

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.

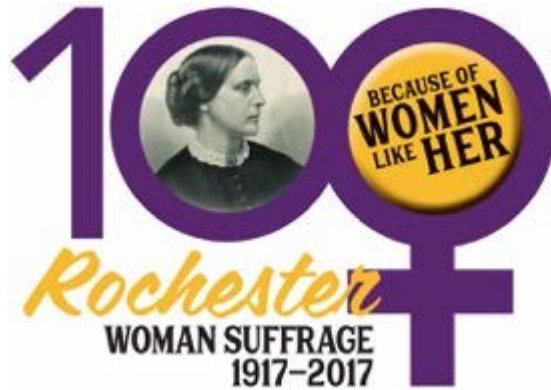
The League does not support political parties or candidates, but does take stands on important issues after careful study and research.

Membership in the League is open to all persons who are at least 16 years of age.

Those under 16 can be associate members.

Inside this issue:

- Election Day: Yesterday & Tomorrow 1
- President's Corner 2
- 2nd Quarter Treasurer's Report 2
- Election Day: Yesterday & Tomorrow 3
- Save the Date! 3
- Early Voting 4
- Election Law Priorities LWVNY 2017 4
- If You Support Change for the Better 5
- Orientation Sessions for New LWV-RMA members 6
- Voter Education Team 7
- Naturalization 7
- Fair Election Practices Campaign 7
- NYS Constitutional Convention 7
- Sunshine Corner 8
- A Reminder: All Politics is Local 8
- LWVNY Women in Politics 9
- Calendar 10
- First Fridays 10
- Leadership 11



Join Us for Election Day: Yesterday and Tomorrow

A New York Suffrage Centennial Retrospective

Presenters:

Christine Ridarsky, *Rochester City Historian*, and **Deborah L. Hughes**, *President and CEO of the National Susan B. Anthony Museum & House.*

(More information on page 3.)

**Monday, March 27, 2017
7:00 P.M.**

Asbury First United Methodist Church
1050 East Avenue, Rochester
Handicapped Accessible/Parking in Rear

Preregister at www.lwv-rma.org or 262-3730

We look forward to seeing you!



President's Corner

So much good news!

The board and other leaders have been busy welcoming many of our newest members – what a pleasure! At our recent orientation gatherings, it was such fun to talk about the many and diverse activities we offer and how much the League means to us. We look forward to getting to know you all better, and to seeing the great ideas and energy you'll bring to the League!

Several members expressed their support for similar "round table discussions" every month or quarter – an opportunity for members to gather and "talk business," across committee lines. The idea would be to meet on a weekend or early evening – an option for those who cannot meet during the daytime for First Friday. Would you find such gatherings valuable?

Some of the activities we are most proud of are our monthly forums – and February's was first-rate. Program chair Mary Myers invited Rev. Marvin McMickle and Srs. Barbara Lum, Anne Urquhart and Josepha to speak on "History as an Argument for Voting" – and the combination of the sisters' stories of their work in Selma during the 1960's and Rev. McMickle's insights into the importance of the right to vote – and the cost paid – were inspiring. There's so much more work to be done, and the League is firmly committed to protecting and expanding that right.

Our next 2 forums will be March 27 and April 24 – be sure to mark your calendars!

Our League is the grateful recipient of a generous bequest from the estate of long-time member Patricia Wilcox. Patricia's family has directed the donation to our education fund, to support the many educational services we offer to the community. We offer our heartfelt condolences and sincere gratitude to her family.

Remember that our Annual Meeting will be held at Locust Hill Country Club on June 15 at 4:30 p.m. Whether you're a life-long member or new to the League, we guarantee a good time: good food and drink, good company and a little good work. Save the date!

I can't close without a reminder to contact your representatives regularly – local, state and national.

For all that you do, and for all that you inspire others to do, thank you!

In League,

Mary Hussong-Kallen
president@lww-rma.org

2nd Quarter Treasurer's Report

ACTUAL V. BUDGET 2016-2017

Total revenues for the 2nd quarter are \$14,647.03 (\$18,410.63 YTD) v. Annual budget of \$20,720.00.

REVENUES FOR THE QUARTER ARE -

- \$5360.00 memberships,
- \$110.00 donations,
- \$3200.00 Board of Elections payments,
- \$13.71 interest,
- \$2325.00 other income (notably \$2000 for AFSCME election), and
- \$3638.32 transfer/payments to our credit from the education fund, most notably 50 percent of our annual state and national PMP.

Total expenses for the quarter are \$6,600.72 (\$10,179.79 YTD) v. Annual budget of \$20,720.00.

EXPENDITURES FOR THE QUARTER ARE -

- \$4647.00 for our full annual national PMP and 50 percent of our state PMP,
- \$48.00 PayPal fees,
- \$200.00 phone,
- \$51.00 postage,
- \$600.00 Voter layout,
- \$701.00 events/program (facility fees and supplies), and
- \$354.00 admin expenses including P.O. Box rental and web hosting for the year.

As a result there is a net surplus of revenue over expenses of \$8,046.31 for the quarter and \$8,230.84 YTD.

QUARTER END BALANCES:

Checking	\$18,380.18
Savings	\$54,383.46
PayPal	\$290.08
Education fund	\$12,773.58

NOTE: There were two \$500.00 contributions by members directly to the education fund. (These donations are not part of our local operating budget.)

Ida Holloran, Treasurer
treasurer@lww-rma.org

Election Day: Yesterday and Tomorrow

Monday, March 27, 2017
7:00 P.M.

Asbury United Methodist Church
1050 East Avenue, Rochester, NY

Christine Ridarsky, Rochester City Historian, and **Deborah L. Hughes**, President and CEO of the National Susan B. Anthony Museum & House, will share perspectives in this New York Suffrage Centennial year on the significant role that our region has played and continues to play as our democracy matures into a government of, by, and for the people.



Deborah L. Hughes

Christine Ridarsky



Save the Date!

April 24, 2017 7:00 PM

Can Monroe County Reduce Poverty by 50% in 15 Years?

**Come to Our League of Women Voters Discussion
on How it Can be Done!!!**

Who are the agencies or organizations
actively working on this goal?

What approaches are being used to reach this goal?

Which neighborhoods are the first to be involved?

What milestones have been reached thus far?

How are these goals being funded?

How are the results being measured?

and

How can we be engaged in the process?

Panelists Include:

*Tori Toliver-Powers, Rochester Monroe
Anti-Poverty Initiative at United Way*

LaShunda Leslie-Smith, Connected Communities, Inc.

*Henry Fitts, Mayor's Office,
Innovation & Strategic Initiatives*

*Vincent Esposito, Empire State Development,
Finger Lakes Regional Office*

Asbury First United Methodist Church
1050 East Avenue, Rochester
Handicapped Accessible/Parking in Rear



For More Information, Please Call: 585-262-3730

Early Voting

NYS is one of fourteen states in the US that does not have some form of early voting. There is a movement in New York this year to change this so there will be an increase in voting turnout in 2017. The LWVNYS has the following position on early voting:

- There should be early voting for two weeks before Election Day, inclusive of two weekends, with at least some weekday voting hours scheduled before and after typical business hours.
- In advance of the first day of the early voting period, each county should provide public notice of the days, hours and location for early voting.
- Revisions of election procedures should be implemented to limit costs by such practices as using electronic poll books.
- There should be state funding.
- A uniform standard among counties for minimum number of voting sites should be established.

Early voting bill numbers are A2064 (Kavanagh) in the Assembly and S2950 (Stewart-Cousins) in the Senate. Please call your NYS Senator and Assembly offices and state your support for early voting in NYS by the time of the November elections.

Katherine Smith, kathysmith292@gmail.com



Election Law Priorities LWVNYS 2017

LWVNYS testified before the Joint Legislative Public Hearing on January 31, 2017 in support of a single June primary date, as put forth in A3052 (Cusick) and S3562 (Stewart-Cousins). Primaries need to be consolidated. LWVNYS supports the primary being held in June to comply with the Military Overseas Empowerment Act. Multiple primaries, as NYS witnessed in 2016, confuse citizens and create fiscal burdens for local municipalities.

LWVNYS supports ballot design changes that would make it easier for citizens to read and use the ballot. The Voter Friendly Ballot Act, A3379 (Kavanagh) and S1512 (Avella), directs that the ballot clearly distinguish between offices with a bold vertical bar and a fine line between the candidates with a large font and fill-in circles in black not gray.

LWVNYS also supports updating voter registration procedures, whereby 16- and 17-year-olds be allowed to register, as put forth in A1070 (Kavanagh) and S1661 (Carlucci). There should also be same day registration, as put forth in A2090 (Kavanagh) and S2478 (Gianaris). Same day registration would require an amendment to the NYS Constitution. Check www.lwvny.org to read more about our studies and lobbying for this constitutional amendment.

The table on the following page delineates several LWVNYS election law priorities for 2017.

Katherine Smith, kathysmith292@gmail.com



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

If You Support Change for the Better...

Do you have a few minutes to invest in our future? Please phone or write your state Senator or Member of Assembly as a concerned citizen and express your strong support for the following measures:

LWV ELECTION LAW PRIORITIES 2017

Issue	Description	Bill Numbers
Early Voting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The League supports enacting early voting in New York State. Currently 37 states allow for some form of early voting. Early voting should be implemented in a manner that will allow equivalent access to the polls for all voters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A.2064 (Kavanagh)/ S.2950 (Stewart-Cousins) Allows for early voting for up to eight days before the general election.
Voter Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The League supports paperless forms of voter registration as a means of decreasing costs and increasing accuracy of the voter rolls. The League supports Election Day registration, (registering and voting) on the same day, as a proven method of increasing voter participation. The League supports pre-registration of 16 and 17 year-olds to ensure that their voting participation is routine before they attend college or enter the workforce. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A.1070 (Kavanagh) / S.1661 (Carlucci) Allows for pre-registration of 16 and 17 year olds. A.2090(Kavanagh)/S.2478 (Gianaris) Amends Constitution to remove requirement to complete voter registration 10 days before an election.
No-Excuse Absentee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The League supports a constitutional amendment to allow for no-excuse absentee voting. Currently 27 states and the District of Columbia allow for no-excuse absentee voting. 	No legislation at this time.
Ballot Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The League supports improvements to ballot design that would include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) A clear delineation between offices with a bold vertical bar between offices and a fine line between the candidates (2) A larger font with an absolute minimum size (3) Fill-in circles in black instead of gray. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A.3379 (Kavanagh)/S.1512 (Avella) Creates the Voter Friendly Ballot Act which would create a ballot layout that is easy for voters to read and use.
Single June Primary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The League supports legislation that would create a single combined congressional and state June primary date and would bring New York State into compliance with the Military Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A.3052 (Cusick)/ S.3562 (Stewart-Cousins) Allows for the consolidation of state and congressional primaries to create a single June primary.
Electronic Poll Books	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The League supports replacing printed poll books with electronic poll books to eliminate time and resources spent producing paper poll books and updating voter information, and to speed up processing voters at the polls on Election Day. 	No legislation at this time.

To find contact information for your elected representatives, simply visit www.ballotpedia.org or text your full nine-digit ZIP code to 520-200-2223. (Please note: "Who Represents You" will be published as soon as all contact information is available!)

Orientation sessions for new LWV-RMA members

Two orientation sessions for our 20 new LWV-RMA members, held on February 23 and 24, introduced them to the goals and structure and activities of our branch of the LWV.

Committee chairs described the work of their groups and encouraged new members to get involved.

The February 23 evening reception was attended by four new LWV-RMA members: Judy Hartmann, Kris Rogers, Ellen Scott, and Kim Wightman.

The February 24 afternoon reception was attended by four new or potential members: Sharon Boedo, Ann Cordy, Kate Phillips, and Pam Schenk.



Ellen Scott, Hasana Martin, Kim Wightman, and Judy Sternberg



Ida Holloran, Kris Rogers, and Judy Sternberg



Mary Hussong-Kallen, Gail Wilder, Gin Busack, Ida Holloran, Elaine Schmitt



Judy Wadsworth



Pam Schenk, Judy Weinstein, Sharon Boedo



Mary Myers, Ann Cordy, Kate Phillips, Katherine Smith



Judy Sternberg, Kris Rogers, Hasana Martin, Elaine Schmitt, Ellie Scott, Gin Busack, Kim Wightman, Ida Holloran, and LWV-RMA President Mary Hussong-Kallen

Voter Education Team

The Voter Education Team uses several methods to maximize the number of American citizens registered to vote, that most American of democratic freedoms. We visit college Open Houses for new students to register everyone eligible. We also participate in Naturalization ceremonies to register each new citizen.

At appropriate times (usually near an upcoming election) we have people at places like Tops in the High Falls area to offer folks an opportunity to register to vote.

Social Studies/Civics teachers in city high schools have welcomed us into their classrooms where we make a power point presentation showing the history of various classes of people winning the right to vote in America. It includes a video by Lady Gaga portraying Alice Paul as she fought for the right of women to vote. The students enjoy that part, and are open to discussing the importance of voting. We identify elected officials in local, county, and state governments. We are fortunate to have on our team an LWV member from Wayne County who created the power point presentation and who has updated it to keep it current.

We meet about once a month depending on need and time of year, and would welcome you should you care to join us.

Camille Clayton, Voter Education Team Member
cclay244@aol.com

NYS Constitutional Convention

The NYS Political Scientists Association will offer two presentations in the State and Local Section that may be of interest:

- A plenary session on Saturday, April 22 at 10:30 on the 2017 Constitutional Convention vote, featuring Peter Galie and other experts affiliated with the Rockefeller Institute of Government.
- Preceding that will be a panel discussion on state constitutional reform (with a national focus).

Presentations will be held in the Golisano Building at Nazareth College.

Participation in the conference requires registration and a fee. There will be time allotted for Q&A and audience discussion. To register or for further information, please visit:

<http://daemencollegehistoryandpolisci.blogspot.com/2017/02/the-new-york-state-constitutional.html>

Naturalization

LWV-RMA member Mimi Wilson attended the February 9 Naturalization ceremony at the Monroe County Office Building and met 51 candidates for Naturalization. Katherine Smith met 50 new citizens on February 16 at the Federal Building. Our League representatives tell our newest citizens about the League and their wonderful new privilege of voting. They then assist them to register to vote. Often, there are other people in the audience who have the benefit of learning about the voting process as well.

Observing oath ceremonies is a wonderful experience. Participating in the process is even better. If you would like to attend a ceremony, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will arrange for you to attend.

Sheila Abeling, Election Services Chair
sheiler162007@gmail.com or
585-223-6819

Fair Election Practices Campaign (FEPC)

The League is looking for two people to take over the Fair Election Practices Campaign (FEPC) 2017. Please consider doing this wonderful project. Sheila Abeling will be your mentor. The people we will work with are wonderful and dedicated. Who will volunteer?

Sheila Abeling, FEPC Chair
sheiler162007@gmail.com or
585-223-6819

**New to the League?
Join Us at
First Friday**

**March 3, 2017
11:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.
at I-Square**

Sunshine Corner

HENRIETTA TOWN BOARD 1/18/2017 OBSERVED BY GREGORY BRUMFIELD

The Board approved a special use permit for a low density housing project on East River Road and Lehigh Station Road. The project plans include senior housing, housing for hearing impaired, and high-end luxury apartments.

Appointments were made to the Conservation Board and to the Zoning Board.

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

MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE 2/14/2017 OBSERVED BY ELAINE SCHMIDT AND KATE PHILLIPS

Dr. Vera Miller of the Genesee Baptist Church led the opening prayer and sang a beautiful rendition of The Lord's Prayer.

Brigit Hurley from The Children's Agenda spoke about cuts in the Nurse-Family Partnership program at the state level, the "raise the age" campaign (raising the age a youth can be tried as an adult from 16 to 18 years of age) and the need for more child care subsidies.

Legislator Bauroth once again, as he has for the last 5 years, proposed making the Democrat and Chronicle an official newspaper for the county since it has a much wider readership than the Daily Record or the Rochester Business Journal. His amendment was voted down along party lines.

The Legislature passed three resolutions "accepting the assets and liabilities" of three former LDCs: Upstate Telecommunications Corporation, Monroe Security and Safety Systems and Monroe Newpower, pursuant to an Order of Dissolution. \$100,000 was paid to Barclay Damon, LLP, from the LDC accounts for their representation in the procedure.

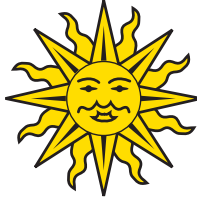
(To view the full minutes from this and other meetings, please click here: <http://www2.monroecounty.gov>)

WEBSTER TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP 1/ 26/ 2017 OBSERVED BY LOIS WINTERKORN

Webster Community Chest is looking for a new location and is asking for the town's help.

The tomato greenhouse project was discussed; however, it looks like Intergraw has decided to move the project to Ontario, NY.

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



WEBSTER TOWN BOARD 2/2/2017 OBSERVED BY LOIS WINTERKORN

A public hearing was held to consider a special use permit for the Webster Community Solar Project.

The situation with the Union Hill Volunteer Ambulance was discussed. The town said it was not trying to take over the Union Hill Ambulance but that there was a problem in serving the east side of Webster.

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

Elaine Schmidt, *Observer Committee*
e.schmidt8@frontier.com

A Reminder: All Politics Is Local

Do you know how your Monroe County Legislator votes on issues brought before the Legislature?

The Legislature meets on the second Tuesday of each month at the Monroe County Office Building (39 West Main Street), and all meetings are open to the public. It consists of 29 members – 19 Republicans and 10 Democrats. Most votes follow party lines, but it's easy to find out what issues will be voted on via the agenda and how your elected representative voted via the minutes. They're both posted at www2.monroecounty.gov/legislature-agendasandminutes.php.

For general information about the County Legislature, please visit the homepage at www2.monroecounty.gov/legislature-index.php.

If you don't want to travel downtown at night, consider attending a board meeting in your own town or village – or school district.

You'll be better represented if you make your voice heard!

League of Women Voters of NYS



WOMEN IN POLITICS: PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

A CONFERENCE COMMEMORATING THE CENTENNIAL OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE IN NEW YORK STATE

Friday & Saturday, April 21 & 22, 2017

The League of Women Voters of NYS Education Foundation is co-sponsoring an educational conference in Hyde Park, New York.

The Conference is being held on Friday, April 21, at the Wallace Center at the FDR Library in Hyde Park, and on Saturday, April 22, at the Lecture Center at SUNY New Paltz.

Keynote speakers include Dr. Allida Black, George Washington University, at Friday's dinner, and Barbara Smith, Black Feminist Author & Activist, at Saturday's lunch. Wylecia Wiggs Harris, Executive Director of LWVUS, will join us for lunch and will be presenting at the Friday conference reception with Dare Thompson, LWVNYS President. For a detailed agenda of the speakers and programs, go to

<http://files.constantcontact.com/37d635eb001/b01400e6-14eb-4ae6-a1e7-78c0875fb685.pdf>.

League members are encouraged to attend for an exciting presentation and discussion of women in politics and women's history in NYS. Participants can attend just one day, if they wish.

To register, go to https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/iK58f7wKIG73mRbfcZe2HA or <http://files.constantcontact.com/37d635eb001/1a3e6254-5c67-4751-b16c-f1343db7fa68.pdf>.

Special Offer for League Members and Friends

The League has arranged a **luncheon and tour of Val-Kill**, the home of Eleanor Roosevelt, for League members and friends on Friday, April 21, preceding the conference. Space is extremely limited so register now.

The cost of the luncheon is \$50 and includes the tour of Val-Kill. Register online at <http://files.constantcontact.com/37d635eb001/1a3e6254-5c67-4751-b16c-f1343db7fa68.pdf> or download a registration form <http://files.constantcontact.com/37d635eb001/1a3e6254-5c67-4751-b16c-f1343db7fa68.pdf>



Coming Events!



March

- 3 First Friday (11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M., I-Square)
- 9 Naturalization Ceremony (9:30 A.M., George Eastman Museum)
- 9 Naturalization Ceremony (10:00 A.M., Monroe County Office Building)
- 9 Rochester Federation of Women’s Clubs Luncheon/Meeting (11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M., Rick’s Prime Rib)
- 9 LWV-RMA Board Meeting (3:00 P.M., Asbury First UMC)
- 14 LWV-RMA Book Club Meeting (1:00 P.M., Greenhouse Café, East Main Street near Winton Road)
- 27 March Forum, Celebrating Women’s History Month (7:00 P.M., Asbury First UMC)

April

- 7 First Friday (11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M., I-Square)
- 13 Rochester Federation of Women’s Clubs Susan B. Anthony Benefit Card Party (10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M., Penfield Country Club)
- 13 Naturalization Ceremony (10:00 A.M., Monroe County Office Building)
- 13 Naturalization Ceremony (1:00 P.M., Federal Building)
- 13 LWV-RMA Board Meeting (3:00 P.M., Asbury First UMC)
- 18 LWV-RMA Book Club Meeting (1:00 P.M., Greenhouse Café, East Main Street near Winton Road)
- 21&22 Women in Politics: Past, Present & Future
- 24 April Forum, Poverty (7:00 P.M., Asbury First UMC)
- 25 Lobby Day (Albany, NY)

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

First Fridays with LWV-RMA

Join League colleagues for lunch or a mid-day coffee break each First Friday of the month,
 11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
 at I-Square,
 400 Bakers Park, at Titus Avenue,
 Irondequoit, NY 14617 .

- March 3**
- April 7**
- May 5**
- June 2**

First Fridays provide us all with an opportunity to get to know one another by chatting informally. No need to RSVP. Pencil us in on your calendar and join when you can! There’s a place at the table for you!



Board of Directors meets the second Thursday of each month at 3:00 P.M. at Asbury First UMC. Board meetings are open to all members.

Government Committee meets monthly. For details, call Elaine Schmidt at 530-7414.

On second Thursday of each month at 10:00 A.M. Naturalization Ceremonies are held at Monroe County Office Building at 39 W. Main Street.

On second Thursday of each month at 1:00 P.M. 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, call 262-3730 or e-mail us at info@lwv-rma.org



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
ROCHESTER METROPOLITAN AREA

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

Rochester VOTER

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

Officers:

- Mary Hussong-Kallen**
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- Sheila Abeling**
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- Ida Holloran**
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- Ernest DuBois**
Director
- Mary Myers**
Director
- Judy Weinstein**
Director

**APRIL VOTER
DEADLINE IS MARCH 15!**



Goals of the League of Women Voters:

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

*The Voter is a monthly publication of the LWV-RMA
Editor, Judy Wadsworth
Layout/Design, Chris Burleigh*

SPEAK UP, BE HEARD,
IF YOU DON'T SAY A WORD, EVERYTHING WILL STAY THE SAME WAY

LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK! 
We know you'll "like" us!
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:
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-time/under 25)	\$.25
Low income, call office	Sliding Scale