

TheVOTER

2022-2023 LWV-RMA Board of Directors



TOP ROW: President Barbara Grosh, Vice President Myra Pelz, Secretary Cathy Kane, Treasurer Linda Saalman. BOTTOM ROW: Directors Tess McFarland-Porter, Tiffany Moore-Corteville, Sarah Heisman, and Mira Washington; Nominating Committee Chair Mary Hussong-Kallen.

See pages 3 - 5 for more about the Annual Meeting.

Inside this issue:

2022-2023 LWV-RMA Board of Directors	1	Voter Registration Efforts Shift Into High Gear	7
President's Corner	2	Remembering Local Suffragist Hester Jeffrey	8
2022 LWV-RMA Annual Meeting Business.	3	UofR Committee for Political Engagement Hosts Forum on Women in Politics	8
2022 Awards Presented at Annual Meeting	4	Declaration of Sentiments	9-10
Gathering at the Annual Meeting	5	Sunshine Corner	11-15
Going Off Board	5	Book Group Holds Last Discussion of Program Year	15
Meetings with Lawmakers in May	6	Calendar	16
Justin Murphy Discusses Failed Attempts to Integrate Rochester Schools	6	First Fridays	16
Redistricting Team Update.	7	Leadership	17

President's Corner

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK AWARD: SHANE WIEGAND AND KESHA JAMES

Each year we acknowledge a person or persons who stands out for doing important work in our community, doing just what the name of the award says, Making Democracy Work.

Our awardees this year, Shane Wiegand and Kesha James, are working at the very cutting edge of what makes democracy work. Their work on creating K-12 curriculum on the history of racism and resistance gives us hope that a new generation can arise in New York which knows the history of racism and resistance in our county, our state and our country, and, with that knowledge, will be able to change that dismal record so that all may prosper and live together with mutual respect.

We all know that racism and White Supremacy are at a boiling point in this country. This recent eruption of racist violence has been inflamed by self-serving politicians who fan the flames of fear in order to cultivate a political base willing to tolerate their authoritarian political agenda which makes the rich richer and keeps the poor, especially the non-white poor, in their place.

In the midst of a national trend of racist polarization, there is some quiet good news in Monroe County. A recent Sienna College Research Institute poll revealed that Monroe County residents are more likely to acknowledge racism than they were a decade ago.

- Seven in 10 respondents (71 percent) said racial or ethnic discrimination is a very significant (28 percent) or somewhat significant (43 percent) problem in Monroe County. In 2012, less than half agreed with that statement.
- Whites, African Americans, and Hispanics overwhelmingly agree (85 percent, 89 percent, and 79 percent, respectively) that African Americans are the minority group "most often discriminated against in Monroe County."

At least three-quarters of those who were polled support efforts to help mitigate the impact of racism. These options include establishment of new schools that would be open to both suburban and urban students (75 percent); creation of more affordable housing in the suburbs (76 percent); and a jobs program that would encourage employers to hire those in poverty (82 percent). Seventy-six percent were in favor of ensuring local minority-owned businesses have access to more loans.

While it's true that many have been doing the work of combatting racism and we cannot lay all the credit for progress at the feet of our awardees, it is exactly the result you would expect from the work they are doing, and we feel that they are shining examples of how to do anti-racist work that will Make Democracy Work.

Their curriculum is great for adults, too. When Shane and Kesha shared it with us at a forum, it was maybe the best educational forum we've ever had. They are using their program with various adult groups, including realtors, who are learning the ways their professions contributed to segregation. Some realtors and former slumlords have donated to fund their anti-racism curriculum work. We plan for the League, probably with some partner organizations, to explore their curriculum more deeply soon.

Barbara Grosh, President

president@lwv-rma.org



Making Democracy Work Award recipients Shane Wiegand and Kesha James describing their anti-racism curriculum at the 2022 LWV-RMA Annual Meeting.

2022 LWV-RMA Annual Meeting Business

On June 8 at Locust Hill Country Club LWV-RMA members participated in our annual business meeting to elect officers, approve a spending plan for the coming year, and consider program statements.

Among the items approved were the nominated Slate for Board of Directors and Nominating Committee and the 2022-2023 operating budget.

ELECTION RESULTS

The following members were elected to the **LWV-RMA Board of Directors**:

Cathy Kane, Secretary (2022-2024)

Sarah Heisman, Director (2022-2024)

Mira Washington, Director (2022-2024).

They will join the following **Board members** with terms continuing through 2023:

Barbara Grosh, President (2021-2023)

Myra Pelz, Vice-President (2021-2023)

Linda Saalman, Treasurer (2021-2023)

Theresa McFarland-Porter (2021-2023)

Tiffany Moore-Corteville (2021- 2023).

Nominating Committee members will be:

Chair – **Mary Hussong-Kallen** (2022-2023)

Non-Board Member – **Sheila Abeling** (2022-2023)

Non-Board Member – unfilled

Board Member – **Tess McFarland-Porter** (2022-2023) (to be named by Board in July, 2022)

Board Member – unfilled (to be named by Board in July, 2022)

DECISIONS ON 2022-2023 PROGRAM

Based on the recommendation of the Update Committees and approvals by the Board of Directors, members approved deletion of the Police Services Position as well as updates and revisions to three other local positions.

A committee will be appointed by the 2022-2023 Board of Directors to study the three positions—Equitable Taxation; Planning and Zoning; and (Governmental) Structures, Procedures, and Productivity—and make recommendations.

The Police Services position was recommended for deletion because it was deemed no longer relevant. The 2021 LWVNYS Position on Criminal Justice addresses police accountability through citizen oversight of law enforcement.



LWV-RMA President Barbara Grosh calling the Annual Meeting to order and Treasurer Linda Saalman reporting on League finances.

Members seeking a copy of the Annual Meeting Packet—which includes the 2021-2022 financial report and the 2022-2023 budget as well as annual reports from the Board of Directors and all committees—should please send a request to info@lww-rma.org or leave a message at (585)262-3730.

2022 Awards Presented at the 2022 Annual Meeting

THE CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT AWARD

Annually, the League awards the Carrie Chapman Catt Award to a member of the League who exemplifies her values and commitment. Carrie Chapman Catt worked tirelessly for the passage of the United States Constitutional Amendment allowing women to vote, and as passage of the 19th Amendment approached in 1920, established the League of Women Voters. This year, the Carrie Chapman Catt Award was presented to **Judy Weinstein**.

Judy was a member of the LWV in New Jersey before transferring her League membership to LWV-RMA in 2001. In 2002 she became one of our directors and joined the Government Committee, beginning her decades-long dedication to its work. Her leadership in this realm has included chairing studies on local budget processes and alternative models of city government; promotion and guidance of LWV-RMA participation in the Open World Program sponsored by the Library of Congress; planning for the 2021 NYS Redistricting forum; Coordinator for VOTE411.org; Coordinator of Candidate Forums; Coordinator of advocacy teams that meet with lawmakers; and facilitator of discussion around LWVNY's Legislative Priorities at January Membership meetings.

She has served as Webmaster, Zoom Manager and "Voter" proofreader. She started and continues to assist in running our Book Club. She has served several times on the LWV-RMA Board, most recently from 2015-2021 as Director, Leadership Team Member, and Treasurer. In 2020-2022 she served on the State League Budget Committee.

THE MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK AWARD

For their work on the Anti-Racism Curriculum Project the League presented the Making Democracy Work Award to **Shane Wiegand** and **Kesha James**.

Since 2020, Kesha and Shane have been developing an Anti-Racism curriculum for use across the state. Shane is the primary researcher, while Kesha makes sure that the lesson plans bake in social and emotional learning as well as use of source documents. The Antiracist Curriculum Project trained about 650 teachers in 2020-2021, and expanded to 2,500 this past academic year. They are also training at local universities in their schools of education and at statewide BOCES workshops. In addition, they are in discussions with the Board of Regents to make the curriculum available statewide. They are also making the program available to adult organizations.



TOP: LWV-RMA Board Member Judy Sternberg presenting the Making Democracy Work Award to Shane Wiegand and Kesha James.

BOTTOM: Judy Sternberg presenting the Carrie Chapman Catt Award to Judy Weinstein; You Make Us Proud Award recipients Cathy Kane, Kim Byers, and Dave Garretson.

"YOU MAKE US PROUD" AWARDS

Dave Garretson has been a League member since 2011. In January 2021 he volunteered to be the point person for the Local Redistricting Campaign. Dave led team meetings, provided continuous guidance and inspiration through his knowledge, ideas and writing contributions.

Cathy Kane became a member of LWV-RMA in September 2020. She was the note taker for the Local Redistricting Team, and worked on and was presenter for our NYS Redistricting Forum in September. She serves on our Planning & Zoning Position Update Committee and helped with our Membership Meeting on LWVNY's Concurrences. She has accepted the position of 2022-2024 LWV-RMA Secretary.

Kimberly Byers joined the League in 2017. In the past year, Kim has managed correspondence and resolution of inquiries through the LWV-RMA main email and managed the Sign-Up Genius that is invaluable for coordinating our volunteers. She represents the LWV-RMA in collaborations with RocACTS, and chairs its Voting Rights Task Force.

MEMBERSHIP MILESTONE - 50 YEARS IN THE LEAGUE: GAIL MOTT

Gathering at the Annual Meeting

For the first time since 2019, LWV-RMA members gathered in person for their annual business meeting and they enjoyed good food and one another's company.



TOP: Mingna Xu and Sheila Abeling greeting members and guests.
BOTTOM: Mary Hussong-Kallen, Gin Busack, and Joan Rosenthal at the buffet;
Barbara Murphy and Deb Leary in conversation.



TOP: Elaine Schmidt, Tiffany Moore-Corteville, Katherine Smith, Deb Leary, Mira Washington, and Judy Sternberg.
BOTTOM: Julie Johnson, Lois Winterkorn, Gin Busack, Chris Pryor, and Mary Hussong-Kallen.

Going Off Board

Two long-time LWV-RMA leaders and former Presidents are retiring from our Board of Directors.

Mary Hussong-Kallen has been a dedicated member of our Board for a decade or more, serving as a Director before being elected as an officer. She was our 2014-2016 Co-President and 2016-2018 President. Since then, she has served as a Director as well as Chair of the Nominating Committee and Communications Committee, which includes electronic and print media.

Judy Sternberg served as 2016-2018 Secretary, 2018-2019 Recording Secretary, 2019-2020 Co-President, and 2020-2021 President. In addition, she is a past chair of the Voter Services Committee, and currently chairs the committee seeking to update our local League position on policing and visits high school classes in our area to discuss the value of voting and citizenship participation.

Mary Hussong-Kallen

Judy Sternberg



**Did you leave your
eyeglasses at Locust Hill?**

please contact:
info@lww-rma.org

Meetings with Lawmakers in May

In May, after passage of the NYS budget and before the end of the legislative session, members of the LWV-RMA Legislative Committee met with members of our county's delegation to Albany to discuss issues supported by the LWV—Voting & Elections, Recycling Issues, Parole Bills, and Court Simplification/Consolidation. The State Legislature passed the LWV-promoted voting bills before the end of the session.



TOP: Lawmakers who met with the LWV-RMA Legislative Committee in May were Assemblywoman Marjorie Byrnes, Senator Jeremy Cooney, and Assemblyman Josh Jensen.

NEXT TWO ROWS: Legislative Staff who met with LWV-RMA members were Iris Bieri (Jen Lunsford Aide), Nate Salzman (Demond Meeks Aide), Allan Richards with Assemblyman Harry Bronson who attended the meeting for a few minutes, Brianna Casserly (Sarah Clark Aide); Ernesto Porcari, Esq., and Ann Binstock (both Samra Brouk Aides), Amanda Santacroce (Jeremy Cooney Aide), and Phyllis Wickerham (Patrick Gallivan Aide).

BOTTOM TWO ROWS: LWV-RMA Legislative Committee Members.

Prior to those sessions with lawmakers, members had the opportunity to participate in advocacy training sessions led by LWVNY Deputy Directory Erica Smitka (seen here on a Zoom screen), who reviewed current legislative priorities of the League and advocacy guidelines.

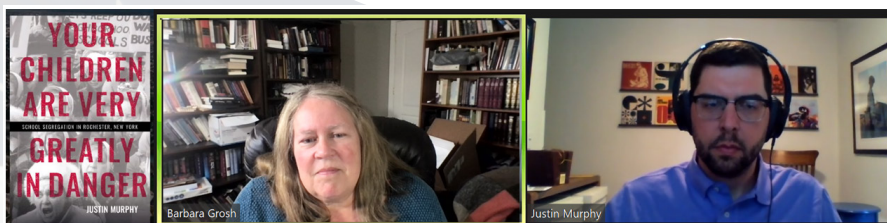


Justin Murphy Discusses the Failed Attempts to Integrate Rochester Schools.

On June 13, LWV-RMA hosted a session with Justin Murphy, Gannett reporter and author of *Your Children Are Very Greatly in Danger*, about issues affecting the Rochester City School District. His overview included a review of the history of racism and laws in our area that were responsible for concentrating Black persons in areas of inner-city Rochester, and for the racial imbalance in the City School District. He noted that the City District has further added to segregation by control of attendance boundaries and use of an Open Enrollment process. He described the racist violence from white parents which met black children when they were bused to formerly white schools. These failures to uphold the promise of Brown v. Board of Education have resulted in persistent poor academic and life outcomes for students of color.

He notes that the Urban-Suburban program in our county is inequitable, in that suburban districts get to select city students and can expel them at any time, and that transportation is the responsibility of the city district.

Murphy recommends consideration of a unified countywide school system, written policies for greater equity in enrollment and participation for suburban districts in the Urban-Suburban program, and intensive antiracism education for children and adults in all Rochester-area school districts.



Redistricting Team Update

This is where redistricting stood on June 13.

ALBANY & WASHINGTON

The district lines for NY Senate, and Congress are now final. A new case was being heard by Court of Appeals in mid-June regarding Assembly lines. It seems likely that new lines will be drawn but not used in the elections this year.

The NY Supreme Court's Special Master drew new maps for NY Senate and US House, considered public reaction, and finalized the maps on May 20.

You can see the Senate map here: <https://bit.ly/nysenfinal>

You can see the Congressional map here: <https://bit.ly/nycongfinal>

Primary votes for Assembly, statewide offices (Governor and Lt. Governor), local offices, and political party positions—will happen on June 28. Early voting begins on June 18.

Primary votes for NY Senate and US House will happen on August 23. Early voting begins on August 13.

MONROE COUNTY

Here in Monroe County, the Legislature's new Legislative District Revision Commission unveiled their proposed map, and held six listening sessions in various locations. The sessions were lightly attended compared to similar sessions in the fall and winter. Comments emailed to the Commission were withheld from the public.

The proposed map can be seen here: <https://monroecountyredistricting.com/>

The County Legislature requires live-streaming and recording of all its meetings. However, only four of the Commission's hearings can be found on the Legislature's YouTube channel. The May 5 Zoom session is the only one with video and was the only hearing live-streamed. The meeting and hearing recordings that were made public are on the Legislature's YouTube channel at <https://bit.ly/mclegvideos> and look for March 22, March 31; April 7, 22; May 2,3,4,5.

The final map was due for submission to County Legislature in early June. However, at the time this was written (June 13) the Commission had not yet approved a map, announced its plans, or set its next meeting date.

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

Voter Registration Efforts Shift into High Gear for Primaries

In partnership with several community organizations, LWV-RMA members are attending events to promote voter registration and voting. The LWV-RMA was represented during Juneteenth activities on June 18 – 19 at MLK Park next to the Strong Museum and at the Lucky Flea Market on North Goodman Street.



LEFT: Elaine Schmidt (LWV), Judy Kiley (LWV) and Asim Johnson (Roc Acts/SEIU1199) during the Juneteenth celebration on June 18.

RIGHT: At the Lucky Flea Market fundraising event for Moms Demand Action, Charon Sattler-Leblanc and Peg Pettis, MDA members, display LWV graphics.

Remembering Local Suffragist Hester Jeffrey

Hester C. Jeffrey, née Whitehurst, was an African-American activist, suffragist, and community organizer in Rochester. She helped create local African-American women's clubs and organizations in the early 20th Century that helped educate and advocate for Black women. Her work in the suffrage movement included speaking at conventions across the state, and forming a friendship with Susan B. Anthony.

Mrs. Jeffrey moved to Rochester from Boston, Massachusetts in 1891 when she was close to 50 years old. Mrs. Jeffrey founded or helped to organize a number of local African-American women's clubs among the growing black community here. In 1902, she organized the Susan B. Anthony Club for African-American women and served as its president. While the club's goals were in part philanthropic, it also advocated suffrage.

Mrs. Jeffrey was also a member of the Political Equality Club, the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, and the Women's Christian Temperance Union. She held a number of leadership positions in the WCTU. In 1897, she was appointed to serve on the (Frederick) Douglass Monument Committee. She was also instrumental in founding the Hester C. Jeffrey Club for young African-American women. One of the purposes of that club was to raise funds for young Black women to take courses at the Mechanics' Institute (later named RIT).

Mrs. Jeffrey's ties across racial communities in Rochester are reflected in her religious life and in her membership in the WCTU. While she often attended the First Unitarian Church, she maintained an active membership in the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Zion Church, and served on various committees there.

In 1902, she spoke at a Buffalo convention of the National Association of Colored Women (NACW), a group founded in 1896 by Harriet Tubman, Mary Church Terrell, and Ida Wells Barnett, among others. In 1905, Mrs. Jeffrey was president of the New York Federation of Colored Women (NYFCW).

She gave a eulogy at Susan B. Anthony's funeral in 1906, where she shared the platform with Rochester Mayor James Cutler, U of R President Rush Rhees, and nationally known suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt. Mrs. Jeffrey was instrumental in the establishment of the first memorial for Susan B. Anthony, a stained glass window at the A.M.E. Zion church. Mrs. Jeffrey died in 1931 and was buried in Boston, Massachusetts.

Source: Rochester Regional Library Council. <https://rrlc.org/winningthevote/biographies/hester-jeffrey/>



University of Rochester Committee for Political Engagement Hosts a Forum on “Women in Politics”

On April 21, the Committee for Political Engagement at the University of Rochester held a panel discussion on “Women in Politics.”

The LWV-RMA was represented by Sandra Frankel, retired Brighton Town Supervisor of 20 years and a long-time member of the LWV-RMA. Sandy was joined by Mercedes Vazquez-Simmons, the newly elected Monroe County Legislator for District 22.

Both panelists shared their personal experiences with campaigning and serving the public. They advised students to get involved in campaigning and community groups; in discovering their talents and interests; and in talking to voters face to face. They encouraged their listeners to run for office, and if they lose, to run again.

Thanks to Sandy and Mercedes, who openly shared their experiences, demystified the election process, and encouraged attendees to step into the political arena, without hesitation or fear!



Monroe County Legislator Mercedes Vazquez-Simmons (left) and LWV-RMA Member Sandra Frankel (center) with U of R students.

Declaration of Sentiments

Set forth by the first Woman's Rights Convention

Seneca Falls, NY • July 20, 1848

When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one portion of the family of man to assume among the people of the earth a position different from that which they have hitherto occupied, but one to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes that impel them to such a course.

We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men and women are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights governments are instituted, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. Whenever any form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of those who suffer from it to refuse allegiance to it, and to insist upon the institution of a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly, all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves, by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their duty to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of the women under this government, and such is now the necessity which constrains them to demand the equal station to which they are entitled.

The history of mankind is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations on the part of man toward woman, having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over her. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has never permitted her to exercise her inalienable right to the elective franchise.

He has compelled her to submit to laws, in the formation of which she had no voice.

He has withheld from her rights which are given to the most ignorant and degraded men - both natives and foreigners.

Having deprived her of this first right of a citizen, the elective franchise, thereby leaving her without representation in the halls of legislation, he has oppressed her on all sides.

He has made her, if married, in the eye of the law, civilly dead.

He has taken from her all right in property, even to the wages she earns.

He has made her, morally, an irresponsible being, as she can commit many crimes, with impunity, provided they be done in the presence of her husband. In the covenant of marriage, she is compelled to promise obedience to her husband, he becoming, to all intents and purposes, her master - the law giving him power to deprive her of her liberty, and to administer chastisement.

He has so framed the laws of divorce, as to what shall be the proper causes of divorce; in case of separation, to whom the guardianship of the children shall be given, as to be wholly regardless of the happiness of women - the law, in all cases, going upon the false supposition of the supremacy of man, and giving all power into his hands.

After depriving her of all rights as a married woman, if single and the owner of property, he has taxed her to support a government which recognizes her only when her property can be made profitable to it.

He has monopolized nearly all the profitable employments, and from those she is permitted to follow, she receives but a scanty remuneration.

He closes against her all the avenues to wealth and distinction, which he considers most honorable to himself. As a teacher of theology, medicine, or law, she is not known.

He has denied her the facilities for obtaining a thorough education - all colleges being closed against her.

He allows her in Church as well as State, but a subordinate position, claiming Apostolic authority for her exclusion from the ministry, and with some exceptions, from any public participation in the affairs of the Church.

Declaration of Sentiments continued from page 9

He has created a false public sentiment, by giving to the world a different code of morals for men and women, by which moral delinquencies which exclude women from society, are not only tolerated but deemed of little account in man.

He has usurped the prerogative of Jehovah himself, claiming it as his right to assign for her a sphere of action, when that belongs to her conscience and her God.

He has endeavored, in every way that he could to destroy her confidence in her own powers, to lessen her self-respect, and to make her willing to lead a dependent and abject life.

Now, in view of this entire disfranchisement of one-half the people of this country, their social and religious degradation, - in view of the unjust laws above mentioned, and because women do feel themselves aggrieved, oppressed, and fraudulently deprived of their most sacred rights, we insist that they have immediate admission to all the rights and privileges which belong to them as citizens of these United States.

In entering upon the great work before us, we anticipate no small amount of misconception, misrepresentation, and ridicule; but we shall use every instrumentality within our power to effect our object. We shall employ agents, circulate tracts, petition the State and national Legislatures, and endeavor to enlist the pulpit and the press in our behalf. We hope this Convention will be followed by a series of Conventions, embracing every part of the country.

Firmly relying upon the final triumph of the Right and the True, we do this day affix our signatures to this declaration.

Lucretia Mott	Catharine C. Paine	Mary H. Hallowell	Sarah Hoffman	Lavinia Latham
Harriet Cady Eaton	Elizabeth W. M'Clintock	Elizabeth Conklin	Elizabeth Leslie	Sarah Smith
Margaret Pryor	Malvina Seymour	Sally Pitcher	Martha Ridley	Eliza Martin
Elizabeth Cady Stanton	Phebe Mosher	Mary Conklin	Rachel D. Bonnel	Maria E. Wilbur
Eunice Newton Foote	Catharine Shaw	Susan Quinn	Betsey Tewksbury	Elizabeth D. Smith
Mary Ann M'Clintock	Deborah Scott	Mary S. Mirror	Rhoda Palmer	Caroline Barker
Margaret Schooley	Sarah Hallowell	Phebe King	Margaret Jenkins	Ann Porter
Martha C. Wright	Mary M'Clintock	Julia Ann Drake	Cynthia Fuller	Experience Gibbs
Jane C. Hunt	Mary Gilbert	Charlotte Woodward	Mary Martin	Antoinette E. Segur
Amy Post	Sophrone Taylor	Martha Underhill	P. A. Culvert	Hannah J. Latham
Catharine F. Stebbins	Cynthia Davis	Dorothy Mathews	Susan R. Doty	Sarah Sisson
Mary Ann Frink	Hannah Plant	Eunice Barker	Rebecca Race	
Lydia Mount	Lucy Jones	Sarah R. Woods	Sarah A. Mosher	
Delia Mathews	Sarah Whitney	Lydia Gild	Mary E. Vail Lucy Spalding	

The following are the names of the gentlemen present in favor of the movement:

Richard P. Hunt	David Spalding	Robert Smallbridge	Nathan J. Milliken	Thomas Dell
Samuel D. Tillman	William G. Barker	Jacob Mathews	S.E. Woodworth	E. W. Capron
Justin Williams	Elias J. Doty	Charles L. Hoskins	Edward F. Underhill	Stephen Shear
Elisha Foote	John Jones	Thomas M'Clintock	George W. Pryor	Henry Hatley
Frederick Douglass	William S. Dell	Saron Phillips	Joel D. Bunker	Azaliah Schooley
Henry Seymour	James Mott	Jacob P. Chamberlain	Isaac Van Tassel	
Henry W. Seymour	William Burroughs	Jonathan Metcalf		

<https://www.nps.gov/wori/learn/historyculture/declaration-of-sentiments.htm>

In 1924, the LWV-RMA was formed—that's almost 100 years ago.

Sunshine Corner



RCSD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MAY 26, 2022

OBSERVED BY CONSTANCE FLAHIVE ONLINE

A 4th-grade student speaker addressed the Board concerning electric school bus use. Her report explained the research she had completed on the impact of non-electric buses and asked for continuation of the policy to replace current school buses with electric buses.

Reports are available on BoardDocs® Plus from the Bilingual Education Council (BEC), The Board Standing Committees (Audit, Equity in Student Achievement, Finance and Policy Committees), and Superintendents Myers-Small and Nelms (presented by Asst. Superintendent Spence). Verbal presentations were also given by the Parent Leadership Advisory Council (PLAC) and President Elliott. PLAC thanked teachers & staff for their work this year, especially the transportation staff. Issues of consistency in leadership at the chiefs' level and parent representation on school teams were raised. BEC raised concern about hiring without input from any parent groups. They are requesting meetings with the recently hired Director of the Office of Parent Engagement.

President Elliott talked about the Board's recent meeting with NYS Commissioner Rosa, Deputy Commissioner Young, and Regents Norwood and Turner, emphasizing the supportive relationships with them. Elliott also mentioned her preparation for the Budget Presentation to the City Council on May 31, her attendance at District Cabinet Meetings, and her school visits which are now focused on schools that are doing well to learn what can work in other Rochester City schools.

Dr. Myers-Small's presentation focused on RCSD Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education definitions and action plans. She also presented information regarding the School Climate Survey (deadline May 31) and Graduation dates. The East EPO presentation focused on Community Partnerships.

Before moving to the Resolutions, the Board, at Commissioner Maloy's request, considered President Elliott's ruling to disallow the Commissioner's request to present a Governance report. A Point of Order and request for appeal were entered and a vote was taken with four commissioners supporting the President's decision. General Council Adrian Neil was asked for procedural information at several times during this meeting. In addition to providing counsel, he at several points reminded the commissioners to be cautious during these discussions not to disclose matters discussed during Executive Sessions. Note: Discussion on the topic of the issue not discussed at this point occurred during Policy 2300 amendment discussion later in the meeting.

Resolutions were brought forward and approved with minimal discussion. The process was efficient but much less transparent as they were not available on the screen for the public viewing during the process. Most discussion involved concerns by the Board for additional clarity from the District and stressed the need for transparency in funding. Several questions arose as to potential unreasonable costs without additional clarity. Resolutions 600 – 656 were approved or approved with amendments to clarify funding, with some exceptions. Resolution 604 and 647 were tabled until June 14; Resolution 604 consisted of amendments to previously approved items and Resolution 647 was a 3-year contract for Gallup, Inc. to facilitate district leadership in work to address the climate in the RCSD. Concerns were raised regarding the need for consultants for the already well-paid leadership team. The District is to submit additional details on both resolutions to the Board prior to a vote during the June 14 Board meeting.

A motion to change the Human Resources Committee Chair to Beatriz LeBron was discussed and approved.

Board By-Laws Policy 2300 was amended to discontinue the Standing Committee known as Board Governance and Development as a step toward satisfying the State Monitor Academic Work Plan and Financial Plan which set forth recommendations for various changes to improve accountability and efficiency. During the discussion, Commissioner Maloy was able to put forward her disapproval of eliminating the committee she chaired. Commissioners all presented their arguments for the decision. A key element discussed was the lack of confidence in the bias training that was provided by an outside firm under Governance. The resolution (654) carried with Maloy the only dissension.

Commissioner Powell presented recommended Policy revisions for first and second readings.

Policy 0320, Evaluation of the Superintendent, is being held for further discussion. Questions also rose regarding the Policy 5100, Student Attendance, and Policy 7600, Closure of School Buildings. Policy 7600 is particularly important due to implications for next year's decisions regarding school closures. Discussion revolved around

Sunshine Corner continued from page 11



equity and the need to carefully consider the meaning of the line 'the plan must look at the equitable distribution of the remaining facilities to which students would be assigned.' Equitable location of school buildings would be a key indicator that the district is seriously considering equity in the decisions being made across the district. It was noted that a definition of equity should be discussed district wide.

See [BoardDocs® Plus](#) on the RCSD website under the Board of Education tab– click on meetings and 2022. Resolutions and relevant Policies are available within the agenda.

2022-23 CONTINUING BUDGET PROCESS:

SPECIAL MEETING: BUDGET ADOPTION MAY 10, 2022

OBSERVED BY CONSTANCE FLAHIVE

The Board of Education gave its approval for the 2022-23 RCSD Budget of \$1,115,107,225.

To begin the meeting, Superintendent Myers-Small presented the final results of the work which included specifics of the additional funding for Food Services. The brief PowerPoint highlighted alignments to her Strategic Plan and the State Monitor's Academic and Fiscal Plans and indicated that the budget was balanced.

It was noted that NYS Education Commissioner Rosa considers the budget balanced and aligned and approves it with the current adjustments. State Monitor Jallow stated in this meeting that there have been major improvements in the budget, but she is not fully satisfied. She will continue to monitor and ask for documented evidence going forward.

Commissioners presented their closing position with each raising their own concerns. Commissioners LeBron, Maloy, and Simmons voting against; Adams, Patterson, and Powell supported the budget with reservations.

President Elliott voted for the Budget while raising questions about promised staff and Charter Schools, saying 'there is still work to do but what will we do if we do not pass it?'

Next dates:

May 31: Presentation of the Budget to City Council

June 14: City Council Budget approval meeting at 7:30 P.M.

SUMMARY OF COMIDA MEETING

MAY 17, 2022

OBSERVED BY DEBORAH RICE GORDON

This COMIDA meeting can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=efPNZ8wFFs>.

Kevin Loewke gave a local labor monitoring report. During the month of April, 14 of 415 workers monitored did not have proof of residence; these issues were resolved. At last check, the percentage of local laborers working at the Amazon Manitou site was 72.1%.

Brian LaFountain reported on one request for local labor exemption for masonry work based on cost differential.

Project Application Review:

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

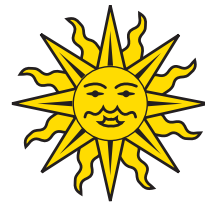
- Ambassador Union Street, LLC for the renovation of the existing Ambassador Building at 84 and 86 South Union Street, Rochester for conversion to a Marriott Tribute Portfolio hotel.
- Lu Engineers, Inc. for relocation and expansion of their offices to 280 Broad Street, Rochester.

PROJECT MODIFICATIONS:

The following modification requests were approved:

- Aptitude Rochester, LLC requested an increase in project costs for their student housing project in Henrietta due to site and building cost increases. The increase will impact sales tax and mortgage recording tax exemptions. A request was also made to release lot 2 from the pilot document due to a subdivision of the property.

Sunshine Corner continued from page 12



- 587, LLC requested an increase in project costs for their apartment complex project and the addition of a mortgage recording tax exemption.
- Porcione Properties, LLC requested approval for a new tenant at their facility in Gates.
- Community Preservation Partners, LLC requested approval for the issuance of tax-exempt revenue bonds for the renovation of the Keeler Park affordable housing buildings.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Patrick Gooch, a Senior Planner with Monroe County Planning and Development, presented an update on the County Comprehensive Plan which had received a COMIDA grant. The last plan was created in the 1970s. The project schedule has been extended by three months due to the pandemic. The finished planning document is expected to be completed in December with adoption by the County Legislature in the early part of 2023. For more details, see the YouTube link above.

MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

MAY 10, 2022 MEETING

OBSERVED BY ELAINE SCHMIDT

The Legislature passed a resolution to rehabilitate the Robach Center at Ontario Beach Park, and authorized expenditures up to \$944,000 for rehab and capital improvements.

A resolution to accept funding from the Department of Homeland Security in the amount of \$74,227.45 was considered to assist in Operation Stonegarden, and in part for the payment of overtime to police departments in Greece, Irondequoit, and Webster. Operation Stonegarden concerns border security and there was a concern among some legislators that immigrant farm workers could be unfairly impacted. A spokesman from the Sheriff's Department said that the goal was to apprehend criminals and illegal weapons that were coming across the border, not to monitor immigration issues. The resolution passed 21 to 6.

An inter municipal agreement with the City of Rochester was authorized in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 to provide tracking, oversight, and evaluation services regarding the RASE Commission's recommendations through March 31, 2023.

An appropriation transfer of \$30,000 from the Department of Human Services to the Veterans Service Agency for the inaugural Veterans Day Parade was authorized unanimously.

JUNE 14, 2022 MEETING

The County recognized the heroic efforts of first responders and their colleagues who were able to rescue a man trapped in a burning car that was involved in an accident on Salmon Creek Road.

During the Public Forum several individuals from a group called New York Citizens cited statistics from an audit they conducted that they claimed showed discrepancies in voting results from the 2020 General Election and argued that it should be decertified. They also claimed at least one of the Dominion voting machines was hacked.

A public hearing was set for July 12 at 6:15 P.M. on the 2023-2028 proposed Capital Improvement Budget proposed by County Executive Adam Bello.

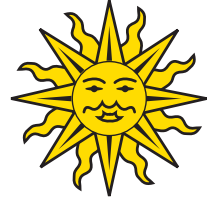
A project labor agreement was passed for the Specialized Secure Detention Facility Capital Project. The agreement provides for 10-hour work days, limited holiday pay, minimized flexible shift times to help create uniform starting and quitting times, and adds 48 more staff to manage 48 more beds for youth offenders.

The 2022 Operating Budget was amended to add a new admission category for the Seneca Park Zoo. Recipients of SNAP benefits will be eligible for a reduced fee of \$1 for admission of up to four individuals. This move is designed to increase educational and recreational opportunities for our vulnerable populations. Officials expect this to increase attendance and income for the zoo.

The following appointments were confirmed to the Monroe County Civil Service Commission:

- Mr. Donald O. Chesworth for a term expiring May 31 2026
- Mr R. Michael Loewke for a term expiring May 31, 2026
- Mr. Edward F. Premo II for a term expiring May 31, 2028
- Ms. Joanne Giufridda for a term expiring May 31, 2028.

Sunshine Corner continued from page 13



The 2022 Operating Budget was amended to appropriate the fund balance for Violence Response Initiatives of Monroe County Sheriff's Office and create 11 more Deputy Sheriff Road Patrol Positions. Several legislators pointed out that root causes must be addressed to deal with increased violence.

The Legislature authorized the following Monroe County Bonds:

- \$2,500,000 to finance the cost of the Wolk Health Center Project at Monroe Community College;
- \$16,000,000 to finance the renovation of City Place Project; and
- \$500,000 to finance the cost of the STD Clinic Relocation Project.

The following were appointed to the Board of Trustees to the Monroe County Library System:

Ms. Kimberly Brown for a term expiring June 30, 2026

Ms. Amy Moffitt for a term expiring June 30, 2027.

POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD MEETINGS IN MAY

OBSERVED BY DEBORAH RICE GORDON

NOTE: On May 12, the Executive Director of the PAB, Conor Dwyer Reynolds, was placed on administrative leave pending an internal investigation. No additional details are available from the Board as of this writing. Rochester City Council President Miguel Melendez has stated that human resource-related complaints were the cause. On May 27, the PAB announced that Duwane Bascoe, the PAB's chief investigator, will become acting Director.

MAY 19, 2022 PAB REGULAR MEETING SUMMARY

A recording of this meeting can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZNj-4DPFF0Q&t=239s>

Larry Knox, a new Board member, was introduced.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS:

- Natalie Banks reported on the Public Affairs Division which is comprised of Communications and Community Engagement teams.
- A network of social media pages and contacts has been created. A web page was designed to inform the community as to their rights and enable the filing of reports. A soft launch will occur this summer and will coincide with the public launch of the complaint process.
- Recruitment efforts resulted in 1,000 applications for 30+ job openings.
- A public education campaign is planned.
- A summer youth leadership program will launch in the summer.
- Causewave Community Partners will assist with the development and implementation of an integrative communications plan and another consultant will work with PAB on the second phase of web site development.
- A comprehensive community communication plan including quadrant-based strategies, canvassing, group outreach, and other elements is being developed.
- The community engagement team has two very new members and is in immediate need of other staff hires.
- Communications management would like to work with the Board to develop new protocols. Additionally, there is a need to improve communications between the Board and the team.

Duwane Bascoe, acting Chief of Investigations, gave a report on the Investigations Division.

- An investigation manual has been completed and is being reviewed by staff attorneys.
- Staff has been trained on police misconduct and is working with the public affairs office to develop related information for the website.
- Training for the Investigation Academy is expected to begin on May 31 through June 17. This schedule is dependent on the confirmed involvement of the Rochester Police Department (RPD) for ride-along

Sunshine Corner continued from page 14



opportunities and information sharing. Three meetings on this topic have been cancelled by RPD. It has been suggested that meetings be delayed due to the uncertain status of PAB's executive director. Therefore, the team is asking the Board to act as a liaison to Police Chief Smith to secure needed assistance.

Rosabel Antonetti reported on the Operations Division.

- Immediate needs include approval of numerous requisitions, information on building services availability and hiring of a clerk, internal IT person, and an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) language-access coordinator.
- The Division is operating out of the new office space. A staff training program was completed in April. Staff is working with the Empire Justice Center on a comprehensive language access program. Human Resource policies are also under development.
- A software tool, i-Sight Case Management, has just been introduced with a tentative go-live date of mid-August.
- Meetings are being held with other divisions and staff is conducting research on operation models used by other Boards.
- The language access plan is in the final stages and a job description is being written for an ADA coordinator.

Chenoa Maye gave a report on the Legal Division.

- Support to internal divisions has included the review of legal aspects during the development of internal rules and policies.
- Current and forecasted obstacles for Division functioning have been identified. For example, clarification of the relationship between the Division and both Corporation Counsel (City Law Department) and RPD is needed. Additionally, the information that will be made available to the Board needs to be defined.
- Michael Higgins, Chief of the Policy and Oversight Division, reported that the Division is amending and drafting the disciplinary matrix, evaluating RPD's announced changes to protest policies and evaluating the implementation of the Executive Order 203 Plan (New York State Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative). The Division expects to publish these evaluations and seek public comment. A significant stumbling block to Division work is the lack of information from RPD. Hiring is also needed since the Division is less than 50% staffed.

An executive session was called to discuss personnel updates.

MAY 24 PAB MEETING

An Executive Session was called to discuss potential candidates for an interim administrator position. The Board released a communication entitled A Letter from the Police Accountability Board to the Rochester Community which outlines a path forward for the near term.

For more information, go to <https://www.rocpab.org/pab-letter-to-the-community/>.

Book Group Holds Last Discussion of Program Year

For its last session of the program year, the LWV-RMA book group discussed *The End of Policing* by Alex S. Vitale.

Those interested will gather in person or online in August to identify books to read during the 2022-2023 season. Details about this meeting will be shared in the near future. A link to book discussions will be sent to everyone expressing an interest to Judy Weinstein (vote411@lww-rma.org), who serves as the group's Zoom techie. The LWV-RMA book club meets via Zoom at 4:30 P.M., for the most part on the third Thursday of the month.



Book group members discussing *The End of Policing* on June 16.



Calendar



July

- 1 First Friday (11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.) I-Square, 400 Bakers Park, in Irondequoit
- TBA LWV-RMA Board Orientation

August

- 5 First Friday (11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.) I-Square, 400 Bakers Park, in Irondequoit
- 17 LWV-RMA Board Meeting (5:30 – 7:30 P.M.) – Zoom

be a voter!

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

However, these public ceremonies are expected to return soon. We'll keep you updated. If you'd like to be part of the team that meets new citizens during these sessions, contact Sheila Abeling at sheiler162007@gmail.com.

LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK!



We know you'll "like" us!

www.facebook.com/lwvofrma

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

Join First Friday 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:

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| July 1 | January 6, 2023 |
| August 5 | February 3 |
| September 2 | March 3 |
| October 7 | April 7 |
| November 4 | May 5 |
| December 2 | June 2 |



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

First Friday happens every month.

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

**AUGUST/SEPTEMBER VOTER
DEADLINE IS JULY 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.

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President** Barbara Grosh (2021-2023)
- Vice President** Myra Pelz (2021-2023)
- Treasurer** Linda Saalman (2021-2023)
- Secretary** Cathy Kane (2022-2024)
- Director** Sarah Heisman (2022-2024)
- Director** Theresa McFarland-Porter (2021-2023)
- Director** Tiffany Moore-Corteville (2021- 2023)
- Director** Mira Washington (until June 2022)

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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

- President** Barbara Grosh
president@lwv-rma.org
- Book Club** Judy Weinstein
vote411@lwv-rma.org
- Communication/PR** Sarah Heisman
communications@lwv-rma.org
- Election Services/Naturalization** Sheila Abeling
Sheiler162007@gmail.com
- Fair Election Practices Campaign** Kris Rogers
fepec@lwv-rma.org
- Government** Judy Weinstein
vote411@lwv-rma.org
- Membership** Mira Washington
membership@lwv-rma.org
- Nominating** Mary Hussong Kallen
nominations@lwv-rma.org
- Programs** Barbara Grosh
president@lwv-rma.org
- VOTE411** Judy Weinstein
vote411@lwv-rma.org
- Voter Services** Elaine Schmidt
voterservices@lwv-rma.org

*The Voter is a
monthly publication
of the LWV-RMA

Editor,
Judy Wadsworth

Layout/Design,
Chris Burleigh*

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:

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