

TheVOTER

You are cordially invited to attend the

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
ROCHESTER METRO AREA

Annual Meeting

June 3, 4:30 P.M.
via zoom

Celebrate another year of League excellence!
SEE YOU THERE! See pages 3-4 for details.

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President's Corner

Prepare for LWV-RMA Annual Meeting, June 3rd, 4:30-6:30 P.M.

Detailed materials for review of items to be voted on at the meeting are on their way to members via email or the US Postal Service. These should be sent at least 30 days prior to the meeting and include:

- **Proposed 2021-2022 Budget** - Look this over and have any of your questions answered at the meeting. A Financial Performance and Budget Report will accompany the proposed budget.
- **Bylaws Amendments** - LWV-RMA Bylaws need to be updated this year to bring them in line with changes made in LWVUS Bylaws at the National Convention last June. Bylaws amendments on the local League level require presentation and approval at an Annual Meeting.
- **Recommended Program for 2021-2022** - This year members will be asked to vote on recommendations for deletions and updates to our existing Positions, which along with LWVUS and LWVNYS Positions are the basis of our annual Program. 2020 saw the formation of an LWV-RMA Position Review Group which took a closer look at our twelve (12) local Positions and made recommendations on each of them. Rationales for recommendations are covered in the materials being sent out.
- **Nominating Committee Slate of Candidates** - Nominations for President, Vice President, Treasurer, Directors and Nominating Committee members are included in this newsletter. Additional nominations can be made from the floor as long as consent of the nominee has been secured.

Annual Reports from the Board of Directors and Committees plus bio information on each of our nominees will be sent later in May.

Please register, participate and enjoy along with fellow members on June 3rd!

Invitation to the LWVNYS 59th Biennial Convention, via Zoom, Monday-Saturday, June 7-12.

- LWV-RMA is eligible to have 5 voting delegates to our state Convention. To date we have 3 confirmed delegates. Registration remains open until June 1st for delegates and for non-delegate observers.
- Workshops and caucuses on a variety of topics are offered Monday-Thursday, June 7-12, between 5:30 P.M. and 9:00 P.M. and Saturday, June 12, 9:30-Noon.
- Plenary Sessions (delegate voting sessions) are on Friday, June 11, at 5:30 P.M. and Saturday, June 12, at 1:00 P.M.
 - o Matters to be voted on are LWVNYS Officers and Board of Directors, Proposed Budget, Bylaws Amendments, Recommended 2021-2023 Biennial Program, Proposed Emergency Resolution on Climate Change and Proposed Concurrence with the LWV-California Criminal Justice Position.

Send any questions regarding the LWVNYS Convention to LWV-RMA President at jsternberg3b@gmail.com.

In League,
Judith Sternberg
President, LWV-RMA

Be in the Know

Get the latest election information:

- Complete, accurate, & up to date
- Covering Monroe County and New York State
- Shareable

We won't flood you with texts, but you'll know what you need to know.

To sign up, text **VOTEMONROE** to **474747**. You can cancel at any time.

For more election information, visit the Voter Information page of our website, www.lwv-rma.org.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
ROCHESTER METRO AREA



June 3 at 4:30 P.M.

Respecting continued pandemic precautions, this meeting will take place virtually via Zoom.

While we cannot serve up libations and appetizers, we encourage you to have them handy and enjoy them at home.

The meeting will include:

- A Slide Show of the past year
- Celebration of our Carrie Chapman Catt Award Recipients
- Membership, Budget and Finance Reports
- Review and Voting on:
 - Proposed Budget, Bylaws Amendments, Recommended 2021-2022 Program
 - Nominees for LWV-RMA President, Vice President, Treasurer, Board Directors, and Nominating Committee Members
 - Recognition and honoring of "You Make Us Proud" recipients, 50 Year Milestone Members and outgoing Board members

Register for this members-only Zoom meeting in any of the following ways:

- Visit our website at www.lwv-rma.org and click on the registration link.
- Leave a voicemail message at (585) 262-3730.
- Send an email to: info@lwv-rma.org.



Report of the Nominating Committee 2021

The LWV-RMA Nominating Committee continued its expanded focus this year, presenting as usual a slate of candidates for the Board of Directors and the Nominating Committee for Program Year 2021- 2022, 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, in which members indicate 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!)

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

- Barbara Grosh, President (2021-2023)
- Myra Pelz, Vice-President (2021-2023)
- Linda Saalman, Treasurer (2021-2023)
- Michelle Lessard, Director (2021-2023)
- Theresa McFarland-Porter, Director (2021-2023)
- Beverley Pringle, Director (2021-2023)
- Judith Sternberg, Director (2021-2022)

Continuing on the board are:

- Kris Rogers, Secretary (2020-2022)
- Mary Hussong-Kallen, Director (2020-2022)
- Sarah Sandler, Director (2020-2022)

In addition, Sheila Abeling is presented as a candidate for consideration to serve as chair of the 2021-2022 Nominating Committee; two other general membership vacancies are open for nominations during the annual meeting. 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 3, 2021 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.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Our Own YouTube Channel

The League of Women Voters of the Rochester Metropolitan Area proudly announces that we have our own YouTube channel where you can view our past forums.

To view our past forums go to

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjC9NCupn9AhZpH2k83m5_g.

Watch Us On



Conversation with Elections Commissioners

On April 1, members of the LWV Rochester Metro Area and the NCJW Greater Rochester Section sponsored a discussion with the Monroe County Board of Elections Commissioners.

Barbara Grosh, who is a member of both sponsoring organizations moderated the conversation with Commissioners Lisa Nicolay and Jackie Ortiz. Among the points made were the following:

- Drop boxes will continue to be used during early voting and Election Day.
- Drop boxes are tamper-resistant and always in view of Board of Elections personnel at polling sites.
- The county Board of Elections placed about 300 drop boxes at polling sites in fall 2020.
- In 2020, about 1/3 of voters used each of the three voting options: early voting, absentee voting, and voting on Election Day.
- In 2021, Monroe County will increase the number of early voting sites from 12 to 14.
- Purging rolls occurs regularly to remove those who have moved or died. The Board receives notices from the postal service on voters who have moved, and classifies voters believed to have moved as inactive. Once a voter has been classified as inactive, their names are purged after two consecutive federal election cycles (one presidential, one congressional) are also purged.
- Steps are taken within the Board of Elections to ensure that voting machine tallies are accurate and reported fairly.

Social Media and Democracy

On April 13, more than 85 viewers tuned in to Zoom to hear Joshua Tucker, PhD, Co-Director of NYU's Center for Social Media and Democracy, discuss his research on social media's effects on democracy. Professor Tucker and his research assistants study social media usage and effects using data provided by social media giants such as Facebook and Twitter.

Among his comments were the following:

- Social media is a tool, and tools can be used positively and negatively.
- 90% of Facebook users, when receiving fake news, did not share it. Those who did share fake news were self-declared conservative or very conservative and were more likely to share if they were 65 years or older.
- A steady, low-level stream of hate speech exists on social media which is punctuated by bursts that follow controversial events.
- Attempts on social media to affect the outcome of the 2016 and 2020 elections were largely not effective. A study of trolls seeking to affect elections found that most Twitter accounts received next to no troll messages, that most of those exposed were already supportive of the troll messages, and the messages had no effect on election outcomes.
- Mainstream media reporting on trolling led many to believe that trolling was more widespread and effective than it was in the 2016 election, so some people were easier to convince that the 2020 election was stolen by trolling.
- Since perceived wisdom about social media can be incorrect, continued study of the effects of social media is needed. Therefore, access to data shared on social media platforms is essential, but to date only Facebook and Twitter do share their data. Laws are needed that make public messages available to researchers, not just to private groups who pay for that data.



TOP ROW: LWV-RMA President Judy Sternberg and NCJW President Jane Amstey who introduced the program, with Barbara Grosh who moderated the discussion.

BOTTOM ROW: Board of Elections Commissioners Lisa Nicolay and Jackie Ortiz.



TOP: Joshua Tucker, Ph.D.

BOTTOM ROW: LWV-RMA President Judy Sternberg, LWV-City of New York President Diane Burrows, and LWV-City of New York Program Committee Chair Joanna Leefer

NOTE: LWV-RMA VP Myra Pelz spearheaded the planning for the program but was unable to attend.

Click here for the link https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjC9NCupn9AhZpH2k83m5_g to the League's YouTube channel. Be sure to check our channel for recordings of other League forums.

Please visit https://youtu.be/biNL26o_HYg to view a recording of this forum.

The program was co-sponsored by the LWV-RMA and LWV-City of New York.

Spring 2021 Voter Registration at the Market

Welcome to the 2021 LWV-RMA Voter Registration season. The June elections will be here soon.

Dianne Stengel is coordinating voter registration at the Rochester Public Market. This is an active site where volunteers can provide easy access to voter registration for many citizens every Saturday morning from 9:00 A.M. until noon.

No experience is needed. Add a note when you register if you are new to voter registration and you will receive process documentation in advance as well as be paired with an experienced volunteer.

There is no need to bring any supplies to the Market. Clipboards, forms, pens, sanitizer, etc. will be at the site. Just bring yourself to the Market wearing a LWV t-shirt or LWV button (if you have one), comfortable shoes, a face mask, and clothing appropriate for the weather, as the Market is outdoors.

Dianne will contact the volunteer teams with specifics about where to meet at the Market and about the day's events. Volunteers will be positioned at key places to reach the most people. If possible, there will be a LWV table as well. And when you're done helping folks to register, you can shop for some great produce too!

Just go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080948A4A722A7FC1-spring/54878426> and click on one or more of the dates listed. If you can't stay for the full 3-hour time slot, just add that to the Note when you signup.

Here's to another year of supporting voter access in Monroe County!



LWV Webinars Help Prepare Voters

The LWV-RMA's Barbara Grosh worked with RCSD Commissioner Ricardo Adams to develop a series of webinars to help voters who are new to voting in local elections get informed about the issues. They are free and open to all. You can pre-register for each on Zoom or watch on Facebook.

The first webinar, "Wait! There are elections in 2021?", was held on April 21. Three more webinars are scheduled for 6:00 P.M. on Wednesdays in May and June:

May 5 – "Voting after a felony conviction" - Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cgRcB-eCQeq-lrP-7c2S0w

OR watch at <https://www.facebook.com/lwvofrma>

May 19 – "Police accountability" - Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_OsQevSAHTrythT5BTxOgpw

OR watch at <https://www.facebook.com/lwvofrma>

June 2 – "Why bother? Activists share their thoughts" - Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_GUoCho1DTdeSpK5Q9WJopA



Webinar presenters:

April 21 – Melanie Funchess, CEO/Principal, Ubuntu Village Works LLC; Angie Perez-Delgado, CEO, Ibero-American League.

May 5 – Ricardo Adams, Commissioner, RCSD; JaliMuntagim, Community Organizer, Citizen Action; Rudy Rivera, Executive Director, Father Tracy Advocacy Center.

May 19 – Shari Wilson, Chair, Police Accountability Board; The Rev. Myra Brown, Pastor, Spiritus Christi Church.

June 2 – Jill Paperno, First Assistant Public Defender, M.C. Public Defender's Office; Reenah Golden, Founder, Avenue Black Box Theatre; Ashley Gantt, Civil Rights Organizer, NYCLU, and Co-Founder, Free the People Rochester.

OR watch at <https://www.facebook.com/lwvofrma>

Countdown to the June 22 Primary

- May 28 – last day to postmark voter registration form or to register in person to vote in primary
- June 12 – early voting begins
- June 15 – last day to postmark application for absentee ballot for primary election
- June 20 – early voting ends
- June 21 – last day to apply in person for primary absentee ballot
- June 22 – last day to postmark absentee ballot for primary
- June 22 – last day to deliver absentee ballot in person to county BOE
- June 22 – Election Day! Polls open 6am-9pm

ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS will not be sent automatically.

You must request them yourself by mail, phone or via the BOE website-<https://absenteeballot.elections.ny.gov>.

Temporary illness is the reason to use if you have concerns regarding COVID-19.

Drop boxes will be available at all Early Voting and Election Day polling sites and at the BOE office.

CHECK VOTE411.org to see what races you can vote in. In the city, Democrats will have primaries for Mayor, City Council - At Large Members, and RCSD Commissioners. Countywide there are Democratic and Working Families primaries for County Court Judges. Seven County Legislature districts will have Democratic primaries and one will have a Working Families primary. There will be primaries for some town offices in the Democratic, Republican, Working Families and Conservative parties.

Redistricting Campaign Team

Redistricting is coming, and the League is getting ready.

At the state level, the League is closely following the progress of the new NY Redistricting Commission. The Commission – newly formed last year by an amendment to the NY Constitution – is months behind. Its funding was finally approved last month, after a full year of delay. The commissioners were serving without pay, without staff, without offices, and without email or phones or resources of any kind. They are charged with drawing new district lines for the NYS Assembly, NYS Senate, and U.S. House seats.

Separately, you are probably aware that the Census Bureau is also months behind, due mainly to pandemic delays. The data that normally would have become available in April is now expected in late summer.

In short – there will be a crazy scramble to draw maps and approve new district lines later this year. The League is advocating for a fair process that will preserve communities of interest. In other words, we don't want the hurry-up process to give us ten years of gerrymandered districts.

Towards that end, the State League is coordinating with local chapters, including ours, to get ready. Locally, our Redistricting task group is meeting regularly via Zoom on our action plan. Local outreach, with an eye towards engagement with the Redistricting Commission, are our immediate goals. We also hope to tackle local redistricting when the time comes.

Would you like to join the effort? We're meeting every 3-4 weeks, preparing to begin our engagement campaign with local community organizations. Please contact Judy Sternberg at jsternberg3b@gmail.com to be added to the meeting notification list.

Dave Garretson

davegarretson363@gmail.com

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

Candidate Forums and Vote411

We are off to a busy start to the June primaries with both Candidate Forums and Vote411, the League of Women Voters interactive, community-specific online voter's guide.

Once again, we are cooperating with WROC-TV8 in presenting Candidate Forums, both broadcast on television and streamed on the newsfirst.com website. We are working with several community organizations in planning other forums. We will be co-sponsoring with the South East Area Coalition (SEAC), a forum for candidates in the Democratic primary for Rochester City School District Commissioners on June 10 via Zoom. We are planning forums with both the Maplewood Neighborhood Association and Delta Sigma Theta Alumni Sorority for candidates in the Democratic primary for Rochester City Council members at-large.

When the forum plans are finalized, you will find them on the homepage or the League calendar on our website (www.lwv-rma.org). You will also be notified by e-blast.

In order to be able to publish Monroe County races on Vote411 earlier than we have in the past, a group of LWV-RMA members has been gathering email addresses of candidates who may appear on the ballots in the June primary. We hope to be able to send them invitations to post their responses to our questions before the official list is published by the Board of Elections on April 29, or shortly after. Once the list is available, we will delete the candidates who will not be on the ballot and should be able to publish shortly after.

The League encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government. Visit Vote411.org, view our candidate forums and encourage others to do the same.

Judy Weinstein, *Government/Advocacy Chair*

Vote411@lwv-rma.org

LWV T-Shirts

League unisex t-shirts are available in six sizes, Sm - 3XL. Price is \$15.

Contact Judy Sternberg, jsternberg3b@gmail.com for payment and delivery options.



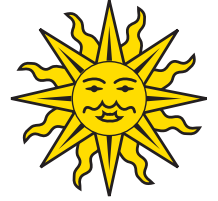
FEPC Report

The Fair Election Practices Campaign (FEPC) encourages candidates for elected office to run positive, issues-oriented campaigns. The FEPC process has begun for the 2021 Election Season. The Hearing Committee has been established with all but one of the members from last year re-committing to assist. Volunteers including Celeste Keyes, Martha Pradhan, and Karen Walker have stepped forward to help with the outreach to each of the 150+ candidates expected this year due to all of the local elections. Letters and Pledge forms will be mailed out to all Primary candidates in early May. Violations of fair campaign practices and the Pledge will be heard by the Committee up to Primary Election day on June 22.

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

Sunshine Corner

COMIDA BOARD MEETING MARCH 23 SUBMITTED BY DEBORAH RICE GORDON



New Projects

The following requests for sales tax exemptions and/or real property and mortgage tax abatements were approved:

- Sticky Bottle, LLC purchased and renovated a building at the public market to combine the Flour City Bread Company with a restaurant space.
- 3453 Union Street, LLC is constructing a building to include temperature-controlled spaces and a food-grade warehouse distribution center.
- FabExchange Inc., a private equity firm specializing in the acquisition of semiconductor businesses has acquired the AIM Semi-conductor business on Lake Avenue, Rochester.
- USRE Rochester, LLC is planning to construct a 280,000 square foot sorting and distribution facility in Ogden for lease to Amazon.com Services, LLC.

Project Modifications

The following requests for extension of sales tax exemptions and/or other previously approved benefits were approved:

- Li-Cycle Corporation, a lithium battery recycling business, in Eastman Business Park on Lake Avenue;
- IEC Electronics Corporation for renovation of a building in Chili;
- Apple Latta 2 LLC, for a senior housing project in Greece;
- A50EB, LLC for redeveloping the Aquaduct Building at 50 East Broad Street, Rochester;
- Brooks Landing LLC, for acquisition of 910-960 Genesee Street, Rochester.

Other Business

County Executive Adam Bello has sought COMIDA's support for revision of the Monroe County Comprehensive Plan which has not been updated since 1972. The Board approved an allocation of up to \$200,000 for this project.

An arrangement has been made with Pyramid Brokerage Services to market and sell COMIDA-owned acreage in Riga. The arrangement was approved.

This was COMIDA's annual meeting at which the Committees' work, the 2020 summary and audit reports, and other issues were discussed. For complete information go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YCh0sEEgOY>.

Full minutes of COMIDA meetings are accessible at

[Board Meetings | Monroe County Economic Development \(monroecountybusiness.org\)](https://www.monroecountybusiness.org/Board-Meetings-Monroe-County-Economic-Development)

MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE APRIL 13, 2021

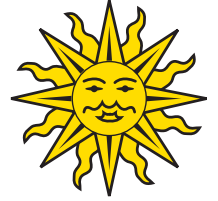
OBSERVED BY ELAINE SCHMIDT

Brigit Hurley of the Children's Agenda was the only speaker in the public forum. She advocated for funding for the needs of children locally.

During the business meeting:

- A hearing was set for May 11 at 6:15 P.M. regarding the Business Closure Transparency Act. Legislator Morelle cast the sole negative vote.
- Ms. Sheryal A. Volpe was reappointed and Ms. Marcia Van Vechten was appointed to the Monroe County Water Authority.
- The county accepted a grant from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services to execute a contract with Delphi Drug & Alcohol Council for a County reentry task force from October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021.
- Orion Communications was authorized to provide scheduling software solutions for the Monroe County Sheriff's Department.
- A contract with CHA Consulting was approved to estimate costs of Frontier Field Major League Baseball requirements project.

Sunshine Corner continued from page 9



RCSD BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

MARCH 25, 2021 **OBSERVED BY CONSTANCE FLAHIVE**

Vice President Elliot chaired the meeting as President Van White was out of town.

Reports were received by the Student Leadership Congress, Parent Leadership Advisory Council, and Bilingual Education Council (read by Commissioner LeBron).

NYS Monitor Dr. Jallow presented her analysis of the 2021-2022 General Fund Budget of \$841,032,259, a 7.7% increase over previous year. She noted that the increase was despite a 6-year decrease in students attending the public schools. Highlighted expenses were increased money for instruction to replace out-of-date curriculum materials; 10.5% increase in charter school funding; and deficits caused by increases in pay, healthcare and benefits, contracted services, transportation, and debt.

Dr. Jallow emphasized that this year the Cares Act Stimulus money would contribute the \$71,010,112 needed to balance the budget this year, and would give the district time to plan how to deal with continuing financial issues.

Board Committees of Equity and Student Achievement, Finance, Governance, Audits, and Policy provided reports that included summaries of recent special meetings, approval of finance reports, and announcement of mid-year self-evaluations. The Policy Committee emphasized the Code of Conduct Presentation and Community Forum scheduled for April 22. The presentation indicates a strong movement toward restorative justice practices.

Superintendent Myers-Small described how principals and program administrators are supporting students in the Class of 2021 toward graduation. Focus is on 1814 students in cohort 2017, looking at problematic courses and providing support for students, especially those who are losing confidence. She also reported on the push to vaccinate and bring students off the waiting list for in-person schooling. In April, focus groups will convene to review the 2021-22 school year based on COVID-19 decisions. Finally, she addressed concerns about communication, and announced additional steps such as regular town meetings with parents and open office hours.

Superintendent Shaun Nelms spoke on reopening efforts, given the move to decrease spacing to 3 feet; currently East is 41% in hybrid mode. He discussed Neighborhood vs Community Schools and announced the Job Fair to be held at East during Spring Break week for all youth ages 14- 20 in the district.

The meeting ended with the discussion of Resolutions 694 to 740 (specifics will be available in the minutes published online once approved). A discussion around the tenure policy occurred due to Commissioner LeBron's longstanding negative votes as she does not feel tenure should be granted this year due to the significant differences caused by Covid-19 and lack of in-school learning.

Meeting archives are available on the RCSD website <https://www.rcsdk12.org/boemeetings>

RCSD BOARD OF EDUCATION PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING:

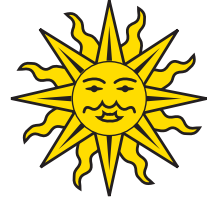
APRIL 8, 2021 **REVIEWED BY CONSTANCE FLAHIVE**

Forty-one speakers signed up to provide input into the budget process. The event took place after the announcement on April 7 that the approved State Budget included an additional \$367 million in funds from the stimulus package, the American Rescue Plan, and an increase in foundation aid.

Ten students spoke in favor of the following priorities for the budget:

- Provide for culturally responsive and equitable curriculum and the teacher training & support necessary for implementation.
- Provide for robust restorative practice programs across the district.
- Provide money necessary to recruit and retain diverse teachers – teachers who look like the black and brown students in the district.
- Provide the healthier and more culturally relevant food that students need in school.
- Provide support staff in the schools such as counselors and paraprofessionals to work with students beyond the classroom.

Sunshine Corner *continued from page 10*



About thirty parents and community members spoke as well. They commended the Board for allowing student voices to be heard and backed up the points students made, many saying the new money should be looked at as an opportunity to invest in the needs articulated by the students. Additional points made were:

- Stimulus money should be used to address issues created by the pandemic, such as mental health issues caused by not being in school and loss of a love of learning.
- More teachers and staff, such as reading teachers, restorative practice experts and school counselors, need to be hired. The teacher to student ratio needs to be balanced across the district.
- Return funding for Refugee Newcomer and English Language Learning programs.

Full minutes of RCSD board meetings are accessible at

[Board Meeting Minutes / 2020-21 Board Meeting Minutes \(rcsdk12.org\)](#)

POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD MEETINGS

MARCH 18 2021 OBSERVED BY DEBORAH RICE GORDON

Final reform plans were released by the RASE Commission and Executive Order 203 working group on police reform. All PAB recommendations were deleted or stripped of substance in the Policing Reform Plan. No Budget for PAB or specific implementation plans were included. The report calls for the formation of an Implementation Committee to be led by the Chief of Police. The RASE report has no role for PAB aside from data sharing, and also calls for an Implementing Commission. PAB will submit an open letter to city council and the public with numerous concerns and recommendations.

RPD's new Policies and Procedures: Policies were crafted by Wilmer Hale and RPD in closed session and are being introduced over time. The duty to intervene and chokehold policies were reviewed at the meeting. No disciplinary policies or bases for decisions were included and the language and intent was not clear in many instances. RPD rescinded the recently released order for mental health training. The remainder of this discussion was tabled due to time constraints.

Meetings were held with the city administration and City Council to review PAB's budget. The Rochester Budget Director has asked PAB for a proposal for full funding and requested that City Council be copied. A subcommittee will be formed to work on this.

An Executive Session was held to discuss staffing and hiring. An Executive Session was held to discuss staffing and hiring.

MARCH 25 OBSERVED BY DEBORAH RICE GORDON

Shearman and Sterling LLP has been retained to represent PAB and assist in writing policies and procedures. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) regarding PAB's access to Police Department information was released by the City Council. PAB's counsel is requesting some changes.

The City Council requested budget estimates based on best practices and research for each PAB task. It is estimated that PAB should handle about 200 – 220 complaints yearly, which is about half the number seen in a comparably sized city. Based on research of similar Boards, 40-50 full time staff would be needed to address the expected number of complaints in the required 90-day timeframe. However, this does not include labor intensive non-complaint related PAB work. Therefore, a budget of \$5-7 million would be needed, which is similar to that of the City Bureau of Parking. Executive Director Reynolds will finalize the budget proposal for Board review during the first week of April. Community education on the proposal will follow.

Full minutes of Police Accountability Board meetings are accessible at

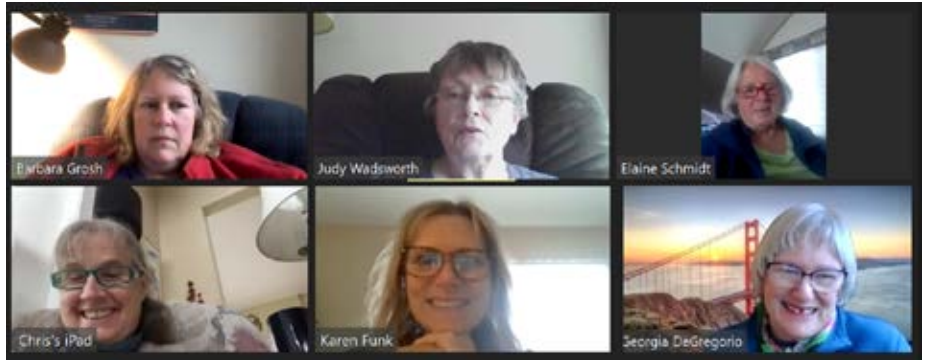
[City of Rochester | Police Accountability Board](#)

Book Club Update

During its April 15 Zoom session, Karen Funk led members in a discussion of *How To Be An Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi. The remaining books to be read this program year are:

May 20 *Walking with the Wind: A Memoir of the Movement* by John Lewis

June 17 *Tightrope: Americans Reaching for Hope* by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl Wu Dunn.



Book club members meeting via Zoom in April

The LWV-RMA book club meets via Zoom at 4:30 P.M. on the third Thursday of the month. A link will be sent to everyone who expresses an interest to Judy Weinstein (vote411@lwv-rma.org), who serves as the group's Zoom techie.

Braver Angels Seek to Support Civil Discourse

Almost 70 participants, including several LWV-RMA members, attended a Zoom meeting co-sponsored by Braver Angels and LWV-RMA on April 7, to view and discuss a video showing a series of meetings sponsored by Braver Angels in Waynesville, Ohio.

The mission of Braver Angels is to bring Americans together to bridge the partisan divide and strengthen our democratic republic. To accomplish this goal, the group seeks ways to support productive positive discussions about controversial issues. It has developed workshops involving those holding opposing political views, online skills training ts, and weekly online debates. It is growing nationwide by developing local Alliances that organize its work on the local level. There are about 10,000 members of Braver Angels nationwide.

The organization is growing, and a Braver Angels group is in the process of organizing in our area. The group is calling itself the "Finger Lakes Region Braver Angels workgroup." To become an official Braver Angels Alliance, the group needs dues-paying Braver Angels members of the national organization (both Red and Blue) who have participated in or observed a Braver Angels Workshop, and want to carry out the Braver Angels mission locally.

The group hopes to customize Braver Angels workshops and events to our local needs and issues.

To learn more:

View the Waynesville, Ohio documentary at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u6kZpN5T3IU&t=7s>;

Visit the Braver Angels website at <https://braverangels.org/>;

Contact Finger Lakes Braver Angels Work Group co-chair Doug Della Pietra at dougdellapietra@gmail.com



Seen in the top row are Mary Thomas-Vallens (Braver Angels Moderator from national organization), Nancy Kasper (member, Finger Lakes Region Braver Angels workgroup, co-organizer of April 7 event), and Doug Della Pietra (member, Finger Lakes Region Braver Angels workgroup, co-organizer of April 7 event). Thomas-Vallens and Della Pietra co-hosted the event.

Seen in the bottom row are some of the LWV-RMA members attending on April 7.



Calendar



May

- 7 First Friday (11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.) via Zoom; a link will be sent to members via email.
- 8 Anti-Racism Workshop Part 1 (10:00 A.M.-Noon) via Zoom. Register at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8445111111>
- 15 Anti-Racism Workshop Part 2 (10:00 A.M.-Noon) via Zoom. (See link under May 8 workshop to register.)
- 12 LWV-RMA Board Meeting (6:30 - 8:30 P.M.) via Zoom. Contact Judy Sternberg at jsternberg3b@gmail.com for link.
- 20 Book Club (4:30 – 6:00 P.M.) via Zoom; *Walking With the Wind: A Memoir* by John Lewis. Contact Judy Weinstein at vote411@lwv-rma.org for link.

June

- 2 LAST DAY FOR VOTER REGISTRATION FOR PRIMARY ELECTION
- 3 LWV-RMA ANNUAL MEETING (4:30 P.M.). Register at <http://www.lwv-rma.org/>.
- 4 First Friday (11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.) via Zoom; a link will be sent to members via email.
- 9 LWV-RMA Board Meeting (6:30 - 8:30 P.M.) via Zoom. Contact Judy Sternberg at jsternberg3b@gmail.com for link.
- 12 PRIMARY ELECTION EARLY VOTING BEGINS
- 15 Deadline at 5:00 P.M. to apply for primary absentee ballot
- 17 Book Club (4:30 – 6:00 P.M.) via Zoom; *Tightrope: Americans Reaching for Hope* by Nicholas D. Kristof & Sheryl Wu Dunn. Contact Judy Weinstein at vote411@lwv-rma.org for link.

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

Voting by Mail Dates:

- 6/15 Last day to postmark, email or fax application or letter for primary ballot.
- 6/21 Last day to apply in person for primary ballot.
- 6/22 Last day to postmark primary election ballot. Must be received by the county board no later than June 29th.
- 6/22 Last day to deliver primary ballot in person to your county board or your poll site, by close of polls.

There are no scheduled public Naturalization Ceremonies for 2021 due to the pandemic.

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

Join First Friday Electronically

Because of the pandemic, First Friday convenes via Zoom. Shown are participants in the March 5 session. Join the group for informal conversations on any or all of the dates listed—for a few minutes or for the full two hours, your choice:

- May 7
- June 4



LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK! We know you'll "like" us!
www.facebook.com/lwvofrma

Board of Directors meetings are currently via Zoom. Board meetings are open to all members. See calendar for dates and times and contact Judy Sternberg for link.

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

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585-262-3730
www.LWV-RMA.org

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

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**JUNE VOTER
DEADLINE IS MAY 15!**

League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, political organization which encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

The League of Women Voters is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity and inclusion in principal and in practice.

League membership is open to any person who subscribes to the League's purposes and policies.

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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

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Join the League Today!



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Check Amount: _____

Level of Membership: _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

Individual/Associate	.....	\$75
Household	.....	\$105
Susan B. Anthony/Frederick Douglass	.....	\$150
Carrie Chapman Catt	.....	\$200
Student (full or part time at an accredited institution)	.....	FREE
Low income, call office at 262-3730	.....	\$sliding \$scale

or send an email to: info@lwv-rma.org

Please send this form and your check payable to
League of Women Voters/RMA to:
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PO Box 10573
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