



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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MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

**Annual Luncheon of the LWV
designed to**

Get Out the Vote!

Wednesday, October 24, 11:30AM - 1:00 PM

Hyatt Regency \$50.00/person

Speaker: Blair Horner

Special Assistant to the Attorney General

Topic: Campaign Finance Reform

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION NOW!!

Blair Horner, Special Assistant to the NYS Attorney General, was formerly head of NYPIRG (New York Public Interest Research Group) which formed a coalition with the League of Women Voters and Common Cause to work on issues to reform state government. During this time Mr. Horner provided leadership and creativity in making initiatives work and became a major Albany spokesperson on government and the need for reform.

In his present position Mr. Horner is bringing his knowledge and experience to the Attorney General's office. He will share his unique perspective with us at the luncheon. Reform has been a major focus of the state and local League of Women Voters. Join us at the luncheon and improve your understanding and support for campaign finance reform.

In addition to our speaker, Lois Geiss, Leader of the Rochester City Council and League member, will receive the Carrie Chapman Catt Award in honor of her many contributions to the community.

Bring a friend! If you have not received a reservation form in the mail, call 585-262-3730. See you there!

From Your President

by Dorothy Borgus



What is the difference between a voter and a non-voter? No, it's not a joke. It is a question at the heart of what might make a non-voter more likely to vote. Poll after poll reveals a major answer..... information. People's need for information is acute in these busy, busy days.....

how to register, where to vote, what to expect on election day, information on issues. Please do your part. How? Volunteer to register voters. Provide a ride to the polls. Monitor a candidates' debate.

Keeping Up to Date

If your information in our new membership directory is incorrect or incomplete, please let the office know. Our members are very pleased and complementary about our hot-off-the-press directory, and we are anxious to stay current.

Please make the following change in your directory:

M. Gratia L'Esperance
275 Parsells Avenue
Rochester, NY 14609
gratia.lesperance@frontiernet.net
271-3226

Miriam Thomas
1077 East Avenue, Apt. 5A
Rochester, NY 14607

Christine Fredette: cfredette47@yahoo.com.

Georgia DeGregorio: georgiatd@frontiernet.net

Sandra Glantz: new phone unlisted and email is
sglantz55@yahoo.com



Share your VOTER newsletter. And remember that year-long information is essential to the voting process. Bring a friend or neighbor to monthly League Days where we delve into the important issues that impact our daily lives here in Monroe County. Give a League membership as a gift.

Fall is a great time to introduce a friend to the League. Our exciting fall program will be in full swing, and we are undertaking a consensus on immigration, a subject that everyone seems passionate about—pro or con. Politics are ramping up, and interest is high on campaign finance reform, selection of new voting machines, ethics and (again) budget shortfalls. Our members are rolling up their sleeves and getting to work. There is nowhere like the League for opportunities to lead and learn!

Dorothy

New Members:

Cynthia Drozd
298 Bennington Hills
W. Henrietta, NY 14586 585-334-5287

Dr. Mary Hartshorn
64 Cattaragus Dr.
Rochester, NY 14623 586-486-4254

Theresa Katz
103 Glen Iris Drive
Rochester, NY 14623 585-734-8402
emkatz@rochester.rr.com

Mary Starr
76 Manorshire Dr.
Fairport, NY 14450

Emily Tobin
1573 Powell Campus Center
Alfred, University
Alfred, NY 14802 elt1@alfred.edu

BY POPULAR REQUEST...

Unless otherwise noted, League Days will be held from 10:00 am to 11:30 am at 1600 East Avenue. This change is the result of a member poll which showed that our members prefer an earlier meeting time. Please note this change on your calendar.



League Day, November 1st Immigration in American Society

10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

1600 East Avenue

SPEAKERS:

Walter Hammele Ruehle, Attorney at Legal Aid Society and Director of the Immigration Program which includes representing non-citizens in immigration matters.

Maggie A Catillaz, Attorney - Partner with Harter, Secrest & Emery where she represents most of the major corporations in Rochester as well as many colleges on immigration matters.

Third Speaker To Be Announced



What motivates more recent immigrants to the United States? This question is especially important now that Congress is poised to consider making substantial changes to the U.S. immigration system. Efforts to establish a more secure and orderly system have a better chance of succeeding if reasonable avenues are provided within the broader context of America's values, foreign policy and national interest. The Immigration Committee hopes that some of our questions will be answered by listening to these speakers.

Given the multiplicity of powerful motivations driving immigration to the U.S., effective restructuring of the U.S. immigration system is challenging. The "push" factors of religious persecution, political oppression and economic hardships in many "sending countries" persist. But, if the first six years of the 21st century are any indication, the "pull" factors of family reunification, economic opportunity and well-established immigrant networks will be the dominant motivations. Congress needs to develop, and Homeland Security needs to implement, an immigration policy that creates orderly, dependable, accountable and timely channels for acknowledging these strong motivations. Clearly, this is a many-faceted debate that arouses great passions, and will continue to do so. There are no easy answers.

Please attend and participate in this discussion. Bring a friend!

Volunteers Needed

The League is looking for volunteers who can help with absentee ballots on Election Day, Tuesday, November 6th from 1 PM to 5 PM. If you can assist us, please contact Barbara Hendry at 546-7723 or bhendry@rochester.rr.com. Thanks so much! Not only is our help welcomed by the Board of Elections, but it also helps raise money for the League. In addition please keep in mind February 5th, 2008, to help with absentee ballots for the Presidential Primary. The Board of Elections is expecting a lot of absentee ballots! Let us hear from you!

A Very BIG Thank You to

Ellie Newell, Marcia Eisenberg, Sheila Abeling, Mimi Wilson, Chris Burleigh, Phyllis Master, Emily Parker, Dorothy Borgus and Barbara Hendry for helping at naturalization ceremonies.

Beth Keigher, Joan and Marvin Rosenthal, Lonna Cosmano, Georgia DeGregorio and Barbara Hendry for helping at voter registration drives.

Sally Brown, Nancy Kleintop and Dorothy Borgus for helping open primary election absentee ballots.

Barb Hendry, *VP Voters Service*

Ida Trager Workshops on Membership

Dorothy Borgus and I were the Rochester representatives in Buffalo for the state LWV Ida Trager Workshops this year. It's always fun to meet with other leagues in the state, get their perspective and find out what they are up to. This year Marcia Merrens gave a workshop on attracting new members and retaining current members. She is the former state LWV president and is now the State Membership V.P. Marcia developed a New York Recruitment Challenge to coincide with the National LWV's study on membership. Attracting new, involved members has been a long-time challenge for Rochester so we made the decision to participate.

Marcia emphasized what she calls "Best Practices" for membership recruitment and retention.

They are:

- Welcome Packet—Orientation—Mentoring Program—Introductions

Then in order to keep members she suggests:

- A Membership Agenda—A Membership Calendar—Promotion of Membership
- Benefits—Create Small Opportunities—Make Members Feel Special
- And Most Important—HAVE FUN!

Two Big Thanks to our League Day Speakers!

A windmill, vehicles -one run by electricity and another by natural gas, excess heat (generated by the molding of plastics) converted to other uses, and much more were shown to League members by Bob Bechtold, President of HARBEC, during their visit to this green facility. He told of his struggle to create a sustainable facility, to find support for his ideas and how he hopes to expand these concepts to neighboring facilities. Many thanks go Mr. Bechtold for the time he spent with us, his fascinating presentation about making a building green, and answering our many questions.

Our trip to HARBEC was followed by lunch at the Parkview Lodge in Webster Park. Our speaker was Bill Labine, owner of Renewable Energy Works, who shared his knowledge and experiences of making homes more energy efficient. Did you know that solar panels are more efficient at lower temperatures than when exposed to hot weather? Also, a big thank you to Mr. Labine for an interesting presentation and taking the time he to answer and discuss our questions.

In the next few months a small group of dedicated volunteers will be working on all of these things in Rochester with the help, prodding and overview of the State LWV. In one of the handouts we were given was a paragraph that we can use to highlight the important benefits of belonging to the LWV:

The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. Join LWV and be directly involved in shaping the important issues to keep our community strong, safe and vibrant. As an LWV member, you are a part of an organization where smart, active leaders work to create change in their communities. To join us please visit our website at www.lwv-rma.org.

The one major concept, that everyone with recruitment experience agrees on, is that in order to be successful in the long term, the whole organization has to be dedicated and involved. The LWV has also chosen to target newly retired women and men because they are usually at a point in their lives where they can dedicate their time and energy to extracurricular activities. So, if there is a newly retired teacher, social worker or business professional that you know, ask them to attend an LWV function. I'll keep you posted!!

Sally Brown, *VP Membership*

Your Invitation is in the Mail!!

On October 24, at 11:30AM the annual "Make Democracy Work" luncheon will be held. Your invitation is in the mail!

Also mailed with your invitation is a request for you to become an underwriter for this major event. The cost is \$100 and includes your luncheon ticket and a contribution to help cover the banquet costs. Your name will appear in the luncheon program as a member of the Carrie Chapman Catt Circle. Carrie Chapman Catt founded the League and, as a Circle member, you will honor her memory.

Your membership in the "Circle" helps promote awareness of League programs. Your invitation includes the option of joining. Checks should be made out to LWV Education Fund and are tax deductible. Please do it today!

Nancy Kleintop, *VP Development*

SILENT AUCTION - Board members work to make our annual luncheon fun!

Members of the Board of Directors are again underwriting the auction items available at the *Making Democracy Work Luncheon*. A wide range of items will be available. Come early, view the items, and purchase your chances to win. Auction coupons will be on sale for \$1 a chance, 7 chances for \$5, 15 chances for \$10, and 30 chances for \$20. Also, there will be grab bag items available at no additional cost.

Use your chances to get the item of your choice. The more chances you take on an item, the better your chance to win.

See you on there!

On the November Ballot: Amendment to Article 14, Section 1 of the Constitution

The proposed amendment would allow the State to convey one acre of forest preserve to the town of Long Lake for public use as the site for drinking water wells and necessary related equipment for the municipal water supply for the hamlet of Raquette Lake.

In exchange the State would receive at least 12 acres of land that is at least equal in value to the land conveyed to Long Lake.

This amendment will make constitutional an action that has already taken place. In 2004 the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation gave extraordinary permission to the town of Long Lake to drill wells on the Adirondack forest preserve land, an action that requires a constitutional amendment.

The hamlet of Long Lake had been using unfiltered water from the local reservoir and was under orders from the State Department of Health to begin filtering the water or find an alternative source.

The water supply issue had become a serious health and safety issue. Since the amendment is specific to this issue, it does not give broader constitutional permission to other such solutions; each situation would require another constitutional amendment.

LWVNYS 2007 Voters Guide, Part II

Immigration and the Economy

*By Chris Carson, LWV of Glendale-Burbank, CA
A Member of the Immigration Study Committee*

Over the course of American history, numerous businesses have targeted specific immigrant groups for employment. For instance, they brought in the Chinese to work on the railroads, the Irish, in many parts of the country, to work in railroad building or mining, and Eastern and Southern Europeans for manufacturing enterprises. Overall, the flow of immigration throughout the 19th and early 20th century was directly tied to the strength or weakness of the American economy; levels of immigration fluctuated widely in response to economic cycles of boom and panic in this country.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 56 million new jobs will be created in this country between 2002 and 2012. During this same period, more than 75 million Americans will retire, and declining native-born fertility rates will be approaching replacement level. Half of the new jobs will require no more than a high school education, but native-born workers are becoming more educated with every decade. Arguably the most important statistic for an understanding of the immigration situation in this country is that in 1960, half of all American men dropped out of high school to look for unskilled work, whereas less than ten percent do so now.

The shortfall of unskilled labor – estimated to run to hundreds of thousands of workers a year – is showing up in sector after sector. The construction industry creates some 185,000 jobs annually, and although construction workers now earn between \$30,000 and \$50,000 a year, employers in trades such as masonry and dry-walling are unable to find enough young Americans to do the work.

Statistics show that immigrants are less likely than natives to be unemployed. The vast majority of immigrants coming to the United States do so in order to work. After all, it is better to be unemployed in your home country than in New York or Chicago. Furthermore, even legal immigrants, who account for about two-thirds of the total influx, are not eligible during their first five to ten years in the United States for welfare transfers that could sustain them during periods of unemployment. And, illegal immigrants receive virtually no such transfers. It is no surprise, then, that labor-force

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NOVEMBER 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 League Day Immigration 10:00 am	2	3
4	5 VOTER Deadline	6 ELECTION DAY	7	8 Executive Committee	9 Naturalization Ceremony 1PM	10
11	12	13	14 Natural Resources Committee 9:30	15 Naturalization Ceremony 10 AM	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 Board Meeting 1:45 PM	30	

DECEMBER 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3 VOTER Deadline	4	5	6 LWV Open House, evening	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Executive Committee 9 AM Naturalization Ceremony 10AM and 1 PM	14	15
16	17	18	19 Natural Resources Committee 9:30	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Board Meeting 1:45	28	29
30	31					

*Board meets in the Bagel Bin Conference Room, 2600 Elmwood Avenue, at 1:45 PM on the fourth 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 normally held at 1600 East Avenue at 10:00 AM on the first Thursday of the month.
 Parking is at the rear of the building.
 Natural Resources meets at the home of Ann Jones, 244-9337; Social Policy and Immigration Committees,
 call Georgia DeGregorio at 585-787-9692 and Local Government Committee call Judy Weinstein at 585-442-9815*

AM Naturalization Ceremonies are held at Monroe County Office Building, 39 W. Main St;
 PM Naturalization Ceremonies are held at Federal Court House at 100 State Street.

Immigration and the Economy *cont'd from p. 5*

participation among foreign-born men exceeds that of the native-born. In fact, the employment figure for illegal immigrant men is the highest of any group—94 percent employed.

The added societal burden of immigrants on welfare is really not an issue here. Rather than futilely trying to block the realities of supply and demand as current policy does—our immigration policy must address them.

Opponents of immigration often suggest that if employers paid American workers more they could reduce the need for foreign labor. Many industries cannot pay more, because they would then be undercut by imports from abroad. Even in sectors such as construction and hospitality, in which the work must be done in the United States, it is necessary to decide whether it is better to lure an American to a less productive job than he or she is capable of by paying more compensation for less skilled work. Meanwhile, because they complement rather than compete with most native-born workers (and this in turn attracts additional capital), immigrant workers are a factor in raising rather than lowering most Americans' wages.

A legitimate way to assess the role and value of immigration's contribution to America is to consider what would happen if the influx stopped or if those already here left the country. Those who favor comprehensive reform (bring in more work-

ers) believe this would be disastrous. In some regions, they contend, whole sectors of the economy could collapse. The opposition maintains that a cutoff would mean at most a temporary inconvenience for a few employers, who would soon wean themselves away from their dependence on foreign workers.

To assess the relative merits of the two arguments, one should consider the expected impact of the projected demographic changes that will result from the ever-slowing growth of the native-born work force. The business community, long the chief supporters of immigration, argues that there is no reason to forfeit immigrant-driven economic expansion and the concomitant improved standard of living that benefits all Americans. They say that whether the nation benefits a great deal or just modestly from the presence of newcomers, new immigrants make life in the United States better --- not just with the work they do, but because they renew and reinvigorate the country's spirit with their energy, hard work and old-fashioned values. Opponents of increased immigration consider the costs and benefits of an expanding economy, and place greater emphasis on environmental and cultural issues. They argue for significant restrictions on total immigration.

To learn more on Immigration Study go to www.lwv.org and click on Immigration Study: Background Papers.

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



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**December VOTER Deadline is
November 5th!**

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

A government can be no better than the public opinion which sustains it.
Franklin D. Roosevelt, Speech 1936