



## 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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## Local Development Corporations: What are they and why should we care?

**League Day – March 1, 2007  
Valley Manor – 1570 East Avenue  
Education Center – Ground Floor  
11:30 am - 1:00 pm**

We are fortunate to have the local expert on LDC's as our speaker. Paul Haney, who spoke to us last March about public authorities, will make a return appearance. Mr. Haney is a current Monroe County Legislator and former Rochester City Councilman, Chair of the City Council Finance Committee, and Monroe County Director of Finance. Mr. Haney will present information about LDC's and explain his concern about their governance.

After Mr. Haney's presentation, Kent Gardner of the Center for Governmental Research will discuss the study of LDC's that the Bee Bibby Endowment is underwriting. Please join us for what promises to be a stimulating presentation.



*Parking in rear of building, entry in front.  
League Days are free and open to the public.*



**PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN LOCATION.  
VALLEY MANOR REQUESTS THAT  
NO FOOD OR DRINK BE BROUGHT IN.**

### Search the Web & Help LWV At the Same Time!

Earn money to support the LWV Education Fund every time you search the web! Just log onto [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and designate the League of Women Voters Education Fund (Washington, D.C.) as your charity of choice, and start using GoodSearch as your primary search engine. Each time you search, a donation will automatically go to LWVEF. GoodSearch is powered by Yahoo! so you'll get the same high quality search results you're used to

GoodSearch is a new search engine that donates 50% of its advertising revenue, about a penny

per search, to designated charities. A penny a search only adds up if all League members and friends use GoodSearch with LWVEF as their designated charity. GoodSearch recommends that participating nonprofits have a supporter base of 1,000 or more and estimates that such charities will receive \$7,300 at the end of the year if their supporters search just twice a day. The more people who use the site, the more money we'll earn. Please visit [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) today, designate the League of Women Voters Education Fund - LWV (Washington, DC) and start searching the web!

## From Your President

by Dorothy Borgus



A cold and snowy day did not dampen the enthusiasm of 30+ League members who came out on February 1 to hear Mr. Bo Lipari, Executive Director of New Yorkers for Verified Voting and official LWVNY representative on voting machine selection, give us an overview of the advantages of the OCR type of machine endorsed by the League. All we needed that day was more time!

Prior to meeting with League members, Mr. Lipari, Nancy Kleintop and I had a one-hour meeting with the Monroe County Commissioners of Elections, and immediately following League Day, Bo and I returned downtown to another one-hour meeting with the Editorial Board of the Democrat & Chronicle. It was a whirlwind day, but one I am confident will bear fruit when a decision is finally made on the very important issue of voting machine selection. Please keep those e-mails and calls going to your legislators and the Board of Election Commissioners.

Judging from the number of participants at our six-part series of League Days on government reform, I would say we have a hit on our hands. If you

haven't yet attended, plan on coming to those remaining. Local Development Corporations will be the topic on March 1, Court Reform is April's topic, and Constraints on Local Business will be on May's agenda.

As a refresher on Local Development Corporations, refer to the article on Page 4 of your February VOTER. These are a widespread phenomenon that deeply affect debt that may fall on us as taxpayers, and they have potentially serious ethical implications. These are operated "outside the budget" of local government, are subject to no oversight by the public or the County Legislature, and it appears that they are not subject to the Open Meetings Law, the Freedom of Information Act, or the Prevailing Wage Rate Law. Drop everything and come to the March 1 League Day. Note the change in location. I wouldn't want you to miss this one.

## Ideas, Anyone?

The Board is looking ahead at program for 2007-08. We have experimented with a "series" format for this year's League Days. Would you like to see this type of format next year? Do you have a topic that you think should be pursued for next year? Does the present time and day fit your schedule? Let Dorothy know at [dorothyborgus@aol.com](mailto:dorothyborgus@aol.com) or 889-4763. Your ideas are welcomed and appreciated. Remember, too, that Board meetings are always open to members. Come and see how your League operates. Refer to the calendar in this VOTER for dates and location.



the United States in advocating for fair and honest election campaigns.

Margaret's dedication to the League never wavered. She possessed an amazing memory, a sharp mind and a willing spirit. When asked to assume yet another role or task, she always said, "Yes." The words, "I can't," were not in Margaret's vocabulary.

My last words to Margaret were, "Thank you," following the January League Day, for which she had made location arrangements. I am so happy that I had this one last opportunity to thank her, not only for myself, but for the entire League. Margaret will be sorely missed as mentor, advocate and friend. She was a great lady.

*Dorothy Borgus, LWV/RMA President*

## In Memoriam



The League lost a dear friend with the January 29, 2007 passing of Margaret Andronaco, a 47-year LWV member and an inspiration to us all. Joining the League in May, 1959, Margaret served not only as President, but over time held every Board position that the League offers. If there was a committee she missed, I am not aware of it. In addition, she served for many years as a debate moderator, was on the Speakers' Bureau, was an avid lobbyist and authored more than a few letters to the editor and op-ed pieces in the Democrat and Chronicle. Her greatest pride, however, came from being one of the originators of Project Positive Campaign, a 5-year project that currently serves as the model for many Leagues and public interest groups across

## Nominating Committee

It's a sure sign that spring is right around the corner when the Nominating Committee begins to think about putting a slate of officers in place for next year. Committee members led by chair Kera Neylan are June Glazer, Sula Baxter and Ann Weintraub. The Rochester League is blessed with a wealth of talent which we need to carry on the work of the organization, grow the voting rolls, and interact with our partnering organizations. Maybe you have been taking a "time out" and are ready to get back into the action. Maybe an obligation that kept you away from a leadership role is now resolved. Or maybe you have developed an interest in a hot topic that you are eager to explore with others.

We encourage members to think about the roles they want to play in 2007-2008. Some officers and board members will be completing terms and moving on to other things, and others will be needed to receive the baton. Share your talents.

So when Kera or her committee calls, say "yes" and join the revitalized and enthusiastic League that Rochester has become.

## Action Needed!

LWVNY has long supported ethics legislation in Albany. This year with strong support from a newly elected governor it is possible some of our proposals may pass the Legislature. Call your state representative expressing your support for the following measures:

- Banning gifts to elected officials except for those of nominal amounts. Prohibiting lobbyists from paying for travel, lodging and other expenses of any state official
- Restricting public officials' ability to receive paid honoraria for speeches given while in office
- Increasing maximum penalties for lobbying violations
- Expanding reporting requirements of ethic commission's activities

*Katherine Smith, V.P. Action*



## No One Answered!

That's right. No one answered the challenge, put out by the Natural Resources Committee last November, to find a League member who was able to spend 24 hours without using a car.

Finding ways to reduce emissions of climate warming gases is, evidently, not going to be easy. This time, let's hear from people who have managed, through clever planning, to reduce driving TIME. Call 244-9337 or send a postcard to Ann W. Jones, 305 Pelham Rd., Rochester NY 14610. You may remain anonymous, if you wish.

Gasoline and diesel powered vehicles, both on and off-road types, are the source of most of the air toxics and most of the carbon dioxide emissions in Monroe County. The Natural Resources Committee thinks we should all worry about global warming and air-born toxics. There is no sense in blithely continuing our current high use of fossil fuels.

*Ann Jones, Natural Resources Chair*



## Development Report

The Annual Appeal, conducted over the 2006 holidays, has been a tremendous success. As of 1/28/07, \$2,520 has been contributed. These funds improve our program and are essential to our education program. If you have not participated and would like to, there is still time to do so. Your check made out to League of Women Voters Education Fund in any amount you feel comfortable contributing will be most appreciated and will be put to excellent use. Mail checks to: League of Women Voters, 45 Exchange Blvd., Suite 508, Rochester, NY 14614. All contributions are tax deductible if made out mentioning the Education Fund.

An additional "thank you" to Judy Weinstein for her leadership on the Ukrainian Open World Program. Thanks to her leadership \$2,552 was realized.

Last, and certainly not least, a huge "thank you" to the Board, League members and friends of the League who have participated in these activities. We couldn't have done this without you!

*Nancy Kleintop, V.P. Development*

## Update on Efforts to Cut Medicaid Fraud, Waste and Abuse & Curb Medicaid Expenses in New York State

Members of the Social Policy committee met with Bill Carpenter, Special Assistant to the County Executive, on January 17, 2007.

### Fraud, Waste and Abuse

The first topic was the status of implementing the computer systems and investigative resources to investigate potential fraud, waste, and abuse in Medicaid billing by Medicaid providers. Mr. Carpenter informed us that, because of County Executive Maggie Brooks' proactive efforts to acquire and implement the necessary software systems and investigative/audit resources, the County, as of January 1, 2007, is the first and only New York State county with approval to conduct audits. All providers of Medicaid services, such as durable medical equipment suppliers, pharmacies and medical practitioners, will be analyzed to determine if they should have their claims audited. Mr. Carpenter indicated this effort will produce savings to Monroe County.

It takes approximately 9-12 months to pursue a case. Several audits have already been completed and are pending Governor Eliot Spitzer's appointment of a new Medicaid Inspector General (MIG). Since this Demonstration Program is done under agreement with the MIG's Office, the role of the MIG will be to come to agreement with Monroe County on the findings and assist with restitution.

### Budget Deficits

Medicaid expenses rose 51% between 2001 and 2006 while sales tax revenues essentially remained flat.

We briefly discussed the projected deficit that will occur in the 2008 and 2009 Monroe County budgets of \$50 Million each year.

Beginning in 2006 New York State placed a controlled growth cap on Medicaid costs which counties must pay. Although this will slow the rate of growth, county revenues will still not increase enough to make up the difference. Therefore this is why, as reported in the newspapers, the County

wants a "sales tax intercept" to pay the cost of their Medicaid bill. All Monroe County towns disagree with this solution because they will lose revenue. Yet to date, no other proposal to increase revenues has been submitted.

### Federal Medicaid Commission

Maggie Brooks was one of 30 individuals who served on the Federal Medicaid Commission. The Commission, which met from July 2005 through December 2006, had as its purpose to provide recommendations to insure the long term sustainability of the Medicaid Program. Bill Carpenter attended the meetings as staff support for Maggie Brooks. In a subsequent Voter we will review the comprehensive final report.

*Georgia DeGregorio, Chair, Social Policy Committee*

## How to "TALK" so Your Legislator Will Listen:

- WRITE down what you would like to say. Then place your call.
- IDENTIFY yourself and give your home address when phoning or writing.
- DESCRIBE the issue or bill that concerns you.
- Refer to the BILL NUMBER, if possible.
- Tell the legislator what ACTION you want.
- Mention any special CREDENTIALS you have.
- State key REASONS for your views.
- Put a HUMAN FACE on the issue; share personal experiences.
- COUNTER arguments the opposition is using, if you can.
- If you make a mistake, CORRECT it immediately.
- Limit writing to ONE ISSUE or one bill.
- Be BRIEF.
- Ask for a REPLY.
- Find out which legislators support your position and get COMMITMENT for action.
- Ask what you can do to further SHARED GOALS.
- Be POLITE, keeping the door open for future communication.
- Send a THANK YOU or follow-up letter when appropriate.

## KUDOS from LWVUS

We have received a Certificate of Appreciation from the League of Women Voters of the United States for our participation in the Open World Program. We also received a handwritten note on a card hand-made in the Ukraine from Zaida Arguedas, LWV Deputy Executive Director and Director of Global Democracy Programs, and Pilar Velasquez Global Democracy Specialist, thanking us

*“for carrying out a fantastic hosting program. We were very pleased to work with you - the quality of your program and the professionalism and commitment that you and your League members showed throughout was much appreciated. We are certain that your program surpassed the Open World Program’s expectations.*

*“We also appreciate the way you, your League, your host families, and your community treated the delegates with such warmth and generosity. Your outstanding work is the best way to promote mutual understanding across cultures.*

*“We hope you are aware that your passion and conviction not only improves your community, but also inspires people from other countries to follow your example.”*

While it seems like just yesterday that we said farewell to our Ukrainian friends, we are already working on our proposal for 2007. Please respond to the call for volunteers for our next group of visitors.

Judy Weinstein, Open World Program Coordinator

## ONE-MINUTE LOBBYING

When time is short, a telephone call is a quick and simple way to take action. When the receptionist answers, all you need to do is say who you are, where you live and why you are calling.

RECEPTIONIST: Good morning. Senator Joseph Smith’s office.

YOU: Hi. My name is Jane Q. Public and I live at 100 Main Street in Hometown.

RECEPTIONIST: May I help you?

YOU: I am calling to urge Senator Smith to vote for Senate Bill 550, which requires police to trace guns used by young people in committing crimes. I think firearm tracing is an important step in keeping guns out of the hands of children and reducing violent crimes.

RECEPTIONIST: I will let the Senator know.

YOU: Thank you.

RECEPTIONIST: Good-bye.

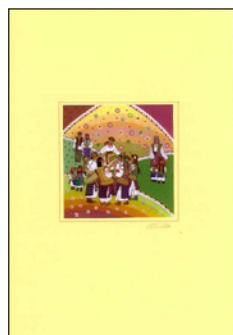
YOU: Good-bye.

***How easy is that? Telephone calls are much more effective than e-mail in getting your legislator’s attention!***

## Save The Date! LWVNYS Convention May 18, 19, 20, 2007

The Convention will meet at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, White Plains in the heart of Westchester County, thirty minutes from New York City by train. It is easily reached by car, train, or air.

A group from Rochester attended the last State Convention, and we were all impressed with the workshops, the camaraderie, and the speakers. More details to follow as they become available, but consider going this year. Rochester wouldn’t want to be outdone! Contact Dorothy at [dorothyborgus@aol.com](mailto:dorothyborgus@aol.com) or 889-4763, and let’s get a group together.



## MARCH 2007

MARCH 2007						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 League Day- Local Develop- ment Corp.	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Executive Com. Naturalization Ceremonies	9	10
11	12 VOTER Deadline	13	14	15 Local Govt. Com.	16	17 
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 Social Policy Com.*	28	29 Board Meeting	30	31

## APRIL 2007

APRIL 2007						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 VOTER Deadline	10	11	12 League Day- Court Reform Executive Committee	13	14
15	16	17 Natural Resources Committee	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Social Policy Committee (tentative)	25	26 Board Meeting	27	28
29	30					

\*Tentative

## Upcoming Programs 2007

**March 1**, League Day, Local Development Corporations    **May 3**, League Day, Healthy Business, Healthy State?  
**April 12**, League Day, Court Reform    **June 5**, Annual Meeting

*Board meets in the Bagel Bin Conference Room, 2600 Elmwood Avenue, at 1:45 PM on the last Thursday of each month.  
 Executive Committee meets at the Town & Country Restaurant, 3205 Chili Avenue, at 9:00 AM on the 2nd Thursday of each month.  
 League Days are held at 1570 East Avenue (Valley Manor) at 11:30 AM on the first Thursday of the month.  
 Parking is in the rear, entrance through the front.*

League Days are open to the public.

Calendar information subject to change. For more complete information consult our website at  
[www.lwv-rma.org](http://www.lwv-rma.org), call the office at 262-3730 or email us at [lwvrma@frontiernet.net](mailto:lwvrma@frontiernet.net)

## A Little Story

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, by Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

*Anonymous*

Moral:

What is the future of the Rochester League? What is the role you will play in ensuring that future? The League has many opportunities for you, and an organization is only as great as the members who are a part of it and are willing to lend their time and talents to fulfilling its mission. The League has many opportunities, large and small. Remember, if you don't do it, it may not get done.



## Come With Us - Meet Your Legislator

Each year League members lobby their state legislators early in the legislative session, giving local League members and legislators an opportunity to exchange ideas and discuss the League's legislative agenda for the session ahead. The interview gives legislators an opportunity to learn about League positions and share their ideas and agenda.

Rochester's League President and V.P. for Action will be visiting area legislators in their local offices, for scheduled appointments, probably in April. The League suggests that we try to have a constituent present at each of these meetings. It is well known that legislators respond better when one of their constituents is present.

If you would like to meet your legislator with Dorothy Borgus and Katherine Smith, call Katherine at [smith292@frontiernet.net](mailto:smith292@frontiernet.net) or 334-3991. Let her know which legislator(s) you would like to meet with us, and we'll keep you posted on an agreed date and time. It really interesting to meet one-on-one and get a legislator's undivided attention



## 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**

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*Public Relations*

**Deadline for  
APRIL VOTER  
is March 9<sup>th</sup>!**

## **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

**“Success is not final, failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts”**  
*Winston Churchill*