

# TheVOTER



## Seeking Concurrence on LWNYS Healthcare Positions

**February 22 at 7:00 P.M.**

**From the comfort of your home via ZOOM**

This is your opportunity to approve or disapprove of proposed updates to state League positions on healthcare access and financing.

*More information on page 3.*

Register to attend:

- Visit the Home Page of our website ([www.lwv-rma.org](http://www.lwv-rma.org)) and click on the “register” link
- Leave a voice mail with your name on the LWV-RMA phone service (585-262-3730)
- Send an e-mail to the LWV-RMA account: [info@lwv-rma.org](mailto:info@lwv-rma.org)

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## President's Corner

Well, we have finally made it through the presidential transfer of power and have a new 46th President, Joseph R. Biden, Jr., and a new Vice President, Kamala Devi Harris. We congratulate them and wish them well in the daunting crises and challenges they face and must work to overcome.

Here in New York the 2021 legislative session is off to an active start, with the Senate passing a package of eight absentee voting reform bills and two constitutional amendments (Same Day Voter Registration and No Excuse Absentee Voting). All of these must also be passed by the Assembly, before they are signed by the Governor (bills) or are placed on the ballot for voters to accept or reject in November (constitutional amendments). The reform bills address issues such as online ballot applications, timelines, security, transparency & tracking, and are geared to being voter-friendly and producing more rapid election results.

Locally, LWV-RMA is beginning to engage in the LWVNYS "Redistricting Campaign". With guidance and resources from LWVNYS and LWVUS, LWV-RMA will plan to work with community stakeholders to educate and empower the public for participation in community-developed district maps and the opportunity to give input at public hearings with the state Independent Redistricting Commission. Any member(s) interested in learning more about the campaign should contact [president@lww-rma.org](mailto:president@lww-rma.org).

LWV-RMA will also be offering anti-racism training workshops to members and others who volunteer with us. As an organization that is predominantly white yet often works in communities and with organizations that are predominantly of color, we can all gain from chances to engage in dialogue and experiential learning around issues of race and racism. We will start with a short survey sent to all members and volunteers which will include a question on whether the person would like to participate in the training. Survey responses, all anonymous, will be used to customize the training. The Racial Justice Initiative, affiliated with Citizen Action, will be the developers and conductors of the workshops. We hope to see many members take advantage of this opportunity.

In League,

**Judith Sternberg** *President, LWV-RMA*

## Hasana Martin: A Passionate League Member Remembered

League member Hasana Martin passed away in December following a short illness. Hasana grew up in Rochester and had three children, the first when she was 16. It was only later that she was able to complete her GED and then obtain a scholarship to Nazareth College. She was favorably disposed toward the LWV because a mentor at Nazareth spoke well of us. After graduating from Nazareth, she worked for a time in the Pal-Mac school system but her time there was plagued with family issues.

She first attended League events at the invitation of Barbara Grosh, after they met at a public session about problems in the RCSD. Inspired to join the LWV-RMA in 2014 after attending a League forum, she soon became an active member. Georgia DeGregorio remembers meeting Hasana at that first forum and immediately recognizing her desire to serve her community through League activities. Via carpooling, they became friends and shared forthright discussions on race and our community. Hasana also enjoyed sharing coffee regularly with Barbara Grosh.

Hasana's degree in education from Nazareth College first led her to the Education Committee, where she became a popular presenter in our High School Education Program. Her speaking partners always enjoyed working with her and noted that students lit up and engaged when Hasana spoke. Hasana was also an active member of our Poverty Committee where her service in many community organizations, coupled with her personal experience, proved deeply valuable. She was also active with League voter registration events, both at festivals and in high schools. Hasana was active in a number of other civic organizations, including the anti-racist book club which met at Barnes & Noble for many years, and the Beechwood Neighborhood Coalition, Metro Justice, and the City Roots Community Land Trust.

Hasana faced many challenges in her life and yearned to provide for the welfare of her children and grandchildren. Barbara usually found Hasana upbeat and optimistic and sought her out sometimes as a source of cheer. She is remembered for her spirit and sense of humor and hearty laugh. All of us privileged to know and work with her are greatly saddened by her untimely death and her family's loss. Judy Sternberg has sent a condolence letter to her daughter Naomi on behalf of the LWV.

**Georgia DeGregorio and Barbara Grosh**





**LWV**

## Seeking Concurrence on LWNYS Healthcare Positions

## MEMBERS MEETING

February 22, 7:00 P.M., via Zoom.

Register at [www.lwv-rma.org](http://www.lwv-rma.org) or 585-262-3730 or  
[info@lwv-rma.org](mailto:info@lwv-rma.org) to receive Zoom link.

### LEAGUE LINGO:

#### THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A CONSENSUS AND CONCURRENCE

For our newer members, and a reminder for veteran members: our discussion on February 22 on LWNYS proposals regarding our state Healthcare Position will rely on the *CONCURRENCE* process

*CONCURRENCE* is a League process in which participants decide if they agree with a statement or position that another League or League committee has already adopted. The position itself cannot be changed during the concurrence process. The State league receives and considers all the local league responses to arrive at an agreement.

*CONSENSUS* is the process where there is no prior position. Leagues reach consensus by bringing individual perspectives to a discussion and engaging with their group to seek common ground together. An honored tradition, the League sees consensus as a “sense of the group” —not unanimity or a majority, and not reached by voting or polling — a shared perspective achieved by active listening and engagement. Members developed a Health Care position by *CONSENSUS* in 1985 and 1991.

NOTE: In this case, members are being asked to agree to additions/amendments to the current position using the concurrence process.

*YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO PRINT THE INFORMATION BELOW TO AID IN YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE DISCUSSION.*

## PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE HEALTHCARE POSITIONS OF LWNYS

**YOU ARE ASKED TO MAKE DECISIONS ON TWO CONCURRENCE QUESTIONS: Yes or No.**

**YOU will have your own perspective to bring to the discussion: that is why we are giving you time to think over these proposals. To summarize: Decision One is mostly addressing wording and extending intent; Decision Two is a detailed proposal expanding on our statement of 1991 regarding single payer health care.**

(Below are the proposed new positions. Underlining indicates new/changed wording.

### DECISION ONE: DO YOU ACCEPT THE NEW POSITION ON HEALTHCARE? Yes or No

#### GOALS:

The League of Women Voters of New York State (LWNYS) believes that everyone should have access to essential physical and behavioral healthcare. New York State has a proper role in the regulation of healthcare and must assure high quality care that is affordable and accessible to all.

Resources should be devoted to health promotion and disease prevention so that people can take active responsibility for their own health. People should have opportunities to participate effectively in decisions regarding their personal health and in healthcare policy decisions.

The League believes that New York State's primary role in healthcare is to assure that quality care is available to all New Yorkers. We believe that the state should provide planning and regulations to assure everyone, including the medically indigent, access to an essential level of quality physical and behavioral health care. Cost containment should be an important criterion in developing regulations. Such regulation, however, should not compromise the quality of care or its accessibility.

The League supports regulatory incentives to encourage the development of cost-effective alternative ways of delivering and paying for healthcare, appropriate to all areas of NYS, with coordination across regulatory bodies to avoid undue delays and contradictory, duplicative regulations. Delivery programs may take place in a variety of settings, including the home and online, and must provide quality care, meaning consistent with “standard of care” guidelines, by trained and licensed personnel, staffed adequately to ensure their own and patient safety.

Coordination of services is essential to assure that community needs are met. As public health crises increasingly reveal, NYS should protect the health of its most vulnerable populations, urban and rural, in order to protect the health of everyone. In addition, all programs should be evaluated regularly. Provider reimbursement should include incentives for efficiency and for disease prevention and health promotion activities. Public health, environmental health and research activities should be continued.

Decisions on medical procedures that would prolong life should be made jointly by patient, family, and physician. Patient decisions, including those made prior to need, should be respected.

## PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE HEALTHCARE POSITIONS OF LWV NYS (cont'd from page 3)



### ESSENTIAL LEVEL OF QUALITY CARE

The League supports uniform eligibility and coverage of essential healthcare services, both physical and behavioral, ideally including coverage of services such as vision dental, hearing and long-term care, through public financing. Access to optional insurance coverage for care not covered by public financing should be available. The League has a strong commitment to an emphasis on preventive care, health education, and appropriate use of primary care services.

*(Underlining indicates new/changed wording.)*

### DECISION TWO: DO YOU ACCEPT THE NEW POSITION ON FINANCING OF HEALTHCARE? YES OR NO

**GOALS:** The League of Women Voters of New York State (LWWNYS) believes that any proposed healthcare financing system should provide access to essential healthcare at an affordable cost for all New Yorkers, both patients and taxpayers. The League supports the single-payer concept as a viable and desirable approach to implementing League positions on equitable access, affordability, and financial feasibility. In any proposed healthcare financing system, the League favors funding supported in part by broad-based and progressive state taxes on earned and unearned income with health insurance access independent of employment status.

**FEDERAL VS STATE ROLES:** Although the League prefers a healthcare financing system that includes all residents of the United States, in the absence of a federal program that achieves the goals of universal, affordable access to essential health services for New Yorkers, the League supports a healthcare program financed by NYS which includes continuation of federal funding.

**FEASIBILITY:** The LWWNYS believes the financial feasibility of any single-payer NYS program requires:

1. Levels of federal support appropriate for the cost of the program.
2. Sufficient cost-savings to be identified so that estimated overall program cost will approximate the cost of current overall health services (all funding sources) or less.
3. New state funding from individual taxpayers, employees and businesses to be equitable and progressive to ensure affordability for all.
4. A healthcare trust fund managed by the state, that operates in a similarly efficient fashion as Social Security or Medicare trust funds.

**COST-CONTROL METHODS:** To reduce the impact of any tax increases, healthcare reform should contain costs. The League believes that efficient and economical delivery of care can be enhanced by such cost-control methods as:

1. Reduction of administrative costs – both for this insurance plan and for providers.
2. Negotiated volume discounts for pharmaceuticals and durable medical equipment to bring prices closer to international levels – or importing of same to reduce costs.
3. Regionalization of specialized tertiary services to ensure timely access and quality.
4. Evidence-based treatment protocols and drug formularies that include cost/benefit assessments of medical value.
5. Malpractice reforms designed both to compensate patients for medical errors and to avoid future errors by encouraging robust quality improvement processes (at individual and systemic levels) and open communications with patients.
6. Investment in well-care – such as prevention, family planning, patient education, primary care – to increase health and reduce preventable adverse health events/expenditures.
7. Investment in maternal/ infant care, chronic disease management, and behavioral healthcare. Provision for short-term and long-term home-care services to reduce institutionalization.
8. Innovative payment and record-keeping.

Specific cost-control methods should reflect the most credible, evidence-based research available on how healthcare financing policy affects equitable access to healthcare, overall quality of care for individuals and populations, and total system costs of healthcare and its administration. Methods used should not exacerbate disparities in health outcomes among marginalized New Yorkers.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** The League supports public input as integral to the process for determining health care coverage and funding. To participate in public discussion of health policy and to share effectively in making policy decisions, NYS residents must be provided with information on the health care system and on the implications of health policy decisions.

## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER FOR THE MEETING ON FEBRUARY 22 AT 7:00 P.M.



In our February 22 meeting, we will discuss proposed changes to the 1991 LWVNY Position on Health Care. The changes (or amendments) have been submitted to each NYS local League for approval or rejection.

The main focus will be on the 1991 position that states: "the single payer concept (is) an acceptable approach to implementing League positions on equitable access and cost containment." As no criteria were included in that statement, the 2019 State Convention delegates established a State League committee to draft criteria for judging the feasibility of single-payer legislation at the state level.

Your local healthcare committee will be presenting information re the current status of NY's healthcare system. Below are some questions to consider:

### CONCURRENCE DECISION ONE:

**Summary:** Access and Quality of Care are the primary concerns in this portion. Most of the changes reflect updating wording, i.e. changing mental health to behavioral health; adding rural to urban coverage in describing vulnerable populations. A significant addition is to expand essential services to include vision, dental, hearing, and long-term care.

#### Questions:

1. Given the shortage of providers, especially in underserved areas, is it a reasonable goal to expect to expand services to include vision, dental, hearing, long-term care?
2. How can these goals be implemented?

### CONCURRENCE DECISION TWO:

**Summary:** Financing is addressed in this portion. This proposal emphasizes State funding through a progressive State tax system supplemented by current federal funding. Criteria for feasibility and for cost containment are included to reduce the impact of tax increases. Public input by all affected parties is emphasized.

#### Questions:

1. What are the different roles that the State and Federal governments play to enable equitable financing of health care for all?
2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of relying mostly on the State for financing a single payer system?
3. What are the potential effects on the state economy?
4. How would physicians or hospitals or patients or taxpayers be helped or harmed by implementing these cost control criteria?

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## VOTER SERVICES MEETING

### WEBINAR SERIES FOR NEW VOTERS

We are working on putting together a webinar series for new voters to help prepare them for the 2021 elections.

Here are some of the tentative topics:

- Elections in 2021: dates and what offices are on the ballot
- Parole and voting rights
- Police training and accountability
- How does local government work? (Checks and balances for Mayor, City Council, County Legislature, District Attorney, etc.)
- Who votes and who doesn't in Monroe County: how turnout affects results
- Why bother voting? Panel with some local activists on why it's worth working for change.

### ANTI-RACISM TRAINING PLANNED

Voter Registration volunteers (and anyone else who is interested) will soon be invited to some Zoom workshops designed to help us be culturally competent as we do Voter Registration and Get Out The Vote work in neighborhoods that are largely populated by people of color.

### VOTER SERVICE MEETING FEBRUARY 9, 7:00 P.M.

We will have a meeting on Zoom to plan activities for 2021. Since the primaries are especially important for local offices, we will need to get busy in the spring. Come with your ideas and your enthusiasm! Watch for an email with details.

**Barbara Grosh** [voterservices@lwv-rma.org](mailto:voterservices@lwv-rma.org)

## 2021 LWV-RMA Local Position Review and Program Planning

The January 26th Membership Meeting for LWV-RMA Position Review and Program Planning was held via Zoom and attended by 20 members. Members reviewed and discussed the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Local Position Review Group. The group's report had been sent to all members prior to the meeting. All of the ad hoc group's recommendations were approved. Pending LWV-RMA Board approval, as well as approval from members at the 2021 Annual Meeting, recommendations will be acted on. Positions approved for updating will require committees be appointed to conduct further study and recommendations.

The meeting then turned to discussion of the 2021-2022 LWV-RMA Program. Members made no additional Program recommendations other than the above Position revisions. Participants also suggested topics for future LWV-RMA forums which will be shared with the forum committee.



Participants in the Zoom session on January 26.

## Naturalization Ceremonies

Public Naturalization ceremonies are still canceled. However, the United States Citizens Immigration Services (USCIS) has been conducting private ceremonies in their administrative offices in Buffalo for a while. They meet with about 100 candidates per week. The Monroe County Clerk's Office is able to do private ceremonies of no more than 5 candidates at a time. The League has not been able to attend the ceremonies due to COVID restrictions; however, we are supplying the offices with League voting materials.

**Sheila Abeling** [sheiler162007@gmail.com](mailto:sheiler162007@gmail.com)

## Program Planning Meeting for LWVNYS

Twenty-five members participated in our Saturday morning Zoom meeting to discuss our League's recommendations to the League of Women Voters of NYS for positions to be retained, dropped or updated; new studies; and Legislative Priorities. After an extended discussion about the Election Law Positions, we moved more briskly through the other positions and recommended that all positions be retained. We recommended two studies, "Impacts of Social Media on Democracy & Measures to take to address negative effects" and "Comprehensive Police Study". The three Legislative Priorities we recommended were State and County Boards of Election Reform, Fair and Independent Redistricting and Campaign Finance Reform. Our responses will be combined with those of other Leagues to help the LWVNYS Board determine Legislative Priorities and make its recommendations regarding Program (including new studies). The Board recommendations will be presented to local League delegates at the LWVNYS Convention in June 2021. The delegates will vote on studies that were recommended by the LWVNYS Board and those that were not recommended by the Board and then adopt the Program for 2021 – 2023.

For those interested, the summary of positions is posted on our website at

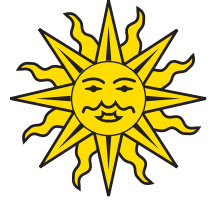
<https://www.lwv-rma.org/LWVNYS%20SUMMARY%20OF%20PUBLIC%20POLICY%20POSITIONS.pdf>.

The meeting was led by Judy Weinstein, Myra Pelz, Judy Sternberg, Kris Rogers and Barbara Grosh with the assistance of Chris Booth, Mary Hussong-Kallen, and Linda Saalman.

**Judy Weinstein**, *Government Committee Chair*



## Sunshine Corner



### MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE, DAY 25 12/8/2020 OBSERVED BY ELAINE SCHMIDT

Public forum emails addressed hardships in nursing homes, salon closures, and children without child care.

The Legislature amended the Monroe County Charter to make the term of the 2021 elections two years. It was passed along party lines in a roll call vote. Democrats objected to the plan stating that it violated the "one person, one vote" rule.

Erik R. Stephens, Rachel Y. DeGuzman, Suzanne Stockman and John Lovenheim were appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Monroe County Library System. Their terms extend to June 30, 2025 except for John Lovenheim's, which expires on June 30, 2024.

Linda L. Clark, MD, MS; Shannon McCarthy-Leonne, Ed.D., RN, C-EFM; Don Kamin, Ph.D.; and Miguel Melendez, Rochester City Councilmember, were appointed to the Monroe County Board of Health. The terms begin immediately and expire on August 31, 2024.

The Monroe County Budget presented by County Executive Adam Bello was amended by Republican and the Black and Asian Democratic Caucus legislators. The amendment created a \$2.5 million fund that could be used by any legislator or by the Administration for any reason "beneficial" to Monroe County. Any expenditures would have to be approved by a simple majority vote of the legislature. Previous administrations had contingency funds of about \$100,000.

An amendment by Legislator Ernest Flagler-Mitchell was presented just before the vote on the budget. Mr. Flagler-Mitchell said his amendment prevented layoffs at the Board of Elections. He complained that the Board of Elections had abolished two positions held by Black women and gave raises to two white women.

Elections Commissioner Jackie Ortiz said the changes were made based on a recent review of the needs of the BOE and was not based on race. She added that the money from the abolished positions provided more money for training election inspectors and absentee ballot issues and that the salary increase of the two white women were due to increased responsibilities in their positions and to bring their positions in line with the corresponding Republican positions. The amendment was passed along party lines.

The amended budget was passed unanimously.

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

### MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE, DAY 26. 12/10/2020

The legislature overrode County Executive's veto of the amended Monroe County Budget for 2021 along party lines.

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

### COMIDA BOARD MEETING OF DECEMBER 15, 2020 REPORTED BY DEBORAH RICE GORDON

#### Project Review

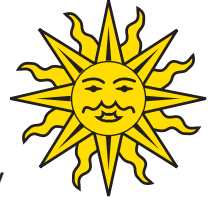
**IEC ELECTRONICS CORPORATION** requested sales and mortgage recording tax exemptions for the purchase and renovation of a building in Chili. The benefit to incentive ratio is 255:1. No local labor exemptions are anticipated. A public hearing was not required. The request was approved unanimously

**HYZON MOTORS INC.** requested sales and mortgage recording tax exemptions and a partial real estate property tax abatement for the purchase and renovation of a building at 475 Quaker Meeting House Road, Honeoye Falls for use in manufacturing hydrogen fuel cell technology for heavy trucks and as offices. The benefit to incentive ratio is 371:1. No local labor exemptions are anticipated. The request was approved unanimously.

**GANNETT PARTNERS I LLC** requested sales and use tax exemptions and a mortgage recording tax exemption for the purchase and renovation of Gannett Partners Building at 55 Exchange Boulevard, Rochester into rental apartments, self-storage and related facilities. Historic features will be maintained. The benefit to incentive ratio is 13:1. No local labor exemptions are anticipated. The request was approved unanimously.



## Sunshine Corner (con't from page 8)



**LFS JOHN STREET LLC** requested sales and mortgage recording tax exemptions and a real property tax abatement for the acquisition of land located on Wiregrass Parkway, Henrietta and the construction of an approximately 225,000 square-foot building to be subleased to Veritiv Operating Company, a non-retail distributor with focus on packaging, printing and facility supply products. The benefit to incentive ratio is 23:1. No local labor exemptions are anticipated. The request was approved unanimously.

**JOHN STREET REALTY LLC** requested sales and jobs plus property tax abatement for the acquisition of land located on Wiregrass Parkway, Henrietta and construction of an approximately 83,000 square-foot building to be subleased to M S International, Inc. for use as office space and a warehouse/distribution center. The benefit to incentive ratio is 12:1. No local labor exemptions are anticipated. The request was approved unanimously.

### Project Modifications

The following projects were granted extension of sales tax exemptions through December 31, 2021 due to pandemic-related construction delays: Sibley Redevelopment Partnership, Tower 195 LLC, One Alexander St LLC, Buckingham Properties LLC, Midtown Properties LLC, Unither Manufacturing LLC, Midtown Athletic Club LLC, KRL Realty LLC, Regional Distributors Inc., Lefrois Development LLC, Ralph Benefit Advisors LLC, Alchemy Machine LLC.

525 East Broad LLC requested a renewal and extension of sales tax exemptions and an increase in estimated construction costs through June 30, 2021. The extensions were approved.

### Governance Committee Report

Three recommendations were made: (1) Proposed labor exemption contracts were reviewed and the recommendation is to approve a one-year contract with The Bonadio Group; (2) a recommendation was also made to approve the 4th year of the contract with Bonadio for financial services and (3) a recommendation to continue a part-time intern position for 1 year was approved.

**Audit Committee Report** – Reviewed most recent RFP and audit response from Mengel, Metzger and Barr Company, LLC. A motion was carried to retain this firm for a term from 2020-2023 with an option for a 5th year. The employee handbook was updated to be in alignment with Monroe County human services policies.

South Park Development LLC, the developer for the Amazon Distribution Center on Lexington Ave., requested re-assignment of financial benefits to a new subsidiary of USAA known as RLP3 Greece, LLC and its tenant Amazon Services, LLC. RLP3 Greece LLC will act as the landlord for the project. The Board stressed the need for conformance to the local labor waiver rules. Three exemptions related to proprietary systems are anticipated; one request has been submitted. An Executive Session was called to discuss the local labor issue. The request for re-assignment of the financial benefits was approved.

**Labor monitoring report** – no proof of residence in 2 instances. Remedied in follow-up inspection.

**Financial report** - relatively strong balance sheet through November.

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

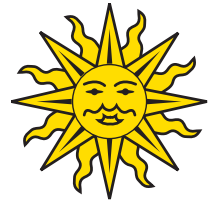
### RCSD BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING: COVID SAFETY IN THE SCHOOLS DECEMBER 10, 2020 OBSERVED BY CONSTANCE FLAHIVE

After a brief introduction by President Van White and Superintendent Dr. Lesli Myers-Small stating the topic of the evening's presentation – COVID Safety in Schools – a committee of local healthcare professionals who have been working with the district on the pandemic response presented their thinking on reopening schools and answered questions from the board. The team of doctors led by Dr. Laura Jean Shipley included Health Commissioner Dr. Michael Mendoza as well as several other leading pediatricians from the area.

After the presentation by the team of doctors, Board President White raised the issue of the 20% cuts from the Board of Education budget as required by the district. As one measure, a motion was raised to cut board member salaries by 20%. The original motion to cut the Board of Education budget by 20% was approved by a 6-1 margin. The second motion to cut board member salaries was tabled until the December 15 Special Meeting by a vote of 4-3.

(To view the full minutes from this and other meetings, please click here: <http://www.rcsdk12.org>)

## Sunshine Corner (con't from page 9)



### **RCSD BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING: FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WHOLE DEC 15, 2020 OBSERVED BY CONSTANCE FLAHIVE**

Two community members gave comments to the board regarding district funding and the pressure on teachers due to COVID and reopening of schools.

The quarterly audit report was accepted and approved.

Commissioner Beatriz LeBron then led a meeting of the Finance Committee. Questions were requested on the following reports that would be submitted for approval in the next regular meeting: The December 2020 Finance Resolutions Review and Reports and Analysis. Final votes were expected during the December 17 regular business meeting. Next, four policies tied to Dr. Jallow's report to NYS (Purchasing, Budget Transfer, Fund Balance and Budget Policies) were put forward for questions. A question log was generated for the January meeting.

Following the Finance Meeting, the Board adjourned to an executive session to discuss the motion from the December 10 meeting regarding a 20% cut to Board Member pay. The result of that meeting was to withdraw the motion on the advice of counsel because changing salaries during the fiscal year was not appropriate. However, the issue will be explored further.

(To view the full minutes from this and other meetings, please click here: <http://www.rcsdk12.org>)

### **RCSD BOARD OF EDUCATION BUSINESS MEETING DECEMBER 17, 2020 OBSERVED BY CONSTANCE FLAHIVE**

One community member raised concerns about the process used by Dr. Jallow during hearings about her Monitor Report which resulted in a lack of opportunity to provide comments prior to her submitting her report to NYSED, as well as concerns about preparations for reopening schools in January. A suggestion was made to have time for teachers and staff to prepare and practice COVID-19 procedures prior to students re-entering schools.

The Board heard reports from Student Leadership, Parent Leadership Advisory Council and the Bilingual Education Council. Board Committees of Audit, Finance, Governance reports included summaries of recent special meetings, including approval of some outstanding reports and resolutions. A motion to approve the Legislative Agenda previously discussed was approved.

President White's report included use of COVID-19 funds and acknowledgement of the valued work of staff. Superintendent Myers-Small's included the decisions being made concerning the reopening of schools. She also noted that the NYS Department of Education approved the Finance and Academic reports from the monitor. East High School Superintendent Shaun Nelms also acknowledged events and groups for the work supporting students. A conversation ensued regarding the importance of supporting student emotional needs and connections to school.

The meeting ended with the approval to table resolutions regarding moving particular funding lines from assigned to committed until the January Finance Committee meeting on January 19.

(To view the full minutes from this and other meetings, please click here: <http://www.rcsdk12.org>)

### **MONROE COUNTY LEGISLATURE JANUARY 2021. OBSERVED BY ELAINE SCHMIDT**

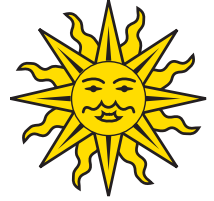
The meeting opened with a moment of silence for all those who have lost their lives to Covid-19.

The Legislature overrode County Executive Adam Bello's veto of the plan for redistricting and changing the length of terms for county legislators.

Two of three appointees to the Monroe County Board of Ethics were confirmed by the legislature. Hilda Rosario Escher of Rochester and Clayton Osbourne of Pittsford were confirmed. Andrea Guzzetta was not. Legislator Felder stated that she terminated his stipend as Minority Leader on orders from the County Executive. She was not confirmed by Republicans and the Black and Asian Caucus majority vote.

Two appointments to the Monroe County Board of Health were confirmed: Joseph D. Feeney of Fairport and William A. Hunt of Rochester.

## Sunshine Corner (con't from page 10)



Monroe County accepted a grant of \$262,008.29 from the New York State Board of Elections for cybersecurity improvements to the Monroe County Board of Elections.

A \$653,199 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, was accepted to help fund clinicians in law enforcement agencies from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2023.

The following appointees to the Diversity Action Plan Advisory Committee were confirmed.

Legislature- Legislature Majority: The Honorable Matthew Terp of Webster NY

Legislature- Legislature Minority : The Honorable Ernest Flagler-Mitchell of Rochester

Citizen- Legislature Majority: Mr. Clifford Florence of Rochester

Citizen- Legislature Minority: Ms. Sarah DeLus of Rochelle

Citizen- Legislature President: Mr. Jerry McCullough of Rochester

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

**Be prepared to vote in the June 2021 Primary!  
If you want to change your Party Affiliation,  
February 14, 2021 is the Deadline.**

## Our LWV-RMA Created Recipe Files

About 40 years ago, the LWV-RMA created seven marvelous index-card size recipe collections – shown here – that were sold for \$1 each. Thank you to Sandy Frankel for donating a set of these recipe sets that were held together with twine and published when typewriters were still the way to formally compose text! Sandy reports that she moved to our area in 1977 and remembers that the recipe collections were a project from her early years here.

The seven collections offer recipes for appetizers (27); salads (20); breads, quick breads, and cookies (24); main dishes (27); casseroles, soups, and quiches (31); cakes and pies (31); and desserts (28).

Recipe contributors included –



Lorraine Anderson  
Margaret Andronaco  
Bunny Bernstein  
Betty Britton  
Brownie Brewer  
Sharon Burkhardt  
Ruth Coakly  
Mary Lu Davidson  
Mary Duffy  
Mary Dwyer  
Annelise Falzer  
Marilyn Fitzpatrick  
Lorraine Gramm

Linda Hanratty  
Mrs. G.H. Hawks, Jr.  
Mrs. Thomas Hawks  
Maggie Hession  
Marie James  
Elaine Johnson  
Evelyn Keene  
Stella Kelley  
Nancy Koch  
Judith Ann Kollar  
Ruth Kramer  
Barbara Letvin  
Agnes Locey

Suzanne McNamara  
Mary Anne Mudge  
Phyllis Nitzkin  
Carole Pond  
Jean Pratt  
Jane Price  
Matilda Ann Procopio  
Mickey Reynolds  
Alice Riggs  
Mariana Rhoades  
Hilda Roman  
Mary Kay Ruoff  
Bonnie Sanguinet

Jane Schmidt  
Elizabeth Schwartz  
Mrs. Ronald Scott  
Sandy Sease  
Louise Snyder  
Joann Stappenbach  
Mary Swain  
Jo Taylor  
Lisl Thayler  
Tina Thompson  
Dorothy Warenko  
Ann Weintraub  
Evelyn White  
Pat Wilcox

## Book Club Update

During its December 17 Zoom session, members discussed *The Untold Story of Women of Color in the League of Women Voters* by former LWVUS President Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins. The discussion was led by Barbara Grosh. LWV-RMA member Shirley Eberly, who served on the LWVUS board during Jefferson-Jenkins second term as President, joined us to hear our discussion.

On January 21, Georgia DeGregorio led the discussion of *Set the World on Fire: Black Nationalist Women and the Global Struggle for Freedom* by Keishan N. Blain.

Remaining 2020 – 2021 book reading schedule:

February 18 The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee: Native America from 1890 to the Present by David Treuer, AND Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West by Dee Brown

March 18 Begin Again by Eddie S. Glaude Jr.

April 15 How To Be An Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi

May 20 Walking with the Wind: A Memoir of the Movement by John Lewis

June 17 Tightrope: Americans Reaching for Hope by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn

The LWV-RMA book club meets via Zoom at 4:30 P.M. on the third Thursday of the month. A link will be sent to everyone who expresses an interest to Judy Weinstein ([vote411@lww-rma.org](mailto:vote411@lww-rma.org)), who serves as the group's Zoom techie.



Book club members meeting via Zoom in December and January

## An important documentary with implications for the future of democracy

*"The Social Dilemma"* is a documentary-drama exploring the human impact of social networking, with tech experts sounding the alarm on their own creations. It can be viewed on Netflix. To learn more, go to <https://www.thesocialdilemma.com>.

**Myra Pelz**

Vice President and College Registration Coordinator  
League of Women Voters - Rochester Metro Area



# Calendar



## February

- 5 First Friday (11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.) via Zoom; a link will be sent to members via email.
- 10 LWV-RMA Board Meeting (6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.) via Zoom; contact Judy Sternberg at [president@lww-rma.org](mailto:president@lww-rma.org) for link.
- 18 Book Club (4:30 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.) via Zoom; The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee: Native America from 1890 to the Present by David Treuer, AND Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee: An Indian History of the American West by Dee Brown; contact Judy Weinstein at [vote411@lww-rma.org](mailto:vote411@lww-rma.org) for link.
- 22 Member Meeting on Healthcare (7:00 – 8:30 P.M.) via Zoom; register on our website [www.lww-rma.org](http://www.lww-rma.org).

## March

- 5 First Friday (11:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.) via Zoom; a link will be sent to members via email.
- 10 LWV-RMA Board Meeting (6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.) via Zoom; contact Judy Sternberg at [president@lww-rma.org](mailto:president@lww-rma.org) for link.
- 18 Book Club (4:30 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.) via Zoom; Begin Again by Eddie S. Glaude Jr.; contact Judy Weinstein at [vote411@lww-rma.org](mailto:vote411@lww-rma.org) for link.

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

**Whenever you attend a League event, take pictures & email them to the Voter editor at [judithw@frontiernet.net](mailto:judithw@frontiernet.net) so we can make sure that all our good works get the recognition they deserve.**

***\* All Naturalization Ceremonies are cancelled in Monroe County until further notice.  
Be sure to check your email and our website for other events as they are scheduled!***

## Join First Friday Electronically

Because of the pandemic, First Friday convenes via Zoom. Shown are some of the participants in the January 8 session. Join the group on any or all of these dates:

- |            |        |
|------------|--------|
| February 5 | May 7  |
| March 5    | June 4 |
| April 2    |        |



**LOOK FOR US ON FACEBOOK!** We know you'll "like" us!  
[www.facebook.com/lwvofrma](https://www.facebook.com/lwvofrma)

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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**Director** Sarah Sandler (2020-2022)

**FEBRUARY VOTER  
DEADLINE IS JANUARY 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

**COMMITTEE CONTACTS**

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

**President** Judy Sternberg  
[judith.sternberg@lwv-rma.org](mailto:judith.sternberg@lwv-rma.org)  
**Book Club** Judy Weinstein  
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**VOTE411** Judy Weinstein  
[vote411@lwv-rma.org](mailto:vote411@lwv-rma.org)  
**Voter Services** Barbara Grosh  
[voterservices@lwv-rma.org](mailto:voterservices@lwv-rma.org)

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

**Join the League Today!**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Check Amount: \_\_\_\_\_  
Level of Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:**

Individual/Associate	..... \$75
Household	..... \$105
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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: <a href="mailto:info@lwv-rma.org">info@lwv-rma.org</a>	

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