



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.

Inside this issue:

League Day	1
From the President	2
Volunteers Needed	2
We Goofed!	2
Consensus 101	2
What Makes a Building Green	3
Directions to Parkview Lodge	3
Hip-Hop	3
Ukrainian Visit	4
Consensus Questions	5
Calendars	6
Get Out the Vote Luncheon	7
Silent Auction	7
Officers	8

League Day, October 4 – A Unique Experience A Visit to Harbec, a Green Plant*

“There are Economic Advantages to being Green – For Us and For You”

Bob Bechtold, President of Harbec Plastics, Inc

10:00 am: Meet at Parkview Lodge in Webster Park (see directions on p. 3) where you will be transported to Harbec Plastics, Inc in Wayne County. Mr. Bechtold will take us through his plant and explain the building principles that have made his building friendly to the environment (green). There is a windmill on the premises; he assures us that the plant is quiet and clean.

Noon: You will be transported back to Webster Park where box lunches will be available while we learn about how to make your home green.

Luncheon Speaker: **Bill Labine**, Green Home Consultant and owner of RENEWABLE ENERGY WORKS, a business which assists clients in the design of energy efficient and sustainable homes.

*See article on “What Makes a Building Green”, p. 3.

BOX LUNCH: Order by Sept 30. Cost for transportation and lunch: \$25.00.

Please select from the sandwich choices below and mail, along with check for \$25 made out to Rochester/Metro League of Women Voters, to the League's office at 45 Exchange St, Suite 508, Rochester, NY 14616.

I will be attending the Harbec Plant League Day Presentation

Name: _____

No. of people _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

enclosed is my check for \$25.00

For lunch I would like: _____ Turkey _____ Roast Beef _____ Tuna Sandwich.
All lunches will include sandwich, fruit, beverage and a cookie.

From Your President

by Dorothy Borgus



I always love this time of year....the leaves turning colors, the chill in the air. Our League programs begin with a bus trip to a local "green business" on October 4 (details on the front cover). Plan on joining us for a short fall excursion and lunch as we study an outstanding example of an environmentally friendly business, proudly conducted by a local entrepreneur. It sounds like a fun day and a chance to socialize as well as learn.

As the election season heats up, I encourage everyone reading this to step up to League election activities. We receive many requests for speakers on ballot issues in the fall. Join our Speakers' Bureau. We will assist you with speech material. Try it, you will like it. It's a great introduction to public speaking.

OOPS!! We goofed!

We are getting rave reviews on our new membership directory, however we do have one slip-up. Please correct Georgia DeGregorio's e-mail address to: georgiatd@frontiernet.net. If you have changes or additions to your member information, please notify the office at 262-3730 or lwvrma@frontiernet.net. Our directory will only be as good as the information we possess. Also, please let the office know if you wish to be left out of future directories. It should be noted, member information is never sold or shared with other organizations.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Many hands are needed to administer the annual Get Out the Vote Luncheon. Volunteers are needed to help with mailings, decorating tables and helping with the silent auction.



Phone the League office at 585-262-3730 if you can volunteer some time and energy for this important project.

We can always use more volunteers to open absentee ballots at the Board of Elections on election day. Voter registration is a primary mission of the League, and times can be arranged to suit your schedule, maybe just a one or two-hour shift. If you are a new member, we will pair you with an experienced member so you can learn the ropes and get to know another member in the process. Like to write? Research a topic you feel strongly about and submit an article for the VOTER.

All of these activities underscore the mission of the League...informed and active participation of citizens in their government. Being an American doesn't make one a good citizen. It just isn't so. Good citizens must continually inform themselves and participate....vote, petition, protest as needed, volunteer for community or military service. It's hard work. Let's expect more of ourselves. Pick up the phone right now and let the office know you are ready to do your part.

Dorothy

Consensus 101:

The American Heritage Dictionary defines consensus as "collective opinion or concord; general agreement or accord." In the League "consensus" is used:

- Interchangeably with "member agreement" and refers to the overall decision-making process by which a League board determines that there is substantial agreement among members on an issue.
- To refer to a specific technique used traditionally in the League to discuss and arrive at conclusions on issues. This process includes questionnaires, polls and group discussion.

In this consensus, all the questions will be answered after the discussions; the Questionnaire will be sent to National and indicate our League areas of agreement and of no agreement, and the level of member participation. Then the appropriate board analyzes the consensus agreement reports from the local Leagues, develops a position statement that reflects member thinking, and announces the position to members and the public. These statements, reflecting member consensus, become the basis of action taken by the League of Women Voters across the country.

Sula Baxter, Program Chairman

What Makes a Building Green?

We see the word green used in all sorts of projects these days. But what does it mean? The US Department of Energy defines building green as “practices that:

- promote resource conservation, including energy efficiency, renewable buildings, renewable energy, and water conservation features;
- consider environmental impacts and waste minimization;
- create a healthy and comfortable environment;
- reduce operation and maintenance costs and
- address issues such as historical preservation, access to public transportation and other community infrastructure systems.”

“The design, construction, and maintenance of buildings have a tremendous impact on our environment and our natural resources. There are more than 76 million residential buildings and nearly 5 million commercial buildings in the U.S. today. These buildings together use one-third of all the energy consumed in the U.S. and two-thirds of the electricity. By the year 2010, another 38 million buildings are expected to be constructed. The challenges will be to build them smart, so they use a minimum of nonrenewable energy, produce a minimum of pollution and cost a minimum of energy dollars, while increasing the comfort, health, and safety of the people who live and work in them.”

The threat of global warming, our appetite for natural resources, and our concerns about air and water quality have led to the development of a movement to conserve, preserve, and recycle our resources: to build green. A number of agencies are now dedicated to sustainability and green construction. A few are:

NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority), a public benefit corporation created in 1975 by the New York State Legislature; it administers the New York Energy SmartSM program.

USGBC (US Green Building Council), a nonprofit organization consisting of 10,500 organizations; it administers the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification program for construction.

Rochester Green Business Network whose goal is to promote good environmental management throughout our Lake Ontario region.

For more information about green construction and sustainability one can go on the internet and “google” green buildings, LEED, New York Energy Smart, or NYSERDA.

The quotes above are from Smart Communities: Network Green Buildings Introduction, a report sponsored by US Department of Energy and found by “googling” green buildings.

REMEMBER: green practices aren’t just for commercial/office buildings and factories; they apply to our homes also.

Directions to Parkview Lodge

Parkview Lodge in Webster Park can be approached from either Holt Rd. or Lake Rd. Entrances to parking lot for the lodge are from either road and both are near the intersection of Holt and Lake Roads. From Route 104, take Holt Rd north and the entrance is on the left, very near the end of the road. From the west on Lake Rd., drive east until you pass the sign for Mill Creek; look for entrance on right, before Holt Rd. Coming from the east, the entrance is on the left, just past Holt Rd.; if you see the sign for Mill Creek, you have gone too far. See you there!

Hip-hop and Domestic Violence: Connected?

As a League representative to the Domestic Violence Consortium here in Rochester, I was asked to be part of a panel (along with Sen. Joe Robach and Mayor Duffy’s Chief of Staff, Jean Howard, and others) in celebration of Women’s Equality Day, August 26.

We discussed a film, Hip-Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes. Hip-hop began with consciousness-raising rap music focusing on problems of the poor and the disenfranchised. However, in the last few years the music has focused on sexism, violence and homophobia as pointed out by this award-winning work.

One of the most important facts is that after the first 700,000 discs are sold to blacks, 60-70% of the remainder are sold to whites. This is more than a minority problem.

All of society—parents, grandparents, music businesses, teachers, coaches, etc.—should become aware of the impact this type of degrading music

continued on page 7

Ukrainian Visit Successful!

The League of Women Voters hosted three mayors from Ukraine from August 31 through September 8. Mayors Maksym Burdavitsyn, Viktor Khoptynets, and Vasyl Sydor, and their facilitator, Olga Vorona, came to Rochester as part of the Open World Program.

Managed by the independent Open World Leadership Center at the Library of Congress, Open World is designed to enhance understanding and capabilities for cooperation between the United States and the countries of Eurasia and the Baltic States by developing a network of leaders in the region who have gained significant, firsthand exposure to America's democratic, accountable government and free-market system. The week in Rochester certainly meet the goals of the program!

The Ukrainians were made to feel at home by their gracious hosts. Visitors commented that they were happy to be staying in homes instead of a hotel so that they got to have many informal discussions with their hosts about family life and important issues.

The mayors had meetings with Jon Greenbaum of MetroJustice; Sandra Frankel, Town Supervisor of Brighton; Kent Gardner of Center for Governmental Research; Professor Sarah Liebschutz; Lois Giess, President of Rochester City Council and other city officials; Jay Martinez of Greater Rochester Enterprise; Tamara Denysenko of the Ukrainian Federal Credit Union; and Mary Ellen Heyman, Town Supervisor of Irondequoit, and other town officials.

At League Day, the mayors heard about the mission and operation of the League and provided insights into the state of democracy in Ukraine, relations with neighboring countries, and health care.

It was not all work, however. We started with a Welcome Barbecue attended by 25 people. Our guests visited Niagara Falls, three Ukrainian churches, and the Genesee Country Village and Museum. They watched the Labor Day Parade, which led to questions about "those men wearing skirts" (bagpipers) and the huge union rat balloons; they also toured the George Eastman House and enjoyed the Ansel Adams exhibit.

The Irondequoit-Poltova Sister Cities Committee sponsored a meeting with 25 members of the Ukrainian community who were interested in hearing first-hand about current events in Ukraine. The mayors enjoyed being able to speak directly

with the audience without an interpreter, since the League representative was the only person who did not speak Ukrainian!

The Farewell Dinner, held at Olga's Ukrainian restaurant, was also attended by members of the League and the Ukrainian community. The mayors and the Ukrainian community shared their culture with us at a beautifully presented dinner.

Thank you for Participation in the Open World Program Hosts: Robert Hunter and Barbara Coe, Don and Alison Wilder, John and Jane Schmitt, and Gretchen Shafer.

Thanks to League volunteers who drove them to various meetings, escorted them sight seeing, accompanied them to meetings, and assisted at the many functions: Dorothy Borgus, Nancy Kleintop, Art Weinstein, Jane and John Schmitt, Georgia DeGregorio, Judy Weinstein, Barbara Hendry, Kathy Smith, Sula Baxter, Marilyn Hare, Dayle Bird, Carol Seemann, and Don Wilder. Many hours of time were donated.

Special thanks to: The Ukrainian Federal Credit Union for providing assistance with the program, both by helping arrange for meetings and providing financial support for the Farewell Dinner. Their help was invaluable in making this a memorable week for our Ukrainian visitors, members of the Ukrainian community in Irondequoit, and League members.

Submitted by Judy Weinstein, *Local Government*

Special thanks to Judy Weinstein for making all this possible!



Consensus Questions

League Members: Below are the consensus questions that we will discuss in January 2008. The Immigration Committee wanted you to see the questions in advance of the consensus and in preparation for the panel discussion on immigration we will have on November 1 League Day. If you have any questions you would like answered before that day, e-mail us ahead of time and we will try to find the answers. Bring your friends; it should be a great day. Georgia Degregorio at 787-9692 or georgiatd@frontiernet.net.

CONSENSUS QUESTIONS PREVIEW - Not for Consensus Response

Below is a preview of the questions for the upcoming Immigration Study Consensus process. These questions are for discussion only and will NOT be accepted as a response to the consensus process.

Instructions: For questions 1-4 rate each item as follows: "High Priority," "Lower Priority," "Disagree," or "No Consensus." Check ONLY one box per item.

Question 1: Federal immigration laws should take into consideration criteria such as the following (not listed in any particular order or hierarchy):

Part a:

- a. Ethnic and cultural diversity
- b. Economic, business and service employment needs
- c. Environmental impact/sustainability
- d. Family reunification of authorized immigrants and citizens with spouses and minor children
- e. History of criminal activity
- f. Humanitarian crises/ political persecution in home countries
- g. Immigrant characteristics (health and age)
- h. Rights of all workers to safe working conditions and livable wage
- i. Rights of families to remain together
- j. Rights of all individuals in U.S. to fair treatment under the law (Fair Hearing, Right to Counsel, Right of Appeal, and Humane Treatment)
- k. Education and training

Part b, Of these items, please take a moment and select the three most important criteria and list them, in order (1, 2 and 3, with 1 being the most important) below.

Question 2: Unauthorized immigrants currently in the U.S. should be treated as follows: (rate each one)

- a. Deport unauthorized immigrants
- b. Some deported/some allowed to earn legal adjustment of status based on length of residence in U.S.
- c. Some deported/some allowed to earn legal adjustment of status based on needs of US employers
- d. All allowed to earn legal adjustment of status by doing things such as paying taxes, learning english, studying civics, etc.
- e. If deported, assess fines before possible re-entry
- f. Assess fines before allowed to earn legal adjustment of status

Question 3: Federal immigration law should provide an efficient, expeditious system (with minimal or no backlogs) for legal entry into the U.S. for immigrants who are: (rate each one)

- a. Immediate family members joining family member already admitted for legal permanent residence in the U.S
- b. Entering the U.S. to meet labor needs
- c. Entering the U.S. as students
- d. Entering the U.S. because of persecution in home country

Question 4a: In order to deal more effectively with unauthorized immigrants, Federal immigration law should include:

Social security card or other national identification card with secure identifiers for all persons residing in the U.S.

Question 4b: Federal immigration law dealing with unauthorized immigrants should be enforced by including: (rate each one)

- a. Physical barriers (such as fences) and surveillance at borders
- b. Increased personnel at land, air, and sea entry points
- c. More effective tracking of persons with non-immigrant visas until they leave the country
- d. Verification documents, such as green cards and work permits with secure identifiers.
- e. Improved technology to facilitate employer verification of employee visa status
- f. Improved technology for sharing information among federal agencies

OCTOBER 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 VOTER Deadline	2	3	4 League Day Green Business 10:00 am Webster Park	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Exec. Com., 9am	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Get Out the Vote Luncheon 11:30 am	25 Board Meeting 1:30pm	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 Board Meeting	30	

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

League Days are open to the public.
Calendar information subject to change. For more complete information
consult our website at www.lwv-rma.org, call the office at 262-3730 or
e-mail us at lwvrma@frontiernet.net

Consensus Questions *from page 5*

- g. A Program to allow immigrant workers to go in and out of the U.S. to meet seasonal and sporadic labor needs
- h. Significant fines proportionate to revenue for employers who fail to take adequate steps to verify work authorization of employees

Instructions for questions 5 & 6: Please mark each question as "Consensus" or "No Consensus"

Question 5: Federal immigration law should address and balance the long-term federal financial benefit from immigrants with the financial costs borne by states and local governments with large immigrant populations.

Question 6: Federal immigration law should be coordinated with U.S. foreign policy to pro-actively help improve economies, education and job opportunities, and living conditions of nations with large emigrating populations.

Question 7: If desired, please add your brief comments. (Limited to 150 words.)

Hip Hop *from page 3*

can have on us. What standards do we model for our community? Is masculinity defined only by guns and putting down women as sex objects? Are we willing to speak out against the offensive?

These are questions for all of us to think about.

Georgia DeGregorio, *Social Policy Chair/ LWVNY Off-board Specialist for Domestic Violence.*

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

GET OUT THE VOTE LUNCHEON!

October 24, 2007 at the Hyatt Regency
11:30AM – 1:00PM

The Rochester League of Women Voters is holding its annual luncheon fund raiser on Wednesday, October 24th. This years speaker is Blair Horner, Special Assistant to the New York State Attorney General, formerly director of NYPIRG (New York Public Interest Group).

The theme of Mr. Horner's presentation will be Campaign Finance Reform, a major thrust of the Leagues' Action Agenda. His insights will be very interesting, given his past experience at NYPIRG and his insider's eye in state government.

Tickets are \$50/person and can be ordered through the League office at 585-262-3730 or at www.lwv-rma.org. Hope to see you there!

SHHH! Silent Auction

A silent auction will be held at the annual Get Out the Vote Luncheon, Oct. 23rd.

The auction items are donated by the League Board and members. Written bids take place before and after the meeting. Items are due October 20 and any member wanting to contribute can phone Nancy Kleintop at 461-5508.

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**

Times Square Building
45 Exchange Blvd. Ste. 508
Rochester, NY 14614
p 585-262-3730
f 585-262-4493 (V/TTY)
e lwvrma@frontiernet.net
www.lwv-rma.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 1419
Rochester, NY

Rochester **VOTER**

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

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

Officers

Dorothy Borgus **Ann Weintraub**
President *Secretary*

Board of Directors

Sally J. Brown <i>V.P. Membership</i>	Katherine Smith <i>V.P. Action</i>
Nancy Kleintop <i>V.P. Development</i>	Judith Weinstein <i>Local Government</i>
Georgia DeGregorio <i>Social Policy</i>	Gaynelle Wethers <i>Budget</i>
Barbara Hendry <i>V.P. Voter Service</i>	Rose Mary Zaffrann <i>Public Relations</i>
Ann Jones <i>Natural Resources</i>	Sula Baxter <i>Program</i>
Off-Board Director Jane Schmitt <i>VOTER Editor</i>	Chris Burleigh <i>VOTER Layout & Production</i>

**November VOTER Deadline is
October 1!**

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

Although further changes in the world's climate are now inevitable, the future, particularly in the longer term, remains largely in our hands – the magnitude of expected change depends on what humans choose to do about greenhouse gas emissions.

*Scientific American, August 2007;
by permission.*