

# TheVOTER

## Voter Registration



A top priority of LWV-RMA this summer and fall is voter registration. Our League is working with other community groups to reach potential voters during celebrations and other activities.

Pictured above left are Georgia DeGregorio, Cathy Kane, and Susan Steepy at the July 10 PRIDE picnic. Pictured above right are Debra Whitt of Rochester Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Dr. Gayle Harrison of RocACTS and LWV-RMA; and Elaine Schmidt of LWV-RMA at the Black Culture Festival on August 6.

More on page 3.

*Pictures by Gayle Harrison and Elaine Schmidt*

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## President's Corner

### THE LEAGUE PREPARES FOR GROWTH AND DIVERSITY

The League's overall goal is to encourage all citizens to register and cast informed votes. The LWV-RMA concentrates on the parts of Monroe County that vote least. We crunch numbers to find which legislative districts have the lowest registration and turn-out rates and we focus voter services in those districts. It's no surprise that the low voting neighborhoods are high poverty and mainly people of color. Those demographics are not well-represented in the League, since our origins are in highly educated white women's activism. One of our goals enunciated in the past few years is that "LWV-RMA strives to have a membership as diverse as the Rochester Metropolitan community." But it's a hard ask to go into high-poverty neighborhoods and ask activists at work there to pay our \$75 membership fee to join us in reaching them, and the result has been a League of outsiders trying to tell poor black and brown people what to do. Not pretty.

At this year's convention we took an important step toward eliminating this dynamic. To understand its significance requires a little background.

Each piece of the League nationwide is separately incorporated, and the pieces don't always work smoothly together for the good of the whole. For example, sometimes people go to the national website and give the League money. They may believe they've joined the League, but the national LWV isn't a membership organization. They'll get plenty of email from the League, so they may not notice the difference, but no local or state league will learn of their joining, and they won't get welcomed to local involvement.

Each local League sets its own dues. In Rochester, the basic dues level is \$75. Out of that amount, we send \$32.00 to LWVUS, and \$23.50 to LWVNY in what are called "per-member-payments", and retain the difference of \$19.50. When we accept members for less than \$55.50, our local League loses money. The overall result is that the League is a little pricy and we have a disincentive to recruit low-income members, despite the fact that they might be effective in mobilizing voters in low turnout areas.

This dilemma is about to disappear. The national convention approved a change in the by-laws which eliminates per-member-payments. Members will join nationally and the revenue from their membership will be shared proportionately between national, state and local Leagues. Though there will be a suggested amount, membership will be pay-what-you-can afford. We will now be able to recruit members from every economic stratum. No one will have to ask for a discount, and we'll gain from every new member we recruit. The League is laying the groundwork to expand and diversify and better meet our mission goals of expanded voting. And that makes me very happy.

**Barbara Grosh**

[president@lwv-rma.org](mailto:president@lwv-rma.org)

585.415.8251

## Postcard Writing Campaign -

### GET OUT THE VOTE IN FLORIDA (PRIMARY ELECTION)

On July 21 members of LWV-RMA and RocACTS gathered at Third Presbyterian Church to write postcards to help encourage participation in the Florida primary election. LWV-RMA members participating were Kim Byers, Isobel Gillen, Deborah Gordon, Gayle Harrison, Joan Smith, and Judy Sternberg.





## Busy Summer and Fall for Voter Registration Activities

Many thanks to the LWV-RMA members and friends who attended community events to help encourage participants to register and vote, and to the community groups who invited LWV-RMA to participate. Thanks especially to Elaine Schmidt who made the needed arrangement with community partners.

The need for League volunteers to participate in these registration events continues. See the box at the bottom of the page to learn how you can help.

To date this summer, our League has had registration booths at the following events:

- June 27 Henrietta Pride Festival at the Henrietta Town Hall;
- July 10 Roc PRIDE Picnic at the Genesee Valley Park;
- July 24 Healing ROC (Peace Walk & Presentations), Maplewood Rose Garden;
- August 4-6 Puerto Rican Festival (celebrating 52 years) at Frontier Field;
- August 6-7 Black Culture Festival at 285 East Main Street, Parcel 5;
- August 24 New Student Orientation, University of Rochester;
- August 27 August 27 Back-to-School Resource Fair and Carnival, RCSD School 54.



TOP ROW: Judy Sternberg with June 27 festival participants; July 24 Healing ROC peace walk and voter registration booth with Lindsay Byers (Kim's daughter) on the left and Lindsay Campy on the right.

BOTTOM ROW: Kim Byers and Elaine Schmidt on August 4 at Frontier Field; and Rich Byers on August 5 at Frontier Field.

Pictures by Kim Byers, Deborah Gordon, and Elaine Schmidt.



**Group Organizing Made Easy**

## September 2022 Voter Registration Events:

Our calendar is starting to fill with events as we move closer to the general election and closer to school openings. We need your help to fulfill these commitments. Click on the link below to see the volunteer opportunities for coming events. And, feel free to invite a friend to join you at any registration event...just note if someone is new to Voter Registration so we can provide support, if needed.

- \* Sunday, September 11: Wilmot Warrior Walk – Celebrating Life Beyond Cancer
- \* Friday, September 16: RIT Civic Engagement Event (thank you to Elaine Schmidt and Katie Powell who have already volunteered for this event).

Look for more new opportunities coming.

Thanks for all you do to continue to support Voting Rights in Rochester!

Kim Byers

View the Sign Up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080948a4a722a7fc1-august2>

## Great News! Public Naturalization Ceremonies Resume

Public Naturalization ceremonies have begun again! On July 4, at the Genesee Country Village & Museum in Mumfordsville, Margaret Roberts and Margaret Supinski helped 49 candidates register to vote. Judge Mark Pedersen held court.

At Frontier Stadium on July 12 at 5 pm, Judge Elizabeth Wolford with Beth Feldman and JoAnn Kane-DeMott welcomed 50 candidates for citizenship.

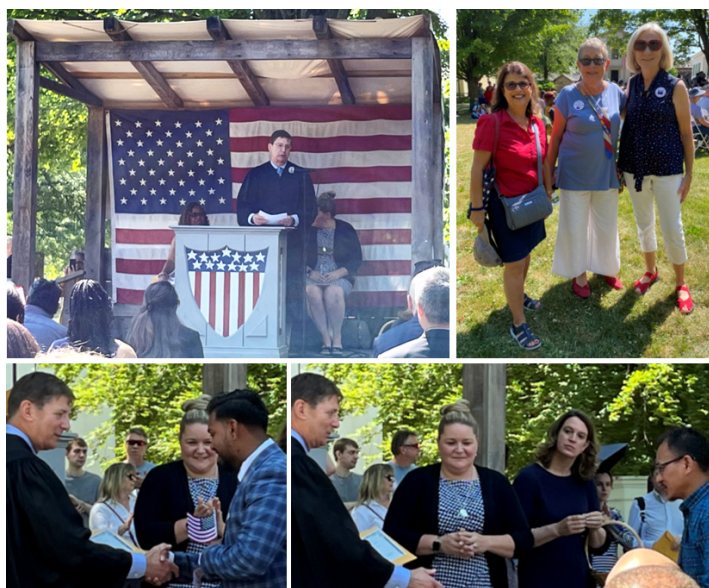
The League will continue to attend all Naturalization ceremonies as they are scheduled. On August 26, there will be a 10:00 A.M. Naturalization ceremony in Seneca Falls at the Women's Rights National Historical Park inside the Wesleyan Chapel. There will be 35 candidates for citizenship. That date is the anniversary of the 19th Amendment.

**Sheila Abeling**



The July 11 Naturalization ceremony at Frontier Field was led by the Hon. Elizabeth Wolford. League members Beth Feldman, JoAnn Kane-DeMott discussed voter registration with new citizens.

Photos by Sheila Abeling



Pictured at the upper right while attending the July 4 Naturalization Ceremony held at the Genesee Country Village & Museum are Sheila Abeling, Margaret Roberts, and Margaret Supinski. Margaret Roberts was previously naturalized, and then registered to vote with the League, and now is an active LWV-RMA member. The other pictures show U.S. Magistrate Judge Mark Pedersen presiding over the ceremony. Photos by Sarah Sandler & Sheila Abeling





## Working an Election

Have you ever wondered what goes on 'behind the scenes' to make the Monroe County polling places work? I have, so I decided to sign up as a Poll Worker for the June Primaries.

Some of the things I learned through the experience are:

- Poll Workers are NOT volunteers. The current rate of pay is \$14.00 per hour.
- The training required can be done in person or on line.
- The training provides all the information needed for the various tasks required.
- Training time is also paid, after working at an election.
- Signing up is on line and easy (see link below).
- Efforts are made to assign polling locations based on workers' preferences.
- Sign up is for each election so there is no long-term commitment.
- Election Day is long (5:00 A.M. – 10:00 P.M.) but it goes quickly.
- Tasks are rotated throughout the day.
- Breaks and meal times are provided.
- Everyone works as a team to make it successful.



Observing all the security related to the machines and ballots was reassuring. Bipartisan teams are required for each step and there are many checks and balances built into the processes. Because each process requires bipartisan teams, many workers are required to keep a poll site open. Protecting the right to vote and offering multiple voting opportunities in the community requires a large number of Poll Workers.

If you are available on Election Day, please consider signing up to be a Poll Worker. All the information you need is at this site: <https://www.monroecounty.gov/elections-inspectors>.

**Mary Micket** [mcmicket@gmail.com](mailto:mcmicket@gmail.com)

## FEPC Report

The Fair Election Practices Campaign (FEPC) is on hold until the General Election in fall 2022, as there were no non-judicial primaries in June or August. The FEPC Pledge packages will be mailed out to General Election candidates in September after the Monroe County Board of Elections certifies the list of candidates.

The FEPC needs a volunteer to coordinate the effort in 2023. Please contact Kris Rogers at 746-6157 for more information about how to help the League with this effort.

***Whenever you attend a League event, take pictures & email them to the Voter editor at***

***[judithw@frontiernet.net](mailto:judithw@frontiernet.net)***

***so we can make sure that all our good works get the recognition they deserve.***



## Attending the 2022 LWVUS Convention

It was an honor to be your delegate at the LWVUS Convention in Denver June 23-26. With the Supreme Court officially reversing Roe v. Wade on June 24, joining with League activists from every state in the nation to organize and celebrate the work of demanding democracy felt especially important.

Breakout sessions offered inspiring and practical guidance on a range of topics, from engaging new voters to successfully structuring Nominating Committees to supporting youth activists. I took a field trip to the Denver County Clerk's Office where ballots were rolling through Colorado's secure and voter-friendly Mail Ballot Election System. I also got to see my mom in action as a presenter on her local league's environmental advocacy in the Upper Mississippi River basin.

The Convention's Plenary Sessions drove home New York State's vital leadership within LWVUS, with New Yorkers shepherding through concurrences on healthcare and on digital equity. In many states, distressing new anti-voter legislation has sucked up a great deal of League attention.

With our work more important than ever, the Convention's schedule advised delegates of the importance of self-care. Each day, movement classes on the hotel pool deck offered opportunities to activate and refocus. Self-care seemed necessary on many levels as we processed the news of Roe's reversal. That evening, the Convention suspended regular business and, together, we headed to a demonstration at the Colorado Capitol. As one of our speakers reminded us, community is an antidote to despair.

**Theresa (Tess) McFarland-Porter**



Seen at the LWVUS Convention, on the grounds of the Colorado State Capitol, are (l to r): Nancy Porter (Tess' mom), a delegate from Iowa; Dr. Deborah Ann Turner, LWVUS President; and Tess McFarland-Porter of LWV-RMA (photo submitted by Tess).



## Sunshine Corner

### COMIDA MEETING



JUNE 21, 2022

OBSERVED BY DEBORAH RICE GORDON

This COMIDA meeting can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NRyqSLU6-A4>

Kevin Loewke gave a local labor monitoring report. From May 1 - 31, the residency of 526 workers was checked, with 8 having a non-compliance issue. The percentage of local laborers at the Amazon Manitou site was 71.4%. Brian LaFountain was not present to give a local labor exemption report. However, the Board discussed a canopy installation at an Amazon site that may involve an exemption.

#### PROJECT APPLICATION REVIEW:

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

- Lemcke Real Estate Holdings, LLC for the construction of three buildings at 1921 Brighton-Henrietta Town Line Road in Henrietta. One building will house the offices and shop for RAL Landscape, Inc. and the others will be rented to businesses.
- O'Connell Electric Company, Inc. for the construction of offices and training facilities at 390 Systems Road in Henrietta.
- 120 Marina Drive, LLC for the construction of corporate headquarters for DiPasquale Construction Corporation and Garden Grove Construction Corporation. A portion of the building will also be made available for leasing.

#### PROJECT MODIFICATIONS:

The following modification requests were approved:

- Vigneri Chocolate for an increase in project costs and an extension of the sales tax exemption through December 31, 2023;
- Panorama Landing, LLC for an extension of the sales tax exemption through December 31, 2022 for its Pittsford project;
- Sticky Bottle, LLC for an extension of the sales tax exemption until December 31, 2022 for its Rochester Public Market project.

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

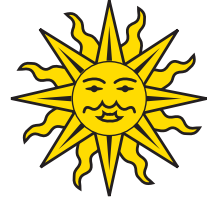
- Program support was requested by the Summer Soul Music Festival to help fund a community job fair at the Festival. An amount not to exceed \$7500 was approved.
- Program support was requested by the Ibero-American Action League to support vendors at the International Plaza at 828 North Clinton Avenue. An amount not to exceed \$25,000 was approved.
- A letter of intent for the purchase of two parcels of land has been received. The prospective buyer intends to establish a truck company terminal and truck repair shop. The Board voted to authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute this purchase and sale agreement.
- In an attempt to lessen employee turnover, Monroe County will be giving employees \$500 retention payments on a quarterly basis. Since COMIDA follows county personnel policies, a proposal was made to pay employees \$500 quarterly payments for 18 months, totaling \$3000 per employee. The Board approved the proposal and also discussed tracking economic factors and employee feedback to determine the possible need for further adjustments.

## Sunshine Corner

### COMIDA MEETING

JULY 19, 2022

OBSERVED BY DEBORAH RICE GORDON



This COMIDA meeting can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wne5nClqy14>

A local labor monitoring report was given. From June 1 - 20, the residency of 604 workers was checked with 19 having a non-compliance issue. Seven of those workers were from out of the area. The percentage of local laborers at the Amazon Manitou site was 69.9%. As of June 30, all monitored sites are in compliance.

Two local labor exemption requests were discussed. One involved a proprietary assembly system used by Li-Cycle for industrial-sized tanks. The Board discussed concerns about possible unfair bidding processes and the utilization of proprietary systems that may discourage the use of local contractors. The second exemption involved the Plug Power project and was requested because the local plumber and pipefitters union was at full employment.

#### PROJECT APPLICATION REVIEW:

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

- Flower City Roll Off, LLC for the construction of a building at 25 Cairn Street in Rochester. This location will serve as an office, mechanical garage, and storage for equipment while also enabling the expansion of their truck and dumpster business.
- Whitney Housing 1, LLC for the expansion of The Legends at Whitney at 696 Whitney Road in the town of Perinton. The project will include 41 market-rate senior (55+) living apartments with 10% of the units designated as affordable.

#### PROJECT MODIFICATIONS:

The following modification requests were approved:

- Wolf Solar, LLC and Mantisi Solar LLC for extension of the sales and mortgage recording tax exemptions for their solar energy projects in the town of Sweden. This application has been assumed by CVE North America and is therefore considered a new project. The new State requirement for a prevailing wage for solar projects over 1 megawatt was discussed.
- 135 Syed Way, LLC for the assumption of the jobs agreement plus real property tax abatement following an acquisition of the project in Gates.
- Genesis Vision Inc. for a sales tax extension through December 31, 2022.
- 3750 Monroe Avenue Associates, LLC for extension of a sales tax exemption through December 31, 2022.
- Riverwood Tech Campus, LLC for an extension of a sales tax exemption through June 30, 2023.
- Sibley Commercial, LLC for an increase in project costs and an extension of a sales tax exemption through June 30, 2023.
- 3153 Union Street, LLC for an extension of a sales tax exemption through December 31, 2022.
- Marketplace Mall requested that COMIDA amend the pilot agreement payment schedule with respect to the 2023 Town of Henrietta and Monroe County tax years and the 2022-2023 Rush Henrietta School District tax year.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

- An update from the Compliance Committee was given. A motion to grant job creation waivers for several pilot programs was approved.
- Two economic development specialists have been hired.

An executive session was called. The reason was not given. The Board adjourned afterward.

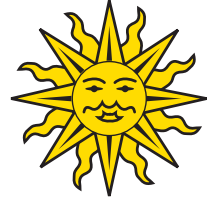


## Sunshine Corner

### MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

JULY 12, 2022.

OBSERVED BY ELAINE SCHMIDT



#### DURING THE PUBLIC FORUM THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS WERE MADE:

- Two citizens from the Wheatland area spoke about the lack of rural internet service and requested that the Legislature assist in solving this problem.
- The New York Citizens Audit group once again claimed fraud in the 2020 general elections and asked for it to be decertified.
- Scope members who have regularly asked the Legislature to allow registered handguns to be carried in the County parks stated that since they couldn't get help from the current Legislature they would be contacting their 4,000 voting members at election time.
- Bill Benet spoke about the lack of a new Public Defender since December.

#### DURING THE BUSINESS MEETING:

- It was announced that a public hearing is scheduled for August 9 at 6:16 P.M. regarding a local law entitled Hybrid Videoconferencing by County Public Bodies.
- The Legislature passed a resolution creating a \$5 admission fee for veterans and four guests to the Seneca Park Zoo.
- A public hearing is scheduled for July 26 at 6:00 P.M. before the joint Recreation and Education, and Ways and Means Committees meeting regarding the Monroe Community College's 2022 - 2023 operating budget.
- Peter Knapp was reappointed to the Monroe County Library System Board of Trustees effective immediately and expiring June 30, 2027.
- Sean McCabe was appointed to the Monroe County Traffic Safety Board effective immediately and expiring July 11, 2025.

Full minutes of Monroe County Legislature meetings are accessible at

<https://www.monroecounty.gov/legislature-agendasandminutes>

Videos of meetings can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/user/monroecountygovny/feed>

## PAB MEETINGS

JUNE - AUGUST 2022

OBSERVED BY DEBORAH RICE GORDON

### JUNE 2 REGULAR MEETING

#### ACTING MANAGER DUWAINE BASCOE GAVE AN UPDATE.

- The IT department demonstrated the interim case management system which will be operational by June 20, the target date for receiving complaints.
- Investigations training has resumed for the next few weeks.
- The board will review, then vote on rules of investigation.
- Mr. Bascoe is reviewing a rough draft of the investigation manual, and a revision will be sent to the Board next week for review and approval.
- A meeting with Rochester Police Department (RPD) and City Council President Meléndez is scheduled to discuss access to databases, materials and policies, as well as notice of and access to crime scenes and command centers.
- Policy affairs will require funding for tabling at some public outreach events. Considering the budget freeze, requisitions will be sought to cover this cost.
- Opportunities for ride-alongs with RPD are still pending.

## Sunshine Corner

### MICHAEL HIGGINS, CHIEF OF POLICY AND OVERSIGHT, GAVE AN UPDATE FOR THE POLICY AND OVERSIGHT DIVISION.



- New EO 203 Program (State program to re-imagine policing) will be released next week.
- Disciplinary matrix work is on-going.
- An operational rule was drafted and is now under review by the legal team.
- A report on changes to RPD's protest policies, including 25 recommendations, have been posted on the website, <https://www.rocpab.org/>. The policies have not yet been released to the public for evaluation. In addition, adequate training on the new policies must be ensured. Some potential gaps have been identified based on research concerning protest responses. Police presence should be proportional to the protest and de-escalation planning should be done in advance. The Board discussed concerns with crowd control methods and use of banned chemical agents.
- The Board was provided a draft response to a number of questions submitted by City Council. The previous PAB bylaws will be posted on the website in response to a request.

Rabbi Setel noted that the regular training schedule will resume on June 9 and will cover investigation procedures and policies, report analysis and the disciplinary matrix.

### NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Bascoe and Mr. Higgins reported that a meeting was held with the State Attorney General's office concerning on-going investigations of RPD's response to protests in 2020 and 2021. The Attorney General discussed opportunities to work with PAB.

### JUNE 13 SPECIAL MEETING

A special Board meeting was held to elect a new PAB Chairperson since the Vice Chair has declined to assume the position. Larry Knox was nominated by Reverend Nickoloff. Discussion occurred about Mr. Knox's short time on the board, the lack of sufficient meeting notice, and the need to move forward quickly. Dr. Harvey abstained and other members in attendance approved Mr. Knox's nomination.

To see this meeting, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gbA2RWdb60A>

### JUNE 16 REGULAR MEETING

Chairperson Knox opened the meeting and thanked Shani Wilson for her service as Chair.

### ACTING MANAGER DUWAINE BASCOE GAVE THE STAFF REPORT.

- The system to accept complaints will be live by June 20.
- A meeting was held with the Police Chief, City Council President Meléndez, City Council members, and others. An agreement for ride-alongs was reached. Access to certain databases and training will be made available.
- Progress is being made regarding the several human resource policies.

### MICHAEL HIGGINS GAVE THE POLICY AND OVERSIGHT DIVISION UPDATE.

- The Division has two core functions: (1) to consider proposals for change to Rochester's public safety system, e.g., making mass gatherings safer for police and protesters; and (2) to investigate specific subjects or address a particular questions, such as evaluating police response times for violent crimes for discriminatory impacts. This process requires an investigation plan, regular public updates, and a final report to the Board. How the Board will direct the Division must be determined. Processes for the two functions were presented.
- It was decided that a subcommittee would propose a list of initial concerns for Division action.

### LARRY KNOX GAVE THE CHAIR REPORT.

- The complaint and policy recommendation process will open to the public on June 20. The public can call or go to the website to learn more. For groups hosting events, PAB outreach staff can be available to attend and handouts will be available in libraries and other locations.
- The budget has been fully funded for the rest of the fiscal year.



## Sunshine Corner

### OLD BUSINESS:

Investigation rules were approved. Amendments will be prepared for the next meeting.

### NEW BUSINESS:

At the first July meeting, new Board member elections will be held.

To see this meeting, go to: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1zcE-X\\_j5g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1zcE-X_j5g)

### JULY 7 REGULAR MEETING

Larry Knox was elected as Chair and Arlene Brown as Vice Chair.

### ACTING MANAGER DUWAINE BASCOE GAVE THE STAFF REPORT.

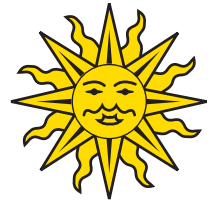
- Fifty complaints were received during the first week of operations and 32 the second week.
- A major investigation roadblock continues to be the inability to access needed information. Article 18 of the Charter requires that a wide variety of information be shared with PAB. On July 25, stakeholders will meet in another attempt to move this forward. The city has not provided legal arguments against access. Reverend Nickoloff encouraged the public to contact City Council members and the Mayor to demand compliance with the Charter.
- The Board received a list of recent Rochester Police Department (RPD) training sessions. A meeting will be scheduled to choose training for the Board and PAB Investigations Team.
- Adoption of the interim case management system is progressing. Investigators will receive a briefing. Cases will then be assigned to investigators based on current information.
- A meeting was held with City Council on a number of topics, and requirements for monthly updates to the Council are being defined. Restrictions regarding community engagement and complaint receipt have been lifted.
- A briefing was held on I-Sight, the permanent complaint receipt system. Customization work continues, and should be operational in August.
- Public Affairs has a 45-day plan to identify organizations potentially interested in hosting PAB information sessions. The public can contact PAB to request literature or presentations.
- Mr. Bascoe recommended that subcommittees to review investigation and complaint policies be established even though committees won't be fully staffed due to empty Board seats. When a complaint is received, an assessment is made of available information. If the information is adequate, the Board would use it to decide if the investigation should move forward. When the investigation is completed, the Board would receive a report and decide if substantiation of misconduct exists. The goal for completion of the investigation phase is three months. PAB has 18 months from the date of the alleged misconduct to file a report. Members of the public are encouraged to follow the process rather than try to contact Board members with their concerns.

### MICHAEL HIGGINS GAVE AN UPDATE ON THE POLICY AND OVERSIGHT DIVISION.

- The manner in which the Board would direct the Policy Division was previously discussed. The need to identify key needs, to get community input, and to establish a policy subcommittee were discussed. A priority is to form and approve policies.
- RPD released a summary of their new protest policies which include a ban on the use of flash bangs and tear gas, as well as a tiered approach to protests and limiting the use of Special Weapons and Tactics team (SWAT). PAB will monitor implementation.

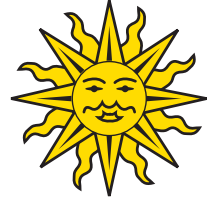
### THE CHAIR REPORT WAS GIVEN BY LARRY KNOX.

- Mayor Evans announced that David Smith is now the Chief of Police and Keith Stith is Deputy Chief of Community Engagement.
- There are two open PAB seats. Although City Council is required to fill vacancies within 60 days, Dr. McIntosh's former seat has remained unfilled beyond that limit. The PAB Alliance provided the Council with three candidates for that seat. Council President Meléndez has recommended a candidate and urged his fellow Councilmembers to make an appointment, but they had not done so. A letter will be sent to City



## Sunshine Corner

Council asking that the seat be filled. The PAB appealed to the public to contact Council members to ask the McIntosh seat be filled at the next Council meeting. The Alliance has yet to send Council a list of candidates for the Wilson seat.



### NEW BUSINESS:

A process for engaging the public during PAB meetings is needed since meetings are streamed on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube simultaneously. Vice Chair Brown will take the lead on developing alternatives for Board consideration.

To see this meeting, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5XEZeBf7Zw4&t=4552s>

### JULY 21 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

#### THE STAFF REPORT WAS GIVEN BY ACTING DIRECTOR DWAIN BASCOE.

- During the month that the process for receiving complaints has been active, 111 complaints have been received. Of those, 54 have sufficient information to proceed, 31 have been assigned to investigators, and 15 of those have led to requesting information from the Rochester Police Department. A 24-hour turn-around time for that information was requested but rejected. In addition, five requests for data have been made by PAB's Public Affairs Division. A large number of complaints had inadequate information and staff is following up with the submitters. A meeting with RPD to discuss these requests is scheduled. Other complaints are cases outside of PAB jurisdiction (e.g., Sheriff's Department). These can be referred out after Board approval.
- Waiver forms have been given to RPD for ride-alongs. Board members who have not submitted a waiver should do so.
- A meeting was held with the Chief of Police and his Chief of Staff to review 15 training opportunities that RPD has offered to the Board and staff.
- The I-Sight system is not operational yet due to programming problems. A meeting was held to resolve outstanding issues.
- The complaint submission and investigation process was described to illustrate the staff and resources needed to carry out this work.
- Issues still exist with delayed budget approvals. Two major needs involve signage for the building and payment of pre-existing contract work that the freeze was not supposed to affect.
- The importance of maintaining a healthy workplace for PAB staff in the face of difficult work was discussed. A description of this type of program been shared with the Board.
- Social media preparation sessions are being held with Board members.

#### NATALIE BANKS GAVE A REPORT FOR THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIVISION.

- The Deputy Director, who started in May, learned that 75% of the community did not know about the PAB. He developed a 45-day plan to increase awareness, including engagement of the community at public hubs (libraries); meetings with community leaders about partnering with PAB, and attending community events that involve the most impacted demographics.
- Over 600 informational flyers have been distributed. One target is to attend at least 60 events by the end of the fiscal year 2023. PAB is on track to attend 80 events by that time.
- A community education program is under development including PAB's processes, how to file a complaint, details to include, etc. Workshops on the history of policing in Rochester and other issues will be offered.
- Staff will attend training in August led by ACLU on protest monitoring.
- Low engagement of the Latino community has been identified. Work is underway to meet with leaders to develop an engagement plan and develop a partnership with the PAB.
- The PAB Social Media Specialist started in January; since then PAB gained almost 6000 site users. The growth average month-to-month is 112%; site traffic has increased by 1,400 users.
- The Communications press office has pitched three stories from the PAB launch, and all have been placed. The Communications division is overseeing translation of documents into Spanish; other languages will follow. The group is also working on developing consistent messaging. The website is still in development.



## Sunshine Corner

Access to I-Sight integration and full investigatory powers are needed to proceed with a full launch of the website.



### CHAIR'S REPORT

- One open Board seat has been unfilled for over 100 days, despite the requirement that the City Council fill the seat within 60 days. A second vacant seat is still within the 60-day deadline.
- A meeting is being held with the Chief of Police and City Council to gain access to records as specified in the Charter. Lack of access is causing delays in moving work forward. It appears that RPD is in agreement with permitting access but the City Council is not.
- Investigation into the Executive Director's situation is still ongoing by an outside law firm.

### COMMITTEE REPORT

- Meetings of the Policy Committee have not been held pending the identification of additional members.
- The Training Committee will start working through the other training topics mandated by the Charter.
- A public comment period will be considered for the next Board meeting.

### NEW BUSINESS:

A complaint pertaining to the Monroe County Sheriff's Office was received and the Board voted to refer the complaint to the proper agency since it was outside PAB jurisdiction.

To see this meeting, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=14mNM3J1HOI>

### AUGUST 4 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

#### DUWAINE BASCOE GAVE A STAFF REPORT.

- Between June 20 - July 31, 130 complaints have been received, of which 19 investigations are in process, and 43 remain open and under review. Another 63 are considered for closure pending Board review. Reasons for these closures include inadequate information despite numerous attempts to fill gaps, incidents involving other jurisdictions and non-investigable complaints (e.g., eviction process rather than officer complaint). The Board discussed the process for reviewing cases for possible closure.
- A meeting was held with the Rochester Police Department (RPD) on July 27 to revisit requests for information and fulfillment of previously submitted requests (e.g., body worn camera footage, arrest reports). The original request was made on July 17. No documents have been received and the Board is also awaiting RPD training materials and notices of new training, which were requested on July 15.
- Discussion was held with Chief of Staff Ince and additional information was requested by RPD including the complainant's name. Release of this information will require the complainant to sign a waiver. RPD's Professional Standards Section should be sending complaints they receive to PAB, but none have been received.
- A meeting was held with City Council President Meléndez requesting lifting of the hiring freeze to fill positions in public affairs, investigations and security. This conversation is on-going.
- The Civilian Complaint Review Board of New York City will present information about their training for investigations to supplement PAB staff training.

#### THE CHAIR'S REPORT WAS GIVEN BY LARRY KNOX.

- The Board seat formerly held by Dr. McIntosh is still not filled despite the required 60-day limit. PAB has received assurances from City Council that there are enough votes to name a replacement. The second vacant Board seat formerly held by Shani Wilson is also unfilled.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

- The Training Committee held conducted a session on the draft disciplinary matrix. The Board is moving through training topics required in the Charter. Ride-alongs have been cancelled indefinitely following the killing of Officer Mazurkiewicz. Marina Pacheco discussed training materials available to Board members. Dr. Harrison raised concerns about the disciplinary matrix training which prompted Board discussion of the training process.

## Sunshine Corner

- The Policy Committee is not fully formed or operational at this time. The public was invited to submit relevant information to the Board for consideration by the Committee.



### OLD BUSINESS

- RPD information systems access was discussed further with RPD, City Council, and others. PAB is seeking access to the databases needed for investigations. The public was encouraged to contact their representatives to demand RPD and City Council compliance with the law.

### NEW BUSINESS

- Condolences were sent to the Chief of Police and the Locust Club concerning the death of Officer Mazurkiewicz.
- An executive session was held to discuss potential litigation regarding some of the actions PAB would like to undertake. The meeting was adjourned afterward.

To see a recording of this meeting, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QI1BCRaVUN4>.

## LWV-RMA Book Group Selects 2022-2023 Readings

Current members of the LWV-RMA book group met on August 12 to identify the books listed below to discuss during the coming program year. As has been the tradition in recent years to accommodate working members, the book group will meet at 4:30 P.M., usually on the third Thursday of the month. The first meeting, on September 15, will be held via Zoom. A link will be sent to everyone who expresses an interest to Judy Weinstein ([vote411@lwv-rma.org](mailto:vote411@lwv-rma.org)), who serves as the group's Zoom techie.

September 15	<i>Hurricane Lizards &amp; Plastic Squid</i> by Thor Hanson – discussion led by Judy Wadsworth
October 20	<i>Our Time is Now</i> by Stacey Abrams – discussion led by Karen Funk
November 17	<i>Prisoners of Geography: Ten maps that explain everything about the world</i> by Tim Marshall – discussion led by Alicia Alvarado
December 15	<i>Fulfillment: Winning &amp; Losing in 1-Click America</i> by Alec MacGillis – discussion led by Mary Hussong-Kallen
January 19	<i>The Night Watchman</i> by Louise Erdrich – discussion led by Judy Weinstein
February 16	<i>How the Word is Passed</i> by Clint Smith – discussion led by Chris Pryor
March 16	<i>Allow Me to Retort: A Black Guy's Guide to the Constitution</i> by Elie Mystal – discussion led by Elaine Schmidt
April 20	<i>Sensational: The Hidden History of America's 'Girl Stunt Reporters'</i> by Kim Todd – discussion led by Deb Gordon
May 18	<i>The Avoidable War</i> by Kenneth Rudd – discussion led by Georgia DeGregorio
June 15	<i>The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels</i> by John Meacham – discussion led by Karen Funk

In addition, we will read *Understanding and Combating Racism: My Path from Oblivious American to Evolving Activist* by W.E. Wynne and attend one of his local presentations.



Book group members meeting via Zoom on August 8.





## Calendar

### September

- 5 First Friday (11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.) Bill Gray's Seabreeze, 4870 Culver Road
- 15 LWV-RMA Book Group (4:30 P.M. via Zoom)  
*Hurricane Lizards & Plastic Squid* by Thor Hanson

### October

- 7 First Friday (11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.) Bill Gray's Seabreeze, 4870 Culver Road
- 20 LWV-RMA Book Group (4:30 P.M. via Zoom) -  
*Our Time is Now* by Stacey Abrams

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

Whenever you attend a League event, take pictures & email them the Voter editor at [judithw@frontiernet.net](mailto:judithw@frontiernet.net).



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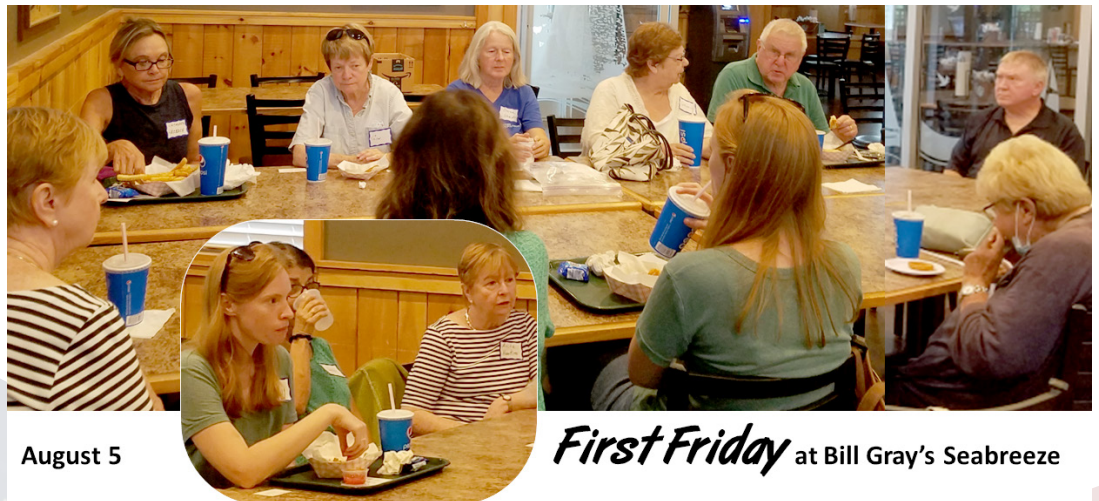
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*Be sure to check your email and our website for other events as they are scheduled!*

## Join First Friday In Person for Informal Conversations!

for a few minutes or for the full two hours, just for fun and to learn more about League activities:

September 2	February 3
October 7	March 3
November 4	April 7
December 2	May 5
January 6, 2023	June 2



August 5

**First Friday** at Bill Gray's Seabreeze

First Friday happens every month.

*photos by Mary Micket*

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](http://www.LWV-RMA.org), call 262-3730 or e-mail us at [info@lwv-rma.org](mailto:info@lwv-rma.org)



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

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## COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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

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## OCTOBER VOTER DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 15!

### League of Women Voters

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

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