

## Rochester/Metro League of Women Voters

### Mission Statement

*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

Voter education is one of the League's most important functions, and the League encourages all citizens to register and to cast an informed vote.

The League does not support political parties or candidates, but does take stands on important issues after careful study and research.

Membership in the League is open to all citizens of voting age.

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## Save The Date! Join Us for Our October Forum:

### The Affordable Care Act: Challenges in Local Implementation

#### Our Panel:

Lynne Scalzo, VP Business Strategy, Excellus BC/BS

Michelle Casey, Director CMMI Program,  
Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency

Joseph Vasile, MD, CEO  
Greater Rochester Independent Practice Association

Kim Wynn, Program Manager Coordinated Care Services, Inc.

#### Our Moderator:

Sarah F. Liebschutz, PhD  
Distinguished Service Professor Emerita, The College at Brockport

**October 17, 2013**

4:00 to 6:00 PM **(PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE!)**

#### Asbury First United Methodist Church

1050 East Avenue, 14607

*(parking and access through the rear-handicapped accessible)*

Please register at <http://lww-rma.org/signup2.php>

Learn more about the Affordable Care Act now by visiting  
[www.lww-rma.org/healthcare.php](http://www.lww-rma.org/healthcare.php)

For more information about our forum, see the article on page 4



## President's Corner



Coming off another successful co-sponsored debate with WROC Channel 8, I thought it would be interesting and helpful as we enter the election season to share how you can get the most out of watching a candidate debate.

Our local League plans on co-hosting another

debate between candidates for Mayor of the City of Rochester along with other forums across the County. (Check your email for updates.)

Here are some key tips I came across for familiarizing yourself with the candidates and issues.

### BEFORE THE DEBATE

First and foremost, find out which candidates are participating in the debate and why!

- Take some time to research and familiarize yourself with the candidates and their platforms. Gather information about their positions from local newspapers, candidate websites and non-partisan voter information websites such as [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org).
- Make plans to watch or attend the debate with friends or family – discussing the performance with others can help you learn more.
- Create a candidate “report card” to help you keep track of what’s said during the debate.
- Open your mind to new opinions and impressions of the candidates regardless of their party affiliation.

### DURING THE DEBATE

Because candidates rehearse thoroughly for debates, it can be hard to solicit candid, spontaneous answers. Debates can emphasize form over substance, such as a candidate’s appearance instead of his or her stance on the issues. Throughout the debate, ask yourself pointed questions to help you judge both the performance of the candidates as well as the fairness and effectiveness of its format.

- Are the questions clear, fair and equally tough on all candidates?
- Does the candidate appear sincere, confident and relaxed? What image is he or she trying to create?
- Do the candidates give specifics about their

stands on the issues, or do they speak in generalities? Do they support their positions and arguments with facts and figures? Do they answer questions directly, or do they evade them or fail to answer the specific question?

- Do they talk about their own policies and positions, or do they mostly attack their opponents?
- Are their proposals realistic? Can they actually carry out the promises they are making?
- Do they show how their backgrounds and experience qualify them to hold the office?
- Are their answers consistent with their previous positions, and if not, do they explain why?

If you’re watching a televised debate, ask yourself whether reaction shots or other editing techniques are used to create a sense of drama or conflict. Are you, for example, being influenced by comments made by reporters and commentators immediately before and after the debate?

### AFTER THE DEBATE

Debates can offer a lot of information to take in! Take some time after the debate to reflect on and clarify your thoughts about the candidates and the issues.

- Compare your impressions with others who watched or attended the debate.
- Think about whether you still have questions about the issues or the candidates and how you might follow-up with the candidates.
- Continue following the campaign by following news on the candidates, looking for additional information on [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org), and even asking candidates questions through channels like Twitter.

This election year is important, and the outcome will affect your daily life and the well-being of our community. Help connect your friends and family with [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) to find all the information they need, and be sure to check your email for information on upcoming League-sponsored debates.

**Brian Valenti**

*Vice President and Director PR*

**Register**  
**to VOTE**

## Following Up ...

At our September forum, **Your Vote DOES Count**, an audience of about 80 listened to a local panel discuss the implications for our county, state and country of the recent US Supreme Court decision overturning Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, thereby making Section 5 ineffective. The audience then had (and took full advantage of) an opportunity to ask questions. The panel, moderated by Barbara Grosh, consisted of:

**Dr. Marvin A. McMickle**, *President of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School*, offered an in-depth look at the history of voter repression from the passage of the 15th Amendment to the Shelby County v. US Supreme Court decision. For further information, he recommends reading ***Origins of the Civil Rights Movement*** by Aldon Morris.

**Peter Quinn and Tom Ferrarese**, *Monroe County Board of Elections Commissioners*, noted that 3 counties in NYS are pre-clearance counties (Kings, Bronx and New York) and redistricting can potentially affect others. They also noted that voter fraud is almost close to non-existent in Monroe County. Please use their website [www.monroecounty.gov/elections](http://www.monroecounty.gov/elections) for registration forms and other information, including our own **Who Represents You**. (And then visit [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org)!)

**Patty Larke**, *District Director for Representative Louise Slaughter*, pointed out that H.R. 12 has already been drafted by Representative John Lewis to replace and improve upon the overturned Section 4 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. The bill has 176 sponsors to date, and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand will introduce a companion bill in the Senate. Ms. Larke encouraged everyone to visit [www.louise.house.gov](http://www.louise.house.gov) for further information – and let her (or your representative) and Sen. Gillibrand know that you support these bills!

All of the speakers mentioned the importance of the League's efforts to register and inform voters as the long battle to ensure voting rights for every citizen continues.



Dr. Marvin A. McMickle



Tom Ferrarese



Peter Quinn



Patty Larke



## Pass It On...

**YOU** have the opportunity and the responsibility to determine the future in the Rochester metropolitan area.

Start now to review the issues and the candidates at [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org).

**Then be sure to VOTE ON November 5!**

If you have ANY QUESTIONS, contact the Monroe County Board of Elections:

[www2.monroecounty.gov/elections-index.php](http://www2.monroecounty.gov/elections-index.php)

585-753-1550

And don't vote alone – bring a friend!

## The Affordable Care Act: Is Rochester Ready?

The League of Women Voters of Rochester Metropolitan Area will present an outstanding program on Thursday, October 17 at 4:00 PM focused on the implementation issues of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), also known as "Obamacare." We believe that the community will benefit from a discussion of the impact that the ACA will have on various health care organizations in Rochester and the surrounding areas, and we will probe the challenges presented by this implementation and the ways in which various groups will respond.



We have invited a panel of local experts representing different perspectives in health care. The discussion will be moderated by League member Sarah F. Liebschutz, PhD, Distinguished Service Professor Emerita, State University of New York, Brockport. Our audience will be comprised of community leaders and the interested public.

Our panel members include representatives from the following organizations:

- Excellus BlueCross/BlueShield - headquartered in Rochester, NY; part of a \$5 billion family of companies that finances and delivers health care services across upstate New York. It is New York State's largest non-profit health plan.
- Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency - an independent local organization working to improve health care in Rochester and the Finger Lakes region.
- Greater Rochester Independent Practice Association (GRIPA) - a unique partnership of physicians and hospitals in New York's Monroe and Wayne Counties which is also affiliated with RGHS.
- Coordinated Care Services, Inc. - a not-for-profit management services organization with more than two decades of experience partnering with customers in the behavioral health and human services fields.

Please join us at Asbury First United Methodist Church, 1050 East Avenue, in the Gathering Room on Thursday, October 17, 2013, from 4:00 - 6:00pm. (Note the time change.)

**Lisa Slater**  
Co-Chair, Health Care Study Group

## 2013 New York State Ballot Proposals

There will be six proposals on the November 5, 2013 election ballot to amend the NYS Constitution. The LWVNY has no position on any on these proposed amendments. Be sure to check [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org) after October 1st to find the pros and cons for each of the proposals.

### PROPOSAL 1-AUTHORIZING CASINO GAMING

Up to 7 more casinos will be authorized in NYS if approved by the Legislature after voters approve this amendment.

### PROPOSAL 2-ADDITIONAL CIVIL SERVICE CREDIT FOR VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES CERTIFIED POST-APPOINTMENT

Veterans with additional civil service credit if certified with disability after appointment may receive additional points.

### PROPOSAL 3-EXCLUSION OF INDEBTEDNESS CONTRACTED FOR SEWAGE FACILITIES

Exclusion of sewage facilities from debt limits for local entities will be extended for another 10 years (to January 2024).

### PROPOSAL 4-SETTLING DISPUTED TITLE IN THE FOREST PRESERVE

The state Legislature would be authorized to exchange lands between NYS and a forest preserve in the town of Long Lake in Hamilton County.

### PROPOSAL 5-IN RELATION TO A LAND EXCHANGE IN THE STATE FOREST PRESERVE WITH NYCO MINERALS, INC

The Legislature would be authorized if voters approve amendment to exchange lands in Essex County with NYCO Minerals.

### PROPOSAL 6-INCREASING AGE UNTIL WHICH CERTAIN STATE JUDGES CAN SERVE

Justices of the State Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals may serve after age 70 in certain circumstances.

**Katherine Smith**  
Director, Advocacy



## Sunshine Corner

### ROCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

7/16/13

No LWV issues were noted.

Observer notes that members of the public routinely voice their concerns to the City Council before the official opening of City Council proceedings. Meetings are conducted in a respectful and attentive environment.

Of note in this particular City Council meeting: a group of citizens (through spokesperson Alex White) offered the City \$100,000 for a parcel of land that the City Council planned to release to a developer, Buckingham Properties, "to further the Midtown Urban Renewal Program." The group challenged the City's plan, stating that it violated the City Code.

(To view the full minutes from this and other meetings, please click here: <http://www.cityofrochester.gov/>)

### HENRIETTA TOWN BOARD

9/11/2013

No LWV issues were noted.

The Town Board heard several members of the public speak against 2 proposals by Graywood Commons to build 96 townhouses and 144 apartments on East River Road. Their concern was increased traffic congestion on the sites. The board voted down these 2 proposals.

(To view the full minutes from these and other meetings, please click here: <http://www.henrietta.org>)

### MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

9/10/13

No LWV issues were noted.

Several speakers requested a local registry for animal abusers. They revealed that State law required the registry of abusers convicted of a felony. They stated that most abusers do "plead down" to a misdemeanor and would remain unregistered. During the Legislature meeting representative Willie Lightfoot asked for a suspension of the rules to make a proposal for a stronger local law and registry regarding animal abuse. The proposal did not move forward. The item was voted down by a roll call vote, 8 yes and 19 no, along party lines.

(To view the full minutes from this and other meetings, please click here: <http://www2.monroecounty.gov>)

*Slavery in America is not dead, it just looks different - it is called human trafficking. \**

## WEBSTER WORKSHOP

7/25/13

No LWV issues were noted.

Discussion took place regarding creation of a Lighting District for the Valley Creek Subdivision on Joseph Circle.

(To view the full minutes from these and other meetings, please click here: <http://www.ci.webster.ny.us>)

**Elaine Schmidt**

*Director, Government*

## Naturalization and FEPC

### NATURALIZATION:

All League members are welcome to attend Oath Ceremonies and Naturalizations. If interested, please contact Sheila Abeling at [sheiler162004@yahoo.com](mailto:sheiler162004@yahoo.com) or call 585-223-6819. Also be sure to check the website [www.lwv-rma.org](http://www.lwv-rma.org) for additional information on Naturalizations.

Marcia Eisenberg greeted candidates for naturalization on Sept. 12th at the Monroe County Office Building. Constitution Day, September 17th, brought Sheila Abeling and Kathy Farrar to SUNY Brockport. They welcomed 81 new citizens at an Oath Ceremony.

Thank you to Beth Feldman and Kathy Farrar for meeting new citizens on October 10th at the Monroe County Office Building and the Federal Building, respectively.

### FAIR ELECTION PRACTICES CAMPAIGN (FEPC):

On September 3rd the League and The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester (TIAR) cosponsored the Signing Ceremony/Press Conference at the Atrium in the Monroe County Office Building. To date we have well over half of the candidates running for office who have signed the Pledge, and as of press time we still are receiving signers. A wonderful response! Thank you to Katherine Smith, Joan Rosenthal, Mary Hussong-Kallen, Gin Busack and Barbara Grosh for attending the ceremony.

At press time the FEPC Committee/Hearing Panel has still not received any complaints in violation of the Fair Election Practices Campaign Pledge. Great news! Hopefully, the rest of the campaign until November 5th will demonstrate fairness and issue-based campaigning.

Please visit the League website <http://lwv-rma.org> for updated information on the FEPC.

**Sheila Abeling,**

*Director, Naturalization and FEPC*



## Book Club: Girls in Rochester...Commercially Exploited Sexually?

The LWV-RMA Book Club chose to read *Girls Like Us: fighting for a world where girls are not for sale, an activist finds her calling and heals herself*, by Rachel Lloyd. The New York State League's position on sex trafficking is this:

Human forced labor and sex trafficking should be stopped through legislation and changes in public policy. Those who have been commercially sexually exploited or coerced into slave labor, or who are minors, should be considered as victims of human trafficking. Victims of human trafficking should be provided with services to facilitate integration into the community.

We book club members who discussed the book found it moving and disturbing. The author herself was a victim of the sex industry, yet she rehabilitated herself and created an organization, GEMS (Girls' Educational and Mentoring Services), that helps young girls in New York City do the same. Though we were critical of Lloyd's writing style, the book is an excellent introduction to the subject of commercially sexually exploited youth.

The author makes a compelling argument against the term "child prostitute." Readers are appalled to learn that girls as young as eleven are recruited – and right here in the U.S. The stories of both the author and the girls she helps reveal our faulty assumptions about why girls enter and remain in the sex industry. According to Lloyd, the girls become victims of the life not for money or drugs, but for "love." A girl views the man who sells her as her "boyfriend."

In many ways, the girls are like battered wives: if they are beaten, it is their fault because they didn't obey the rules; the abuse, then, is a sign of love. Like battered wives, the girls find it difficult to leave; if they leave, it is difficult not to return.

Our discussion group agreed that other League members must become better informed about this subject.

We recommend, therefore, that the League look into this issue in the Rochester area. How many girls are commercially sexually exploited? How do the police and prosecutors treat them after arrests? What support services are available?

If you are interested in joining a study group, send an email to [info@LWV-RMA.org](mailto:info@LWV-RMA.org).

**Judy Weinstein**  
Member, Book Club

## Membership News

I hope everyone enjoyed the warm days and that you're looking forward to our regular Rochester weather (or are you about to flee to Florida?). Our League had a busy summer with so much work done by so many members. It is really inspiring to see so many members participating in activities to advocate our League positions and reach out to the community to educate voters.

Our whole organization depends on members giving SERVICE to our committees. As a grass roots organization, it is all "us." SERVICE can be a couple of hours a week, or a couple of hours for one event or a couple of hours over the program year. While it seems we just had our elections, we will soon be looking for members who would like to be more involved. As part of the Membership-Leadership-Development (MLD) program, we are committed to coaching members as they take on new responsibilities.

If you are wondering about becoming more involved or just wanting to hang out more with your friends on a particular committee, please let the Committee Chair and/or Joan Rosenthal, Nominating Committee Chair, know what you are thinking.

The process of identifying open positions and filling those positions will be starting soon. Look for further communication in The Voter and on our website. If everyone does what they can, then we will have the best League in the country.

**"Everybody can be great... because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."**  
-Martin Luther King Jr.

**"Everybody counts in applying democracy. And there will never be a true democracy until every responsible and law-abiding adult in it, without regard to race, sex, color or creed has his or her own inalienable and unpurchasable voice in government."**-Carrie Chapman Catt

**Ellen DeGregorio**  
Director, Membership



## Photos from the Mayoral Candidate Debate



## Photos from the FEPC Pledge Signing Ceremony



Co-Chair, Sheila Abeling of LWV-RMA



Co-Chair, Mary Pizzente-Morich of TIAR





## Coming Events!



### October

- 11** Last day to register to vote
- 16** Last day for the Board of Elections to receive a change of address
- 17** Health Care Forum
- 21** Board Meeting
- 29** Last day to request an absentee ballot

### November

- 4** Last day to mail an absentee ballot
- 5** Election Day

# VOTE!

## Help Needed for Wetlands Model!

On September 19th the League participated in Conservation Days sponsored by the Monroe County Soil & Conservation District at Ellison Park. In our presentation the children act as rain makers; they really enjoy participating and very quickly realize that wetlands are important - and why. It begins to change their relationship to nature and introduces them to a world they have noticed but not really seen. Unfortunately, we were only able to participate in 1 day of the 3 day event due to the lack of members trained to do the presentations.

Our League began doing these presentations in 1989 when the Environmental Committee of LWVRMA applied for and received a grant from the national League to purchase the wetlands model. Over the years we have given presentations at the Seneca Park Zoo, Rochester Museum & Science Center, Tinker Nature Park in Henrietta, Boy Scout groups and numerous other events. Currently we have only 2 League members and an enthusiastic non-League member to do the presentations. We simply cannot respond to all opportunities we get for our presentations.

We need your help! If you would like more informa-

tion on this important (and fun) work, please call the League at 262-3730 or Jane Schmitt at 334-0588.



*LWV-RMA member Chris Fredette, demonstrating the value of wetlands*

Board meets monthly. Call Georgia DeGregorio at 787-9692 for details. Board meetings are open to all members. Local Government Committee meets monthly at the Brighton Town Hall, Stage Room. For details, call Elaine Schmidt at 530-7414.

Membership Committee meets monthly at Brighton Town Hall, Stage Room. For details, call Ellen DeGregorio at 473-3502.

10:00 AM Naturalization Ceremonies are held at Monroe County Office Building at 39 W. Main Street.

1:00 PM Naturalization Ceremonies are held at Federal Court House at 100 State Street.

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)



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
ROCHESTER METROPOLITAN AREA

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p 585-262-3730  
[www.LWV-RMA.org](http://www.LWV-RMA.org)

# Rochester VOTER

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

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**NOVEMBER VOTER  
DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 15!**

**VOTE!**



**Goals of the League of Women Voters:**

- To encourage informed citizen participation in government and politics
- To influence public policy through education and advocacy

**LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK!**



We know you'll "like" us!

[www.facebook.com/lwvofrma](http://www.facebook.com/lwvofrma)

**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:  
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**MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:**

Individual/Associate . . . . .	\$.75
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Susan B. Anthony/Frederick Douglass . . . . .	\$150
Carrie Chapman Catt . . . . .	\$200
Student (full-time/under 25) . . . . .	\$.25
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