

TheVOTER



LWV
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
ROCHESTER METRO AREA

Member Update Meeting

Monday, September 14, 2020

7:00 P.M. via Zoom

(from the comfort of your home)

**LWV Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Initiative
Update on LWV-RMA Committee Activities**
To learn more, go to page 3.

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President's Corner

On behalf of the new 2020-2021 LWV-RMA Board of Directors I greet all members and friends and am excited to share with you some highlights and visions for the coming year.

The first order of business for the kick-off Board meeting in July was to resolve our incomplete complement of League officers. Following the June Annual Meeting our 2020-2021 Board was composed of a Co-President, Treasurer, Secretary and 5 Directors. Our options were to elect, from within our Board members, either a second Co-President or a Vice President. I am pleased to report here that I have accepted to serve as League President through June 2021 and Myra Pelz has been elected as Vice President for a 1-year term through June 2021.

New this year for Leagues around the country is the formation of state level Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) Task Forces with local League-appointed representatives. Some of those representatives—including our own Barbara Grosh—are participating in an extensive virtual training program. Barbara will be responsible for development of a DEI Plan for LWV-RMA and will be leading a DEI training session for League members at our new Member Update Meeting on September 14. See page 3 for more information.

In response to input from newer members who report perceived barriers to accessing League committees and initiatives, we will be instituting Member Update Meetings in September 2020 and April 2021. This will result in quarterly opportunities for members to learn, connect, meet Committee chairs, raise questions and share their ideas. The September and April meetings will begin with a topical program of interest and then give updates from committees, including requests for member participation. This September's meeting will start with a DEI training session. Our January Membership Meeting will focus on Program Planning, and in June we hold our Annual Business Meeting. The topic of the April Member Update Meeting is yet to be determined.

Also new are Committee leadership positions. Sarah Sandler is now Chair of Membership, Elaine Schmidt is taking on Programs/Educational forums, Mary Hussong-Kallen is our Communications/Public Relations Chair, and Kim Smith will become Voter Services Co-Chair with Barbara Grosh. While there will be overlapping and collaboration, Kim will focus on Voter Registration and Barbara will cover GOTV.

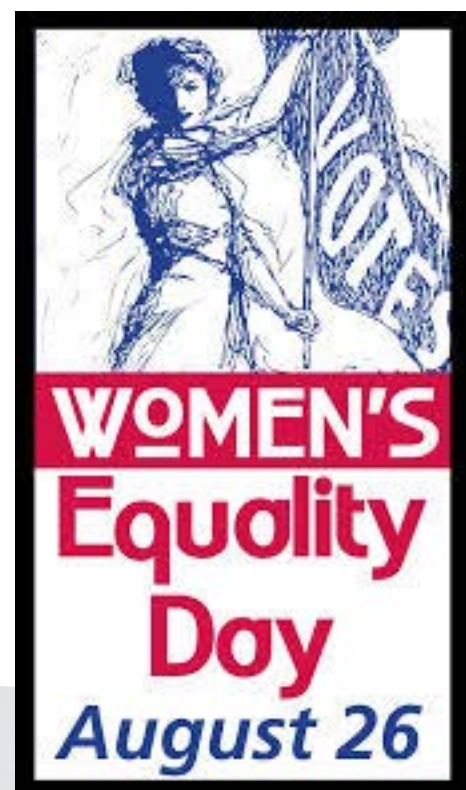
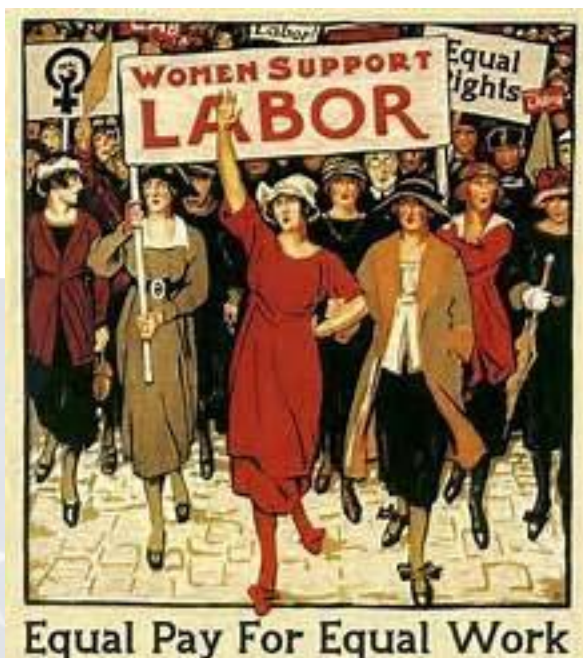
As voters in New York continue to face uncertainty around what voting options for the fall General Election will look like, we urge members to watch for and respond to Action Alerts that come from our state and national Leagues. These often seek our advocacy on election-related national or state legislation and provide plenty of resources for responding. We are stronger together. Your voice has impact.

In League,

Judith Sternberg

President, LWV-Rochester Metro Area

jsternberg3b@gmail.com





**Program for Members:
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)
Committee Updates
Monday, September 14, 2020
7:00 P.M. via Zoom**

This will be the first of four opportunities in the 2020-2021 program year for members to learn, connect, meet Committee chairs, and share insights and ideas. The September and April meetings will include a topical program and updates from committees.

- The September meeting will start with a DEI training session.
- The January Membership Meeting will focus on Program Planning.
- The topic of the April Member Update Meeting is yet to be determined.
- In June we hold our Annual Business Meeting.

PROGRAM FOR MEMBERS: DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION (DEI)

In 2017, the LWVUS resolved to consider all aspects of our work through a lens of diversity, equity and inclusion. DEI has been deemed integral to the League's mission to empower voters and defend democracy and it is critical to our ability to remain relevant and effective in our next 100 years.

The LWV-RMA has set four goals, and one of them is to have a membership as diverse as the Rochester Metropolitan community.

In our September members' meeting, we will learn some brief history about racial issues in the leadup to the founding of the League which still impact us today. We will learn how and why DEI has risen to the top of the LWV agenda and articulate our commitment to meet our avowed goal. We will exchange thoughts and feelings about why it's important, what our experiences have been, what we've achieved and what we need to achieve.

In the next year, every section of the LWV will be encouraged to consider its work through a DEI lens, looking for ways the League can become more diverse and become a better champion for equity.

Leading the September 14 session will be Barbara Grosh. Contact her at barbara@grosh.net or 415-8251 with any questions or comments. A link to the Zoom session will be emailed before September 14.



LWV-RMA

INCOME AND EXPENSE STATEMENT FISCAL YEAR 2019 - 2020

Category	BUDGET 2019-20	ACTUAL 2019-20
INCOME	16,950	23,011.53
A Dues	9,400	8,928.38
B Donations	1,000	3,767.34
C Election Night Income	2,000	1,000.00
Cc Absentee Ballot Opening	2,000	1,000.00
D Grants Management Account Income	4,000	8,750.00
Dc Bee Bibby Endowment	4,000	2,000.00
De Other GMA Income	0	6,750.00
G Other Income (Business)	550	565.81
G1 Interest	60	65.79
Other Income (Business)	490	500.02
EXPENSES	(24,630)	(23,200.55)
A LWVUS PMP	(4,130)	(4,128.00)
B LWVNYS PMP	(2,580)	(2,967.00)
C Voter Services	(6,650)	(4,704.20)
Cb Brochures&Educational Materials	(4,200)	(3,604.55)
Cd Get Out the Vote Projects	(900)	(803.75)
Cf Texting Applications	(500)	0.00
Ch Vote411	(250)	(186.37)
Cj Fair Election Practices Campaign	(500)	0.00
Ci Candidate Forums	(300)	(9.20)
Other Voter Services	0	(100.33)
G Other Committee Expenses	(200)	(316.44)
J The Voter	(2,450)	(2,016.39)
L Students Inside Albany	(800)	(76.00)
O Program Forums	(1,500)	(96.21)
Q Finance & Admin Expense	(1,820)	(2,306.12)
Qb Telephone	(900)	(899.74)
Qd Space Rental	(300)	(425.00)
Qf Equipment Software Supplies	(150)	(56.14)
Qh PayPal fees	(150)	(168.25)
Qj Post Office Box	(100)	(107.05)
Ql Internet hosting	(70)	(467.29)
Qn Office Supplies & Miscellaneous	(150)	(71.58)
Qo Other groups events	0	2.00
Qp Other Finance & Admin	0	(113.07)
Other Finance & Admin Expense	0	0.00
S1 General Membership Meeting (Jan)	(500)	(675.99)
S2 Annual Meeting (June)	(1,000)	(35.81)
U1 LWVUS Convention	(3,000)	(150.00)
U2 LWVNYS Convention	0	0.00
Y Other Expenses*	0	(5,728.39)
Net Difference:	(7,680)	(189.02)

* \$5,000 contribution to LWVNYS towards position of Legislative Director and \$500



LWV-RMA Account Balances

Account	6/30/2019 Balance	6/30/2020 Balance
Bank Accounts		
Grants Management Account	12,585.83	11,937.17
Gretchen Shafer Account (SIA)	3,621.00	3,541.92
M&T Checking	15,994.54	16,467.47
M&T Savings	69,525.69	69,591.48
TOTAL Bank Accounts	101,727.06	101,538.04
OVERALL TOTAL	101,727.06	101,538.04

The Prank that Advanced Women's Rights

In 1887, a group of men played a prank by adding Susanna Madora Salter to a mayoral ballot, in the hopes that her defeat would discourage women from seeking office. It backfired wonderfully and Salter was elected with two-third majority, becoming America's first female mayor.

CALL TO ACTIVISM ←

Committee Reports

FEPC Update

The Fair Election Practices Campaign (FEPC) accepted Pledges from Primary Candidates although hearings were not held due to the COVID-19 shut down. The FEPC Hearing Committee will get together via Zoom in late August to decide, based on conditions at that time, whether the hearings process will be in person or via Zoom for the General Election. If you are interested in the FEPC process, please contact Kris Rogers at 746-6157.

Naturalizations

Naturalization ceremonies are still postponed until further notice due to COVID-19.

Election Services

If you're not already registered to vote for the November General Election, please register before the October 9 deadline. Forms must be filled out and mailed or delivered in person. See number 3rd below.

WAYS TO REGISTER TO VOTE:

1. Visit Monroe County Board Of Elections - 39 Main St. Rochester, NY 14614.
2. www2.monroecounty.gov/Elections-index.php 2. Download form.
3. Online registration on the Department of Motor Vehicles website
4. Forms are at Post Offices and libraries
5. https://www.elections.ny.gov/voting_register.html to download a form.
6. Call 1-800-367-8683 to obtain a form.

Sheila Abeling sheiler162007@gmail.com

VOTE411

LWVNYS handled the Congressional, NYS legislature and NYS Supreme Court races for Vote411, the League of Women Voters voter information website. LWV-RMA invited the 13 candidates for local offices which had primaries to respond. Of the 13, seven posted responses. Of the six who did not post, five were judicial candidates and four had primaries only in the minor parties.

Judy Weinstein j.weinstein.roc@gmail.com

Candidate Forums

We adapted to social distancing with our Candidate Forums for the primary elections. We co-sponsored three forums with WROC-TV8 and the Rochester Alumnae Chapter Of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority (Deltas): Senate District 56 (via Zoom), Assembly District 138 (in-studio, no audience), and Monroe County Clerk (in-studio, no audience). We also co-sponsored Zoom forums with the 19th Ward Community Association for Senate District 61 and with the Deltas for Assembly District 136. The videos of our Zoom forums were posted on our YouTube channel so they could be viewed by voters through Election Day. Once the primary results have been certified, we will plan the Candidate Forums for the November 3rd general election.



June 10 County Clerk Debate

Judy Weinstein j.weinstein.roc@gmail.com

Committee Reports

continued

Voter Services Revving Up

The Voter Services committee has two new co-chairs, Barbara Grosh and new member Kim Smith. The committee is making plans to register voters and get out the vote for the November elections.

Many of the events where we registered voters in the past have been cancelled, but we're planning on registering at Black Lives Matters rallies and any other events we hear about. We're also going to try registering at Foodlink sites such as their mobile vegetable market and the locations where they serve grab-n-go lunches throughout the summer, and doing door-to-door work. All activities are outside and we believe that with masks and social distancing and plenty of hand sanitizer it is possible to stay safe. All are welcome to join us. We're going to keep track of those we register this year so that we can send reminder postcards and texts. We're hoping to increase the turnout of our registrants from 8% in 2016 to 20%.

We hope to be able to register high school and college students in the fall, but how that will shape up is unclear at this point.

Get Out The Vote (GOTV) activities will involve a lot of social media and electronic communications. We've started collecting #IVoteBecause photos where people write in one sentence why they vote. We take a picture of them on their own phone and ask them to post to their own social media, and take a picture of our own as well, for use on our Facebook page. We're hoping that if many people share these images, it will encourage their family and friends to vote, a sort of viral marketing. We may also try some super-short (7 second) videos where people talk about their first vote or how they feel when they vote.

We're also going to try paid advertising on Facebook for the first time. We hear that it's very cost effective, and we can target narrowly, like by zip code, by local institutions they are following, and even by name. We'll be getting the names of registered voters in our targeted low-engagement Legislative Districts (22, 25, 28, and 29) and uploading them.

We need lots of volunteers to make an impact. We have jobs that involve face-to-face work, computer work, data work, graphic design work, film-making and social media campaign planning and execution. If you're interested in joining us, please email us at voterservices@lww-rma.org.



The pictures show examples of #IVoteBecause statements being held by their authors.



Reflections on LWWUS Convention

For the first time in its history, the biennial LWWUS National Convention did not bring together members from the national, state and local Leagues around the country into one city to share strategies, passions, dreams and stories. LWW-RMA delegates Judy Sternberg, Myra Pelz and Mary Hussong-Kallen joined nearly 1400 League members who met online via Zoom in a virtual convention, each of us in our own home. There was no hospitality suite, no gathering for chats after caucuses, no seeking out friends from across the country. But even with the challenge this virtual format presented, the consensus seemed to be that we all learned a great deal about the topics presented in caucuses and workshops, substantive discussions took place before votes in the plenary sessions, and a shared sense of commitment to the League's principled positions on the issues of our times was apparent.

Some takeaways:

- LWWUS opened the very extensive and varied list of caucuses to any members (not just delegates) free of charge, so we were able to invite LWW-RMA board members to join any sessions that interested them. We now have a wealth of information to share, since we were able to "attend" many of these caucuses, and most were recorded and are available on the LWWUS website: <https://www.lww.org/league-management/council-convention/2020-convention-virtual-caucuses-and-info-sessions>.
- The discussions preceding voting during plenary sessions were focused and well-informed, with 2 Program items not recommended for action this year brought back for consideration by consensus of the delegates present (one being the elimination of the Electoral College – a very popular topic in workshops and plenary discussions). Both were adopted. For a summary of plenary and other convention actions, please visit <https://www.lww.org/league-management/council-convention/2020-convention-daily-briefing>.
- As always, LWWNYS was most helpful in guiding local delegates through the convention process via extra Zoom meetings and quick responses to emails.
- So many of the League leaders' faces looked young, and represented diverse ethnic and professional groups! The new LWWUS President is Deborah Turner, MD, JD from Des Moines, IA. The new national leadership team brings energy, experience and an exciting vision for our future, from the top down to Rochester.



Mary Hussong-Kallen



Deborah Turner, MD, JD

Look for details on the caucuses and potential impacts and benefits for our local League in the accompanying delegate reports and eventually on the links to be added to our website.

Mary Hussong-Kallen



HIGHLIGHTS FROM CONVENTION

Judy Sternberg

While all of us shared in the disappointment of not having an in-person 100th Anniversary Year Convention, I particularly dreaded the anticipated discomfort of so many days and hours of zoom meetings for caucuses and plenary sessions. It is a credit to the content and importance of what took place that that my fears were not realized and I came away inspired and mobilized to carry on and step up our League game. I choose here to report on two caucuses that dealt with critical public policy issues – Making Democracy Work in the Criminal Justice System and Privacy and Cybersecurity Today.

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM, LWV OF SAN FRANCISCO (CA), LWV OF LOS ANGELES (CA)

In 2019 LWV of California became the 32nd state League to adopt a Criminal Justice position. Through sharing of that position and LWVC state and local advocacy and education activities, the caucus' goal was to inspire other Leagues to adopt or update their own positions. The LWVC Criminal Justice position* was provided to attendees for review before the caucus. Its main areas cover Policing Practices, Pre-Trial Procedures, Sentencing, Incarceration, Re-entry, Use of Evidence-based Research and Elimination of Systemic Bias. (LWVNY has an extensive Criminal Justice position but has non-existent or limited sections on any of the above areas.)

The caucus began with a data-supported look at problems in the US Criminal Justice System:

Mass Incarceration - United States has highest incarceration rate among NATO countries (698 per 100K, followed by UK with 139 per 100K); 74% of people in jails are not convicted of any crime.

Deadly Use of Force by Police – 1,100 killings annually, nationwide.

Systemic Racism and Bias – Black men age 15-34 are 10 times more likely to be killed by police; African Americans are incarcerated more than 5 times the rate of whites.

Attendees were encouraged to consider and plan what their local or state Leagues could do. Stressing the importance of collaborations with non-profit, professional, academic and impacted persons and organizations, Leagues can educate and advocate. They can observe and report, they can address use of force policy questions to local enforcement agencies.

HIGHLIGHTED AREAS FOR ADVOCACY WERE:

Alternatives to Incarceration – Expand community-based services; utilize behavioral health responses (minimize officer responses); support pre-trial release and diversion services (e.g. Drug Court); provide treatment instead of jail.

Use of Force Reform Legislation

- Federal Justice in Policing Act, HR-7120, renamed "George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2020 – HR 7120". LWVUS has written a Letter of Support, other state Leagues are urged to do so.
- AB 392, California law passed 2019 – elevates deadly use of force to only when necessary. Followed by the federal Peace Act, HR-4359.

Finally, Convention delegates were asked to support the Urgent Resolution to be brought to Plenary floor for adoption. The motion passed on June 27 with a vote of 1094 yay, 32 nay.

Motion #2020-136: We Resolve First, That the League advocates against systemic racism in the justice system and, at a minimum, for preventing excessive force and brutality by law enforcement. We also call for prompt actions by all League members to advocate



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within every level of government to eradicate systemic racism, and the harm that it causes;

We Resolve Second, That the League help our elected officials and all Americans recognize these truths to be self-evident; that Black, Indigenous and all people of color (BIPOC) deserve equal protection under the law; and that we demand solutions for the terrible wrongs done, so that regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, disability, and gender identity or sexual orientation we may truly become a nation "indivisible, with liberty and justice for all".

*Find full criminal justice position at lwcv.org, under Our Work/ Social Policy

PRIVACY AND CYBERSECURITY TODAY, LWV OF OREGON

Most of us are at least subliminally uncomfortable with the vulnerability of our personal data to malevolent hackers and many of us are highly concerned about what havoc 2020 Election tampering may cause. LWV of Oregon is tackling this head on. In the past year LWV Oregon completed a study report on Cybersecurity and Privacy* and is now working to prepare a policy position proposal for adoption at their May 2021 Convention. LWVOR plans to then call for a LWVUS national concurrence at the 2022 Convention and will be reaching out to other state and local Leagues to sign on to the concurrence. Look to be hearing more from LWVOR.

The caucus presented three critical issues in need of national attention:

Lack of Strong Election & Voting Security

- There are two ways to hack an election – Physical through machines and Social/Behavioral through manipulation of people, fake viral accounts, erosion of public trust. A recent example - half of all cyber messages in support of speedy reopening of the economy came from bots.
- Ways to Prevent/Protect against:
 - Physical hacks include system upgrades, critical infrastructure, paper back-ups, secure registration, increased cybersecurity training, emergency & disaster recovery training, risk limiting audits to validate results. Barriers to these include lack of funding and political will.
 - Social & Behavioral hacks/manipulation include practicing proper cyber hygiene; reliable news sources; social media industry cooperation & governmental regulations.

Lack of Comprehensive US Consumer E-Commerce Protections

The US lacks comprehensive E-Commerce protections for individuals. Economic growth and internet commerce expansion are prioritized. Individuals sign away their privacy rights for convenience of internet access and use of other services and devices. Collection of personal behavior data is detailed, monetized and sold, with vast profits to companies, yet some, using loopholes, like Amazon pay no taxes. Protections that do exist are centered around type of data, such as medical, rather than the individual. Your data does not belong to you.

Need for Unified US Policy Adoption

The current patchwork of regulatory entities, governmental (state, federal, departmental, international) non-governmental and industry-wide has many gaps and weak enforcement mechanism. There is a growing consensus among stakeholders and experts of the need to find solutions. The next step is finding and strengthening the political will to bring about the needed privacy and cybersecurity reforms. The League can be a significant player in public education and legislative advocacy.

*The full study can be found at Cyberstudy@lwvor.org.

Judy Sternberg



One Delegate’s Reflection on the National Convention – League Support and Get Out the Vote

I was privileged for the first time to be a delegate to this year’s LWV National Convention. Instead of a trip to the nation’s capital, I of course attended from my own living room couch through Zoom. Convention organizers adapted patiently to the challenges of the technology and after a few hiccups attendees had mastered the technology as well.

Before the official work of the League began on Friday, there were several days of caucuses presented as Zoom webinars or meetings. I attended several, and here are the highlights.



BoardSource

The first caucus I attended was a webinar that described BoardSource, a platform specifically designed to strengthen the leadership of non-profit organizations. BoardSource has been in business for 30 years, and has provided over 100,000 non-profit leaders with resources including Board orientation, onboarding, and succession planning; live and recorded videos on everything from board composition and recruitment to fundraising and advocacy; the ability to ask advice from governance experts and to connect with other League members; and a variety of assessment tools for evaluating leadership performance. The League is providing these resources for free to all state and local Leagues.

You now get full free access to resources

Benefits for your board and staff, including:

Ask-an-Expert e-mail service	Learn from and engage with other leaders on the BoardSource Exchange	Access to the Certificate of Nonprofit Board Education online / on-demand training	
26+ webinars on basic and advanced governance and leadership practices	Easily downloadable resources, tools, and templates	200+ articles about important questions	Special pricing on all publications, assessments, and trainings

The LWV-RMA Board will have to study this wide array of resources to identify which of BoardSource’s offerings will be useful in support of our own League leadership.

CLUBEXPRESS FOR LOCAL LEAGUES

I was particularly excited to attend a webinar on ClubExpress, a membership management platform for clubs and associations. Its features include:

- Designing an organization’s website, both home page and custom pages, that reflect the League brand and that would allow online member sign-up and payment



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- Creating and maintaining a membership database that would allow administrators to filter on member attributes like payment status, skills, or interests
- Creating and sending email blasts
- Processing payments for membership dues and donations
- Maintaining an event calendar with online registration

As of the time of the webinar, all of the Leagues in Colorado and 10-12 Leagues in various states had adopted the platform. Monthly cost would be about \$24/month for our small organization and setup would be between \$150 (DIY) to over \$1000 (for more support).

An ad hoc committee has been tasked with evaluating ClubExpress for use by our League. Stay tuned.

ENGAGING NON-VOTERS & SELDOM VOTERS IN LOWEST TURNOUT PRECINCTS

Part of this presentation centered on the success of the LWV of Port Washington, NY to improve voter turnout during the 2019 election cycle. After identifying low turnout neighborhoods, they canvassed those neighborhoods providing information to residents, answering questions, and encouraging voting. The group outlined their detailed strategy including:

- Developing a specific script for volunteers going door to door based on a LWWNYS toolkit
- Wearing easily recognizable League accessories
- Creating customized door hangers that included: a list of local issues, races and candidates; an early voting pamphlet; information on Vote411.org; and how to contact their local officials, all in English and Spanish.
- Partnering with other organizations from the same district and with local high schools

Their success rate has been impressive: After their first canvassing attempts before September-October 2018 in three different election districts, turnout rate was 25%; after their second canvassing of the same districts in 2019 voting turnout was up to 56-64%.

Their strategies have changed with the pandemic. Instead of canvassing, League members are making phone calls to people in the same three districts, asking if they need a registration form or information on voting and then providing whatever they need. They are also asking if the residents know of other faith groups, schools, or other organizations that might help with calling. They are using other strategies too:

- Leaving door hangers without knocking.
- Having middle school students make posters to hang in local businesses and apartment building common spaces that explain "How to Vote, When to Vote"
- Dropping off absentee ballot applications applications at grocery stores, food pantries and churches
- Partnering with Meals on Wheels to provide absentee ballot and assistance filling out the forms to seniors
- Partnering with high school students in a civics course to do phone calling and texting.
- Setting up a help line to answer voting questions in both English and Spanish.

As we here in the Rochester league begin our own Get Out the Vote efforts before the November general election, we can use Port Washington's experience to inform our own path to improving voter turnout.

Myra Pelz myra.pelz@gmail.com



One Delegates Reflections, Mary Hussong-Kallen

CONVENTION CAUCUSES/WORKSHOPS

At this year's LWWUS Convention, as in years past, we delegates were able to choose from many timely and informative caucuses and workshops – the difference this year was that all sessions were presented online via Zoom. While not all topics lent themselves equally well to this new format, 3 workshops stood out for me as being excellent in the information provided and the follow-up opportunities.

NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE TASK FORCE

Focusing on the National Popular Vote Compact, presenters explained the importance of this interim step to abolishing the Electoral College (EC) and the progress made toward its implementation.

- This measure to be enacted by individual states would guarantee the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes across all 50 states and the District of Columbia without amending the Constitution.
- While arguments against both include concern for small states losing their strong voice in the EC, presenters argued that currently voters in smaller, less populous states have a proportionately larger voice in the EC by virtue of having EC electors representing fewer voters.
- In addition, in the present system, the “purple” or “battleground” states actually have disproportionately stronger voices in determining election winners. Finally, five times in our history, the winner of the electoral college has taken the oath of office despite having lost the popular vote.

New York State has voted for the compact, joined by 15 other states so far.

The caucus recording is not yet available, but information can be found at <https://www.nationalpopularvote.com/>. Also consider reading *Let the People Pick the President: The Case for Abolishing the Electoral College* by Jesse Wegman.

ABOLISH THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

Interest in this effort was so strong that delegates rallied to demand that LWWUS add it to current Program priorities, especially since LWWUS has positions supporting both the National Popular Vote Compact and abolishing the Electoral College.

LWWUS Position In Brief: The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice-President is essential to representative government. Therefore, it is the League's position that the electoral college should be abolished. The League supports a constitutional amendment to accomplish this but in the interim supports the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC) as an acceptable way to achieve the goal of direct popular vote for election of president until the Electoral College can be abolished.

To read the full LWWUS Policy Statement and explanation, please visit http://www.lwvf.org/sites/default/files/leagues/wysiwyg/%5Bcurrent-user%3Aog-user-node%3A1%3Atitle%5D/lwvus_position_explanation_electoral_college_pdf.pdf

The caucus was not recorded but PowerPoint slides will be available soon. It was noted that Constitutional amendments have often been ratified in times of national crisis or turmoil. For additional information, please visit <https://abolishtheelectoralcollege.com/>.

CHOICES IN HEALTH CARE DEBATE - PRIORITIES, COST

This caucus provided an in-depth look at the issue of health care coverage in the US. Strongly arguing for Single Payer/Improved Medicare For All (IMFA), it offered insight on the 3 pillars of a health care system (Access, Cost and Quality) and the effectiveness of IMFA to address them. Several particularly striking statements were:

- COVID has dramatically highlighted the current system's failures
- IMFA offers Socialized Bookkeeping – not Socialized Medicine
- Reticence to adopt IMFA is a result of a lack of political and not a leap into the unknown – every other developed society has provided Best Practices to guide the US in implementing
- An important question: why do we not recognize a freedom to be healthy?

If you are on Twitter, consider following Ruth Harenchar's #LWV4Health Care. Other resources include www.onepayerstates.org, www.pnhp.org, www.healthcare-now.org, and LWV's Health Care Reform Network.

View the recording at the LWVUS YouTube channel (and while you're there, please subscribe): <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcZAtO9WGvetEyK84oRWj2Q>.

Mary Hussong-Kallen,
Communications Committee Chair



Rochester Federation of Women's Clubs Update

LWV-RMA members Dorothy Borgus and Mary Hussong-Kallen have been elected to leadership positions in the Rochester Federation of Women's Clubs (RWC) for the coming year. Dorothy will serve as President and Mary as 2nd Vice President.



In June, on behalf of its member clubs, the RWC donated \$2,000.00 to Foodlink in response to the need generated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Rochester Federation of Women's Clubs was organized as the Council of Women by Susan B. Anthony. She invited the presidents of 73 societies for the first meeting in December 1898. In January 1899 the constitution and bylaws were adopted and officers elected. The Council affiliated with the National Council of Women, which Miss Anthony organized in Washington, D.C. in January 1900. In December

1945, RWC board members acquired the house at 17 Madison Street in Rochester where Miss Anthony and her sister, Mary, lived for 40 years. The RWC helps to keep alive the memory and great work of Miss Anthony, and sustains a proactive interest in the maintenance of the House through annual fundraisers. In May 1966, the Susan B. Anthony House was designated as a registered "National Historic Site", and in 2012 was chartered by the NYS Board of Regents as The National Susan B. Anthony Museum and House.



Dorothy Borgus



Mary Hussong-Kallen

A collection of suffragist history pictures is available from the George Eastman Museum at <https://www.eastman.org/history-photography-11>



Calendar



August

- 7 First Friday (11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.) via Zoom; Directions and a link provided via email.
- 12 LWV-RMA Board Meeting (6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.) via Zoom. Board meetings are open to members. Contact Judy Sternberg for link.

September

- 4 First Friday (11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.) via Zoom; Directions and a link provided via email.
- 9 LWV-RMA Board Meeting (6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.) via Zoom. Contact Judy Sternberg for link.
- 14 Member Update Meeting featuring DEI Training (7:00 P.M.) Via Zoom, link to be provided.
- 22 National Voter Registration Day



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 that were offered during Convention 2020. The video of many of these virtual sessions are on the website along with materials that were shared.

* 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 July 3 session: Judy Weinstein, Judy Wadsworth, Linda Saalman, Deb Leary, Linda Moroney, Judy Sternberg, Sheila Abeling, Barbara Grosh, Shae Hanford and Katherine Smith.

Join the group on any or all of these dates:

- August 7
- September 4
- October 2
- November 6
- December 4.



Board of Directors meetings are currently via Zoom. Board meetings are open to all members. See calendar for dates and times and contact Judy Sternberg for link.

Forums are open to the public. Calendar information is subject to change.

For more complete information, consult our website at www.LWV-RMA.org, call 262-3730 or e-mail us at info@lwv-rma.org

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

**SEPTEMBER VOTER
DEADLINE IS AUGUST 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

President Judith Sternberg (2020-2021)
Vice President Myra Pelz (2020-2021)
Treasurer Judy Weinstein (2019-2021)
Secretary Kris Rogers (2020-2022)
Director Kimberly Byers (2020-2021)
Director Barbara Grosh (2020-2022)
Director Mary Hussong-Kallen (2020-2022)
Director Sarah Sandler (2020-2022)

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

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

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Editor,
Judy Wadsworth

Layout/Design,
Chris Burleigh*

Join the League Today!



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Check Amount: _____

Level of Membership: _____

Please send this form and your check payable to
League of Women Voters/RMA to:

LWV-RMA
PO Box 10573
Rochester, NY 14610

or join us online at: www.lwv-rma.org/join.php

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

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