i>	(2020-2021)
<b>Maria Moreno</b> , <i>Director</i>	(2020-2022)
<b>Sarah Sandler</b> , <i>Director</i>	(2020-2022)
<b>Mary Hussong-Kallen</b> , <i>Director</i>	(2020-2022)

In addition, the following member is presented as a candidate for membership consideration to serve on the 2020-2021 Nominating Committee; two other general membership vacancies are open for nominations during the annual meeting.

**Sheila Abeling**, *Chair*

Member, Open for nominations

Member, Open for nominations

The new Board will also appoint two board members to serve on the Committee at its July meeting. Mary Hussong-Kallen and Kris Rogers have volunteered for consideration.

All members attending the Annual Meeting on June 4, 2020 will have an opportunity to vote for the candidates. During the Annual Meeting, nominations may be made from the floor by any voting member, provided the consent of the nominee shall have been secured. The bylaws stipulate a minimum of five (5) and a maximum of ten (10) elected directors and not more than five (5) appointed directors.

**Nominating Committee:** Mary Hussong-Kallen (Chair), Sheila Abeling and Kris Rogers

## Recommended 2020-2021 LWV-RMA Program

Based on the February Program Planning Meeting that all members were invited to attend or send input to, the LWV-RMA Board recommends for 2020-2021:

- Retention of all current LWV-RMA Positions
- Establishing a Local Positions Review Group, made up of both Board and non-Board members, to conduct a more in-depth review of our positions with the aim of presenting recommendations for updates, deletions or retentions prior to our next Program Planning Meeting in 2021
- Focused advocacy and study around:
  - o Voting Rights & Election Law Reforms
  - o Redistricting, particularly as relates to Monroe County Legislative Districts



## SUMMARY OF CASH BALANCES

	Beginning Balance July 1, 2019	Ending Balance March 31, 2020	Change in Cash Position
M&T Checking Account	\$15,994.54	\$16,731.22	\$736.68
M&T Savings Account	\$69,525.69	\$69,577.60	\$51.91
Grants Management Account	\$12,585.83	\$12,672.43	\$86.60
Gretchen Shafer Fund (SIA)	\$3,621.00	\$2,799.00	(\$822.00)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$101,727.06</b>	<b>\$101,780.25</b>	<b>\$53.19</b>

### FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE - See Page 9 : Proposed Budget 2020-2021

In order to make our finances more easily understandable, we are combining the information related to all four of our accounts:

- our checking account at M&T Bank
- our savings account at M&T Bank
- our Grants Management Account, which is managed by the LWVNYS Education Fund. Donations to the Grants Management Account are eligible for tax deduction to the donor but are 'restricted funds' in that they can only be used for educational purposes, primarily Voter Services expenses. It can also be used to pay a portion of our per member payments to the national and state Leagues.
- The Gretchen Shafer Fund, also managed by the LWVNYS Education Fund. A League member left a bequest to enable us to send a second student each year to the LWV of New York State's Students Inside Albany program.

The 2019 – 2020 fiscal year was planned as an investment year as we anticipated significant activities supporting the 2020 presidential election. Our budget projected expenses to exceed income by \$7,680. As of March 31, our reported net income is \$53, with little activity anticipated in the rest of the fiscal year. The League has adhered to New York guidance regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, canceling in-person gatherings including our voter registration events. The following itemizes the key drivers behind our favorable/unfavorable variance from the budget:

- \$2,000 Donation to honor 100th birthday of the late Mary Lu Davidson, a former member
- (\$1,000) Cancellation of LWV-RMA Absentee Ballot Opening for the November 2019 election by Board of Elections
- \$6,250 Two donations to our Grants Management Account supporting publication of Who Represents You
- (\$4,000) Funds from B. Bibby Endowment have not yet been declared and received
- \$2,500 Estimated cost of Who Represents You (included in Brochures & Educational Materials under Voter Services), which has not yet been printed
- \$500 Texting application for upcoming elections has not yet been billed
- \$1,000 Cancellation of program forums, including travel expenses for one speaker
- \$1,000 Cancellation of in-person LWV-RMA Annual Meeting
- \$3,000 Decision to opt out of attendance at LWVUS Convention in Washington, D.C. in June. Attendance at a large convention with members from across the country did not seem prudent in the current health climate. LWVUS has been informed that we will not send delegates.
- (\$5,000) Donation to LWVNYS to support salary and hiring of the Legislative Director, in response to LWVNYS request. This position has supported LWV-RMA community education and advocacy efforts, making the local work effective and credible

Prior to the close of this fiscal year, we expect to receive a funds transfer from the B. Bibby Endowment to our Grants Management Account.

LWVNYS canceled the Students Inside Albany program for this fiscal year and will reinstate the fee for our second student to our Gretchen Shafer Fund. The anticipated refund for train fare for the students will also be returned to the Fund resulting in no change in the cash position of the Fund during this fiscal year.

Should you have any questions about the Financial Report, please contact me.

**Judy Weinstein**, Treasurer, [Treasurer@lwv-rma.org](mailto:Treasurer@lwv-rma.org)



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## Budget Report

The Budget Committee and the Board of Directors are pleased to offer the proposed 2020-2021 Budget for the LWV-RMA. The proposed budget will be reviewed and voted on during the Annual Meeting on June 4. Similar to the 2019-2020 Budget, we anticipate a usage of funds in excess of planned income. As described in

the 2019-2020 Financial performance report, the COVID-19 pandemic drove the cancellation or curtailment of various planned activities for the current fiscal year. We are expecting that LWV-RMA will return to its community activism supporting voter turnout, voter registration, as well as community and student education. With this in mind, the budget reflects investment to put the face of the League back in the community, both in terms of face-to-face activities (as appropriate) but also in terms of engagement through technology.

The budget reflects a conservative estimate of revenue from dues and donations compared to the current year. The Budget Committee and The Board of Directors do not recommend a change to the LWV-RMA members dues for the 2020-2021 fiscal year; there are no increases in fees due to State and National. Dues will continue as follows:

Individual/Associate	\$75
Household	\$105
Susan B. Anthony/Frederick Douglass	\$150
Carrie Chapman Catt	\$200
Student	FREE
Low income,	call office at 262-3730

The budget reflects an increase in certain expenses to match planned program priorities for the coming year. These priorities include continued and expanded Get Out The Vote efforts (GOTV) in a presidential election year, a new focus on Advocacy efforts, and addressing technological needs of the League. We also plan to hold an additional "all member" meeting due to our inability to hold our 2019-2020 Annual Business Meeting in-person. This meeting will bring us together face-to-face and focus on celebration of our accomplishments in 2019-2020, honoring the community plus LWV-RMA members and their contributions to Make Democracy Work for All. Outside of these focus areas, other expense items are held mainly at the same level as in the past year representing the maintenance of support and administrative functions.

Overall, the budget anticipates the need to utilize \$9,455 of funds from the League's cash accounts in order to balance income and expenses. The total unrestricted cash balance as of March 31, 2020 is \$86,309 with restricted cash of \$15,471 (usage limited to education expenses). The budget for the current 2019-2020 year had expected the draw of \$7,680 from savings; however, year to date there is a surplus of \$53 due to some additional, unplanned donations plus the cancellation of various events and activities to support social distancing restrictions.

The Budget Committee and the Board of Directors support the investments proposed by the 2020-2021 Budget Proposal, recognizing the healthy financial position of LWV-RMA as well as the dedication of members to support both program continuation and expansion.

**Kristina Rogers**, Budget Committee







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## Proposed Budget 2020-2021

Category	Current Budget 2019-2020	Year to Date as of 3/31/20	Proposed Budget 2020-2021
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>24,630</b>	<b>19,533.40</b>	<b>24,505</b>
A Dues	9,400	8,178.38	7,500
B Donations	1,000	3,553.11	1,000
<b>C Election Night Income</b>			
Cc Absentee Ballot Opening	2,000	1,000.00	2,000
<b>D Grants Management Account Income</b>			
Dc Bee Bibby Endowment	4,000	0.00	4,000
De Other GMA Income	0	6,750.00	500
<b>G Other Income (Business)</b>			
G1 Interest	60	51.91	60
Other Income (Business)	490	0.00	0
<b>H Other Sources</b>			
Draw from Savings	7,680	0.00	9,445
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>(24,630)</b>	<b>(19,480.21)</b>	<b>(24,505)</b>
A LWVUS PMP	(4,130)	(4,128.00)	(3,616)
B LWVNYS PMP	(2,580)	(2,967.00)	(2,599)
<b>C Voter Services</b>			
Cb Brochures&Educational Materials	(4,200)	(985.05)	(4,200)
Cd Get Out the Vote Projects	(900)	(803.75)	(1,400)
Cf Texting Applications	(500)	0.00	(450)
Ch Vote411	(250)	(175.37)	(350)
Cj Fair Election Practices Campaign	(500)	0.00	(300)
Ci Candidate Forums	(300)	(9.20)	(200)
Other Voter Services	0	(100.33)	(120)
<b>G Other Committee Expenses</b>			
Advocacy Committee	0	0.00	(300)
Other	(200)	(316.44)	(200)
J The Voter	(2,450)	(1,565.17)	(2,500)
L Students Inside Albany	(800)	(994.00)	(900)
O Program Forums	(1,500)	(96.21)	(750)
<b>Q Finance &amp; Admin Expense</b>			
Qb Telephone	(900)	(751.40)	(900)
Qd Space Rental	(300)	(50.00)	(300)
Qf Equipment Software Supplies	(150)	(56.14)	(550)
Qh PayPal fees	(150)	(141.82)	(150)
Qj Post Office Box	(100)	(106.00)	(110)
Ql Internet hosting	(70)	(294.77)	(40)
Qn Office Supplies & Miscellaneous	(150)	(54.11)	(100)
Qo Other groups events	0	2.00	0
Qp Other Finance & Admin	0	(113.07)	(120)
Other Finance & Admin Expense	0	0.00	0
S1 General Membership Meeting (Jan)	(500)	(675.99)	(600)
S2 Annual Meeting			
Fall 2020 Meeting - Awards, etc.	0	0.00	(750)
June 2021 Meeting - Business	(1,000)	0.00	(1,000)
U1 LWVUS Convention	(3,000)	0.00	0
U2 LWVNYS Convention	0	0.00	(2,000)
Y Other Expenses	0	(5,098.39)	0
<b>Net Difference:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>53.19</b>	<b>0</b>



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## Membership Report: June 2019 - April 2020

Membership engagement in the 2019-2020 fiscal year continued strong, supporting the various voter registration, Get Out the Vote, and election support initiatives. Appreciation goes out to

all members for their continued support and willingness to volunteer for the various programs that make the League an important voice in our community.

We were especially pleased this year to offer a social gathering for our members at the historic Hervey Ely House, where we enjoyed a formal tea organized and supported by an anonymous donor and member. It was an excellent opportunity to mingle, make new acquaintances, celebrate the work of the League, and experience a formal tea (for those who hadn't attended such an event in the past).

Membership levels in LWV-RMA for the current fiscal year

June 2019 Membership:	172
April 2020 Membership:	153
Net Reduction in Membership Level:	(19)

The membership roll for LWV-RMA increased by approximately 30 new members this year while 50 members did not renew their membership in 2020. One factor contributing to the reduction in membership relates to students. In the last fiscal year, free student membership was initiated and promoted; as the semesters turned over, contact was lost with many of these individuals. Approximately 10 students did not renew membership in 2020. The remaining membership reduction was driven by various factors including death, relocation, and inability to commit to League activities.

The Membership Committee, along with the Board of Directors, welcomes all new and veteran members to join the various activities that the League promotes. New ideas and leadership are the lifeblood of the League. All members are encouraged to reach out to the Board of Directors or Committee Chairs to express their interest and desire to be involved.

If you wish a copy of the membership list, contact [membership@lwv-rma.org](mailto:membership@lwv-rma.org).

Prepared by **Mary Garfield**

**VOTE AND THE  
CHOICE IS  
YOURS.**

**DON'T VOTE  
AND THE CHOICE  
IS THEIRS.**

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

## FEPC Report

The Fair Election Practices Campaign (FEPC) encourages candidates for elected office to run positive, issues-oriented campaigns. The FEPC will proceed differently this year in light of the COVID-19 health emergency. During the Primaries, candidates will be given an opportunity to sign the Pledge to run a fair campaign, but there will not be any formal complaint and hearing process to respect the stay-at-home orders. The FEPC Committee will reconvene in September, sending out new Pledge forms to all General Election candidates, and anticipates accepting and hearing formal complaints of violations of the Pledge. This may be done in person if circumstances allow or via video-conferencing if required.

Anyone interested in learning more about the FEPC or becoming involved with the process can call the FEPC Coordinator, **Kris Rogers** at 746-6157.

## Census 2020 Update

The U.S. Department of Commerce and U.S. Census Bureau have extended the Census 2020 completion deadline to October 31. On-line, mail-in and phone completion is continuing, but door-door and field office operations have been suspended until June 1.

To date, the U.S. completion rate is 49.1% while New York has a completion rate of just 43.0%. Monroe County is faring slightly better at 51.7%, but rates are extremely low in the Rochester and some other communities. A Zoom meeting was held on April 13 by the Rochester Complete Count Committee (LWV-RMA is a member) where ideas were generated on how to connect with the City and other areas where completion rates are low once activities resume.

Information regarding the revised Census 2020 guidelines, as well as response rates, can be accessed at [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov).

**Ann Carmody**

## Naturalization Update

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the last scheduled naturalization ceremony was held March 12 at the Federal Building. As of this date, naturalizations will resume by May 15. Please check our website, [LWV-RMA.org](https://www.lwv-rma.org), for updated information. If you have any questions regarding oath ceremonies or if you are interested in volunteering to attend Naturalizations, please contact **Sheila Abeling** at 585-223-6819 or [sheiler162007@gmail.com](mailto:sheiler162007@gmail.com).

## Election Services

Please see Leadership Corner (page 2) in this edition and/or check the Monroe County Board of Elections (MCBOE) website (<https://www2.monroecounty.gov/elections-index.php>) for updates regarding early voting and absentee ballots. Voters have been granted the right to use an absentee ballot for the June 23 Primary election. Using the absentee ballot will help keep registered voters safe in the coming primary. So far, widespread use of absentee ballots is only for the June primary, not the General Election in November.

As of this date, we have one Board of Elections Commissioner who has been chosen. Lisa P. Nicolay is the new Republican Commissioner with Nancy Leven as the Deputy Republican Commissioner. LaShana Boose is the Acting Democratic Commissioner.

LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK! 

We know you'll "like" us!

[www.facebook.com/lwvofrma](https://www.facebook.com/lwvofrma)

**Democracy is not a  
spectator sport.**

**Tag! You're It!**

## Voter Services Update

While COVID-19 has upended all voter registration events for this spring, there has been quite a bit of activity going on behind the scenes regarding the 2020 election changes. Prior to spreading the word to our friends and community partners on the expanded Absentee Ballot process, much clarification of what that would look like in Monroe County had to be done. As it turns out County Boards of Elections across the state are taking a variety of paths, mostly related to their individual capabilities and challenges.

GOTV While Social Distancing – LWVNYS has provided local leagues with a number of GOTV resources. Highlighted among those is their new text messaging service, inspired by LWV-RMA which started our texting messaging service last year. How our two services might be connected is being explored.

Additionally, LWVNYS is now able to provide mini grants for a variety of GOTV initiatives. Our GOTV team will be meeting soon, virtually, to review these resources and plan our course forward. Watch for our meeting to be scheduled soon. Additional members are always welcome.

Voter Services is looking for one or two motivated members willing to take on responsibilities in the area of coordinating and organizing Voter Registration Events. The focus is mainly on events in Rochester with occasional events outside the city. While 2020 was expected to be very busy due the Presidential Election, the pandemic has resulted in it being a much less active year - a good time to learn the ropes. Supportive mentoring provided. Please contact Judy Sternberg.

**Judy Sternberg** – Voter Services Chair, [jsternberg3b@gmail.com](mailto:jsternberg3b@gmail.com)

**Barbara Grosh** – GOTV Chair, [barbara@grosh.net](mailto:barbara@grosh.net)

## Program

The Climate Change forum held on April 27 concluded our forum series for 2019-2020.

A special thank-you to Judy Weinstein for her tireless support in ensuring we had audio and video at each forum as well as for bringing our Climate Change forum to our community via a Zoom meeting.

Thank you also to Judy Sternberg for serving as a sounding board this year as well as for her ongoing support.

Ideas for possible 2020-2021 forums include such topics as The Electoral College, the status and interest in The Equal Rights Amendment, Court Simplification, and Understanding and Combating Voter Suppression.

Thanks to our many loyal forum attendees for making this a successful year.

**Ann Carmody**





# Calendar



## May

- 1 First Friday via Zoom at 11:00 A.M. Our April Zoom event by all accounts was a better than expected experience. Try us out. Directions and link will be sent.
- 23 Book Club at 10:00 A.M. discussing *The Death and Life of the Great Lakes* by Dan Egan

## June

- 4 LWV-RMA Annual Business Meeting via Zoom, starting at 4:00 P.M.; Directions and link will be published via email and our website.
- 5 First Friday via Zoom at 11:00 A.M. See directions above.

### EVENT POSTPONEMENTS

Votecade, an initiative of the Susan B. Anthony Museum and House to commemorate the 200th birthday of their namesake and to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, has been postponed until 2021 due to the pandemic.

The Rochester Voter Alliance training/orientation session scheduled for May 19 has been postponed until its events are deemed safe.

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

## IN THE MEANTIME

We can use our downtime to check out the following links to become better informed about voting rights via the LWVUS and LWVNYS. Learn more about redistricting issues at:

<https://www.lwv.org/redistricting/people-powered-fair-maps-campaign>

<https://www.lwv.org/league-management/people-powered-fair-maps-campaign-tele-town-hall>

<https://my.lwv.org/new-york-state/our-work/legislative-action#redistrict>

## First Friday Goes Electronic

Because of the quarantine resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, First Friday cannot occur at I-Square. To enable the comradery of the monthly event to continue, First Friday has moved to Zoom. Shown are some of the participants in the April 3 session (left to right) Elaine Schmidt from somewhere out of town, Kim Byers, Joan Rosenthal, Judy Sternberg, Judy Weinstein, and Sheila Abeling.

May 1

June 5



Board of Directors meetings are held at Asbury First UMC. Board meetings are open to all members. See calendar for dates and times.

Advocacy/Government Committee meets monthly. For details, call Ann Carmody at (585) 748-5848.

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)

PO Box 10573  
Rochester, NY 14610  
585-262-3730  
[www.LWV-RMA.org](http://www.LWV-RMA.org)

A Monthly Publication of the  
League of Women Voters/Rochester Metropolitan Area

**JUNE VOTER  
DEADLINE IS MAY 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.

**Goals of the League of Women Voters:**

- To encourage informed citizen participation in government and politics
- To influence public policy through education and advocacy

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Co-Presidents** Kim Byers (2019-2020) Judy Sternberg (2019-2021)

**Treasurer** Judy Weinstein (2019-2021)

**Secretary** Julie Damerell (2019-2020)

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

**Director** Myra Pelz (2019-2021)

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

**COMMITTEE CONTACTS**

Looking for info on a League committee or activity? Look no further!

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Judy Wadsworth*

*Layout/Design,  
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**Join the League Today!**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Low income, call office at 262-3730	.....	\$sliding \$scale
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