

TheVOTER

Teaching the History of Racist Policy and Resistance in Rochester



Kesha James

February 8, 2022 FORUM 6:30 P.M. on Zoom

Led by Kesha James & Shane Wiegand, Co-Leaders,
Antiracist Curriculum Project



Shane Wiegand

Participate from the comfort of home.

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/RacistHistory>

Details on page 3

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President's Corner

Planning to Save the World, in Twenty Minutes

Thanks to all who turned out for the January 8 meeting on program planning. I love free-wheeling discussions of policy issues with League members. Collectively we are an awesomely well-informed group and there seemed to be a lot of energy and ideas. To gauge interest and energy, we broke up into two sessions of working groups, each twenty minutes long. You couldn't say we emerged with plans, but I think that we will have some committees growing out of the areas that generated the most interest. This is what I see coming:

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

There are a million ways to fight climate change and many of them feel like pushing a boulder up a hill. However, there is so much going on and so many people to collaborate with that we might be able to really help make a difference. For example, New York State is committed to some important over-arching goals for becoming carbon neutral. While a big committee is sorting through a climate plan that's over 800 pages long, New York City leap-frogged ahead and passed legislation that says that no new construction there can burn natural gas. Whoa! Turns out there's a statewide coalition pushing such a regulation for the state. The coalition has put together a package of six high-impact bills that could push things along and they've put together an alliance of activists from all over the state. Working under the climate emergency resolution passed last year by the LWVNY and working in coordination with other Leagues, we could sign on with other local groups like the Climate Solutions Accelerator and the Citizen's Climate Lobby to ask our local delegation to Albany to sponsor the bills. We could actually have a lot to show for a few weeks of earnest work!

We also discussed the fact that a new state law went into effect on January 1 which requires large generators of food waste to be sure that such waste is composted and not land-filled. However, if there's no large-scale composting facility within 50 miles, they're not required to comply. That lets everyone in Monroe County off the hook! Someone needs to start some agitation to find a site and get some composting going here. There would be lots of issues to consider: zoning, odors, etc. We might be able to work with others to get that ball rolling.

POLICING

We talked a lot about policing. There's still a lot to talk about. Last year under Executive Order 203, Governor Cuomo required every jurisdiction in the state with a police force to review said force's practices to ensure that they are fair and effective, and that there were no problems with racial bias. Rochester's resulting plan is about 60 pages long and has appendices A through K. How good a job do we think was done? Are they following up on proposed changes? And what about Greece, Brighton, Brockport, Fairport, Webster, and Monroe County? Some people thought the Police Accountability Board should be extended to cover them all. That's not possible, because it was created via amendment of the city charter. Do we need something at the county level? What are the options? And what about the issue of Qualified Immunity for police officers? Is there any way to make them more responsible for harm they do when they use excessive force? All of these are matters of great interest, and I predict that we will engage with them in the near term.

POVERTY & EQUITY

There were a lot of suggestions for things that could help fight poverty in Rochester and Monroe County. I would say that there's not a quick consensus on where we could be most effective, but there are some good ideas. We have a query in to LWVNY to see if the Good Cause Eviction bill is covered under a state position so that we could lobby for it. There is work going on in Rochester to develop a food policy to address the food deserts in the city. We could look to see how we could work to combat the segregation that was created by the redlining and white flight of the last century. I expect some things will be developing along some of these lines.

What and how much we can accomplish will depend on members' ideas and energy. If you'd like to step up and get involved, don't hesitate to contact me and let me know. We'll put you to work!

Barbara Grosh, *President, League of Women Voters of the Rochester Metropolitan Area*

president@lww-rma.org

Teaching the History of Racist Policy and Resistance in Rochester

February 8, 6:30 P.M. on Zoom

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/RacistHistory>

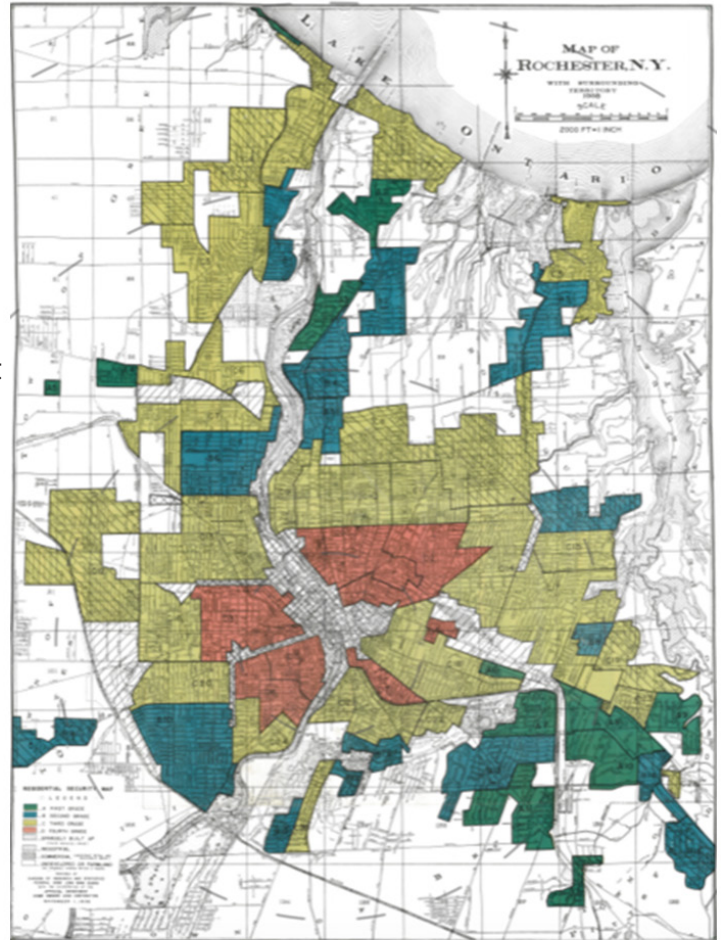
Shane Wiegand is a 4th grade teacher in Henrietta. Several years ago, he taught a unit about the civil rights movement. The kids in his class wanted to know if things “like that” happened in Rochester. He had to say he didn’t know, but he set out to find out and over the next few years he learned about how federal and local policies like redlining, racially restrictive covenants, blackface minstrel shows, and urban renewal segregated Rochester, built wealth for its white citizens, and disenfranchised people of color. He developed a curriculum about all of that as well as how local civil rights leaders like Howard Coles, Dr. Alice Holloway Young, Constance Mitchell, and many others fought back. This curriculum, initially developed for Henrietta, is now being used across Monroe County.

Shane will be joined by his co-director of the project, Kesha James, to share with us how this local history is being taught in schools, what resistance there is, and what we can do to support this work.

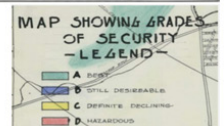
ABOUT THE ANTIRACIST CURRICULUM PROJECT:

The Antiracist Curriculum Project team is committed to empower students, educators, and communities with instructional resources about their local history of racism and civil rights. The team works to cultivate more informed and engaged community members to build a more just and equitable society. The Antiracist Curriculum Project is generously hosted by PathStone.

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/RacistHistory>



Map created by National Housing Act 1934, and the key that shows the meaning behind each color



Legislative Interviews

Each year, a small group of LWV-RMA members meets with our local members of the Assembly and NYS Senators to discuss the legislative priorities of LWVNYS with them and to hear their priorities for this legislative session. Some are well-versed on the issues; others know little about them. Some agree with us; others don't. Regardless, we've educated them on the topics, possibly influenced their votes, and we provide the state League with useful information for its advocacy. Last year we met with eight members of the delegation.

Once again, our meetings this year will be virtual. If you'd like to participate in one or more of the sessions, please contact me as soon as possible since we hope to schedule all pre-budget meetings the week of February 21 or shortly thereafter.

Judy Weinstein, Government/Advocacy Chair

vote411@lwv-rma.org

LWV-RMA Legislative Priorities and Program Planning Meeting

LWV-RMA members met on January 8 via Zoom to consider potential positions. Our local League can engage in local advocacy based on positions approved by the national or state Leagues, as well as our own.

Those working on updating long-standing LWV-RMA positions reported on their progress. Following those reports, members selected topics to discuss during small group sessions that dealt with:

- Poverty and equity
- Protecting voting rights
- Environment and climate
- Policing issues
- Bridging the partisan divide.

Participants returned to a meeting of the whole to discuss state and federal issues as well.

Members attending agreed to recommend the following priorities to LWVUS: continuation of the LWVUS Campaign for Making Democracy Work that focuses on voting rights, improving elections, money in politics, and redistricting; Reproductive Rights; and Climate Change.

In addition, they voted in favor of considering the following two proposed concurrences at the 2022 LWVUS Convention:

- Excerpts from the LWVNYS Healthcare & Financing Healthcare positions;
- LWVCT positions on Universal High Speed Internet Access (Digital Equality) for all Americans as well as Community Access and Public Affairs Media.

Participants also reviewed the LWVNYS legislative priorities to help identify the top three areas of advocacy at the state level.



be a voter!

Monroe County Executive Hearing on Redistricting

On January 4, 2022 Monroe County Executive Adam Bello held a public hearing on whether or not to veto the proposed local law (Intro. No. 556 of 2021) pertaining to Redistricting Maps adopted by the County Legislature on December 17, 2021.

Testimony was provided by 29 County residents, given in person, via email or by calling in. Emailed testimony was read by a staff person from the County Executive Office. Only two people gave in-person testimony; an additional three people attended as observers. (The testifiers in the photos shown here are not League members.)

Residents who testified spoke to issues in their districts, including areas of Brighton, Sweden, Brockport, Ogden, and districts 23, 24, 25 and 27 in Rochester.

Additionally, city residents advocated for keeping all city residents in districts undiluted by non-city areas, and keeping villages and town neighborhoods whole. One resident included an alternative set of maps. Many residents complained about the process lacking transparency and providing inadequate opportunity for public input. Another resident with IT expertise criticized the methodology used in the production and publishing of the proposed maps and offered a link to alternative technology. LWV-RMA President Barbara Grosh submitted testimony in the name of the League that spoke to the damage that a flawed process and result would have on making democracy work in Monroe County and laid out higher standards to be met in a do-over opportunity.



Judy Sternberg

Redistricting Team Report

We continue to keep an eye on redistricting as it unfolds locally and in Albany.

By the time you read this, the Albany/Washington redistricting may be resolved. The Redistricting Commission failed to produce a single set of maps for NY Legislature and US House. They submitted two sets of maps, which were rejected by the legislature in early January. It's widely predicted that their second submission will also be rejected in late January. That will clear the way for the Democratic majority in both houses to draw the maps themselves.

In the Monroe County Legislature, the Republican majority approved their proposed maps in mid-December. County Executive Bello announced that he was considering a veto, and held a hearing on January 4th. Unfortunately, his hearing was scheduled and publicized just as poorly as the Legislature's redistricting hearings had been.

Despite the poor publicity and inconvenient time, dozens of community members presented their views at the hearing. Undoubtedly, the efforts of our Redistricting Team were responsible for many of those who made themselves heard. All of them favored veto.

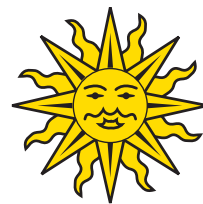
The following week, on January 10, County Executive Adam Bello announced that he'd vetoed the redistricting proposal. The Legislature recorded the veto at its meeting on January 11, but did not discuss it. Bello had also submitted a bill to establish an independent redistricting commission. It was not on the agenda.

What's next? It's not clear. The County Code does not spell out what should be done about redistricting after a veto. We remain hopeful that the redistricting will be done transparently, with participation from the community.

Your redistricting team is watching, and we'll do our best to keep you informed. For the latest in county redistricting, check our site https://www.lwv-rma.org/redistricting_county.php

Still to come in 2022 – redistricting for City Council and Greece Town Board. We're watching them for you.

Sunshine Corner



RCSD BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR BUSINESS MEETINGS

DECEMBER 23, 2021 OBSERVED BY CONSTANCE FLAHIVE ONLINE

Speaking before the Board at this meeting were 11 students and parents. All spoke about transportation for students attending schools other than a RCSD designated school, such as Mercy, the Rochester Academy Charter School, or schools in the Urban-Suburban program.

Reports were mostly submitted online via BoardDocs. The Financial Report was given by Commissioner LeBron due to the need to approve changes in the budget and reports.

The Superintendent reports were celebratory, praising community and district efforts and wishing pleasant holidays. Superintendent Myers-Small asked that parents and students be prepared to shift to remote learning if it became necessary. Board members reacted with questions about plans for a pivot and the clarity and timeliness of the communication. A written plan is part of the school reopening document which is available online. It was confirmed that the majority of students have a Chromebook to take home. It was also emphasized that moving to remote would only happen in extreme circumstances and was not expected.

One board member raised concerns about young children at home especially in families where both parents need to work outside the home. A request was made to consider using funds from the Cares Act to provide childcare for those families.

In general, timely communication regarding not just pivoting to remote, but other issues as well, was discussed as a priority to developing positive community engagement and comfort.

Resolutions 313-346 (332 was withdrawn) were brought forward, discussed, and approved. These included Resolution 2021-22: 342, the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Rochester City School District and the Rochester Association of Paraprofessionals (RAP) through June 30, 2023.

Commissioner Powell presented the first reading of Management Policies including 2160 (the Code of Ethics). Within 2160 Requirement A Section 4 & 5, a suggestion to specifically include the highest officers such as members of the Board of Education and Superintendent was offered. Language will be put in writing to consider during the second reading.

Nine Finance Policies (6000, 6120, 6245, 6600, 6625, 6630, 6680, 6700 & 6745) were also discussed and approved.

Brief parting comments by President White and Commissioner Clark were given and the meeting was adjourned.

See BoardDocs® Plus on the District website under the Board of Education tab– click on meetings, 2021 and the agenda for the December 23 documents.

BOARD OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATION MEETING

JANUARY 3, 2022 OBSERVED BY CONSTANCE FLAHIVE

Led by the Board Clerk, Kallia Wade, the new commissioners were given the oath of office. Joining Commissioners of Education Ricardo Adams, Beatriz LeBron, Amy Maloy and Willa Powell, were James Patterson, Camille Simmons and Cynthia Elliot (who was re-elected).

The Oath was followed by election of officers. Cynthia Elliot was elected President and Beatriz LeBron was elected Vice President. Both votes were 5-2 with Willa Powell and James Patterson voting in opposition.

President Elliot then chaired the remainder of the meeting. A vote on Committee Chairs kept leadership of committees the same. James Patterson was elected to Chair the Audit Committee and Camille Simmons to lead the Equity in Student Achievement Committee.

Resolutions 350 to 367, involving designations of financial entities etc., were discussed and approved. The designated official newspaper for required print postings and notifications was again the Daily Record for fiscal reasons. Resolution 368 to consider an adjustment to a suspension was discussed in an executive session and then approved.

Sunshine Corner continued from page 6



The meeting was followed by a Professional Development session on Roberts Rules of Order.

2022 Rochester Board of Education – Committee Chairs:

- Policy Development and Review Committee – Powell
- Community and Intergovernmental Relations Committee – Adams
- Board Governance and Development Committee – Maloy
- Finance and Resource Allocation Committee – LeBron
- Audit Committee – Patterson (new)
- Equity in Student Achievement Committee – Simmons (new)
- Human Resources – Elliot

COMIDA BOARD MEETING SUMMARIES

OCTOBER 19, 2021 OBSERVED BY DEBORAH RICE GORDON

The status of local labor monitoring was reported. Since last month, 63 site visits were conducted and all 356 workers were in compliance. The local labor rate at the Amazon Manitou site is at 63% with a goal of 70%.

The local labor exemption requests were reviewed. USRE Rochester LLC requested two exemptions for their Shepard Road project in Ogden for warranted installation of equipment and specialized iron work for which the local union does not have workers.

APPLICATION REVIEW:

Requests for sales and recording tax exemptions and real property tax abatements were approved for the following applications:

- A50EB LLC, a real estate holding company, for the renovation of the Aqueduct buildings in downtown Rochester for occupancy by Constellation Brands as their corporate headquarters. The Rochester site was chosen due to the historic nature of the buildings and the river frontage enabling the development of an innovative and creative work environment.
- 587 LLC for the renovation of buildings at 350-362 State Street, Rochester into 16 market rate apartments ranging from studios to 1-2-bedroom units. Two studio apartments will be designated for those people with income equal or less than 60% of the area median income.

PROJECT MODIFICATIONS:

The following requests were approved:

- Tower 195 LLC requested an extension of the sales tax exemption through December 31, 2022 for The Metropolitan building in downtown Rochester due to construction delays.
- 1733 Ridge Rd LLC requests a portion of the land at Medley Center Parkway be released to accommodate required financing.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Work continues on the housing policy and inclusion of an affordable component. The current consensus is that a requirement of 10% of units should meet the definition of affordable. Anticipate that work will be complete in next month or two.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

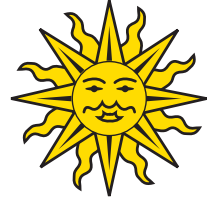
The 2022 proposed budget was reviewed. The estimated revenue total is \$2.25 million. A \$15,000 line was added for one internship. COMIDA will continue to support local projects such as the Workforce Development Center at Monroe Community College. The proposed budget was approved.

Sunshine Corner continued from page 7

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

The following requests were approved:

- MCC asked to extend the original contract with COMIDA for Empower (formerly Ladders Up) to December 31, 2021.
- A 2-month extension of the contract with Loewke Brill Consulting Group for local labor monitoring services extension was requested. The need for increased monitoring was discussed.
- The MARL 5G accelerator program requested a contract amendment for their start up program to adjust the program scope to support students and young entrepreneurs.



A presentation of the Monroe County Comprehensive Plan (known as Plan Forward), last conducted 40 years ago, was given. The county plan will consider how to coordinate with local stakeholders and municipalities to enhance community growth, address regional issues, and plan for improvements in the county over the next 10-15 years. Public outreach to build awareness and solicit feedback will be the first step. A draft plan is expected by Fall of 2022 and a final version by the end of 2022 or the beginning of 2023. This effort is being coordinated with the Bring Monroe Back program which is funded under the American Rescue Plan Act. The presentation is accessible at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ukPi-WYqdZg>.

NOVEMBER 16, 2021 OBSERVED BY DEBORAH RICE GORDON

The local monitoring report for October was given by Kevin Loewke. Eleven non-compliant workers were identified at one project due to problems in finding local framing carpenters. The current overall compliance rate at the Amazon Manitou project is 64%; however they are subject to a special compliance rate of 70%.

APPLICATION REVIEW:

Requests for sales and recording tax exemptions and real property tax abatements were approved for the following applications:

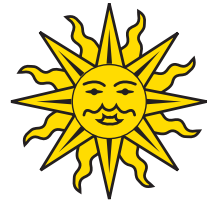
- Home Leasing LLC for the acquisition and redevelopment of the Hickey Freeman Building on North Clinton Avenue, to create a mixed use and mixed income residential community. The project will create 134 units for low-income seniors and include over 77,000 square feet of manufacturing space for Hickey Freeman.
- Aptitude Rochester LLC for building a student residential facility, to be known as ROC River Apartments, on a parcel on East River Road in West Henrietta. The project will include 6 three-story buildings with 201 units, 494 bedrooms and a variety of amenities.
- Germanow-Simon Corporation, a manufacturer of precision polymer optics, for expansion of their existing manufacturing facility on Emmett Street in Rochester. The expansion is needed to fulfill a new contract and in anticipation of future growth.

PROJECT MODIFICATIONS:

The following requests were approved:

- Innovation Partners ROC LLC requested an increase in project costs of \$21.9 million for Phase 2 of the Xerox Square redevelopment and an extension of the sales tax exemption through December 31, 2022.
- The I-Square project requested an extension of the sales tax exemption to June 30, 2023 due to a longer than anticipated construction period.
- The Meadows at English LLC requested an extension of the sales tax exemption through December 31, 2022 due to project delays.
- 300 Trade Court Holdings LLC requested an extension of the sales tax exemption through December 31, 2022 for its project in Chili due to project delays related to the pandemic.
- Apex Rochester LLC is selling its student housing complex and requested the assumption of the real property tax abatement by the new owner of the project.
- 2018 Gateway Hotel LLC requested approval to assume the existing real property tax abatement for a project in Greece.

Sunshine Corner *continued from page 8*



OTHER BUSINESS:

Kristin Sine-Kinz, Acting Vice President, Economic Development, Workforce and Career Technical Education, at Monroe Community College, gave an update on the Mpower partnership between COMIDA and MCC. The program promotes training in IT, advanced manufacturing, and health care industries. The total number of students served last quarter was 213. Several new programs have started with more in development for the new year. For more information, go to: <https://workforceforward.com/mpower/>.

An Executive Session was called to discuss current or pending litigation.

POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD MEETING SUMMARIES

OCTOBER 21, 2021 OBSERVED BY DEBORAH RICE GORDON

The Staff Report was given by Executive Director Reynolds. He introduced Thomas Kim and Nina Malik who are consultants working on a framework for investigatory policies and procedures. The framework was presented for Board consideration. Two considerations influence framework development. The framework in the PAB Charter is high-level and gives the Board the power to complete the framework and create rules and procedures. The original Charter calls for (1) Intake and investigation; (2) A Board vote on whether or not to hold a hearing; (3) A three-member panel holding a hearing and determining formal findings; (4) The panel using a matrix guideline to define disciplinary measures. However, the lawsuit brought by the Locust Club against the City suspended the Board's ability to do steps 2 - 4. In that case after the intake and investigation, a report would go to the public and Chief of Police. The Chief decides if a hearing will be held and the hearing would be run according to state law and the police union contract. A hearing officer would identify the findings and the Chief would assess the findings and impose any discipline. The question then is what role does the Board play within this system aside from step 1? PAB's position is that they still have the obligation to create a complete framework including a disciplinary matrix. The proposed framework reflects this position.

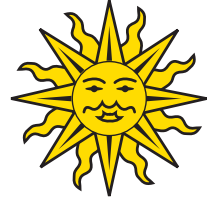
The proposed framework has 4 parts: (1) the intake of tips, referrals, complaints and a case filing by staff; (2) investigations and reports issued, including potential wrongdoings, systemic issues, details, and referrals where needed; (3) review of reports by a 3-member PAB panel which selects consequences using guidelines; (4) release of reports to the public and the police force and tracking of subsequent responses. When completing the proposed framework, PAB will need to determine the consequences for types of wrongdoing. For example, the New York City Police Department uses a 2-tier guideline. Tier 1 addresses significant wrongdoing with a range of consequences. Tier 2 is for lower-level wrongdoing and determines consequences based on a matrix without going to the Board each time. This procedure addresses the low-level cases without overwhelming the Board. Under the proposed framework, there is a 4-part role for the Board to: create and update guidelines; review investigatory reports; meet as panels to discuss findings and determine consequences; still meet as a Board and/or Committees to guide and oversee PAB's broader work.

Alternative frameworks were discussed briefly. After the framework is accepted, tasks for the next six months for the Board and consultants include: drafting rules, policies and procedures in conjunction with the City Law Division; meeting with the Locust Club and the Rochester Police Department; training staff; obtaining community input; drafting the final plans; and getting public input. Investigations could then begin. Following a discussion of the proposal, the Board tabled further discussion until the next meeting so that they could receive more information, including a written proposal, and have time to consider the plan and path forward prior to making a decision.

Chairperson Wilson reported that the consultants and the Board met with City Council to make a presentation on the framework which was well received. There were no Committee reports.

Chair Wilson discussed unfinished business including a meeting calendar proposed by Lead Peak Performance LLC for training. Dr. Harrison suggested that a demographic analysis of new hires should be given to the Board on a regular basis. It is thought that the city already tracks that and a motion to request such an analysis after each 10 hires did not carry. An alternative motion was proposed to obtain demographic data from the city after the second wave of hires. That motion carried with 4 votes for and 3 abstentions.

Sunshine Corner *continued from page 9*



NOVEMBER 4, 2021 OBSERVED BY DEBORAH RICE GORDON

Executive Director Reynolds gave a staff report and stated that over 800 applications have been received for PAB job postings. Job descriptions are available on RocPAB.org. The first applicant reviews are for the core investigation team. The City Council reviewed outstanding PAB contract proposals for a comprehensive language access plan, a public communication plan, and the staff training program. They will go for a full vote next week. A meeting with the new interim Chief of Police was requested.

OLD BUSINESS

Board members continued discussion of their role in the investigation process, as described at the last meeting. Two major questions were considered: (1) does the Board want to review every case or only significant cases as defined by the Board itself; (2) does the Board want to make a disciplinary recommendation to the Chief of Police or does the Board also want to give approval as to the investigatory findings and charges. General discussion included practices adopted by other PABs as well as individual Board member's viewpoints. A motion to provide both a disciplinary recommendation and an assessment of findings was approved. The first question was tabled until work on the matrix has been completed. The next steps for the Board are developing the matrix and giving input into the investigatory rules.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board reviewed a draft mission statement.

"The Police Accountability Board's mission under Rochester's City Charter is to help bring about a community-led reimagining of public safety by creating accountability and transparency over the powers exercised by sworn officers of the Rochester Police Department." Definitions of the terms 'community-led', 'accountability', and 'transparency' were included.

Several revisions to the definitions were suggested. Further discussion was tabled to allow more time for the submission of comments.

NOVEMBER 18, 2021 OBSERVED BY DEBORAH RICE GORDON

STAFF REPORT

Marina Pacheco Walker has been hired as a clerk to support the Board.

The City Council has approved contracts with Coordinated Care Service of Rochester (CCSI) to provide a training program to PAB and staff and the Empire Justice Center to help develop a comprehensive foreign language access plan. A contract to redesign the PAB website was also proposed. A new contract has been signed with Causewave Community Partners (formerly the Ad Council) to help with our public awareness campaign in the new year.

The City administration announced the creation of a civilian panel to interview candidates for police force positions. The panel is an attempt to fulfill a proposal in the Police Reform Plan which was adopted earlier this year. Panel members will be selected by a three-member committee. The Committee will begin accepting applications in January.

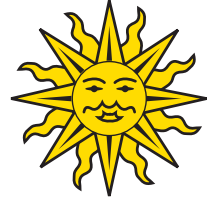
PAB has been focused on hiring. It hopes to make job offers to the initial group of candidates by the end of the week.

Chair Reports

On November 13, Chairperson Wilson and Executive Director Reynolds gave an overview of PAB and community policing as part of a meeting for local elected officials. They also met with Interim Police Chief Smith to introduce the Board and learn about the changes being made in RPD programs. An officer wellness program is being developed to include mental health. PAB staff will be meeting frequently with the RPD staff as the disciplinary matrix is developed.



Sunshine Corner *continued from page 10*



OLD BUSINESS

The following revised draft mission statement was discussed by Board members:

"The Police Accountability Board's mission is to center community voices in reimagining public safety. The PAB will create accountability, transparency and systemic change within the Rochester Police Department."

Several revisions were suggested. Further discussion on the statement was tabled until the next meeting.

The communication plan overview was presented by Natalie Benson. In July 2021, Causewave Community Partners was engaged to develop a strategic plan that would use multiple media resources to increase public awareness of the PAB and to educate the community on the complaint process. The short-term goals were to build awareness of job openings and build understanding and trust for PAB's role. Long-term goals included encouraging the reporting of incidents through the new process and establishing PAB credibility among city residents. Draft key messages and implementation strategies in support of these goals were created. Implementation of this year-long plan begins next week although some team positions have yet to be filled. A motion to approve the framework as presented was passed.

NEW BUSINESS

A disciplinary matrix proposal was presented by Executive Director Reynolds. PAB must create non-binding disciplinary guidelines combining input from the community, RPD, and the Locust Club with expert knowledge on discipline. Formation of a three-member matrix committee was suggested that would have support from PAB staff, SMK Consulting and others as needed. A framework for obtaining input from various impacted community groups was also presented. Committee tasks and timelines and the possibility of a restorative-focused matrix were debated by the Board. A motion that amended the proposal to substitute the Board as a whole for a subcommittee and forego the identification of work hours was approved.

An executive session was held to discuss the hiring of specific job candidates.

JANUARY 6, 2022 OBSERVED BY DEBORAH RICE GORDON

The Staff Report was given by Executive Director Reynolds. COVID-related absences in city government, PAB, and consultant groups have caused delays in job application reviews and other work. PAB is working remotely and onboarded a group of new staff on January 3. The lack of adequate office space is an urgent issue being addressed. Examples of disciplinary matrices were provided to the board by SMK. PAB asked for disciplinary data from the city and the RPD was to be consulted. No response has been received to date. Staff will go through publicly available records concerning disciplinary measures to aggregate data. In addition, the proposed rules for information access will be circulated and finalization from the City will be sought.

The Chair's report was given by Shani Wilson. PAB will be meeting with the new and existing City Council members in the coming weeks.

OLD BUSINESS

Due to the absence of some board members, discussion of the disciplinary matrix was moved to the next meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Jobs Committee has been interviewing candidates recommended by staff. Recommendations have been submitted. An Executive Session was held to discuss details of particular people's employment.

NEW BUSINESS

The 2022 calendar was approved. The next Board meeting will be held on January 19.

Sunshine Corner continued from page 11

MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE MEETINGS

DECEMBER 17, 2021 OBSERVED BY ELAINE SCHMIDT

The Legislature passed the redistricting plan along party lines, 20 yes and 9 no. For more details, read the Redistricting Committee report on page 5.

JANUARY 3, 2022 OBSERVED BY ELAINE SCHMIDT

The Legislature held its Organizational meeting. Democrat Sabrina Lamar reached an agreement with Republicans assuring her selection as President of the Legislature. This agreement allowed Republicans to pick the majority leader despite being outnumbered 15-14 in party enrollment of the legislators.

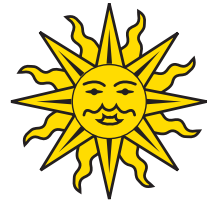
JANUARY 11, 2022 OBSERVED BY ELAINE SCHMIDT

The Legislature held a moment of silence in memory of the passing of Tim Mains, a former member of the Rochester City Council who also served as principal of Rochester School No. 50 for more than a decade.

The Legislature accepted a \$16,356,468.89 grant from the US Treasury for emergency rent assistance from January 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022.

The collective bargaining agreements with CSEA Local 828 and the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 158 were adopted by the Legislature.

President of the Monroe County Legislature Sabrina Lamar was confirmed as legislative representative to the Monroe Community College Board of Trustees.



Book Club Selects Readings for February - June

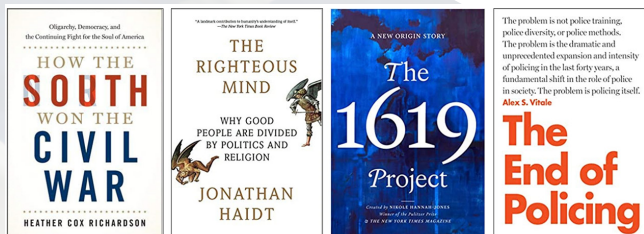
The LWV-RMA book club meets via Zoom at 4:30 P.M., for the most part on the third Thursday of the month. A link will be sent to everyone who expresses an interest to Judy Weinstein (vote411@lwv-rma.org), who serves as the group's Zoom techie.

During their December meeting, book club members identified the following books to read through June 2022:

- February 17** *How the South Won the Civil War* by Heather Cox Richardson – discussion led by Mary Hussong-Kallen
- March 17** *The Righteous Mind* by Jonathan Haidt – discussion led by Karen Funk
- April 21** *The 1619 Project* by Nicole Hannah Jones (Part 1) – discussion led by Deb Gordon
- May 19** *The 1619 Project* by Nicole Hannah Jones (Part 2) – discussion led by Chris Pryor
- June 16** *The End of Policing* by Alex S. Vitale – discussion led by Diane Stengel



Book club members meeting via Zoom on December 16 and January 20



Calendar

February

- 4 First Friday (11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.) Watch your email for the Zoom link
- 8 FORUM: Teaching the History of Racist Policy and Resistance in Rochester (6:30 P.M. on Zoom)
Register: <https://tinyurl.com/RacistHistory>
- 16 LWV-RMA Board Meeting (5:30 – 7:00 P.M.)
- 17 LWV-RMA Book Club (4:30 – 5:30 P.M. via Zoom)
– *How the South Won the Civil War* by Heather Cox Richardson



March

- 4 First Friday (11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.) Watch your email for the Zoom link
- 16 LWV-RMA Board Meeting (5:30 – 7:00 P.M.)
- 17 LWV-RMA Book Club (4:30 – 5:30 P.M. via Zoom)
– *The Righteous Mind* by Jonathan Haidt

There are still no scheduled public Naturalization Ceremonies in Monroe County due to the pandemic.

LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK! 

We know you'll "like" us!

www.facebook.com/lwvofrma

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

Join First Friday!

Join other LWV-RMA members for informal conversations on any or all of the dates listed—for a few minutes or for the full two hours, your choice:

January 7

February 4

March 4

April 1

May 6

June 3

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



First Friday in person on November 5 and via Zoom on December 3

Board of Directors meetings are currently via Zoom. Board meetings are open to all members. See calendar for dates and times and contact Barbara Grosh 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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A Monthly Publication of the
League of Women Voters/Rochester Metropolitan Area

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MARCH VOTER DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 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.

Join the League Today!



Name: _____

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

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

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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	