



## Rochester/Metro League of Women Voters

### Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

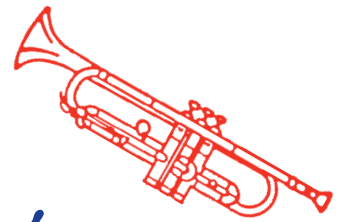
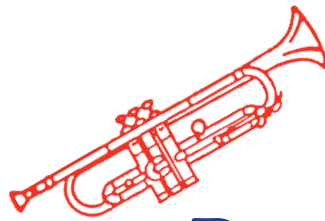
Voter education is one of the League's most important functions, and the League encourages all citizens to register and to cast an informed vote.

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

Membership in the League is open to all citizens of voting age.

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# Rochester/Metro League of Women Voters Annual Meeting

Tuesday – June 5, 2007  
Locust Hill Country Club

2000 Jefferson Road

11:30 – Gathering

12:00 - Luncheon

12:30 - Guest Speaker

1:00 – 2:00 Business Meeting

*Guest Speaker:*

**Ruth Rosenberg-Naparsteck, City Historian**

Check for Lunch Reservations – In office by June 1 - \$30

Vegetarian Entree Available Upon Advance Request

Send check made out to League of Women Voters/RMA  
45 Exchange Blvd., Suite 508, Rochester, NY 14614

*No charge for attending business meeting only.*

# QUORUM REQUIRED TO CONDUCT ANNUAL MEETING

## From Your President

by Dorothy Borgus



The year 2006-07 has proven to be another stellar year for the Rochester League. We have had a superb program with our 6-part series on New York State government reform.

We have developed and presented outstanding and well-attended League Days that captured the attention

of the local press and television and inspired action. Our finances are in great shape with all bills paid and PMP, both state and national, up to date. This is no small feat considering our financial situation a short 3 years ago. We completed a consensus on School Financing/Charter Schools. Another consensus on Immigration is in the beginning stages. We never rest on our laurels.

Mark your calendar and plan on attending the League's Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 5 for a complete "State of the League" report. We need your input as we plan for next year's program and select the officers and Board who will lead us in 2007-08. (Details of the Annual Meeting are on the front cover of this VOTER.) We will be once again enjoy the beautiful surrounding and delicious cuisine of the Locust Hill Country Club where our guest speaker, Ruth Rosenberg-Napersteck, City Historian, will bring history to life as she shares compelling images and stories of Rochester's past and, in particular, the details of women's groups that have preceded us in shaping women's rights.

In addition, I am saving a wonderful surprise for the Annual Meeting! See you there.

Dorothy

## League Welcomes New Members

Welcome to this month's new members:

Sally Chamberlin and John Dehority

## We are on our way to Consensus on Immigration at January League Day, 2008

Your local Immigration Study Committee met March 30 to prepare us for the National Consensus on Immigration in January. The Scope includes "the underlying values and principles regarding immigration, reasons for immigration, current federal immigration policy, and the impact of immigration."

Members can begin to educate themselves by reading the background materials prepared by the National League Study Committee. These can be found at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org). Click on the title "Immigration Study" in the lower right hand corner and you will find a comprehensive look at the issues involved.

We hope to look at all sides of the issues. We will have an informational meeting in the early Fall where we will address such questions as:

- Is legal and illegal immigration a drain on our welfare system?
- What is the impact of immigration on our population growth? On the environment? On our local farmers, orchard growers?
- Does the Guest Worker program work? Are current legal immigrants exploited?
- Does illegal immigration pose a threat to our country's security?

- Why do some lawmakers oppose amnesty? Support tough border security?

Email us with your questions or comments regarding this issue. Join our study now!

Chair: Georgia DeGregorio, [georgiatd@frontiernet.net](mailto:georgiatd@frontiernet.net) or 585-787-9692

## Report on League Day: Our Antiquated Court System

The re-design of New York's courts is long overdue. This was emphasized by Supreme Court Justice Evelyn Frazee, the featured speaker at our April 12<sup>th</sup> League Day.

In 2006 Judge Frazee was appointed a member of the Kaye Commission on the Future of the Courts by Chief Judge Judith Kaye. The Commission was given a mandate to study and make recommendations in the area of court restructuring. That study was completed in February, 2007. Judge Frazee spoke to the League, other judges and attorneys, and members of the public regarding New York's archaic and inef-

*continued on page 5*

## Report on League Day: Making Business Easier

Rochester business and labor agreed at the May 3<sup>rd</sup> League Day that we have serious challenges to address if our local economy is to grow.

An overflow audience filled the meeting room at Valley Manor on May 3<sup>rd</sup> to hear two different perspectives on barriers to business growth in the Rochester area as the League presented the final League Day in its six-part series on the need for NYS government reform. Sandra Parker, President and Chief Executive of the Rochester Business Alliance and labor leader James Bertolone, President of the local AFL-CIO, agreed that attracting and holding small business is the key. New York's high tax bur-



*Dorothy Borgus, Sandy Parker and Jim Bertolone*

den, towering insurance rates, and laws that hinder business, such as the Wicks Law and the Scaffold Law, dramatically hamper business across the area. Mr. Bertolone further highlighted the labor perspective, emphasizing the high cost of workers' compensation insurance and the impact of skyrocketing health care costs—up 90% on six years.

Although they represented two different viewpoints, they agreed on many key points in need of change if we are to revitalize the local economy. They gave us much to think about.

## Our Antiquated Court System

*continued from page 2*

cient court structure that needlessly wastes the time and resources of litigants, businesses, municipalities and the courts.

A recommended solution of the Commission included a streamlined, two-tier court structure which would remedy the system by enabling court administrators to allocate cases away from overloaded courts, thereby optimizing court resources. In addition, if the cap on the number of Supreme Court justices were lifted and cases from the Second Appellate Department were transferred to a new, less crowded department, all New Yorkers could benefit from the simpler, less congested and more efficient court system that would emerge.

To recognize the enormity of the problem one has only to consider that New York has eleven separate trial courts; in contrast California, a state that has twice our population, has only one. Over one-half billion dollars is the estimated annual cost of this archaic and unwieldy system.

Judge Frazee left us with clear and understandable reasons why Court Restructuring is one of the legislative priorities of the LWVNY for 2007.

## Toxins in the Air

In March, Margit Brazda Poirier reported to the Community Action for a Renewable Environment (CARE) collaborative on her findings and recommendations in regard to reducing toxic air emissions in Monroe County. You may remember that about a year and a half ago the EPA noted that 56% of toxic air emissions in this county are produced by mobile sources. One interesting finding in the report is that vehicles with the highest VOC (volatile organic compounds) emissions while idling are heavy duty gas vehicles, followed by light duty trucks, motorcycles and light duty gas vehicles. When one looks at the toxic (i.e., VOC) vehicular emissions as a whole, 94% "come from light duty gas vehicles, light duty gas trucks and non-road gasoline engines." The non-road engines include, as you may have guessed, lawn and garden equipment, motor boats, sno-mobiles, and farm equipment.

The CARE Collaborative will set and try to enforce a time limit for idling of school buses and private cars waiting for students at the end of the school day. If you notice a vehicle that seems to be idling more than 3 minutes, it will be okay, in our minds, if you stop and gently suggest to the driver that he/she should turn off the motor to avoid further contamination of the air that he/she, not to mention the whole neighborhood, is breathing.

Ann Jones  
*Chair, Natural Resources Committee*

# Rochester/Metro League of Women Voters Annual Meeting

*Below are the recommendations by the Bylaws Committee for changes to be voted on at the Annual Meeting in June 2007. Any text that is going to be deleted is put in parentheses. Text to be added is underlined. An explanation of the reason for the change is put in italicized type.*

## ARTICLE II - Purposes and Policy

Sec. 1. PURPOSES. The purposes of the League of Women Voters of the Rochester Metropolitan Area are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation (of citizens) in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

*This change is to be consistent with a change in the LWVUS Bylaws.*

## ARTICLE III - Membership

Sec. 2. TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP. The membership of the League of Women Voters of the Rochester Metropolitan Area shall be composed of voting members and associate members.

*Delete the following*

- (a) Voting members shall be United States citizens at least 18 years of age.
- (b) Associate members shall be all other members.
- c) Those who (make a lump sum life membership payment to LWVUS shall be paid life members and those who) have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be honorary life members. No further dues will be collected and all privileges will be retained as a voting member.))

*and replace with*

- (a) Voting Members. Citizens at least 18 years of age who join the League shall be voting members.
- (1) Those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be honorary life members excused from the payment of dues.
- (b) Associate Members. All others who join the League shall be associate members.

*To reflect changes in LWVUS bylaws since lump sum life memberships have not been offered for many years and to make it clear that life members are voting members.*

## ARTICLE V Board of Directors

Sec. 4. POWERS AND DUTIES. The board of directors shall have full charge of the property and business of the organization, with full power and authority to manage and conduct same, subject to the instructions of the general membership. It shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program as adopted by the national convention, the state convention, and the annual meeting. The board shall create and designate such

special committees as it may deem necessary. These may include an executive committee, consisting of the President, Secretary, Treasurer, and other officers chosen by the Board, which may be empowered to make decisions, normally falling within the board's jurisdiction, whenever such decisions are required before the next regularly scheduled board meeting, except when the seriousness of the matter to be decided warrants calling a special board meeting. Any action so taken will be reported to the board at the next meeting.

*This change is to clarify who is on the Executive Committee and allow each Board of Directors the flexibility to put who they want on the Executive Committee.*

## Proposed Local Program (unchanged from last year):

At the Annual Meeting we will be voting to continue the following local program items:

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

#### Equitable Taxation

- Promote property assessment based on uniform standards throughout the country and maintained at full value (1976)
- Promote use of a sales tax revenue distribution formula that will reduce fiscal disparities among Monroe County municipalities (1982)

#### Planning and Zoning

- Support of community development based on comprehensive planning at all levels of government (1973)
- Support of environmental preservation and coordinated control of development and water surface use by the three towns around Irondequoit Bay and by the county (date ?)

#### Structures, Procedures, and Productivity

- Promote governmental structures and procedures that make for effectiveness,
- Improve productivity, and facilitate citizen participation (1973, 1976)
- Promote a budget process that includes documents that are understandable and foster good decision making and summaries that are made widely available and encourage citizen involvement (1976)

#### Police Services

- Promote an equitable method of financing and a coordinated approach to the delivery of police services (1977)

# Rochester/Metro League of Women Voters Annual Meeting

## Redistricting

- Promote making county legislative districts compact and contiguous as well as equal in proportion and in compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act, whenever they are redrawn following each decennial census (1966)

## NATURAL RESOURCES

### New York State Erie/Barge Canal

- Support of reconditioning of the system and its development for recreational purposes (1975, 1993)

### Solid Waste

- Support of waste reduction, reuse/recycling, and landfills that are or can be engineered to be ecologically acceptable as part of a comprehensive solid waste program (1972, 1989)
- Promote the preservation and protection of wetlands smaller than 12.4 acres that are not protected by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (2002)

## SOCIAL POLICY

### Housing

- Support of measures to ensure an adequate supply of housing for persons of low and low-to-moderate income in Monroe and Genesee Counties (1968, 2002 ?)
- Support of measures which would lead to fair housing choice in Monroe and Genesee Counties (2002 ?)

## ELECTION PROCESS

- Promote fair, issue-oriented campaigning and encourage voters to take the initiative to influence the style and type of political campaigns (date ?)

## CONVENTION NEWS

We're back. Georgia DeGregorio and I attended the LWVNY 2007 Convention held on May 18-20 in White Plains, Westchester County. We returned tired but invigorated, although that sounds like a contradiction in terms. It was a time for camaraderie and rejuvenation, but, more than that, it was a learning experience...learning that the problems and challenges we face locally are common to other Leagues as well.

Eve Burton, Esq. presently Vice-President and General Counsel of the Hearst Corporation, kept us captivated as she recounted details of two landmark Freedom Of Information court cases that she has recently won. Not only is she a fascinating speaker, but she is entertaining as well.

*continued page 6*

## Nominating Committee Report May 2007

### Officers

President	Dorothy Borgus	2006-2008
VP, Development	Nancy Kleintop*	2007-2009
VP, Voter Service	Barbara Hendry	2006-2008
VP, Action	Katherine Smith*	2007-2009
VP, Membership	Sally Brown	2006-2008
Treasurer	Open Position	
Secretary	Ann Weintraub	2006-2008

### Board of Directors

Program	Sula Baxter*	2007-2009
Social Policy	Georgia DeGregorio	2006-2008
Natural Resources	Ann Jones	2006-2008
Local Government	Judy Weinstein	2006-2008
Budget	Gaynelle Wethers*	2007-2009

### Appointed Off-Board Positions

VOTER Editor	Jane Schmitt	2007-2009
Publicity	Rose Mary Zaffrann	2007-2009

<b>Nominating Committee</b>	Betty Lindley, Chair*	2008
	Doris Luckey*	2008
	Nancy Koch*	2008

*\*Starred are candidates for election at Annual Meeting*

Respectfully submitted by 2007 Nominating Committee:  
Kera Neylan, June Glaser, Ann Weintraub, Sula Baxter

## HELP! We need you!

The Natural Resources Committee needs volunteers:

- 1) to keep track of environmental legislation at both the State and Federal level and
- 2) to help at our demonstrations of the importance of wetlands.

Call 244-9337 if you are interested in helping out, even if you are not available for this spring's events.

Also, if you know of a group of ten or fewer people who might be interested in this demonstration, please contact me. For adult groups, the demonstration always evolves into a discussion of land use, clean water and species loss. The demonstration can be shortened or lengthened, but usually lasts 20 minutes.

Ann Jones  
Chair, Natural Resources Committee



## Rochester/Metro League of Women Voters

**Proposed Budget 2007 - 2008 was approved by Board of Directors on May 3, 2007**

	BUDGET 2006-2007	BUDGET 2007-2008		BUDGET 2006-2007	BUDGET 2007-2008
<b>INCOME</b>			<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>Community Support:</b>			<b>Community Relations:</b>		
Contributions - Non-Members	700.	700.	Public Relations	500.	250.
Contributions - WRY	-	1,000			
<b>Events - Special:</b>			<b>Education &amp; Community:</b>		
Foreign Visitors	6,000	6,000	Facts for Voters	100.	100.
Book Sale/Garage Sale	500.	620.	Newsletter Printing	2,500.	1,700.
			Newsletter Layout	-	2,000.
			Who Represents You	1,000.	1,000.
<b>Grants:</b>			<b>LWV Support:</b>		
Educ. Found. Democracy Luncheon	2,700.	3,000.	State PMP	4,300.	4,050.
Educ. Found. LWV/US PMP	2,600.	2,925.	National PMP	5,500.	5,900.
Educ. Found. LWV/NY PMP	2,000.	2,020.			
Educ. Found. Who Represents You	1,000.	-	<b>Meetings &amp; Events:</b>		
Educ. Found. Overhead	2,000.	1,000.	February League Night	600.	600.
			League Days (other)	300.	400.
<b>Meetings &amp; Events:</b>			September League Day	400.	400.
Annual Meeting	900.	1,000.	Annual Meeting	900.	900.
Breakfast with Legislators	100.	100.	December League Day	150.	150.
Democracy Luncheon	3,300.	3,000.			
February League Night	850.	-	<b>Operating Expenses:</b>		
September League Day	400.	500.	Accounting	450.	400.
Spring League Evening	-	850.	Bank Charges	100.	-
			Employer FICA	310.	220.
<b>Member Support:</b>			Employer FUTA	85.	75.
Contributions - Members	650.	750.	Employer Medicare	75.	50.
Dues	13,000.	12,000.	Employer SUTA	85.	50.
			Insurance	1,200.	1,200.
<b>Voter Services:</b>			Parking	775.	550.
Election Services	1,575.	1,600.	Postage	1,885.	1,885.
Moderators & Speakers	425.	350.	Printing	300.	300.
			Rent & Utilities	1,550.	1,550.
<b>Other:</b>			Salary	5,000.	3,500.
Newletter Advertising	-	250.	Supplies	500.	500.
Memorials/Tributes	-	700.	Telephone & Internet	1,060.	1,060.
LWV/NYS Raffle	-	100.			
<b>TOTAL INCOME:</b>	<b>\$38,700.</b>	<b>\$38,465</b>	<b>Organization:</b>		
			Administration	200.	200.
			Development	700.	700.
			Membership	300.	300.
			Voter Service	175.	175.
			Convention	1,000.	1,200.
			<b>Special Events:</b>		
			Democracy Luncheon	3,000.	3,000.
			Foreign Visitor	3,600.	3,600.
			Book Sale/Garage Sale	100.	300.
			Breakfast with Legislators	-	200.
			<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$38,700.</b>	<b>\$38,465</b>

## CONVENTION NEWS

from page 5

Plenary sessions were spirited and well debated, but in the end we all came away friends. We attended every workshop and caucus we could fit into a very busy week-end and came away with ideas and suggestions that I'm anxious to put into practice. You can be sure that these ideas will be on the agenda for our Board's organizational meeting and orientation on July 12.

A big thank-you is due our members for their support of the Big League Raffle. It was not won by a Rochester League member, however we will share in 20% of the profits to be rebated back to Leagues who sold tickets. Kudos too for members who solicited or contributed items for the Silent Auction. Rochester was well represented on the auction tables.

I'm proud of the Rochester League's contribution to the success of the convention and also thrilled that two of our members were elected to the State Board: Nancy Kleintop and Georgia DeGregorio. Congratulations!!

Dorothy Borgus,  
President

# The Vote Is In

*Reprinted from the Albany Times, Monday, May 14, 2007*

If you want one good reason why New York's Legislature has been labeled the most dysfunctional in the nation, look no further than the Florida statehouse.

In February, Florida Gov. Charles Crist ordered the state to stop using electronic touch-screen voting machines that do not produce a paper trail. Now, less than three months later, the Florida Legislature has voted to replace all touch-screen voting machines in 15 counties with optical-scan machines in time for the 2008 presidential election.

That amounts to swift legislative action. But New York? State lawmakers here never did decide which voting machines New York should install to comply with the federal Help America Vote Act. Instead, the Legislature tossed the hot potato into the laps of county election boards, who must decide which systems to purchase for their jurisdictions to replace the lever machines that voters have been using for decades. The only statewide requirement is that any new system must produce a paper trail that can be reviewed in the event of a close or contested election.

There was a time when New York's slow approach to HAVA compliance made sense. Why rush ahead and mandate a certain system only to discover later on that the system is terribly flawed? That would be a costly blunder. Why not wait and see how other states were doing, and avoid their mistakes?

But that time seems to have passed. More and more, it is becoming easier to assess the advantages and

disadvantages of the various voting systems now on the market.

That certainly is the case now, thanks to the Florida experience. There's no doubt that Florida rushed too quickly to embrace touch-screen voting devices. The flaws in these systems, which operate much like ATM machines, have been pointed out by good government groups for years. Many systems lack an adequate paper trail, while others produce no trail at all. And they are vulnerable to hackers who can invade their software and skew results. Or the software may simply malfunction and fail to account for thousands, even millions, of ballots.

Florida's experience validates these concerns. Last November, some 18,000 votes cast on touch-screen machines were never recorded in a tight congressional election in Sarasota County.

More than anything else, the Florida experience shows the advantages of optical scan machines, which are cheaper than touch-screen systems anyway. Optical-scan systems work much like Lotto machines: A voter hands a paper ballot to be electronically scanned into the system. The paper ballot is retained in the event a review or recount is ordered. It's fast and dependable.

It's time then -- past time, really -- for New York's county boards of elections to make the right decision and select optical-scan machines throughout the state.

## Join the League Today!



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Level of Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes! I would like to get The VOTER in my E-Mail!

Please send this form and your check payable to  
 League of Women Voters/RMA to:  
 LWV/RMA, Times Square Building,  
 45 Exchange Street, Suite 508,  
 Rochester, New York 14614

### MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:

Individual/Associate . . . . .	\$70
Household . . . . .	\$100
Susan B. Anthony/Frederick Douglass . . . . .	\$150
Carrie Chapman Catt . . . . .	\$200
Student (full-time/under 25) . . . . .	\$25
Low income, call office . . . . .	Sliding Scale



**Rochester/Metro  
League of Women Voters**

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# Rochester **VOTER**

Monthly Publication of the League of Women Voters -  
Rochester Metropolitan Area.

Office Hours: 10:00 am – 2:30 pm  
Monday and Wednesday

**Officers**

<b>Dorothy Borgus</b> <i>President</i>	<b>Sula Baxter</b> <i>Treasurer</i>	<b>Ann Weintraub</b> <i>Secretary</i>
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**Board of Directors**

<b>Sally J. Brown</b> <i>V.P. Membership</i>	<b>Katherine Smith</b> <i>V.P. Action</i>
<b>Georgia DeGregorio</b> <i>Social Policy</i>	<b>Judith Weinstein</b> <i>Local Government</i>
<b>Barbara Hendry</b> <i>V.P. Voter Service</i>	<b>Gaynelle Wethers</b> <i>Budget</i>
<b>Ann Jones</b> <i>Natural Resources</i>	<b>Rose Mary Zaffrann</b> <i>Public Relations</i>
<b>Nancy Kleintop</b> <i>V.P. Development</i>	

**Goals of the League of Women Voters:**

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

## Annual Meeting

## Details Inside!