

TheVOTER

2020-2021

Leadership Team Selected

Pictured are the LWV-RMA leaders for the coming year:

(TOP): Co-President Judy Sternberg, Treasurer Judy Weinstein, Secretary Kris Rogers;

(CENTER): Director Kim Byers, Director Barbara Grosh, Director Mary Hussong-Kallen;

(BOTTOM): Director Myra Pelz, Director Sarah Sandler; Nominating Committee Chair Sheila Abeling.



See pages 3 - 9 for coverage of the annual meeting and annual reports.

See pages 10 - 11 for June election coverage.

Inside this issue:

LWV-RMA 2020-2021 Leadership Team Selected	1
Leadership Corner	2
2020-2021 Leaders Identified	3
Looking Back with Pride - Looking Foward with Anticipation	3
2019-2020 Annual Reports: Board of Directors	4-5
2019-2020 Annual Reports: Voter Services	6
2019-2020 Annual Reports: Forums	7
2019-2020 Annual Reports: Fair Election Practices Committee	7
2019-2020 Annual Reports: Gov't/Advocacy, Vote411, Candidate Forums	8
2019-2020 Annual Reports: Communications Committee, The Voter	9

See pages 4 - 9 for information from the Annual Meeting (in red)

Zoom Session on Voter Information for June Elections	10
LWV-RMA Sponsored Democratic Primary Candidate Forums	11
LWV-RMA Contributes to FoodLink	11
Sunshine Corner	12
FEPC Report	12
LWV-RMA Book Club: The Death & Life of the Great Lakes	12
Calendar	13
First Fridays	13
Leadership	14

Leadership Corner

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS TAKES A STAND FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR BLACK LIVES IN AMERICA

On behalf of LWV-RMA, we wish to echo and repeat the above words, written by LWVUS President Chris Carson in her letter sent out on June 4th in the League Update. We can do no better than to include excerpts from that letter:

Over the years we have watched Black men, women, and children lose their lives at the hands of people who benefit from a system that protects them. Today we witness the rage of those who are tired of due process being a privilege not afforded to Black people.

With protests happening across the country, we know that many Leagues would like to exercise their First Amendment right for Black lives on the frontline, if you have not already. As you go out to protest, please know the following:

- Yes, you may wear League shirts and use League signage at peaceful protests
- Yes, you may wear League shirts at post-riot cleanups
- Yes, you may offer support to protestors on behalf of the League

As Leagues choose to engage in the peaceful protests and community cleanup projects, use these recommendations and safety guidelines for How to be Good Allies in This Moment. (https://www.lwv.org/league-management/voting-rights-tools/how-be-good-allies-when-protesting-moment-solidarity-black#utm_source=LeagueUpdate&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=06042020)



The League is...joining our partners who serve in the civil rights community in fighting for policy reform that will dismantle systematic racism. We joined coalition partners on a letter calling for congressional action on police violence, and in the weeks and months ahead, the national office will be stepping up our commitment to racial justice...

As allies in the social justice space I encourage us all to do our homework and learn more about the iniquities that Black Americans face, without leaning on Black people to educate us.

Lastly, we acknowledge that the League hasn't taken such a strong stance against racism in the past, and as we move into the next century of work, we hope to play a bigger role in fighting for social justice. I hope you'll join us.

In League,

Chris Carson, LWVUS President

LWVNYS and LWV-RMA Response

Here in New York our state League has signed on to support the bill to repeal 50-a, a section of the NYS Civil Rights Law that prevents transparency of past police misconduct, S3695/A2513. These bills were just passed. Please thank your representatives.

Beyond these measures our core work of voter education and getting out the vote, highlighting the power of voting and connecting voters with candidate information resources such as VOTE411 and candidate forums is of upmost importance. At this time mass voter turnout of informed voters is more crucial than ever! All our members are welcomed and encouraged to join in this work.

In League there is power!

Kimberly Byers

lwv.roc.volunteer@gmail.com

585 683 7690

Judy Sternberg

Jsternberg3b@gmail.com

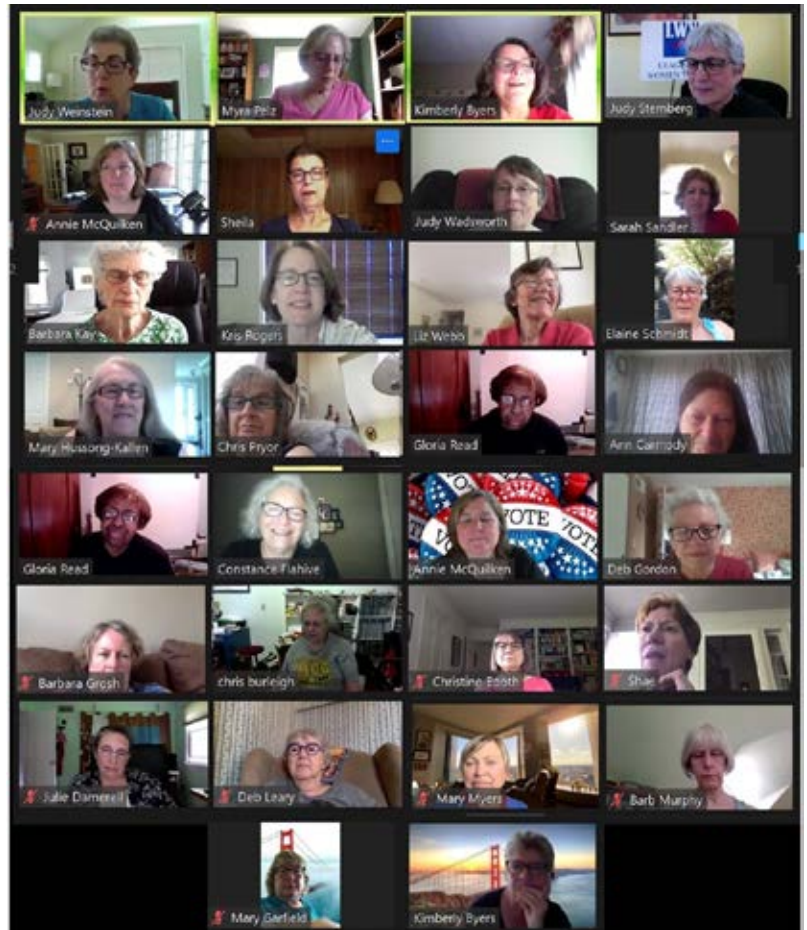
585 247 4958

2020-2021 Leaders Identified

During the June 4, 2020 annual meeting of the LWV-RMA the following members were elected to leadership positions.

2020-2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Co-President	Judith Sternberg	2019-2021
Co-President	Open	2020-2022
Treasurer	Judith Weinstein	2019-2021
Secretary	Kristina Rogers	2020-2022
Director	Kimberly Byers	2020-2021
Director	Barbara Grosh	2020-2022
Director	Mary Hussong-Kallen	2020-2022
Director	Myra Pelz	2019-2021
Director	Sarah Sandler	2020-2022



Seen here are most of the LWV-RMA members who participated in the annual meeting on June 4. A few joined using their phones and were not visible to others.

The new Board of Directors will take up the issue of leadership structure. Options exist to have Judy Sternberg assume the position of President and select a Board appointed Vice President or chose a team leadership model including Judy Sternberg with one or more Board-appointed members.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chair	Sheila Abeling
Elected Non-Board Member	Open
Elected Non-Board Member	Open

BOARD APPOINTEES PROPOSED

Mary Hussong-Kallen
Kristina Rogers

Looking Back with Pride - Looking Forward with Anticipation

It has been an honor to serve as the Co-President of the Rochester Metro Area League for the past 2 years. My appreciation extends to all the members of this talented and dedicated group of people, who have never failed to step forward to support new initiatives and activities. Your presence in the community continues to build the reputation of LWV-RMA. I am proud to have been a part of each event and consider my life enriched by your friendship and the chance to meet and work with you.

I look forward to continued, active involvement in the League as a member of the Board of Directors and as a leader and contributor to various initiatives that progress our agenda of voter engagement and citizen activism. I know I will have the opportunity to partner with many of you during the coming year as we work to "Make Democracy Work for All".

I complete this article and sign-off for the last time as Co-President, LWV-Rochester Metro Area, quoting the inspiring and guiding words of Susan B. Anthony.

"Organize, agitate, educate, must be our war cry"

"Failure is impossible."

Kimberly Byers

Co-President

LWV-Rochester Metro Area



2019-2020 Annual Reports

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Fiscal year 2019-2020 began with the historic passage of election and voting reforms by the NYS Legislature, improving voter access in New York State. Answering the challenge, and with the backing of LWVNYS and LWVUS, our local League took up the work of educating our community about Early Voting and the other new election reforms.

Utilizing our new texting service, social media platforms, emails, pamphlets, speaking engagements and community partners, we spread the word. All through the ensuing Early Voting period we solicited voters to complete LWVNYS's Early Voting Feedback Survey, collecting and submitting more responses than any other county in NYS. That survey went on to provide the data for a LWVNYS Report submitted to legislative committee hearings in Albany and to state and local boards of elections.

Then it was time for celebrations. The 100th anniversary of LWVNYS, the 200th birthday of Susan B. Anthony, and the 100th anniversary of LWV presented many reasons to celebrate. LWV-RMA members attended LWVNYS's anniversary celebration in Buffalo on November 16, 2019. In January 2020, we sponsored a League night at the RPO, featuring a program honoring "Women's Suffrage Past and Present." In the following month, LWV-RMA was proud to seek and accept honors from both the Rochester City Council and the Monroe County Legislature, marking the 100th anniversary of our national League by proclaiming February 14 as League of Women Voters Day.

League work in January began with our membership meeting which provided an overview of LWV-RMA activities, focusing on Voter Services, Advocacy and how LWV-RMA is working for its members. The question was posed as to whether there was interest in expanding the scope of our Advocacy arm. The answer was a resounding YES, which led to an initial Advocacy Committee meeting in February where an agreement was reached to study redistricting, especially as it relates to the local legislative districts. Unfortunately, with the stay-at-home orders and re-prioritization of workload, this project did stall. The goal is to re-start this effort in summer 2020.

Then came COVID-19. In a presidential election year where a viral pandemic forced our country to turn its focus almost exclusively toward citizen health, safety, and economic recovery, the right to vote still rang loud and true across New York State. As the governor issued executive orders to protect the lives of citizens, our voices were heard across Monroe County advocating to expand absentee voting to ensure that citizens were not forced to choose between their health and their right to vote. With letters to the County Executive, the Board of Elections Commissioners, and the Democrat and Chronicle opinion page, LWV-RMA added voices to state-wide advocacy for the right to vote. And, those voices resulted in:

- The presidential primary being postponed from April to June;
- All eligible voters receiving postage paid Absentee Ballot Applications for the June election. Citizens can vote from the safety of their home or choose to go to a poll location physically.

By March, LWV-RMA had cancelled all in-person gatherings. But that did not stop our work as we adapted to our new lives adhering to social distancing. "Zoom" tele-conferencing proved to be an effective tool to continue the business of the League and to serve to reach out to members, partners, and the community face-to-face. Consider some of the virtual activities that have or will soon occur:

- Community Forum on Climate Change, with attendance of 44;
- First Fridays– an opportunity to gather, socialize, and share ideas for LWV-RMA activities;
- Board Meetings;
- LWV-RMA June Annual Business Meeting;
- Meetings with LWVNYS, the Board of Elections, and various parties seeking information or support;
- Book Club discussions;
- Candidate Forums
- LWVUS National Convention.

While naturalization ceremonies and voter registration events for the spring and summer have largely been cancelled, LWV-RMA has been awarded a grant by LWVNYS to continue its postcard campaign, reminding recently registered voters to exercise their right. The texting service we began in the spring of 2019 continues to send updates to voters and, with its recent adoption by LWVNYS, we will continue to grow our reach while realizing budget savings. We also received a grant from LWVNYS to implement processes to drive higher traffic to our Facebook messages and website. Conclusion: work continues to drive out voter engagement messages even in our social distancing world.



2019-2020 Annual Reports

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

continued from page 4

With a focus on our mission and goals, activities were adapted to meet the new environment. While the Fair Elections Campaign Program continued, modifications were made for the June election. Those running for office were asked to sign the pledge even though the hearing process for accusations of non-compliance was suspended for June.

While many activities have been cancelled this year, it is appropriate to recognize the efforts of our members to raise our voices and be a presence in the community. Consider some of the contributions we have made:

- Speaking engagements educated citizens on the League, early voting, and advocacy work with representation at senior centers (The Highlands and Valley Manor), colleges (RIT and Brockport), and community groups (Rochester Women's Realty Organization, Incarnate Word fellowship group, and several others that were cancelled in the spring).
- Community education forums continued this year with five events (see the Program Committee report for details).
- LWV-RMA co-sponsored, along with WROC Channel 8, a candidate debate for the Monroe County District Attorney. In addition, a candidate forum was held for the City Council South District. Additional co-sponsored WROC-TV debates were held for a number of the June 2020 Primary Elections. See details in Committee Reports.

In reviewing our goals to continuously enhance and encourage voter participation, to incorporate advocacy into League activities, to invigorate our membership, and to make democracy work for all, the Board has strived to deliver. We submit this report humbly with the hope that you share in our pride for what has been accomplished this year.

Kimberly Byers and Judy Sternberg, Co-Presidents

DIVERSITY EQUITY INCLUSION ANNUAL REPORT

Among the four prioritized goals for 2019-2020 was the following:

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI): LWV-RMA strives to have a membership as diverse as the Rochester Metropolitan community. To that end we will continue to build relationships among various age, ability, ethnic, gender, racial and socio-economic groups; and will consciously make the ask of persons from those groups to join and become integral parts of our 21st Century League.

Here are some of the actions we have taken as we continually work to make progress.

- To increase its diversity and appeal to RCSD students, our High School Program brought on a new community recruit to its team of presenters, William Robinson. Will, a Black man with an obvious passion for convincing youth of the importance of voting, and a good 20+ years younger than many League members, has been a hit with students, successfully increasing their engagement with us.
- Participation in DEI webinars increase our knowledge of League race relations history, self-awareness and understanding about biases, the meaning of being allies, and ways to make membership in the League attractive to non-white, non-female, non-able bodied, non-senior, non-middle-class members of our community.
- Tanya Davis, a dual LWV-RMA and Alpha Kappa Alpha member, is our new Students Inside Albany Coordinator. As an African American with a professional career in finance, Tanya is a role model for students she interacts with in the Rochester City School District. Tanya has fulfilled our hopes as she has connected and gone the extra mile for our selected students.
- Partnerships with non-white, non-able-bodied community organizations continued and expanded. Collaborating groups include the Pay Equity Coalition, a number of Black Sorority Alumnae groups, Disability Rights NY, Office of People with Developmental Disabilities, Out Alliance, Rochester City School District, Brighton High School, and many College Campus event coordinators.
- We have expanded our reduced or waived membership dues based on ability to pay.
- Barbara Grosh has been appointed as the LWV-RMA DEI Representative, who will serve on the new LWNYS DEI Task Force. She will attend LWVUS sponsored training and submit a local DEI Action Plan as part of a grant contract that will bring \$500 to LWV-RMA for implementation of activities to move DEI forward. As a new Board of Directors member, she will be keeping DEI awareness front and center for LWV-RMA.

We have very far to go to make the League an organization that belongs to and is home to everyone, but we are committed to making that happen.

Judy Sternberg, judith.sternberg@lww-rma.org



2019-2020 Annual Reports

VOTER SERVICES

The 2019-2020 League year started out full steam with planning and implementation of new GOTV initiatives plus our usual summer schedule of city voter registration events. This year we increased our National Voter Registration Day participation, and in October we brought all our resources to play in spreading the word on Early Voting - see the BOD Report for details.

GOTV initiative highlights (not a full listing) were our:

- Postcards Campaign – Board of Elections data showed significant increase in voting among more recently registered voters who received postcards when compared to recently registered voters in the same district who did not receive cards. There was no improvement in voter turnout for individuals with a longer history of not voting. This will help guide our future voter targeting and increase efficiency and effectiveness of the project.
- Text Messaging Service – Our model has been adopted by LWVNYS. We now receive State’s breaking news plus send local content messages to local enrollees without bearing any service costs. To newly enroll, send the message VoteMonroe to 474747.
- Voter Information Videos - Two are completed and posted on our website, one is in editing, and more are planned.

In the College division of Voter Services, leadership transitioned mid-year from Gail Wilder to Myra Pelz. Beyond voter registration events at area colleges, the latter part of the year saw expanded campus connections and visibility. That included a speaking engagement in a SUNY Brockport Political Science class and participation in a Regional Summit of the student-led *Upstate NY Vote Everywhere Coalition* at University of Rochester. Myra was joined by Katherine Smith at the Regional Summit and by Kim Byers at Brockport.

Independently from Myra’s work, LWV-RMA gained visibility and engagement with college students at the University of Rochester through an innovative *Designing A Movement* course in which we were invited to collaborate.

Voter Services has welcomed new partners in the community who share our goals and help expand our reach. These include The Links, Inc., Alumnae Chapters of Zeta Phi Beta (Theta Alpha Zeta and Psi Omega Zeta), Indivisibles, Disability Rights NY, and NYS Association For Affordable Housing. We have also been developing a Community Distribution List of groups and individuals willing to receive and disseminate important and timely voter information, an initiative more important than ever in this socially distanced environment that has limited our in-person outreach and events in 2020.

The last couple of months have had us scrambling to get out up-to-date, accurate and helpful information amid the confusion of the many election changes necessitated by the COVID Pandemic. GOTV has developed flyers going out to the Community Distribution List and other communications platforms. LWV-RMA collaborated with the National Council of Jewish Women (GRS) to produce a Voter Information Zoom event on May 17 with attention focusing on the absentee voting process.

We are so grateful to all our members and community partners who have contributed in large and small ways to these endeavors. With the support of our members and resources from LWVNYS and LWVUS we will carry on to reach, inform and inspire voters and voting.

Judy Sternberg, judith.sternberg@lwv-rma.org





2019-2020 Annual Reports

EDUCATIONAL FORUMS

conditions and the corona virus led to new methods of bringing our message to the community – we were not deterred from our mission.

A goal of the Program Committee this year was to align forum topics with priorities of both the State and National Leagues as well as to include advocacy opportunities at each forum.

Five informational/educational forums met these goals and were held during 2019/20:

October: Census 2020

Members of the Rochester Complete Count Committee shared opportunities on how LWV-RMA members and forum attendees could support efforts to ensure everyone is counted, especially among groups who are typically underrepresented.

December: Crisis at the Border

Presenters separated facts from fiction regarding immigrants seeking asylum as well as the effects of family separation on child development. Attendees generated letters to Congressman Joseph Morelle seeking his support for efforts to address and mitigate results of lengthy confinements and family separation.

February: How our Community is Addressing Affordable Housing.

Presenters representing the City of Rochester Housing Department, a local developer, and a representative of the Poor People's Campaign shared their viewpoints and efforts to provide affordable housing in Rochester. It was a candid discussion on the successes and failures to meet the growing need for low-cost housing caused by the lack of employment opportunities for many groups in the Rochester community.

March: Climate Crisis, This Time it's Personal

For the first time in its history, a forum was conducted online via Zoom. Forty-four league and community members registered to hear local experts present information on the current status of the world's climate crisis and New York State legislation (CLCPA) requiring reductions in energy emissions by 2030 and, again, by 2050. Attendees also learned about efforts to provide communities with energy procured and distributed by community aggregation and ways homeowners might ensure that they can acquire sustainable energy on their own. Participants also heard about efforts being made by youth to address this crisis. LWV-RMA is grateful for its partnership with the Rochester People's Climate Coalition in organizing this forum.

May: Voter Information for June 2020 Elections

LWV-RMA members Barbara Grosh and Kimberly Byers provided a Zoom audience with information on the June 2020 elections. This included a look at the various races on the ballot and an informative tutorial on absentee voting during the pandemic. Early voting, election day voting, and voter registration reminders rounded out the agenda. LWV-RMA partnered with the National Council of Jewish Women Greater Rochester Section to deliver this forum.

We regret that we were not able to deliver on a forum to discuss an initiative to simplify the New York State court system, a program that both LWV-NYS and LWV-RMA support. We hope to be able to deliver on this topic at a future time.

Overall, the Program Committee is proud of the events that were delivered this year, especially in light of the logistical issues created by snow storms and social distancing. We hope that members gained valuable information from each event and look forward to delivering another portfolio of interesting and engaging topics in 2020-2021.

Ann Carmody, ann.carmody2012@gmail.com

FAIR ELECTION PRACTICES COMMITTEE (FEPC)

The 2019 Election Season was busy for the FEPC. Almost all local offices from Villages, Towns, City Council and Rochester School Board were up for re-election as well as the County Executive. At least 180 candidates were invited to sign the Fair Campaign Pledge. Also, New York State law changed all primaries to occur in June rather than split between June and September. Therefore, the FEPC held a distinct Pledge and Hearing process during the Primary season and a second process during the General Election season.

Pledges were signed by approximately 2/3 of all candidates. There were over a dozen complaints filed and heard by or ruled on by the FEPC Hearing Committee. It was an active year for the FEPC volunteers.

In the first half of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic caused the suspension of the Hearing Committee process, although the 32 Primary candidates were still invited to sign the Fair Campaign Pledge and self-monitor the compliance of their campaigns. The number of offices up for election are much lower overall in 2020; mostly State Senate and Assembly seats but also the Congressional seats.

The LWV-RMA 2019-2020 annual budget had set aside \$500 for the FEPC. A donation from a League member has covered the costs for this year. The budget for 2020-2021 is \$300 due to the lesser number of candidates involved, resulting in lower mailing costs.

Kris Rogers, krogers8@rochester.rr.com



2019-2020 Annual Reports

GOVERNMENT/ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

The Government/Advocacy Committee:

- Prepared the questions asked of candidates for Vote411
- Coordinated the Observer Corps
- Met with three of the New York State Senators and Assembly members representing Monroe County to discuss LWVNYS priority issues – Court Reform, Funding for Voting and Funding for the Independent Redistricting Commission – before COVID-19 prevented in-person meetings. We emailed materials and questions to the remaining members of our delegation.
- Started research into the reapportionment of the Monroe County Legislature after the 2020 Census. In the past LWV-RMA has spoken at hearings in support of having an independent redistricting commission. In addition to seeking information on whether that is planned for the coming reapportionment, we would like to know when reapportionment will take place in relation to the 2021 primary since the primary will be held in June, not September as it was in the past. Also of interest is how many legislators the County should have. We provided legislators with the 2011 CGR report “Lessons in Redistricting”, commissioned by LWV-RMA.

The members of the Government committee are Ann Carmody, Katherine Smith, Elaine Schmidt, and Judy Weinstein. We welcome you to join the Observer Corps or the Government/Advocacy Committee.

Judy Weinstein

VOTE411 TEAM

In the 2019 General Election, 131 of 228 candidates in Monroe County posted responses, the best participation rate we have had. This is particularly impressive because many candidates in town and village elections ran unopposed. Several candidates expressed appreciation for the opportunity. For the June primary, 7 of 13 candidates have posted thus far. The members of the Team are: Chris Booth, Julie Damerell, Deborah Gordon, Judy Hartmann, Myra Pelz, Chris Pryor, Judy Weinstein and Gail Wilder.

Judy Weinstein

CANDIDATE FORUMS

For the November 2019 general election, LWV-RMA co-sponsored a Candidate Forum for the Rochester City Council South District with several neighborhood associations. We were unable to hold a Forum in other districts because of our Empty Chair policy. We planned on co-sponsoring debates with WROC-TV8 for the County Executive and District Attorney races. Unfortunately there were candidates who who could not agree to terms. Instead we co-sponsored a “Town Hall meeting” for the District Attorney candidates who each appeared in a separate segment and WROC-TV8 posed questions to County Executive Adam Bello; because only one candidate was present, we did not participate.

Planning Candidate Forums for June’s primary elections was difficult as it was unknown what the impact of COVID-19 would be in June. We cosponsored three debates with WROC-TV8 and the Rochester Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority (Deltas): SD 56 (Zoom), AD 138 (in-studio, no audience), and Monroe County Clerk. We also co-sponsored Zoom forums with the 19th Ward Community Association for SD 61 and with the Deltas for AD 136. As in the fall, some planned forums were canceled because of candidate non-participation. Judy Sternberg partnered in planning these forums, particularly the ones with WROC-TV8.

Judy Weinstein



2019-2020 Annual Reports

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Though this is a committee by name, all of the work was largely done by Julie Damerell with some support from Mary Hussong-Kallen. There were no meetings.

LWV-RMA uses the free version of Mail Chimp to send timely information, including event promotions, and The Voter. By request, I used Mail Chimp to send 66 items from July 2019-June 2020. These included THE VOTER, election and voting updates, event publicity, and membership surveys.

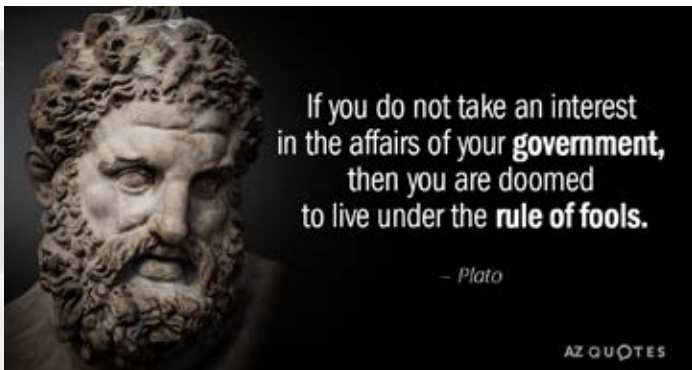
Generally 40-50% of those who receive THE VOTER open it; this is slightly to significantly above average for non-profit organizations (39%). E-blasts informing about election updates and requesting members to write letters or make phone calls had the greatest responses, averaging approximately 50%. Our media releases, on the other hand, get a greater variation of responses, ranging from 10-50% opening.

The Mail Chimp mailing list only includes members who have email addresses and is manually aligned with the membership list maintained by the Membership Committee. Members who do not use email receive print copies of The Voter as well as annual meeting materials.

I updated the mailing list several times. Groups included in the Master List in Mail Chimp are: Members, Friends, Former Members, Media, and Members/Not RMA. I updated these lists so that all of them are included in the group for The Voter since all of them should receive that. That way when the Communications chair needs to send the newsletter, one group is the recipient.

I added numerous posts to the LWV Facebook page and Twitter account to promote events, elections, Vote411, and news.

Julie Damerell, Julie.damerell@gmail.com



THE VOTER

The LWV-RMA Voter was published nine times during the past program year with breaks during the summer hiatus and winter recess. The publication is based for the most part on input submitted by program leaders and reflects our many activities. The document is formatted by Chris Burleigh.

Judy Wadsworth, judithw@frontiernet.net

Zoom Session on Voter Information for June Elections

On May 27, LWV-RMA and the local chapter of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) co-sponsored a Zoom session on participating in the June elections. NCJW President Jane Amstey and LWV-RMA Co-President Judy Sternberg introduced the program.

LWV-RMA Member Barbara Grosh reviewed the scheduled elections, including the June 9 School Budget and Board of Education Elections and the June 23 Federal and State Primaries and Special Election. She also discussed how to participate in the elections using absentee ballots.

LWV-RMA Co-President Kim Byers discussed voting at the polls, using the early voting options or participating on election day. Among her comments was the fact that electronic voter registration lists now allow voters to vote anywhere in Monroe County for early voting. However, on Election Day, June 23, voters must go to their assigned polling places.

If you plan to vote on election day, June 23, remember to confirm your poll site. Consolidation of poll sites is occurring for this election

NOTE: Everyone has the right to vote by absentee ballot in this election. If you choose to vote in person instead, you can vote early at any of the following locations at any of these times.

Locations

City of Rochester Recreation Bureau
57 St. Paul St., 2nd Floor, Rochester, NY 14604

David F. Gantt Community Center
700 North St., Rochester, NY 14605

Arnett Branch Library
310 Arnett Blvd., Rochester, NY 14619

City of Rochester Water Department
10 Felix St., Rochester, NY 14608

SUNY Empire State College
680 Westfall Rd., Rochester, NY 14620

North Greece Road Church of Christ
1039 N. Greece Rd., Rochester, NY 14626

Marketplace Mall, North Entrance
1 Miracle Mile Dr., Rochester, NY 14623

Irondequoit Public Library
1290 Titus Ave., Rochester, NY 14617

Dolomite Lodge at Veterans Memorial Park
3100 Atlantic Ave., Penfield, NY 14526

Perinton Square Mall
6720 Pittsford Palmyra Rd., Fairport, NY 14450

Lodge at Sweden Town Park
4761 Redman Rd., Brockport, NY 14420

Webster Recreation Center
1350 Chiyoda Dr., Webster, NY 14580



The montage shows the presenters and some of the new equipment supporting the updated methods of voting.

Dates and Times

Saturday, June 13	9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.
Sunday, June 14	10:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M.
Monday, June 15	9:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M.
Tuesday, June 16	11:00 A.M.-8:00 P.M.
Wednesday, June 17	9:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M.
Thursday, June 18	11:00 A.M.-8:00 P.M.
Friday, June 19	9:00 A.M.-6:00 P.M.
Saturday, June 20	9:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.
Sunday, June 21	9:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.

Naturalizations

The USCIS (US Citizens Immigration Services) has cancelled all Naturalization Ceremonies until further notice due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Sheila Abeling

LWV-RMA Sponsored Democratic Primary Candidate Forums

Co-sponsored with WROC-TV8 and the Rochester Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

- June 2 - NYS Senate District 56: Candidates Jeremy Cooney, Hilda Rosario-Escher, Sherita Traywick;
- June 3 - NYS Assembly District 138: Candidates Harry Bronson and Alex Yudelson;
- June 10 - Monroe County Clerk: Candidates Jennifer Boutte and Jamie Romeo.

Co-sponsored with the 19th Ward Community Association, via Zoom

- June 8 - NYS Senate District 61: Candidates Jacqueline Berger and Kim Smith (Joan Seamans unable to participate due to family responsibilities).

Co-sponsored with the Rochester Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., via Zoom

- June 9 - NYS Assembly District 136: Candidates Sarah Clark and Justin Wilcox (Nelson Lopatin declined the invitation).

Links to recordings of all forums are posted on the LWV-RMA home page.

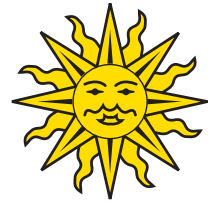
Also, to help voters make informed choices on their ballots, LWV offers VOTE411.org. Enter your address at the website for a list of all the races – federal, state, county, and town – as well as the candidates for each office – that will appear on your primary ballot. The majority of candidates have provided responses to the questions posed to them by the LWV-RMA.



LWV-RMA Contributes to Foodlink

The Rochester Federation of Women's Club (RFWC), of which LWV-RMA is one of 17 member clubs, voted to sponsor a contribution to Foodlink as a means for RFWC to express its recognition of the food hardships suffered in our community as a result of the economic impact of COVID-19. Each member club was asked to make a financial contribution to this cause. The donation would be made to Foodlink by RFWC, listing all the member clubs making a contribution. At the May 13 Zoom meeting, members of the LWV-RMA Board voted to donate \$500. LWV-RMA focuses efforts on city populations with low voter turnout. These same communities have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. While LWV-RMA does not make it a practice to donate to charities, this contribution recognizes the commitment of the League to the needs of our community in an unprecedented time.

Sunshine Corner



MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE. 5/12/2020 OBSERVED BY ELAINE SCHMIDT VIA ZOOM

Thalia Wright was confirmed as Commissioner of Human and Health Services.

Richard Tantalo, former Chief of Police in Irondequoit, was confirmed as Director of Public Safety.

The Legislature created one new position in the Public Defender's Office due to funding from a Statewide expansion program.

An amendment to Resolution 135 was passed authorizing hazard pay to Monroe County employees at greater risk of exposure to COVID-19 or working extended hours due to the County's response to COVID-19, resulting in more County employees being authorized to receive hazard pay.

The following appointments to the Monroe County Climate Action Plan Advisory Committee were confirmed:

John Botelho, *Professional Engineer - Citizen*

Karla Boyce - *Legislator*

Matthew J O'Connor, *Professional Engineer - Citizen*

Fred Ancello - *Legislator*

Kathryn McArdle - *Professional Engineer - Citizen*

Michael Yudelson - *Legislator*

Sue Hughes-Smith - *Citizen*

Every item on the agenda was passed by a unanimous vote (29 to 0).

MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE SPECIAL MEETING. 6/4/2020 OBSERVED BY ELAINE SCHMIDT VIA VIDEO

The Legislature voted to override Monroe County Executive Adam Bello's veto of six new permanent positions at the Board of Elections... 18 votes were needed to override the veto; the vote was 20 to 9. The meeting had several heated, frequently disrespectful, exchanges.

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

FEPC Report

The Fair Election Practices Campaign (FEPC) encourages candidates for elected office to run positive, issues-oriented campaigns. The FEPC invited the 32 Primary candidates to sign the Pledge to run a fair campaign, even though there will not be any formal complaint and hearing process. Fifteen of the candidates returned the Pledge forms. Their names can be found on the FEPC page of the LWV-RMA website. The FEPC Hearing Committee will reconvene in September, sending out new Pledge forms to all General Election candidates, and anticipates accepting and hearing formal complaints of violations of the Pledge. This may be done in person, if circumstances allow, or via video-conferencing, if required.

Anyone interested in learning more about the FEPC or becoming involved with the process can call the FEPC Coordinator, Kris Rogers at 746-6157.

LWV-RMA Book Club Reviews The Death and Life of the Great Lakes.

Book club members, seen here, met via ZOOM on May 23 to discuss issues raised in *The Death and Life of the Great Lakes* by Dan Egan. The group will suggest to the Program Committee that it present a forum on issues affecting the Great Lakes and potential remedies.



Calendar



July

- 3 First Friday (11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.) via Zoom; Directions and a link provided via email.
- TBD LWV-RMA Board Meeting

August

- 7 First Friday (11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.) via Zoom; Directions and a link provided via email.
- TBD LWV-RMA Board Meeting

September

- 4 First Friday (11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.) via Zoom; Directions and a link provided via email.
- TBD LWV-RMA Board Meeting

LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK! 

We know you'll "like" us!

www.facebook.com/lwvofrma

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!

SOME SUGGESTED READING WHILE WAITING FOR NORMAL SCHEDULES TO RETURN

* www.lwv.org

Explore the LWVUS website, particularly the League Management section, and take a look at the variety of workshops and caucuses being offered during the biennial Convention 2020 week in late June. Some of these virtual sessions may be made available to non-delegates.

* www.my.lwv.org/new-york-state.org

Explore all its features and the latest legislative advocacy.

First Friday Goes Electronic

Because of the quarantine resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, First Friday cannot occur at I-Square. To enable the camaraderie of the monthly event to continue, First Friday has moved to Zoom. Shown are some of the participants in the April 3 session (left to right) Elaine Schmidt from somewhere out of town, Kim Byers, Joan Rosenthal, Judy Sternberg, Judy Weinstein, and Sheila Abeling.

- July 3
- August 7
- September 4



Board of Directors meetings are held at Asbury First UMC. via Zoom 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@lwv-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

**JULY VOTER
DEADLINE IS JUNE 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

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)

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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

Advocacy/Government, Ann Carmody

Advocacy@lwv-rma.org
government@lwv-rma.org

Communication/PR, Julie Damerell

communications@lwv-rma.org

Election Services/Naturalization, Sheila Abeling

Sheiler162007@gmail.com

Fair Election Practices Campaign, Kris Rogers

fepec@lwv-rma.org

Membership, Mary Garfield

membership@lwv-rma.org

Nominating, Mary Hussong-Kallen

nominations@lwv-rma.org

Programs, Ann Carmody

ann.carmody2012@gmail.com

VOTE411, Judy Weinstein

vote411@lwv-rma.org

Voter Services, Judy Sternberg

jsternberg3b@gmail.com or judith.sternberg@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	.....	FREE
Low income, call office at 262-3730	.....	\$sliding \$scale
or send an email to: info@lwv-rma.org		