



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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League Day: An Exchange of Ideas Between Citizens of Ukraine and League Members

AAUW House, 494 East Ave.

Thursday, September 6, 11:30AM- 1:30PM

Bring your lunch and participate in this opportunity to meet, learn and talk with our Ukrainian visitors.

Earlier in the morning they will learn about the many League Voter Services activities – the Fair Election Practices Campaign Pledge, voter registration, candidate forums, Voters Guides, and others. This will be followed by having the Ukrainians speak to us at League Day. Please join us in learning about their careers and lives as well as the Orange Revolution, more recent events in the Ukraine, and their views on the future of democracy in Ukraine.



Once again, The League of Women Voters of the Rochester Metropolitan Area will be hosting a group of participants in the Open World Program. Our five Ukrainian visitors will arrive on Friday, August 31 and leave on Saturday, September 8. The visit is sponsored by Open World Center at the Library of Congress. The program enables Ukrainian elected officials, political candidates, and emerging political and civic leaders to observe the American democratic system firsthand. Our visitors this year are four mayors accompanied by a facilitator, a young Ukrainian who is fluent in English.

All League members will have an opportunity to meet our visitors. In addition to League Day, there will be a Welcome Barbecue Dinner on Friday, August 31, at 6 pm at the Henrietta Town Park on Calkins Road in the Roberts cabin. Please join us in welcoming the visitors to Rochester. If you wish to attend, please mail, e-mail or phone your RSVP to the League office by Monday, August 27.

I will be attending the Welcome Dinner for the Ukrainian visitors on Friday, August 31

Name: _____

No. of people _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

I will bring a side dish _____ to serve 8 – 12 or a dessert _____ to serve 8 – 12

Roberts Cabin is located in the Henrietta Town Park on the south side of Calkins Rd between Hylan Drive and E. Henrietta Rd. Enter at the traffic light, cross the bridge and turn right. Follow the road to Roberts Cabin on the left.

From Your President

by Dorothy Borgus



During July and August, the Rochester League of Women Voters continued its action streak. While many people slow down in summer, your League hasn't missed a step.

Immediately following the Annual Meeting, plans moved forward for the Board's Annual Retreat on

July 12 at Nazareth College. Brainstorming and innovation abound when you get a motivated group like our Board in one room for six hours! Repeating a successful plan initially tried last year, the Board formalized the 2007-08 program for the entire year. Setting the entire program well in advance last year allowed for even better programming and increased League Day attendance by about 50%. Also, in response to members input we have moved up the meeting time on several League Days to 10:00-11:30 am. Look for details of the program in this VOTER.

From August 31 through September 8 the Rochester League will host five Ukrainian visitors through the Open World Leadership Program. League members will escort them as they visit government leaders, observe urban innovations and natural beauty and

explore the various challenges of American society. More hands are needed during the visit, and I am sure League members will step up. Call Judy Weinstein or the office (262-3730) and volunteer a few hours. It's time-limited, and it's a rewarding experience.

As election season heats up, our Fair Election Practices Committee has been hard at work readying the LWV candidates' pledge to run political campaigns that are fair, open and free of personal attacks. We are asking each candidate for office in Monroe County to sign a Fair Election Campaign Pledge this fall. This obligates them to uphold the basic principles of decency, honesty and fair play as they campaign for your vote. You can do your part by pressuring candidates in your area to sign on. We would like 100% compliance. And don't forget we will be needing volunteers for voter registration and the opening of absentee ballots in the coming weeks.

Plans are coming along nicely for our Annual Democracy Luncheon during the last week in October. More to come in the next VOTER.

Remember, the strength of any organization lies with its members. Contact me at 889-4763 or dorothyborgus@aol.com to discuss ways you would like to help the Rochester League fulfill its mission and achieve its many goals. Whether you are a visionary individual or a nuts and bolts person, there's a place reserved for you at the League.

Dorothy

Help is needed to ensure a successful program for our Ukrainian Visitors

The program for our Ukrainian visitors is complete, but there is a need for additional volunteers to ensure that things run smoothly. You can join in this important League project by contacting Judy Weinstein at j-weinstein@rocketmail.com or 442-9815. We need League members to participate as:

- Drivers to transport the Ukrainians between meetings. If you could spare an hour or two during that week, please volunteer.
- Meeting facilitators – escort the visitors from their cars to the meeting room, put water on the tables, take photos, etc. We can use volunteers for a day, or even a half day.
- Dinner hosts for the Ukrainians. You can volunteer to have one or all five Ukrainians as your guest.

Please join us in making this a successful project. It is fun, helps American international relations, and provides us with almost \$2,500. If you are able to help in any way, please contact Judy Weinstein at 442-9815 or j-weinstein@rocketmail.com.



Annual Meeting Report

Our Annual Meeting on June 5 at Locust Hill Country Club was socially enjoyable, visually lovely, tastefully delicious and highly informative. Our guest speaker, Ruth Rosenberg-Naparsteck, author and Rochester City Historian, shared compelling images and stories of city history, particularly the part played by women and women's groups in their independence and suffrage movement.

The business meeting included electing the nominated officers and directors, adopting the proposed budget and by-laws, and hearing the committee chairs and directors report on activities of the past year. The broad scope of the League's work may go unnoticed over the passing months as we work on the multiple tasks we set, but the total detail of our annual accomplishment is awesome when summarized in annual reports. This bears out the truth in the adage, "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts." There is no doubt that we have done extraordinary work this year. Congratulations to our hardworking and loyal Board members and committees.

In my President's Address I spoke of the past and the future...the key goals we reached in the past and the many more we have set for ourselves for 2007-2008, with increasing membership being foremost.

I was honored to receive the encouragement and appreciation of my fellow League members as I begin my last year as your President. We have come a long way in a short time as the Rochester League reinvigorates itself and responds to ever changing challenges. In short, we are focused, financially stable, active and ready to grow.

Dorothy Borgus



2007-2008 League Day Programs

At their annual retreat, the Board of Directors set the League Day agenda for the coming year. It is an interesting and varied program and includes a Consensus, Open House and Program Issues. The program is patterned after last year's successful agenda and allocates more than one League Day for issues that are timely and of interest to League members.

- Sept. 8 Talk with our Ukrainian Visitors
- Oct. 4 Environmental Bus Trip
- Nov. 1 Immigration Issues
- Dec. 6 Holiday Open House & Discussion
On Local Development Corporations
- Jan. 10 Immigration Consensus
- Feb. 7 Green Business
- Mar. 6 Series: Universal Health Care Issues #1
- Apr. 3 Universal Health Care Issues #2
- May 1 Universal Health Care Issues #3

Campaign Finance Reform

The League continues to support changes in campaign financing in NY.

We need to keep contacting our elected officials asking them to vote to:

- Reduce contribution limits
- Ban contributions from LLC, business subsidiaries that have no assets
- Prohibit contributions from registered lobbyists
- Impose a \$300,000 cap on money to parties' housekeeping accounts
- Create a Board of Elections statutory enforcement unit
- Expand the jurisdiction of the Board of Election and increase penalties
- Require disclosures of bundling
- Require more frequent filing of contributions made
- Increase itemization of expenditures
- Increase public access to campaign finance information

There has been talk of change through out the summer, but no action.

Check your *Who Represents You* and

Let your representatives know you expect legislation this year!

Katherine Smith, VP Action

New Look for Membership Directory

By the time you read this VOTER, you should have received by mail your 2007-08 Membership Directory with its bright yellow cover and brand new look. Thanks to LWV member Chris Burleigh we have an updated directory with a crisp, professional appearance. Gone are the old format and tight spacing. Instead we have an easy-on-the-eyes bold type and **lots** of white space thanks to Chris's talents in lay-out and production.

Check it out! Hats off to Chris Burleigh!!

Welcome New Members!

The Rochester League would like to welcome the following new members:

Theresa Katz

KaeLyn Rich



In Memoriam

We note with sadness the passing of Lois Arlidge Zakia on August 9, 2007 in Apex, NC. Lois joined the Rochester League in 1985 and served as Vice-President/Voter Service before assuming the role of President from 1994 to 1996. Lois was responsible for the move to our present office location and was extremely generous to the League with both time and resources. She will be remembered for her warm and caring personality and her effective leadership. Our condolences to her family and many friends.

Consensus is Coming! Consensus is Coming! No One Can Claim Ignorance Regarding the Immigration Issue

**League Days: November 1 (informational)
and January 10 (consensus)**

No matter where you look—newspapers, magazines, internet, news shows—you will find that there is discussion about our country's immigration problems. The challenge is to separate facts from myths and to think through what we feel is in the best interest of our country.

Your National League has published eight excellent articles which can be found on its web site at www.lwv.com: Federal Policy and Proposed Reforms, Enforcement Issues, What Motivates Immigration, Diversity and Inclusion, Economic Effects, and Effects of Globalization/NAFTA. In addition the NATIONAL VOTER published articles on immigration in February and June.

We now know that there is no major federal overhaul of the immigration system with the Senate bill being defeated in June. There are a few attempts to make small corrections which you can find in your local newspaper.

Our own goals are to understand:

1. The **process** that is currently in place based on previous legislation.
 - Why has the system broken down?
 - What are the issues that are of most concern?
 - What level of importance do we attach to each?
2. How our **upstate region is affected** by the presence of immigrants—documented and undocumented.

We'll share what we are learning in the next Voter as well as on our local List Serve.

Consensus will be held at the January League Day.

Any comments? Contact me at 585-787-9692 or georgiatd@frontiernet.net.

Georgia DeGregorio, *Chair of Immigration Study Committee*

**What makes a
factory green?**

**Attend
October League Day
and learn!**

Pledge Signing

Again this year, The League of Women Voters and The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester are encouraging all candidates to sign and support our Fair Election Practices Campaign (FEPC) pledge listed below:

The Pledge

As a candidate for public office in the 2007 election:

- I will conduct my campaign honestly, openly and fairly. I will discuss the issues and participate in fair public debate with respect to my views and qualifications.
- I will not engage in, permit or condone defamatory attacks upon the character of my opponent(s); nor will I engage in invasions of personal privacy unrelated to campaign issues.
- I will not use or permit use of any campaign material or advertisement which misrepresents, distorts, or otherwise falsifies the facts regarding my opponent(s).
- I will refuse to disseminate any campaign material or message in which I am not prominently identified.
- I will publicly repudiate support from any individual or group whose activities would violate this Fair Campaign Pledge.
- In signing this pledge, I assume personal control over and responsibility for the conduct of my campaign.

Letters have been sent to all political parties in Monroe County with information about the pledge and the FEPC program. Letters will be sent to all candidates once the Board of Elections gives us the official list.

On the Wednesday after Labor Day, September 5th, a signing ceremony will be held at noon in the atrium of the Monroe County Office Building recognizing those who have signed the pledge. All League members are invited to attend.

Candidates who feel that their opponents have violated the pledge can file a complaint with the Fair

Election Practices Campaign committee consisting of Allan Bernstein, Rome Celli (chair), John G. Curran, Tom Frey, and Channing Philbrick (alternates Margaret Freeman and Kay Wallace). Complaints can be filed between August 6th and November 5th, the day before Election Day.

More information about this campaign can be found on the League website www.lwv-rma.org; click on Positive Campaigning.

Thank You

A heartfelt thank you to the members of the First Unitarian Church for their generous contribution to the printing costs of the brochure *Who Represents You* and, also, to Suzanne McNamara. Printing and distributing *Who Represents You* is a vital part of the mission of the League of Women Voters. We sincerely appreciate the help!



SAVE THE DATE!
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4
10 AM - 2 PM

The Natural Resources Committee,
 LWV/RMA presents a visit to

HARBEC,

A Very Green Factory.

See how one company has reduced its energy costs, its global warming air emissions and its toxic air emissions.

Transportation to HARBEC and lunch with a speaker will be provided. The Natural Resources Committee is planning an unusual and interesting program. Learn what makes a green factory green. Stand next to a wind mill. Details and reservation form will appear in the next VOTER.

BRING A FRIEND!

SEPTEMBER 2007

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

OCTOBER 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 VOTER Deadline	2	3	4 League Day 11:30am	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Exec. Com., 9am Naturalization Ceremony AM/PM	12	13
14	15	16	17 Natural Resources ., 9:30 am	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 Board Meeting 1:30pm	26	27
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*

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

**What is a HARBEC?
Attend October League
Day
and find out!**

Where Does Your Garbage Go?

Did you ever wonder about its destination once it leaves the end of your driveway? On August 2 Ann Jones, Chair of the Natural Resources Committee, and I found out when we attended an Open House at the Monroe County Mill Seat Landfill in Riga.

The landfill site and administrative area are more park-like than one would imagine... paved roads, well kept lawns and flowers in bloom. We were transported by bus with an on-board guide to the very top of the landfill where the view of surrounding countryside was spectacular. What was most amazing and unexpected was the cleanliness and neatness of the fill site itself. We then visited the new multi-million dollar generating plant where previously wasted methane gas from the site is being converted to usable electricity and fed directly into the national grid. Oh, the wonders of modern technology! Contrary to the mental image you may have, we can attest to the fact that the final destination of your refuse is a well maintained and extremely clean facility that is working hard to be "green".

Dorothy Borgus

Have you ever rubbed shoulders with a wind mill? If not, attend October League Day!

Wetlands Demonstration

The Natural Resources Committee for the past 10 years has been taking the table top wetlands model around to schools, conservation and zoo days and other events for school age children. The demonstration uses sponges as wetlands, powders for pollutants, and water sprinkling bottles to illustrate the importance of wetlands in our environment. The committee receives more requests than they can fill. If you are interested in helping with this rewarding activity, please call Ann Jones at 585-244-9337 or the League office at 585-262-3730.



League Member, Chris Fredette, at the August 15th Tinker Park Nature Day demonstrating the value of wetlands.

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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League of Women Voters**

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Officers

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

Board of Directors

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Off-Board Director Jane Schmitt <i>VOTER Editor</i>	Chris Burleigh <i>VOTER Layout & Production</i>

**October VOTER Deadline is
September 4!**

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

No man is good enough to
govern another man without
that other's consent.

*Abraham Lincoln speech,
1854*