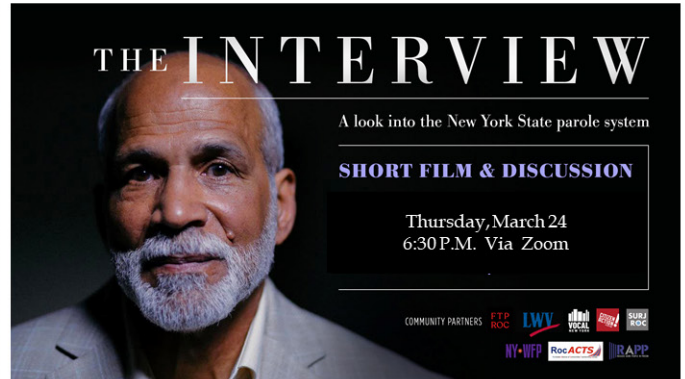


TheVOTER

March Learning Opportunities



*Tuesday, March 15, 7:00 P.M.
To learn more, go to page 3.*



*Thursday, March 24, 6:30 P.M.
To learn more, go to page 3.*

League Regional Training Workshop

Saturday, March 19, 2022 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Registration deadline March 11

Presented by the League of Women Voters of NYS

*Saturday, March 19, 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
To learn more, go to page 14.*

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President's Corner

It's the 21st Century: Why are We So Segregated?

On February 8 we presented "Teaching the History of Racist Policy and Resistance in Rochester" with Shane Wiegand and Kesha James, co-leaders of the Antiracist Curriculum Project. If you missed it, it's worth watching: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6NQDLaxDgVI>.

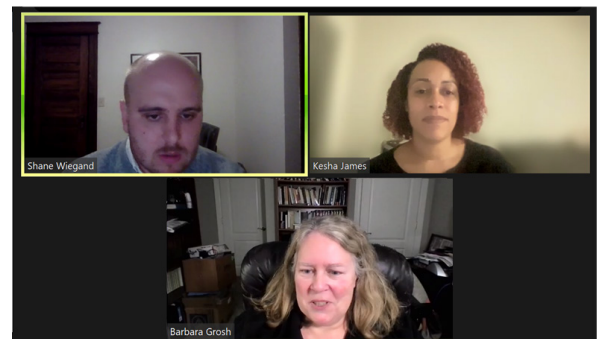
This project grew out of Mr. Wiegand's work to answer questions his 4th grade students in the Rush-Henrietta School District asked during a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day lesson. Using primary documents from New York history, the project explores slavery, abolition, redlining, restrictive covenants, restrictive zoning, and urban renewal, which together created a segregated Rochester, built wealth for its white citizens, and disenfranchised people of color.

Forum participants followed a lesson just as students do, examining a series of primary historical documents, encouraged to notice, to wonder, and to infer. Just as students do, we shared our thoughts and feelings, and Shane and Kesha used restorative teaching practices to help us respond to the documentary materials we examined, some of which aroused strong feelings among us.

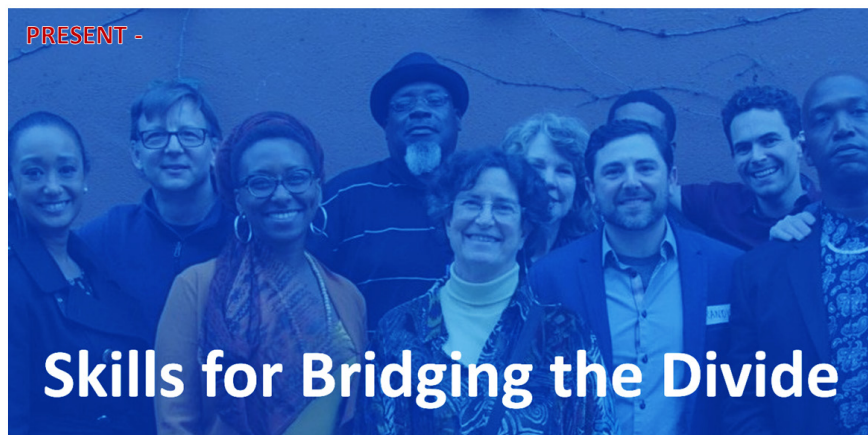
This curriculum is still being expanded and developed for all grade levels. It has been adopted in RCSD and about half the suburban districts in Monroe County. A similar and connected project is being undertaken at the local BOCES. While teaching about the oppression of Black people has generated enormous resistance in other parts of the US, we are lucky to have such positive developments locally. We especially like the fact that the curriculum pulls students into primary documents. This curriculum is teaching both history and historiography (how do we draw conclusions about history?), but not ideology. If learning the history of your region and state raises strong feelings that something was wrong, it may lead you to want to learn more about the residual effects of that history and to do something to change it, but that's not the same as teaching someone to feel shame, as is commonly suggested by those trying to stop the teaching of the history of racism in the US.

We urge you to watch the video and be inspired. If you live outside the city, call your local school district and ask if they are using this curriculum and if not, urge them to try it. I live in the Webster school district, so I looked at their website and found a contact for the Assistant Superintendent of Instruction and left a message. I got a call back from the head of the Social Studies department and we had a lovely conversation. I learned that teachers have some latitude and some had been trained in this curriculum and have started using it. The experience was largely positive. I registered my thanks and support, which he seemed to appreciate. We even agreed that the LWV should come and register high school students to vote this spring, which seemed to make us both very happy!

There is a list of all Monroe County School districts near the end of Who Represents You: <https://lwv-rma.org/WRY2021print.pdf>. Check your school district's website to identify and contact the staff member in charge of instruction. If you learn that your district is using the curriculum, say thank you. Local administrators need to hear from the public when they are doing things right. If you find a district not using the curriculum, I'd like to know. Perhaps the League could consider some local advocacy around this. And while you're at it, find out if your district would like the LWV to do a voter registration drive in your high school this spring or next fall!



Barbara Grosh, President, League of Women Voters of the Rochester Metropolitan Area
president@lwv-rma.org



LWV-RMA Forum: Finger Lakes Region Braver Angels Workshop: SKILLS FOR BRIDGING THE POLITICAL DIVIDE

Tuesday, March 15, 2022

7:00-9:15 P.M. Online

A free, online workshop to learn and practice skills for having more respectful and productive political conversations with people on the “other side.”

After a brief introduction and a discussion about what can go wrong in political discussions, participants will learn the following:

- Tone setting skills
- Listening skills
- Speaking skills
- Strategies for handling difficult moments.

Demos in the large group and small breakout groups will give opportunities for participants to practice these skills.

Register here: <https://braverangels.org/event/skills-for-bridging-the-divide-workshop-7/>

Sponsored by The Finger Lakes Region Braver Angels Work Group, the League of Women Voters of Rochester Metropolitan Area and Pachamama Alliance Rochester Area Community

LWV-RMA Forum: Parole Justice and the Parole System in NYS

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2022 6:30 P.M. ONLINE

RSVP AT bit.ly/theinterviewscreen

View the short film, “*The Interview*”, which shows what coming up for parole is like and how it changed during the era of mass incarceration.

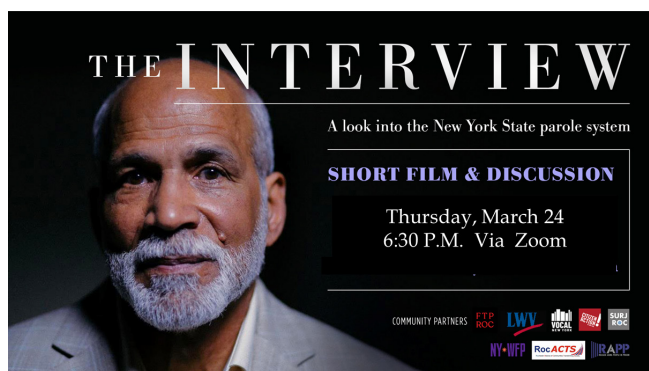
Learn about *The Elder Parole* and *Fair and Timely Parole* and ask questions and learn what you can do. LWVNYS is actively working for the passage of these bills in the 2022 legislative session. Ask questions and learn what you can do.

Register here: bit.ly/theinterviewscreen. If that link doesn't work, try this one:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_quZpWCBQSNuKA9YyniOeLA

Sponsored by Rochester Parole Justice Coalition:

FTP (Free The People) ROC, Vocal NY, Citizen Action, SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice) ROC, NY Working Families Party (NY WFP), RAPP (Release Aging People in Prison), RocACTS (Rochester Alliance of Communities Transforming Society), League of Women Voters of Rochester Metro Area



LWVNYS Dives into Criminal Justice Advocacy and LWV-RMA is on Board

Since adopting its new Position on Criminal Justice* last June, LWVNYS has formed a state level Criminal Justice Committee (CJ Committee) and approved three state bills for the committee to advocate around. These are the Elder Parole, Fair & Timely Parole, and Turn on the TAP bills. Turn on the TAP, which would repeal the prohibition against persons who are incarcerated receiving tuition assistance for college courses, is now included in the LWVNYS Pre-Budget Lobby packet for local Leagues lobbying their state representatives.

The CJ Committee is connecting and collaborating with other state organizations focused on these bills, including the People's Campaign for Parole Justice (PCPJ), Release Aging People from Prison (RAPP), and the College & Community Fellowship. Activities and actions include participation in Albany Advocacy Days and co-sponsoring of informational panels and webinars. With CJ Committee input, LWVNYS has submitted testimony in support of Turn on the TAP to the Higher Education Committees of the State Senate and Assembly.

LWV-RMA is participating in these efforts through representation on the CJ Committee, initially by Kimberly Byers and now by Judy Sternberg. Other Leagues sending representatives are clustered around downstate and the Albany area plus a smattering of other areas around the state. LWV-RMA is collaborating with RocACTS and the Rochester Parole Justice Coalition to co-sponsor the March public event featured on page 3. Register and attend the event to learn more about these parole issues or go to our website to view the recorded version afterwards.

It is important to remember that individual League members are encouraged to speak up as individuals on public policies and issues of concern to them, but only authorized persons can speak in the name of the League.

*The LWVNYS Position on Criminal Justice can be found in the "Impact on Issues in NY State 2021". Go to <https://lwwny.org>, click on Our Work and then Impact on Issues.

Parole Justice is Gender Justice:

JOIN THE NEXT VIRTUAL ADVOCACY DAY ON MARCH 9, 2022

WITH WORLD-RENOWNED FEMINIST, ABOLITIONIST, AND SCHOLAR, DR. ANGELA DAVIS!

On March 9, the People's Campaign for Parole Justice will hold its second annual Parole Justice is Gender Justice (Virtual) Advocacy Day and we're asking EVERYBODY to come. The advocacy day will be virtual and take place from 9:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. via Zoom.

On this advocacy day, we will highlight the continued harm women, transgender people and gender non-conforming (GNC) people face from systems designed to operate through violent policy, structure, and culture to oppress and criminalize Black and brown women, trans people, GNC people, families and communities. Surveys show the vast majority are survivors of trauma and abuse before entering prison, and a majority experience abuse by staff while behind bars. We also know that women and GNC New Yorkers disproportionately bear the enormous financial and emotional toll of supporting an incarcerated loved one, which new research shows shortens a person's lifespan.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeLXO2IToMUTuAklSMO9zm5Qz9YBquyhRiCd8onMPlzC_el3g/viewform


Registrants will be placed on teams and will receive materials and instructions.

LWVNYS Criminal Justice Committee Co-Chairs: Vivione Marshall and Richard Rifkin

LWVNYS Program: County Redistricting: How, What and When?


During a Zoom forum sponsored by the LWVNYS on January 27, about 180 participants statewide heard about redistricting issues from the following panel:

- Jeffrey Wice, Adjunct Professor/Senior Fellow, NY Census & Redistricting Institute, New York Law School, who reviewed basics of redistricting at the local level;
- Dale Barbaria, Staffer for NYS Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, who outlined new legislation affecting redistricting;
- Barbara Grosh, President, LWV-RMA, and member of its Redistricting Committee, who described efforts by LWV-RMA to have an impact on redistricting in Monroe County.



Conclusions

- Neighborhood Associations can be mobilized.
- League members can be mobilized.
- Other groups too. We are not alone.
- League is trusted source of information.
- With enough public comments, you can get something done.
- An agile communication plan is key.



Seen here are the presenters as well as discussion moderator Laura Ladd Bierman, Executive Director of LWVNYS. At the far left is a Zoom slide presented by President Grosh during her comments.

The program can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=63rLWynpwnl>

Monroe County Bar Association: Voter Suppression Then and Now: Protecting Our Democracy

On February 10 the Monroe County Bar Association hosted a Zoom panel discussion of the varieties of voter suppression and steps that perhaps can help to alleviate these restrictions.

Panelist Derek Tisler, Esq., Counsel with the Brennan Center for Justice, described ways that the pandemic brought challenges to voting, and led to more early voting and voting by mail. Since the 2020 election, many state legislatures have considered and/or passed new laws to limit voting opportunities, especially for groups without political power. He noted that our country is facing clear, unprecedented challenges to democracy, but also noted that both parties supported the results of the 2020 presidential election, and that while some states are passing laws inhibiting voting rights, some are expanding those rights.

Panelist Barbara Grosh, LWV-RMA President, noted that overt voter suppression is not required to get low voter turnout. New York State, which has progressive voting rights, was 40th in turnout for the November 2020 elections. She described weaknesses in the state's voting systems, such as advance registration requirements, holding elections in odd-numbered years, polling locations, and district lines that don't reflect communities of interest, among others.

The discussion was moderated by Katherine T. McCarley, Esq., for the Monroe County Bar Association.

To learn more about voter rights suppression nationwide, visit the Brennan Center website at

<https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/voting-laws-roundup-february-2022>.



MCBA moderator Katherine T. McCarley, Esq., with panelists Derek Tisler, Esq., and LWV-RMA President Barbara Grosh.

Planning for Upcoming Meetings with Albany Lawmakers

In a two-week period in late February through early March, LWV-RMA members are scheduled to meet via Zoom with all nine Albany lawmakers representing our region to discuss priority issues of LWVNY. Among the topics to be discussed during these pre-budget-passage meetings are:

- making voting easier by eliminating the 25-day statutory requirement for voter registration which would allow voters to register to vote up to the constitutional deadline of 10 days prior to the election. The League supports same day voter registration, but the voters voted against the Constitutional Amendment in November.
- expanding polling places on college campuses,
- funding elections,
- ethics reform, and
- "Turn on the TAP" (Tuition Assistance Program) for people in prison.



After the budget is adopted, we will meet with the legislators again to discuss additional priority issues. If you'd like to participate in these meetings, please contact Judy Weinstein at vote411@lww-rma.org.

Voter Registration at RIT

League members met with RIT students on January 28 during the college's Community Service Fair to encourage potential voters to register. Seen in the red sweater at the League booth is member Marcia Young. Pictures by Joan Rosenthal.



FEPC

The Fair Election Practices Campaign (FEPC) is beginning to ramp up for the 2022 Election season. The FEPC reaches out to all local candidates each year to request that they sign a Fair Campaign Pledge to run issues-based campaigns that better inform voters about the candidates' positions. A Hearing Committee is set up to resolve complaints filed by candidates who have signed the Pledge regarding alleged unfair practices by their opponents. The Hearing Committee decisions are posted on the LWV-RMA website and social media accounts and shared with the local media. To learn more about the FEPC, visit the LWV-RMA website <https://lww-rma.org/FEPC.php> or call Kris Rogers at 746-6157.

Planning & Zoning Position Committee

A committee has been formed to review the LWV-RMA Position on Planning and Zoning. Virtual meetings were held with Monroe County Planning staff and City of Rochester Manager of Planning in January, and committee members are researching local topics and their relationship to planning and zoning laws. The review and research on local issues such as segregation, gentrification, and climate change is ongoing, and these issues were compared with the National, State and Local Positions to see where there is overlap or missing position statements. A draft report is expected to be delivered to the LWV-RMA Board in March for review and feedback.

Thanks!

Kris Rogers 746-6157

Redistricting Team Update

New lines for US House and NYS Legislature were passed in early February. The Independent Redistricting Commission failed to submit a second set of maps by the deadline, leaving redistricting decisions to the State Legislature. The Senate and Assembly moved quickly, approving maps within days. Governor Hochul also acted quickly, approving them the following day.

Petitioning for 2022 candidates is slated to begin on March 1. Consequently, all county Boards of Elections are scrambling to adjust their local Election Districts, and the political parties are hastily preparing their slates. Meanwhile, a lawsuit was filed in NYS Supreme Court in objection to the US House and NYS Senate lines. It's generally assumed that the suit will not succeed, but who knows? Whatever the outcome, the case adds more stress to the tight schedule.

How do the new lines look? Here in Monroe County, they are generally similar to the previous lines. See them for yourself here: <https://newyork.redistrictingandyou.org/>.

US HOUSE. The 25th Congressional District still includes most of Monroe County (a little less of it than before) and extends to Canandaigua. Our neighbors in surrounding counties (and some outer towns of Monroe County) now find themselves in the far-flung 24th District. It covers NY's entire Lake Ontario shoreline (except the Rochester area), from Lewiston to the Thousand Islands.

NYS ASSEMBLY. The local Assembly districts are similar to previous lines. One district (134) is exactly the same. The districts serving city voters (136, 137, 138) have been adjusted to make their city boundaries more compact, doing a better job of keeping communities and neighborhoods intact. The biggest change is in District 135, which lost Webster to District 130 in Wayne County; 135 now serves Pittsford, Mendon, Perinton, and Penfield.

NYS SENATE. In the previous redistricting, districts had a wide variation in population size. New York City districts were heavily populated, and upstate districts were thinly populated. Presumably, this gave Republican candidates an advantage in the rural/suburban areas, by packing Democrats into a small number of urban districts. The new districts (drawn by Democrats) narrowed that disparity, with all 63 districts now closer in population size. However, it also resulted in changes to the map – and district numbers. The two main Monroe County districts are now bigger. One is on the Eastside, and the other is largely on the Westside. The eastside district (now 56) is now completely within Monroe County. The westside district (now 57) serves more city voters and adds Henrietta. Some outer towns on the Westside will be in District 62.

MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE. The Legislature has taken no public action on redistricting since January. Many expect a new five-member commission to be appointed. The next regular election for Legislature seats will be in 2023.

ROCHESTER CITY COUNCIL. No announcements yet, but we've been told that "one hearing" on the new districts will be held before approval. Four of the Council's nine members represent districts. The next regular election for Council district seats will be in 2023.

GREECE TOWN BOARD. Greece is the only town in Monroe County whose board represents districts known as "wards." We've asked about redistricting, but we haven't received any reply to our inquiries. League members in Greece are encouraged to contact Town Hall to ask about redistricting of the town's wards. The next regular election for Town Council seats will be in 2023.

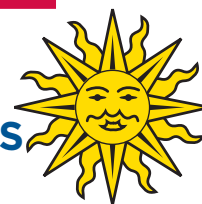
Do you have questions about redistricting? Or know somebody with a concern? Contact the League's Redistricting team at redistricting@lwv-rma.org.

Thank you to Sunshine Corner Reporters

Our dedicated team of reporters – Connie Flahive, Deb Gordon, and Elaine Schmidt – attend (virtually or in person) meetings of governmental groups whose decisions affect us in Monroe County, in order to help keep us informed about the workings of those groups. These agencies include the Monroe County Legislature, COMIDA, the Rochester Board of Education, and the Rochester Police Accountability Board. If you are interested in helping with this important contribution, or if you'd like to report on a different group, contact Elaine Schmidt e.schmidt8@frontier.com.

Sunshine Corner

POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD (PAB) MEETING SUMMARIES



JANUARY 20, 2022

OBSERVED BY DEBORAH RICE GORDON

A new City Council liaison to the PAB, Kim Smith, was introduced. Ms. Smith is newly elected to the City Council and has been a long-time social activist.

The Staff report was given by Executive Director Reynolds.

- PAB staff continue to work remotely due to the pandemic. PAB office space is limited and expansion will be needed to accommodate new hires.
- Chair Shani Wilson and Executive Director Reynolds met with City Council leadership which expressed full support for the PAB and took steps to meet the needs of the Board.
- Mayor Evans will meet with the PAB and a draft agenda has been created including relationship building, information access, training needs, funding, office space needs, and regular leadership meetings with administration to proactively address challenges and identify solutions together.
- The PAB is working with the Empire Justice Center to develop a comprehensive language access program. Work on the website is ongoing. The PAB is working with Causewave Community Partners to develop a community engagement plan and with Coordinated Care Services and local leaders to develop a comprehensive training program for staff.
- The PAB's approach for salary offers includes advancing pay equity and staying within budget. The City's Human Resources Department has aided PAB in those efforts.
- PAB staff attorneys completed an early analysis of Rochester Police Department's (RPD) disciplinary records and a data analyst is being brought in to assist.
- Mayor Evans is asking for public input for the search for a new RPD Chief. The PAB will discuss with the Mayor how they may help in this process.
- A first draft of PAB investigation rules has been completed. Input will be obtained by the Board, staff and other groups before the rules are finalized.

OLD BUSINESS

SMK is continuing work on the disciplinary matrix discussion and can answer questions from the public. The PAB is looking forward to data analyses to inform matrix development. Staff found many missing pieces in the publicly available records. PAB access to the actual database will help in closing those data gaps.

NEW BUSINESS

The dates of Feb 1st and 15th were proposed for Board training meetings.

Sunshine Corner *continued from page 7*



FEBRUARY 3, 2022 OBSERVED BY DEBORAH RICE GORDON

The Staff Report was given by Executive Director Reynolds.

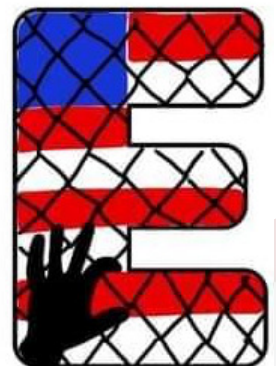
- Board staff is focused on hiring and a staff of 30-35 is anticipated by the end of the month.
- New office space is anticipated for the beginning of March.
- The training timeline is set for a 160-hour academy launch in May for anyone doing investigations or case management. An additional 3-4 weeks for wrap-around training involving topics such as classicism, racism, city history, etc. will also be available. In-service training will be provided on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. These programs are being created by staff and consultants.
- The first budget meeting with City Council staff to discuss processes is scheduled. The City's Human Resources Department will be meeting with the PAB to ensure hiring goes smoothly and appropriately. New positions have been approved and are posted online.
- Chair Wilson and Executive Director Reynolds have had several meetings with City Council's PAB liaison, Kim Smith, that have gone well.
- The PAB is on track to accepting complaints this spring, provided jobs are filled, office space is secured, etc.
- The City's Law Department is reviewing PAB rules and procedures for investigations, and it is hoped that a meeting can be scheduled soon to hear their assessment.

CHAIR REPORT

- A meeting was held with Mayor Evans and staff. The Mayor wants investigations open as soon as possible. Toward that end, he supports the PAB having access to information needed to do the work and encouraged staff members to expedite PAB-related requests. He has no plan to propose cuts to the PAB budget. Mayor Evans asked the PAB to serve as a focus group for the administration regarding hiring of a new Police Chief. The Board could determine how they would like to participate and communicate that to the Mayor.
- In addition, the PAB has been invited by Police Chief Smith to have quarterly meetings around body-worn camera policies and procedures. PAB will need to determine how to best serve in that effort.
- Chair Wilson began a discussion of time commitments for both PAB and regular job demands. She suggested that a couple of mental health days every 3 months would help Board members maintain balance, especially for those with public/patient-facing jobs during the pandemic. In the absence of Board alternates, she asked the Board to consider how member tardiness to meetings or inconsistent attendance should be handled.

OLD BUSINESS

An update was given by Executive Director Reynolds on disciplinary matrix development. Some staff are working full time to review matrices from across the country as well as Rochester Police records of disciplinary cases. It is hoped that the next Board meeting can focus on staff presentations and discussion. The Board will have to move forward, although the city is still working on providing requested information. The timeline is to have a framework in March followed by a phase to get community input.



Sunshine Corner *continued from page 8*



MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

FEBRUARY 8, 2022 OBSERVED BY ELAINE SCHMIDT

The Legislature passed a resolution to give volunteer fire fighters and volunteer ambulance workers a 10% exemption on their primary residence's property taxes.

The County Executive was authorized to execute a contract (not to exceed \$100,000) with Magellan Advisors, LLC to provide a Community Access plan for high-speed internet.

Mark Funk was reappointed Conflict Defender.

Legislator Howard Maffucci was appointed to the Monroe County Airport Authority effective immediately through December 31, 2025.

COMIDA BOARD MEETING SUMMARIES

JANUARY 18, 2022 OBSERVED BY DEBORAH RICE GORDON

Kevin Loewke gave local labor monitoring reports for the month of December and for 2021. The local labor rate at the Amazon Manitou site is at about 62% with a goal of 70%.

Brian LaFountain discussed labor exemptions for the Amazon Manitou site. As of January 8, 61.4% of workers at the site were local. Local labor was paid \$28 million which was 70% of total worker pay. Steel workers account for some of the non-local labor. It's projected that these workers will be finished in March or April at which time the 70% target could be met. If the target is not met in the end, the Board can reduce benefits that had been approved for the project.

APPLICATION REVIEW:

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

Wolf Solar LLC, a Canadian company, for construction of a solar energy project at 7484 Fourth Section Road in Sweden. Saturn Power Corporation is the parent company for both Wolf Solar LLC and Mantisi Solar LLC. No decision has been made as to procurement of panels.

Mantisi Solar LLC, a Canadian company, for construction of a solar energy project at 7397 Fourth Section Road in Sweden.

1365 Emerson Street LLC and Tri Tower Telecom LLC for the acquisition and renovation of a warehouse facility at 1365 Emerson Street in Rochester to accommodate business expansion.

Erie Station 241 LLC and CooperVision Inc for the renovation of an existing facility and the construction of a new facility at 180 and 230 Thruway Park Drive, respectively, in Henrietta.

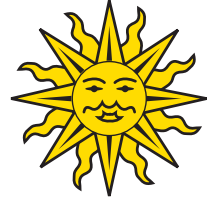
Li-Cycle North American Hub, Inc., a Canadian company, for the construction of facilities at 50 and 205 McLaughlin Road in Greece to produce metallic compounds from an intermediate product of lithium battery reclamation. The current request pertains to the facility hub; the application for a warehouse was submitted to COMIDA in December. The by-product will be handled at the facilities and not the batteries themselves.

PROJECT MODIFICATIONS:

The following requests were approved:

- South Union Street LLC requested an increase in project costs for the on-going construction of a Hampton Inn and Suites adjacent to The Strong National Museum of Play in Rochester.
- Tony Celino LLC requested approval to assume the real property tax abatement for the HIVE@155 mixed use development in Rochester.
- HFC Associates LLC requested approval to assume the real property tax abatement for 795 Monroe LLC.
- Alkemy Machine LLC requested extension of their sales tax exemption through December 31, 2023.
- Ren Square LLC requested extension of their sales tax exemption through December 31, 2022.

Sunshine Corner continued from page 9



- Butler/Till Media Services Inc. requested an extension of the sales tax exemption through December 31, 2022.
- Rochester Clinical Research, Inc. requested an extension of their sales tax exemption through June 30, 2022.
- Skyway Communications Inc. requested an extension of their sales tax exemption through June 30, 2022.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Compliance Committee is recommending that job creation waivers be approved for a restaurant and a technology company. The Board voted to approve both waivers.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Jim Gertner and Marcy Lynch from the Mpower program at MCC provided a program update to the Board. An additional \$200,000 was requested to support the Health Care Program through June 2022. The request was approved.
- COMIDA staff requested \$12,500 for the purchase of Pro Track Plus software to support customer relationship management and economic development processes. The request was approved.
- A draft dashboard report was presented to the Board for the first time. The report will be issued monthly.
- An update on the sale of the Brew Road property to Solar Energy Suppliers was discussed by staff.

FEBRUARY 15, 2022 OBSERVED BY DEBORAH RICE GORDON

Kevin Loewke gave a local labor monitoring report for the month of January. Thirty cases of non-compliance were noted primarily for no proof of identification. In all cases identification was either provided later or the worker was removed from the site.

Brian LaFountain discussed a labor exemption request for the 30 West Broad Street LLC project. The average local bid for metal roof replacement work was significantly more than 25% higher than a bid from a firm in Tonawanda; therefore the exemption was granted under COMIDA policy. As of last week, 61.4% of workers at the Amazon Manitou site were local. The delay in getting to the 70% requirement is attributed to the continuation of steel work. Board member Milne reported that non-local workers are involved in roofing, mezzanine construction, security system installation and loading dock construction as well as other areas and these could be an opportunity for local labor. Mr. LaFountain was asked to request a monthly projection of local labor from the site so that the Board can stay on top of this issue. If the project is not at 70% by the end of construction, actions such as recapturing of benefits can be taken.

Gregg Genovese reviewed the current budget and the projected revenue for 2022 based on new projects in the pipeline. By year end, a revenue estimate in excess of \$4 million could be anticipated.

Application Review: No new applications were received.

PROJECT MODIFICATIONS:

The following request was approved: Innovation Partners ROC LLC requested an increase in the mortgage recording tax exemption for their renovation of the Xerox Square property due to an increase in their construction loan amount.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Motions to appoint Ann Burr as chair of the finance committee and as a member of the governance committee passed.

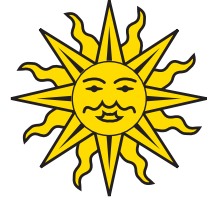
An executive session was called; the reason was not given.



Sunshine Corner continued from page 10

RCSD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

JANUARY 27, 2022 OBSERVED BY CONSTANCE FLAHIVE ONLINE



Seventeen students and parents spoke before the Board supporting continued transportation for students, and 94 additional written comments were submitted. In addition, eight community leaders and RCSD staff spoke in support of maintaining the Rochester International Academy as a newcomer school providing services for refugee and immigrant students.

Reports were given by the Student Leadership Congress, the Parent Leadership Council (PLAC) and the Bilingual Education Council representatives. Topics raised included exploration of an equity curriculum, provision of more challenging courses for all students, concerns about the effect of testing on students, remote learning issues, inclusion of parents in decisions, and the continuing need to improve communication.

The Board Reports are available on Board Docs from the following committees: Equity in Student Achievement (Simmons), Board Governance and Development (Maloy), and Policy Development and Review (Powell). Commissioners summarized key points during the meeting. Vice President LeBron introduced the Finance and Resource Allocation report. Chief Financial Officer Pierce presented the December 2021 Financial Report and the 2021-22 Second Quarter Change Order Report which were discussed and accepted. Policies will be further addressed under new business.

Shaun Nelms, Ed.D., Superintendent of East Upper and Lower Schools, reported on coming work on Standards Based Grading at his schools and how grades reflect what students are learning. Key points include the use of 'Understanding by Design' and the importance of understanding the learners. Vice President LeBron added a request to Commissioner Simmons to invite Superintendent Nelms to attend her Equity in Student Achievement (ESA) Committee meetings so that East can be represented.

Lesli Myers-Small, Ed.D., RCSD Superintendent, opened with a description of the COVID 'test to stay' program and a vaccination program in schools. The bulk of her presentation dealt the quarterly update on the Federal Relief Funding, focusing on Round 2. The Coronavirus Response & Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) funds of \$87.5M was approved and use was initiated in Fall 2021. Deputy Superintendent Dr. Genelle Morris provided an overview of three of the six CRRSA priorities (1, 3 & 6) that are currently being initiated: 1) Rigorous academic instruction including school redesign, 3) Investing in staff capacity, and 6) Districtwide infrastructure including student health & safety and COVID 19 response. Most items under these 3 priorities are considered initiated with 'demonstratable progress.' Myers-Small also noted that approval for the Round 3 plan (American Rescue Plan, ~\$197M) had been received.

Dr. Morris also reported that the Zone Reconfiguration Task Force is recommending that no changes will be made to the current zones or to transportation routes, thus eliminating suggested changes.

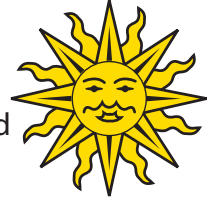
Resolutions were brought forward and approved with minimal discussion. Several resolutions (#378 - 387 minus 383) were grouped to be accepted as Concept Resolutions (e.g. Final Payments for extended contracts and resignations) and voted on a whole. Individual Resolutions (#383 and 388-417) followed including, for example, provisional appointments, training, payment for extended learning and summer programs. All motions carried. There was some discussion of an intermunicipal agreement whereby Monroe County would reimburse RCSD up to \$3,911,680 for the cost of screening and testing of District employees and students for COVID-19 during the period September 9, 2021, through June 30, 2022. The agreement was approved; however, VP LeBron noted that the reimbursement may not occur during the current budget year and thus there was some risk involved.

Commissioner Powell presented the first reading of Board Policies involving Educational Philosophy (0000), Superintendent goals (3000) and Board member responsibilities (2000, 2280, 2440). She noted that the goals changed each year, but the language is often static. Policy 0200 concerns the issue of the language, and it has been recommended that that item be deleted. It will be included in this first reading. Four additional Blocks of policies (#2100, 2111, 2120.1, 2260, 2410) are in the final reading stage and will be voted on during the next regular meeting. See BoardDocs® Plus on the RCSD website under the Board of Education tab- click on meetings and 2022.

Sunshine Corner continued from page 11

BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSIONS

Work Sessions on School Closures and Reconfiguration were scheduled for January 13, 18, 20 and February 3. Among the items discussed were Zone Reconfiguration Plans, the Managed Choice Policy,



Communications Protocols, use of the Board Question Log, Remote vs. In-person meetings, Board Meeting Structure, and future Board Work Sessions. Minutes are available on BoardDocs® Plus.

MEETING OF THE EQUITY IN STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (ESA COW)

FEBRUARY 8, 2022 **OBSERVED BY CONSTANCE FLAHIVE**

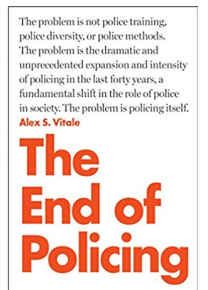
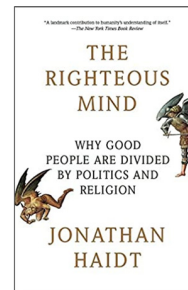
At the February 8 meeting of the ESA COW, Superintendent Myers-Small announced that she has decided to suspend all elementary school closures for 2022-23. Using the Receivership Law, she will close the Leadership Academy for Young Men and move Northeast Preparatory High School to the Charlotte building. The Rochester International Academy will remain at the Jefferson campus.

Next steps will be a planned community engagement effort on reconfiguration beginning this spring and a feasibility plan developed in the summer 2022.

Book Club to Discuss *The Righteous Mind* in March

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. The schedule for the remaining sessions during this program year includes:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| March 17 | <i>The Righteous Mind</i> by Jonathan Haidt – discussion led by Karen Funk |
| April 21 | <i>The 1619 Project</i> by Nicole Hannah Jones (Part 1) – discussion led by Deb Gordon |
| May 19 | <i>The 1619 Project</i> by Nicole Hannah Jones (Part 2) – discussion led by Chris Pryor |
| June 16 | <i>The End of Policing</i> by Alex S. Vitale – discussion led by Diane Stengel |



Book club members meeting via Zoom on February 17

League Regional Training Workshop

March 19, 2022 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

The Perkins Mansion, 494 East Avenue, Rochester

Registration fee \$25.00 Registration deadline March 11

The League of Women Voters of NYS invites ALL members to attend this training workshop. All local Leagues board members are strongly encouraged to attend at least part of the day. Lunch will be provided and will allow for informal networking.

Workshop Sessions:

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE ASK: TACTICS FOR INCREASING MEMBERSHIP AND CULTIVATING LEADERSHIP

Empower Voters and Defend Democracy. That's our mission. To further this mission we need strong, sustainable leagues. And that requires all of us to get involved in attracting prospects, welcoming and mentoring new members, checking in with inactive ones, and identifying leadership candidates. Our best tool is The Ask:

- Ask others to attend a league program,
- Ask others to join,
- Ask members how they want to get involved, and
- Ask engaged Leaguers to take leadership positions.

THE 411 ON VOTE 411: A BEGINNERS GUIDE TO THE NEW PLATFORM (HANDS-ON WORKSHOP)

Explore the new Vote411 platform (League's electronic voter guide). This workshop will walk through a step-by-step guide to setting up your local elections and will answer your questions on the new system. Bring a laptop so you can navigate the platform along with us (laptop not required).

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION - PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

We will look at some of the "isms" that hang over our collective past, both as a country and a national organization. Thereafter, attendees will be guided in a conversation on the efforts made in recent months, both on an individual basis and by their local leagues, in overcoming the marginalization that has placed the soul of democracy at increasing risk.

ENGAGING YOUTH THROUGH CIVIC COLLABORATIONS

While the pandemic has limited our traditional abilities to get into schools, that doesn't mean we have to stop engaging the youth! Learn how to engage the next generation of voters online, in person, and everything in between even if you can't get into the classroom.

ZOOMING INTO 2022: HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY HOST A VIRTUAL OR HYBRID CANDIDATE FORUM

Discover various methods for hosting candidate forums in the digital age. This workshop will discuss best practices for hosting a virtual, hybrid or in-person forum.

HACKING SOCIAL MEDIA: GETTING THE BEST USE OUT OF YOUR LEAGUE'S FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, AND TWITTER ACCOUNTS

Learn about different social media platforms, their quirks, and how to "hack" the algorithm. This workshop will explore the uniqueness of each social media platform and explain how your League can use them to your advantage.

LET'S TAKE ACTION: HOW, WHEN AND WHY?

You or your local League is passionate about an issue and wants to advocate and lobby. When is the correct time? How best to advocate? And, how does taking action vary based on local, state or national issues? Come learn more about advocacy.

All attendees are required to show proof of vaccination and booster and be willing to wear a mask. The deadline for registration is stricter than usual as we will not hold the workshop if we do not have enough people registered so we need to ask for all to register early.

Register online at https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/HOhq-CqnO8wQHrms7-w8Kg

Send completed form and check payable to LWVNYS to:
League of Women Voters of NYS, 62 Grand St, Albany, NY 12207

Or register, with credit card, by fax 518-465-0812

Upcoming LWNYS Concurrences

SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 9 9:30 VIA ZOOM

There are two upcoming LWNYS Concurrences for our local League consideration—one on Election Administration Structure and the other on Voting for Incarcerated Individuals. LWNYS has provided local Leagues with proposed position statements, background information and arguments for and against the proposed positions. At our League's meeting in April, a committee will present the information and then members will discuss and come to consensus on whether or not we agree with each proposal.

We are looking for members to prepare the presentation of the LWNYS materials to our members. This is a short-term project with, hopefully, not too many meetings. It's ideal for both new and veteran members. If you're good at research, writing, public speaking or creating PowerPoint presentations, we'd love to have you on the committee. No previous knowledge of these topics is required. (In my very first League study, I was responsible for the section on Transportation of Low-Level Nuclear Wastes. You can be sure, I had no expertise in this area!)

ELECTION ADMINISTRATION STRUCTURE CONCURRENCE

In response to problems uncovered in recent elections in New York State, delegates at the LWNYS Convention in June 2021 approved a new study on Election Administration Structure. A study committee, created right after the Convention, met many times during the fall researching:

- How other states administer elections, including speaking with administrators in some states, for a broad look at what other states do,
- Testimony from other good government groups regarding BOE reform,
- Senate Election Committee report on BOE Reform,
- Statutory reforms LWNYS have been urging in recent years.

The Committee has finished the first part of its work and prepared a set of Position Statements that, if approved by members, will be used to determine new state League Positions on how to improve the structure of election administration in New York. The results of the study have been divided into three separate Position Statements approved by the state Board: State Election Administration, Local Election Administration and Local & State Boards.

CONCURRENCE ON VOTING FOR INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS

In New York State, those sentenced to prison for a felony conviction lose the right to vote in federal, state, and local elections while incarcerated. Last year, state law was amended to restore the right to vote for individuals on parole, a goal of voting rights groups including the League. With that victory achieved, re-entry advocates and other voting rights groups in the state are turning their attention to achieving voting rights for all currently incarcerated individuals including those convicted of a felony. It is planned as a multi-year effort.

LWVUS does not have a position that covers restoration of voting rights to those currently incarcerated. To support this effort, the state League needs to determine if there is member understanding and agreement on this objective. The state Board voted to support a concurrence with the right to vote for all incarcerated individuals.

Both of these concurrences now go to the members. If approved by the membership, these will become LWNYS positions, permitting advocacy by the League. Please consider joining the LWV-RMA committee which will present the information to our members.

The discussion of the Concurrences will be on Zoom, starting at 9:30 A.M. You can register now at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0pf-2trDosGNHkjgIMR1fs6OiW-5BtIdN> and you will be kept informed as detailed plans develop.

Judy Weinstein, *Government/Advocacy chair*
vote411@lwv-rma.org



Calendar



March

- 4 First Friday (11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.) In person, at I-Square, 400 Bakers Park, in Irondequoit
- 15 Workshop: Skills for Bridging the Political Divide (7:00 - 9:15 P.M. via Zoom) See page 3
- 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
- 19 LWV-NYS Training Workshop (10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.) Perkins Mansion, 494 East Avenue, Rochester
- 24 Forum: Parole Justice and the Parole System in NYS (6:30 P.M. via Zoom) See page 3

April

- 1 First Friday (11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.) In person, at I-Square, 400 Bakers Park, in Irondequoit
- 9 Concurrence meeting (9:30 A.M. via Zoom)
- 20 LWV-RMA Board Meeting (5:30 – 7:00 P.M.)
- 21 LWV-RMA Book Club (4:30 – 5:30 P.M. via Zoom) – *The 1619 Project* by Nicole Hannah Jones (Part 1)

LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK!



We know you'll "like" us!

www.facebook.com/lwvofrma

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

be a voter!

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

Join First Friday In Person!

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:

March 4

April 1

May 6

June 3



First Friday happens every month.

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

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



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

APRIL VOTER DEADLINE IS MARCH 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.

Rochester VOTER

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

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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: _____

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

LWV-RMA

PO Box 10573

Rochester, NY 14610

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

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

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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	