



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.

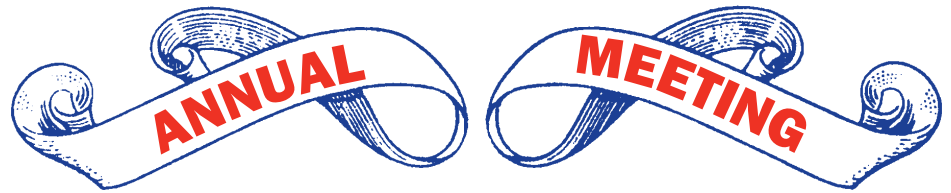
Voter education is one of the League's most important functions, and the League encourages all citizens to register and to cast an informed vote.

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 Thursday, May 29, 2008

Locust Hill Country Club
2000 Jefferson Road

11:30am Gathering
12:00 Luncheon

12:30 Guest Speaker
Tim Donaher

Monroe County Public Defender

1:00 – 2:00pm Business Meeting

Send Check for \$30 to:

LWV/RMA, 45 Exchange Blvd., Suite 508
Rochester, NY 14614 by May 27.

No charge for attending business meeting only.

Vegetarian Entree Available Upon Advance Request

QUORUM REQUIRED TO CONDUCT ANNUAL MEETING

From Your President

by Dorothy Borgus



The League year is drawing to a close with a flurry of activity. Plans are being finalized for the Annual Meeting, we are preparing for the national LWV convention in mid-June, and we are organizing the Board retreat where we will assemble next year's program.

While much of the daily work of the Rochester

League is performed by members of a committee or the Board or a small cadre of other volunteers, every member has a responsibility—to shape the future of the League. We are a grassroots organization; members decide what issues we will focus on and what actions we take. Your attendance at the Annual Meeting is vital to the health of our organization. Please attend. Ten percent of the membership is the required quorum, but attendance at the highest level possible helps to forge a League that

Many thanks...

The Rochester League is grateful to be named as a charitable beneficiary of a trust established by Suzanne and Charles Marvel.

Our thanks also for a generous bequest in Margaret Andronaco's last will and testament.

At the direction of the 2007-08 Board, the total proceeds of these gifts are to be invested in an interest-bearing reserve fund with the principal amount to be maintained intact and only the interest on these funds to be used for League purposes. In this way we can benefit into the future from the generosity of these two model League members. Both Sue and Margaret were dedicated long-time members who personified League principles and commitment. It was my pleasure to work closely with them both. They never passed on an opportunity to benefit the League. Our work will go on because of them.

Dorothy Borgus,
President

New National Member

Ms. Linda Lowenstein
18 Markay Court
Rochester, NY 14618

speaks for all of us. Tim Donaher, our new Monroe County Public Defender, has agreed to be our guest speaker. You may be surprised, as I was, to hear the behind-the-scene details of this department's work. Meet your friends for a delicious luncheon in a beautiful setting and help elect your new President and Board members.

Thank you to many past presidents and other long-time members who have provided me with counsel and assistance during my four year term as your President. I hesitate to name names as I'm sure I would omit vital individuals. Thanks to everyone who enthusiastically attended or participated in the many events we've sponsored, the volunteers who have given generously of their time and talents, and to the Board members who have helped to guide the League during my time in office. Along the way we have networked, made many friendships, and learned about our community together. We have a great organization with a proud history, and I have been honored to be your President.

Dorothy



WE'RE IN THE NEWS!

Have you read the last New York State VOTER? Five different activities from LWV/RMA were mentioned! They included: the study and resulting publication of "Local Development Corporations: Risks and Benefits – Case Studies in the Rochester Area," by our Local Government Committee; President Dorothy Borgus' appearance on the WXXI's Bob Smith show discussing the report; our stream team's monitoring of Irondequoit Creek; presentation of the movie THIRST and discussion afterwards; and the \$5,000 grant from the Rochester Area Community Foundation to pay for "Who Represents You".

Also our League Day Meeting about Pollution in Lake Ontario on May 8th was mentioned in the D&C article, "Mixed Outlook for Health of Lake Ontario", published May 7th. Many thanks to our PR team for getting the word out.

Bottles, Bottles, Everywhere

Go to the beach or drive along Route 490 and what do you see? Bottles, bottles and more bottles littering the landscape. When the original New York State bottle law was passed in 1982 no one envisioned the explosion in sales of bottled water that we see today. Americans purchased nearly 31 billion bottles of water in 2006 and spend \$11 billion on bottled water every year. Nearly 2.5 billion bottles of water a year are sold in New York alone. Stacked end to end, they'd reach the moon.

Unlike soda or other carbonated beverages, there is currently no deposit on water bottles so few are recycled. Nationally, only 10% of plastic water bottles are recycled – a staggering 90% end up as garbage or litter. 30 million single-serve non-returnable containers end up in landfills or as litter every day. And we spend millions annually to clean up plastic bottles that litter our highways, parks and open spaces. Consider this: In New York the oil used to make our bottles is equal to 66 million gallons of gasoline, enough to power 120,000 automobiles for a year.

Maine, Hawaii, California and Oregon have deposit laws that include bottled water. Why doesn't New York? Because of powerful lobbying by the bottlers and grocery chains. The good news is that, once again, legislation is coming before the New York State Legislature to make recycling of non-carbonated beverage bottles a law. Governor Paterson's new program has just been introduced, and it is hoped that the Assembly will pass it relatively soon. Senator Marcellino (Long Island) promised that they would deal with the Bottle Bill post-budget, and Senator Bruno has said that he will at least look at it.

What can the League do? Write, e-mail or call your legislators telling them we need to update the bottle bill to make it better, enlarging its scope to clean up the environment, stop the waste of energy and eliminate spending millions annually in clean-up costs. We need to raise our collective voice and make sure this happens this year.

Dorothy Borgus

We Need Your Vote at the Annual Meeting!

CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION ARE:

President: Nancy Kleintop
 VP Membership: open
 VP Development: open
 VP Voter Service: Sheila Abeling
 Natural Resources: Chris Pryor
 Local Government: Beth Keigher
 Public Relations: Roxanne Kuliner
 Nominating Committee for next year: Sally Brown (Chair) - Two additional off Board members: open

CANDIDATES FOR RE-ELECTION ARE:

Treasurer: Dorothy Borgus
 Secretary: Ann Weintraub
 Social Policy: Georgia DeGregorio
 Voter Editor: Jane Schmidt (off Board)

Submitted by Bettie Lindley
Chairperson of the Nominating Committee

Additional nominations may be made from the floor by any voting member, provided the consent of the nominee has been secured.

Please note that two positions for the LWV Board of Directors remain open: Membership and Development. In addition 2 non-board members are needed for the Nominating Committee.

Adoption of our program for the coming year will occur at the Annual Meeting. (See May's Voter for details.) If you have an issue or idea to suggest for next year's program, please contact either Dorothy Borgus, President at dorothyborgus@aol.com or Sula Baxter, VP Program at billsula@frontiernet.net before May 28.



Pre-1923 National Officers

Immigration Consensus: LWVUS Immigration Position

The League of Women Voters believes that immigration policies should promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; and be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises. Provision should also be made for qualified persons to enter the U.S. on student visas. All persons should receive fair treatment under the law.

The League supports federal immigration law that provides an efficient, expeditious system (with minimal or no backlogs) for legal entry of immigrants into the U.S.

To complement these goals the League supports federal policies to improve economies, education, job opportunities, and living conditions in nations with large emigrating populations.

In transition to a reformed system, the League supports provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status

The League supports federal payments to impacted communities to address the financial costs borne by states and local governments with large immigrant populations.

Criteria for Legal Admission to the U.S.

The League supports the following criteria for legal admission of persons into the United States:

- Family reunification of spouses or minor children with authorized immigrants or citizens;
- Flight from persecution or response to humanitarian crises in home countries;
- Economic, business and employment needs in the U.S.;
- Education and training needs of the U.S.;
- Educational program opportunities; and
- Lack of a history of serious criminal activity.

Administration and Enforcement

The League supports due process for all persons, including the right to a fair hearing, right to counsel, right of appeal and right to humane treatment.

The League supports:

- Improved technology to facilitate employer verification of employee status;
- Verification documents, such as status cards and work permits, with secure identifiers;
- Significant fines and penalties for employers who hire unauthorized workers;

- Improved technology for sharing information among federal agencies;
- More effective tracking of individuals who enter the United States; and
- Increased personnel at borders.

The League also supports programs allowing foreign workers to enter and leave the U.S. to meet seasonal or sporadic labor needs.

Unauthorized Immigrants Already in the U.S.

In achieving overall policy goals, the League supports a system for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status, including citizenship, by paying taxes, learning English, studying civics and meeting other relevant criteria. While policy reforms, including a path to legal status, remain unachieved, the League does not support deporting unauthorized immigrants who have no history of criminal activity.

The DRE's are gone!

For those who have been following the tortuous tale of selecting voting machines for New York, this may be the end of an important part of the story. The last remaining manufacturer of the dreaded DREs (direct recording electronic device, like an ATM) has decided to leave New York! Read all about it in Bo Lipari's blog on New Yorkers for Verified Voting. This leaves optical scanners the only remaining certified voting machines in New York. Congratulations to the League and other good government groups that helped make this possible!

Barb Hendry, *VP, Voters Service*

And from the blog of Bo Lipari:

"So for the first time since HAVA passed in 2002, New York State has no DREs of any type being purchased by any county, or undergoing NYS certification testing for 2009 purchases. For venders who for 6 years told us 'New York is a DRE state', we tell you now as we told you then, 'Wrong. New York is a paper ballot state'."



Support Needed for Lead Bill

Work continues on contacting League chapters throughout the State to provide them with information about childhood lead poisoning, and the need to contact their State Senators to urge them to co-sponsor and/or support passage of S6350. This is "an act to amend the public health law, in relation to establishing the childhood lead poisoning primary prevention and safe housing act; establishes the childhood lead poisoning primary prevention and safe housing fund and authorizes a corporate tax credit for lead hazard reduction activities".

The League of Women Voters of New York State has long supported primary preventive care as the best option in preventing long term debilitating illnesses. This legislation would accelerate the elimination of lead poisoning in children and would thus eliminate costly remedial long term health care for these children. Relying mainly on secondary prevention (treating the child after he/she is poisoned) is no longer an acceptable option.

A similar bill with many co-sponsors was passed in the State Assembly. Senator Joseph Robach from Rochester, NY introduced the bill in the Senate but did not recruit any co-sponsors.

Currently the Buffalo League has joined an effort started by the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo to tackle the high number of cases of childhood lead poisoning in their city. I have been mentoring the Buffalo group in these efforts. Members from the Buffalo League met on May 1st with Republican State Senator Mary Lou Rath from Erie County who is a member of the Senate Health Committee. They were joined by Mike Hanley, an attorney from Rochester's Empire Justice organization who is active with me in the Rochester Coalition to Prevent Lead Poisoning. Senator Rath seemed quite interested in pursuing the matter and pushing the Bill.

Syracuse has printed information in their VOTER urging League members to contact their Senators to co-sponsor and/or urge passage of this bill.

The League in the Ithaca area has also responded favorably to my requests to take action in pressuring their senators.

A Memorandum of Support has been sent by the NY State League to the Senate Health Committee, urging them to move it out of committee with a positive recommendation.

It is urgent to take action advocating passage of S6350 in this legislative session. I will continue to contact other Leagues in high risk areas and ask them to join the effort. Please contact NY State Senators Joseph Robach, Michael Nozzolio, James

Alesi, George Maziarz and Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno and urge them to support and pass this bill. Contact information for these Senators is in your "Who Represents You" flyer.

So far it has been rewarding to connect with League members in various cities and know that we will all try to do what we can to protect the health and future of our children.

Joan Rosenthal
Social Policy Committee
NY State Off Board Specialist, Lead Poisoning

Reforming Local Government

Government reform is in the news. The Report of the New York State Commission on Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness was released in late April. After one year's efforts, the Commission, whose members include former Rochester Mayor William Johnson and Brighton Supervisor Sandra Frankel, presented many recommendations that its members believe will lead to a more efficient and effective local government system. Some proposals can be achieved administratively, but most require statutory change, and five require a change to the state constitution. These changes fall into seven categories: Regional Services, Modern Municipal Structures, School District Restructuring, Informed and Active Voters, Aid & Incentives, Addressing Cost Drivers, and Sustaining Local Efficiency.

The report answered one of my questions. I did not understand why there are fire districts in the county rather than municipal fire departments. Due to regulations adopted more than a century ago, although villages and cities can have fire departments staffed by career firefighters, towns are not permitted to provide fire protection directly and usually provide it through a fire protection district or a fire district with a volunteer firefighter force. These districts were designed to be compact and to accommodate horse-drawn vehicles.

Governor Paterson has introduced legislation to implement some of the recommendations of the report, but his enthusiasm for the report has been called lukewarm by some observers. Only time will tell whether this report will lead to reform or join previous reports on the shelf.

You can access the entire report and see all the recommendations and hoped for changes at the Commission's website: www.nysllocalgov.org

Judy Weinstein, *Chair of Local Government*

JUNE 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
8	9	Have a Great Summer!			12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
29	30						

Board of Directors Orientation

An orientation/workshop will be held for the new Board of Directors on Saturday, July 26, 9AM-3PM at Nazareth College in the Board Room of Smyth Hall, North Campus Drive.

If any member of the LWVRMA has an issue they would like to see addressed by the Board at this workshop, please contact the President or any Board Member and request to have it added to the agenda.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE will meet with new Chairperson May 28, 2:30 PM at the home of Ann Jones. Please bring suggestions and goals for next year.

*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 meets at the home of Joan Rosenthal, 244-6255 for Social Policy details, call Georgia DiGregorio at 787-9692*

Local Government meets at the home of Bee Bibby, for Local Government details call Judy Weinstein at 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.

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

May League Day Meeting

Our thanks to Charles Knauf, Environmental Health Analyst for the Monroe County Health Department's Division of Environmental Health. He presented an informative and interesting program on Lake Ontario, specifically the Rochester Embayment and the lower Genesee River. Mr. Knauf has been instrumental in the tremendous effort undertaken by Monroe County and countless volunteers to investigate identified problems areas, develop a Remedial Action Plan for each, and remove or "delist" areas where improvement has occurred. Unfortunately, some impacts come from problems within the watershed for Lake Ontario but outside Monroe County, and from other Great Lakes. The program was well attended and attracted a number of members from other organizations that are interested in Lake Ontario and the problems associated with it.

Jane Schmitt, *Natural Resources*



Charlie Knauf, *Environmental Health Analyst, League Day speaker*



Map of Lake Ontario Watershed

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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**September VOTER Deadline is
August 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

I keep six honest serving-men
(They taught me all I know)
Their names are What and Why and When
And How and Where and Who

Rudyard Kipling, *The Elephant Child*