

TheVOTER



Come learn how three groups in our community are dealing with issues of affordable housing

Saturday, February 22, 2020 • 10:00 A.M. – Noon

Trillium Health

Monroe Square, 259 Monroe Avenue, Rochester

More on page 3

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Leadership Corner

LWV'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY: WOMEN POWER THE VOTE DAY OF ACTION

On February 14, 1920, six months before ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, two great women's suffrage organizations, the National American Woman Suffrage Association, and the National Council of Women Voters, came together to create an organization that would take up the charge of educating 20 million newly enfranchised women on the responsibilities and processes of voting and encourage women to take a larger role in public affairs. And thus, on that date the League of Women Voters was born!

Now, 100 years later, the League of Women Voters thrives. Opened to include men in 1973, and operating on local, state and national levels it has worked continuously—through sponsorship of legislation, court challenges, and grassroots engagement—to accomplish the mission of empowering voters and defending democracy.

Now, 100 years later, LWVUS calls upon local and state leagues to leverage LWV's centennial anniversary to move our mission forward by participating in the February 14th "Women Power the Vote Day of Action." Actions of education, advocacy, visibility, and voter registration are encouraged. Guidance and resources have been provided through a Day of Action Toolkit, a webinar, and a community conference call.

In response, LWV-RMA is pleased to participate and honor LWV with the following actions to take place on or around February 14th.

- We are seeking proclamations from the city and county recognizing February 14, 2020, as League of Women Voters Day. A proclamation will be made at the February 18th City Council meeting.
- We are aiming to complete and release our new "How to Vote" video onto our social media, website and YouTube platforms.
- We have booked several voter registration events beginning January 17 through February 19, including the Rochester Educational Opportunity Center; U of R, RIT, The College at Brockport, MCC, and Nazareth College; and a community blood drive and a Poor Peoples' Campaign event.
- The Board, Committee Chairs and Project/Program Coordinators will be gathering for a celebration and advocacy event on the evening of February 14.

In addition to the above, LWV-RMA members are welcomed and encouraged to celebrate and honor the League in their own way: choose an advocacy action to carry out on that date or get together with a League friend and share memories.

A BOARD RESIGNATION

The Board is sad to announce the resignation of one of our Directors, Gail Wilder. Gail was elected to a two-year term in June 2018, but finds she is unable to meet Board commitments as she is now away from Rochester January through May each year. Gail's grace, wisdom and experience will be greatly missed on the Board. Gail is also stepping down from her Coordinator position for College Voter Registration Events but plans to be an active volunteer during the months she is back in town.

In League, your Co-Presidents

Judy Sternberg
Jsternberg3b@gmail.com
 585 683 7690

Kimberly Byers
lwv.roc.volunteer@gmail.com
 585 247 4958

LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK! 

We know you'll "like" us!

www.facebook.com/lwvofrma



Come Learn from Three Panelists How Three Groups in Our Community Are Dealing with Issues of Affordable Housing.

Saturday, February 22, 2020 • 10:00 A.M. – Noon
Trillium Health

Monroe Square, 259 Monroe Avenue, Rochester
between South Union and Alexander Streets (old Sears Building)

Plenty of free parking behind the building:
drive up to the yellow gates; they will open automatically.
Handicapped accessible.

OUR PANELISTS INCLUDE:

Bret Garwood, President, Home Leasing, LLC
(local affordable housing developer and property manager)

Carol Wheeler, Manager of Housing, City of Rochester

Patrick Craig, National Board Member and East Coast Political Educator, The National Union of the Homeless; President and Founder, Political Educator, and Lead Organizer, Rochester Homeless Union; Coordinating Committee Member, Poor People's Campaign

Program facilitator: Ann Carmody ann.carmody2012@gmail.com

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

Please invite others to attend!



Share with family, friends, colleagues



Climate Change and Our Future

Media in the United States and Europe report that the decade just ended was the warmest on record and that the world experienced near-record temperatures in 2019. What does this mean for our future? Join us to hear the potential local impact and possible solutions.

Monday, March 23, 2020

7:00 P.M.

Asbury United First Methodist Church

Program Committee Chair:

Ann Carmody ann.carmody2012@gmail.com



LWV-RMA members gathered on January 18 to consider priorities for 2020 as well as ways that the League could better serve its membership.

Co-President Judy Sternberg provided an overview of Voter Services for 2020, highlighting impacts of a Presidential Election year and the 2019 election reforms.

Board Member Kris Rogers led a discussion of how the LWV-RMA could better meet the needs of its members.

Among the responses were:

- Local LWV electronic communications are appreciated.
- The newsletter (The Voter) might never be opened beyond page 1 by busy members.
- More programs, orientation, and welcome events for new members would be helpful.

The major topic for the session was advocacy: Co-President Kim Byers reviewed the current role of LWV-RMA in advocating for local, state and national positions. She then led an open discussion to learn if members were interested in growing LWV-RMA's advocacy work. While not a complete list, advocacy opportunities discussed included the following:

- Census 2020
- Health care financing
- Court simplification in New York State
- Voting Reform – including protecting the vote of the disenfranchised, expansion of early voting sites, and broader publicity of early voting.
- Housing and poverty, including childcare
- Redistricting (People Powered Fair Maps)

It was recognized that any one topic would require more discussion and study to determine what type of, if any, advocacy LWV-RMA might do to support the position.

It was also recognized the LWV-RMA has a well-developed program to support Voter Services. The question was raised as to whether members in attendance were interested in growing local advocacy work, starting with a group that would help to define the goal of the advocacy group and develop procedures to drive goal implementation.

Open discussion by participants identified the following items to consider:

- When selecting an issue on which to advocate, consider our ability to make an impact, as illustrated by these examples:
 - Climate change has many groups already involved and our impact will be difficult to see;
 - Voting reforms we could impact include seeking more local early voting sites, publicizing early voting, and organizing postcard campaigns and get-out-the-vote initiatives;
 - 2020 Census volunteers could assist in libraries to help users complete computerized census forms.
- Partner and expand work with community groups.
- Form study groups (as in the past) to bring interested members together to learn about issues.
- Form an advocacy action committee to set priorities and develop rapid response to current issues.
- Consider short term vs. long term results when choosing an action.
- Communicate with members and the public to support advocacy efforts.
- Consider membership goals to grow, expand, and diversify (age, ethnicity) in parallel with building our advocacy program—helping new members to find their niche in LWV-RMA to encourage participation.
- Develop processes and procedures for all committees, like those already in place for voter services, to provide guidance for success.



Discussion ended with a proposal to convene interested members to discuss the development of an advocacy program for LWV-RMA. Of the 25 members in attendance, 18 expressed interest in being involved in this effort. It was also noted that members not attending the January 18 meeting would be invited to participate. WATCH FOR A CALL TO MEET IN FEBRUARY.

TOP: Leading the discussion are Co-Presidents Judy Sternberg and Kim Byers; Board Member Kris Rogers recording participant input; members selecting lunch items.

BELOW: Some of those attending the January 18 planning session.

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® ROCHESTER METRO AREA

February 8th Program Planning Meeting

Saturday, February 8, 9:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.
Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word
597 East Ave, Rochester, NY 14607

Entrance from the parking lot on Goodman Street

The League of Women Voters is a grassroots organization at all levels and we are all an important part of the process. Program planning is an opportunity for the LWV-RMA to provide feedback to our state and national Leagues. The purpose of the Program Planning meeting is three-fold:

- To participate in the update of the LWVNY position on a (NYS) Constitutional Convention (for details see <https://my.lwv.org/new-york-state/constitutional-convention-update>);
- To discuss LWV-RMA positions and possible local studies in preparation for our local Annual Meeting in June;
- To add our voices to those of other local leagues in evaluating current LWVUS positions and recommending studies for the next biennium which will be voted on at the LWVUS Convention in June.

We invite all members to join us. We need to hear from seasoned members as well as new members. Suggestions for possible local studies at last year's Program Planning meeting led to some of this year's forums. We suggest that you review the current League positions in advance, but if you do not have the time, we still welcome your input.

Our local positions can be found at <http://www.lwv-ma.org/POSITIONS%20%20LOCAL%20LEAGUE.pdf>.

LWVUS positions can be found at <https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2019-04/LWV%202018-20%20Impact%20on%20Issues.pdf>.

A summary is posted at <http://www.lwv-rma.org/LWVUS%20Position%20Summary%202018-2020.pdf>. You can also click on Links and Positions on our website (the last item on the menu to the left).

We look forward to seeing you on February 8. If you have a suggestion for a local study and cannot attend the meeting, please send an email to info@lwv-rma.org with your idea and it will be brought up at the meeting. If you can attend, please register at 262-3730 or www.lwv-rma.org.

Judy Weinstein, *Government Committee chair*

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



2020 Voter Services Overview

from Judy Sternberg

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2020

Deadline to Change Party Enrollment for 2020 Primary Elections Eligibility is February 14

Presidential Primary Election - April 28, 6:00 A.M. – 9:00 P.M.

- Deadline for Voter Registration is April 3
- Early Voting for Presidential Primary – April 18 - April 26 (times and locations for all 2020 early voting dates to be determined)

June Primary Election – June 23, 6:00 A.M. – 9:00 P.M.

- Deadline for Voter Registration is May 29
- Early Voting for June Primaries – June 13 - June 21

November General Election – November 3, 6:00 A.M. – 9:00 P.M.

- Deadline for Voter Registration is October 9
- Early Voting for November General Election – October 24 - November 1

VOTER REGISTRATION 2020

Concentrated Pushes of Registration Events:

- Prior to the February Party Enrollment Deadline and the registration deadlines for the April and June Primary Elections
- Throughout the summer and up to October 9th
- This presidential election year we will work with the Rochester Voter Alliance to maximize voter registration opportunities in the city. Joint training and sign ups to take place in late spring.

Events Targeted at:

- Youth – at REOC, colleges and high schools
- Low voter participation areas of the City

Upcoming or Recently Held Events January-February:

- Youth – REOC, MCC, U of R, RIT, The College at Brockport, Nazareth College
- City – Ibero-American Action League, a Community Blood Drive, the Poor People's Campaign Nat'l Tour
- Watch for emails with SignUpGenius links for details on these and future events.

GOTV 2020

- Completion of our "How To Vote" video in February
- Texting Service in full swing for all three elections – link to "Choose A Party" video prior to February 14
- Vote411.org to be operational for all three elections
- Evaluation of 2019 Postcard Initiative
- Engagement with community partners for initiative input, networking, dissemination of our resources and expansion of volunteer pool.

NEW VOLUNTEERS WELCOMED.

Voter Services Contacts: **Judy Sternberg**, Chair and Coordinator for City Events, jsternberg3b@gmail.com;
Barbara Grosh, Coordinator for GOTV, barbara@grosh.net;

Myra Pelz, Coordinator for College Events, myra.pelz@gmail.com;

Ida Holloran, Liaison for Latinx Community, hollorai@gmail.com;

Deb Leary, Liaison with Monroe County Library System, urbangrandma@gmail.com

LWV-RMA High School Education Program

LWV-RMA members visit about a dozen classrooms a year, meeting with mostly Rochester City School District high school seniors during their required Participation in Government (PIG) classes in the fall. Teams of two LWV reps attend each class, one leading and the other providing assistance and comments. The discussion is around the power of voting, what voting means to students and other members of their community, a very brief history of who could vote and when in our country, why people don't vote, and why local elections are important. This discussion takes about 20-30 minutes, leaving the balance of class time for voter registration for eligible students. The LWV-RMA has recently recruited members of the community to come as assistants, which has greatly enhanced discussions with students. League members involved this year were Mary Olinger and Mary Garfield.

Beth Feldman contacts teachers and sets up the visits. Over the years we have established a very solid relationship with many teachers and so have maintained a fairly consistent schedule with them. Last fall League members visited classes at the School of the Arts and the School Without Walls. Other schools we visit regularly include East, Edison, Integrated Arts & Technology Academy at Franklin, World of Inquiry, All City, Vanguard Collegiate High School, Northeast at Douglas, and Aquinas Institute.

Members who have participated in this program in recent years include: Camille Clayton, Georgia DeGregorio, Ellie Drake, Ernest DuBois, Beth Feldman, Mary Garfield, Ida Holloran, Hasana Martin, Annie McQuilken, Mary Myers, Mary Olinger, Judy Sternberg, and Lois Winterkorn. Other League members are encouraged to get involved in this important effort. In recent years, community members Larry Knox and William Robinson have assisted.

Separately, Voter Services is looking to organize a High School Voter Registration section because of recent state legislation allowing 16 and 17 year olds to pre-register to vote. Since school districts are now required to offer the opportunity to pre-register, additional requests for LWV-RMA visits are expected.

To learn more, contact **Mary Garfield**, *Lead Presenter for High School Education Program*, at senecamary@yahoo.com.

Naturalization Ceremonies

We ended 2019 with two December naturalization ceremonies. On December 12, Kathy Farrar and Judy Sternberg welcomed 50 new candidates for naturalization at the ceremony officiated by the Hon. Daniel Doyle in the Monroe County Office Building.

During the December 19 naturalization event led by the Hon. Elizabeth Wolford at the Federal Building, Mimi Wilson talked about voting and encouraged 51 candidates to register to vote.

The first naturalization ceremony in 2020 occurred on January 16 at the Monroe County Office Building officiated by NYS Supreme Court Justice Judith Sinclair. Jane Beck and Joan Rosenthal represented the League and helped 50 candidates register to vote.

Check the 2020 Naturalization Ceremony schedule on our website: LWV-RMA.org. If you would like to observe or assist at a naturalization ceremony, please contact **Sheila Abeling** at 585-223-6819 or sheiler162007@gmail.com. You won't be disappointed that you did. Also if you are interested in joining our Naturalization Committee, contact Sheila.

**The Presidential Primary Vote in NYS
will be held APRIL 28.**

ARE YOU READY?

To vote you must be enrolled in the party
holding the primary.

**DEADLINE FOR ENROLLMENT CHANGES
IS FEBRUARY 14.**

Make changes by completing a new voter
registration form and returning it to the BOE.

To learn more, go to

<https://www2.monroecounty.gov/elections-registration.php>





Coming Events!



February

- 7 First Friday (11:00 A.M., I-Square, 400 Bakers Park)
- 8 Program Planning Meeting (9:30 A.M., Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word 597 East Ave, Rochester)
- 12 LWV-RMA Board Meeting (Noon – 2:00 P.M., Asbury First UMC)
- 13 Naturalization Ceremony (Monroe County Office Building, 10:00 A.M.)
- 14 February 14 - 100th Anniversary of the LWVUS celebrated with "Women Power the Vote Day of Action"
- 15 Susan B. Anthony's 200th Birthday
- 20 Book Club – **The Color of Law** (10:00 A.M. – Noon, Greenhouse Café, 2271 East Main Street, Rochester)
- 22 Forum: Housing Issues (10:00 A.M. – Noon, Trillium, 259 Monroe Avenue)
- 22 Naturalization Ceremony (1:00 P.M., Federal Building, 100 State St., Rochester)

March

- 6 First Friday (11:00 A.M., I-Square, 400 Bakers Park)
- 11 LWV-RMA Board Meeting (Noon – 2:00 P.M., Asbury First UMC)
- 14 LWVNY State Regional Training Workshop/ Rochester, (10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M., Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word, 597 East Ave, Rochester) *Details to follow.*
- 19 Book Club – Educated: A Memoir (10:00 A.M – Noon, Greenhouse Café, 2271 East Main Street, Rochester)
- 23 Forum: Climate Change (7:00 P.M., Asbury First UMC)

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

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

Don't Miss 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.

No need to RSVP. Pencil us in on your calendar and join when you can!

There's a place at the table for you!

February 7

May 1

March 6

June 5

April 3



Board of Directors meetings are held at Asbury First UMC. Board meetings are open to all members. See calendar for dates and times.

Advocacy/Government Committee meets monthly. For details, call Ann Carmody at (585) 748-5848.

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@lww-rma.org

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

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

**MARCH VOTER
DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 15!**

**League of Women Voters-Rochester Metro Area
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.

Goals of the League of Women Voters:

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

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Co-Presidents Kim Byers (2019-2020) Judy Sternberg (2019-2021)

Treasurer Judy Weinstein (2019-2021)

Secretary Julie Damerell (2019-2020)

Director Ann Carmody (2018-2020)

Director Myra Pelz (2019-2021)

Director Kris Rogers (2018-2020)

Director Gail Wilder (2018-2020)

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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

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