



## 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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## May League Day: The Great Lakes, Pollution & Its Sources Focus on Lake Ontario

Join Us  
Thursday, May 8, 2008

7:00 pm to 9:00 pm  
First Unitarian Church of Rochester  
Sanctuary  
220 S. Winton Road  
Rochester, NY 14610

Speaker:

**Charles Knauf**

*Environmental Health Analyst with the Environmental Quality Unit in the Monroe County Health Department's Division of Environmental Health*

Mr. Knauf's very long title reflects the diverse responsibilities he has in overseeing the health of our environment. He is well known and respected through out the community.

Mr. Knauf has a Bachelor of Arts Degree from SUNY at Binghamton, and has supplemental coursework in chemistry and mathematics. Since starting work with Monroe County in 1985, Mr. Knauf has worked on a number of projects, including the cooperative monitoring program with the United States Geological Survey, the Irondequoit Creek Wetlands Project, the Irondequoit Bay Oxygenation Project, and as staff support for the Irondequoit Watershed Collaborative modeling effort. Mr. Knauf has also represented the Health Department on the Monroe County Water Quality Coordinating Committee, the Irondequoit Bay Coordinating Committee Technical Group, the Oatka Watershed Collaborative, the Black Creek Watershed Coalition, and the Finger Lakes Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance.

***Please note change in time and place.***

## From Your President

by Dorothy Borgus



Thanks to each of you who sent cards, e-mails and letters during my recent surgery and convalescence. Your concern and encouragement brightened my days. My doctors and therapists assure me that I'm doing well, but like most go-go patients, I'm anxious to be 100% now.

Save the date. The Rochester League's Annual Meeting will be held on May 29 at Locust Hill Country Club. We require a quorum in order to conduct the annual business of the League so please plan on attending. It's a great opportunity for a delicious luncheon in a beautiful setting with friends old and new. Plus, I'm working on getting a surprise speaker whom you'll be anxious to meet and greet. More next month.

Right now, as I write this letter, our County is going down a dangerous path that requires the League's attention, and I urge each member to take action. The search for a new Monroe County Community

College president has taken a dangerous turn with the late addition of two politically connected local candidates not recommended by the search committee. Two other strong candidates with community college experience have already been identified through a credible nationwide search process. In MCC we have a truly stellar community college, a college we can be proud of. MCC is essential in delivering our local workforce for the next decade and beyond. MCC has grown in stature during President Flynn's tenure. Community industry and business have come to expect that their workforces will be filled with skilled and qualified MCC graduates.

Picking the right president to lead the college and continue its successful growth is essential to Monroe County's economic future. I urge you to speak up forcefully. Call, phone, or e-mail your County Legislators (who have the last say) and the MCC Board of Trustees and let them know that this is no place for political interference. Education and politics do not mix! League members are well known for getting their point across. Let's do it again!

Dorothy

### Annual Meeting Luncheon May 29, 2008

Locust Hill Country Club  
Speaker to be announced

More details regarding the annual meeting will be included in the next VOTER.

In preparation for the annual meeting and in compliance with the Bylaws of 2007, this issue of The VOTER includes: notice of the annual meeting, slate of candidates for election, proposed budget and program items. A quorum is needed at the meeting. Please mark the date on your calendar.

## In the News:

Julie Hutchinson, League member and former board member, has been elected as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. Her vote is currently assigned to Hillary Clinton, but who knows what will happen when she gets to the convention, according to Julie. She has promised to write an article for the VOTER about her experience.

## A Thumbs Up from the D & C!

The Brighton Town Board honored the League of Women Voters' support of Sunshine Week with a special proclamation at its meeting on March 12. Sunshine Week was celebrated March 16-22. Nancy Kleintop, Vice President of Development, accepted the proclamation on behalf of the League. She complimented the Brighton Board for its attention to Sunshine Week, its obvious concern, and for valuing transparency in government. The Democrat & Chronicle recognized the League with a Thumbs Up for its dedication to Sunshine Week and transparency.

## Applause for our Wetlands!

On March 13 members of the Natural Resources Committee spent the day at Brooks Hill school in Fairport presenting their program on wetlands, using their table top model. The program was very well received by the students. One class broke into spontaneous applause when the program ended. Another class groaned in disappointment when told it was over. Compliments on a great program were received from several teachers and a parent. Thanks to Chris Fredette, Jane Schmitt, and Elizabeth Rabjohns (friend of the League) for their time and effort. They gave 10 presentations that day.

## LWV/RMA Proposed Budget 2008-2009

INCOME	BUDGET 2007-2008	BUDGET 2008-2009
<b>Community Support:</b>		
Contributions - Non-Members	700.	700.
Contributions - WRY	1,000.	1,000.
<b>Events - Special:</b>		
Foreign Visitors	6,000.	5,500.
Book Sale/Garage Sale	620.	700.
<b>Grants:</b>		
Educ. Found. Democracy Luncheon	3,000.	3,000.
Educ. Found. LWV/US PMP	2,925.	3,150.
Educ. Found. LWV/NY PMP	2,020.	2,030.
Educ. Found. Who Represents You	-	-
Educ. Found. Overhead	1,000.	1,500.
<b>Meetings &amp; Events:</b>		
Annual Meeting	1,000.	1,000.
Breakfast with Legislators	100.	300.
Democracy Luncheon	3,300.	3,000.
February League Night	-	-
September League Day	500.	600.
Spring League Evening	850.	600.
<b>Member Support:</b>		
Contributions - Members	750.	2,100.
Dues	12,000.	12,000.
<b>Voter Services:</b>		
Election Services	1,600.	2,000.
Moderators & Speakers	350.	350.
<b>Other:</b>		
Newletter Advertising	250.	250.
Memorials/Tributes	700.	700.
LWV/NYS Raffle	100.	100.
<b>TOTAL INCOME:</b>	<b>\$38,465.</b>	<b>\$40,580.</b>

## ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

(annual meeting)

### CANDIDATES FOR OPEN POSITIONS 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

### CANDIDATES FOR RE-ELECTION ARE:

Treasurer: Dorothy Borgus

Secretary: Ann Weintraub

Social Policy: Georgia DeGregorio

Voter Editor: Jane Schmitt

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.

EXPENSES	BUDGET 2006-2007	BUDGET 2007-2008
<b>Community Relations:</b>		
Public Relations	250.	250.
<b>Education &amp; Community:</b>		
Facts for Voters	100.	100.
Newsletter Printing	1,700.	2,000.
Newsletter Layout	2,000.	2,000.
Who Represents You	1,000.	1,000.
<b>LWV Support:</b>		
State PMP	4,050.	4,060.
National PMP	5,900.	6,300.
<b>Meetings &amp; Events:</b>		
Spring League Night	600.	400.
League Days (other)	400.	300.
September League Day	400.	400.
Annual Meeting	900.	900.
December League Day	150.	150.
<b>Operating Expenses:</b>		
Accounting	400.	400.
Bank Charges	-	-
Employer FICA	220.	235.
Employer FUTA	75.	75.
Employer Medicare	50.	55.
Employer SUTA	50.	55.
Insurance	1,200.	1,200.
Parking	550.	650.
Postage	1,885.	2,000.
Printing	300.	600.
Rent & Utilities	1,550.	1,550.
Salary	3,500.	3,800.
Supplies	500.	1,000.
Telephone & Internet	1,060.	1,100.
<b>Organization:</b>		
Administration	200.	200.
Development	700.	700.
Membership	300.	300.
Voter Service	175.	200.
Convention	1,200.	1,500.
<b>Special Events:</b>		
Democracy Luncheon	3,000.	3,000.
Foreign Visitor	3,600.	3,600.
Book Sale/Garage Sale	300.	300.
Breakfast with Legislators	200.	200.
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$38,465.</b>	<b>\$40,580</b>

## Bylaws

The Bylaws Committee reported that no changes or additions are required at this time.

Judy Weinstein, *Chair*

## New Members

Bertha E. Simpkin  
321 Brookview Dr.  
Rochester, NY 14617

Virginia Busack  
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

## Proposed Local Program

### (unchanged/from last year):

At the Annual Meeting we will be voting to continue the following local program items:

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT- Equitable Taxation

Promote property assessment based on uniform standards throughout the country and maintained at full value (1976)

Promote use of a sales tax revenue distribution formula that will reduce fiscal disparities among Monroe County municipalities (1982)

#### Planning and Zoning

Support of community development based on comprehensive planning at all levels of government (1973)

Support of environmental preservation and coordinated control of development and water surface use by the three towns around Irondequoit Bay and by the county (date ?)

#### Structures, Procedures, and Productivity

Promote governmental structures and procedures that make for effectiveness, Improve productivity, and facilitate citizen participation (1973, 1976)

Promote a budget process that includes documents that are understandable and foster good decision making and summaries that are made widely available and encourage citizen involvement (1976) and encourage citizen involvement (1976)

#### Police Services

Promote an equitable method of financing and a coordinated approach to the delivery of police services (1977)

#### Redistricting

Promote making county legislative districts compact and contiguous as well as equal in proportion and in compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act, whenever they are redrawn following each decennial census (1966)

#### NATURAL RESOURCES - New York State Erie/Barge Canal

Support of reconditioning of the system and its development for recreational purposes (1975, 1993)

#### Solid Waste

Support of waste reduction, reuse/recycling, and landfills that are or can be engineered to be ecologically acceptable as part of a comprehensive solid waste program (1972, 1989)

Promote the preservation and protection of wetlands smaller than 12.4 acres that are not protected by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (2002)

#### SOCIAL POLICY - Housing

Support of measures to ensure an adequate supply of housing for persons of low and low-to-moderate income in Monroe and Genesee Counties (1968, 2002?)

Support of measures which would lead to fair housing choice in Monroe and Genesee Counties (2002?)

#### ELECTION PROCESS

Promote fair, issue-oriented campaigning and encourage voters to take the Initiative to influence the style and type of political campaigns (date?)

## Great Lakes and What is a RAP?

In 1981 the International Joint Commission (IJC), a group of representatives from Canada and the United States charged with protecting the Great Lakes, declared that 43 (now 52) areas surrounding the Great Lakes were "Areas of Concern" (AoCs) or areas contributing to pollution in the Lakes. The Rochester embayment was one of those areas. The embayment was defined as the part of the Lake Ontario shoreline south of a line drawn between Bogus Point in Parma and Nine Mile Point in Webster, and extending south along the Genesee River to the Lower Falls. The drainage area of the embayment is about 3,000 square miles. Generally speaking, what impacts the waters of the drainage area also impacts the embayment.

For each AoC, the appropriate government was charged with creating and implementing a plan for abatement of pollution in that area. Monroe County had a staff of dedicated people with technical expertise, supported by an equally dedicated group of volunteers who were willing to give time to the undertaking. This group of people set about to write and implement a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for the Rochester Embayment, dubbed RERAP. The Rochester Embayment AoC was unique among AoCs as most other Plans were done by agencies. A committee of volunteers was formed, called the Monroe County Water Quality Management Advisory Committee (WQMAC). An already existing Monroe County Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC) brought technical expertise to the table. League members served on both committees.

Stage I of the RERAP, completed in 1993, investigated 14 benefits present in the area of concern that had been identified by the IJC as being impaired. They were referred to as beneficial use impairments (BUIs); 12 of them were confirmed locally as being problematic to our AoC and 2 as needing further study. The impairments resulted in:

## Great Lakes and What is a RAP? (cont'd)

1. Restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption;
2. Degradation of fish and wildlife populations;
3. Bird or animal deformities or reproduction problems;
4. Degradation of benthos (organisms that live on the bottom of a body of water);
5. Restriction of dredging activities;
6. Eutrophication or undesirable algae;
7. Restrictions on drinking water consumption or taste and odor;
8. Beach closings;
9. Degradation of aesthetics;
10. Added costs to agriculture or industry;
11. Degradation of phytoplankton and zooplankton populations;
12. Loss of fish and wildlife habitat.

Two other impairments that needed further investigation were:

1. Tainting of fish and wildlife flavor
2. Fish tumors or other deformities

Stage II of the RERAP was first published in 1997 and set forth remedial measures, studies and monitoring methods needed to eliminate the impairments and monitor the results. A watershed approach was taken - the Plan was not restricted to the Rochester embayment as defined by the IJC. It was realized that the waters of the Embayment were affected by everything that happened in the watershed, or drainage area. Point, or end-of-pipe, discharges were already being dealt with on many fronts. Nonpoint source pollution, such as runoff or inground, was a relatively new concept and had been recognized during Irondequoit Bay cleanup efforts. Many actions outlined in this Plan are still taking place. Others have been satisfactorily completed. An Addendum in 2002 and several updates have added actions to further the goals of the Plan.

The last stage of the RERAP was to formulate delisting criteria – what questions needed to be answered, what monitoring needed to continue, what actions completed, in order to complete the process and delist the Rochester Embayment as an Area of Concern. Delisting criteria were formulated by several subcommittees of the WQMAC before it was combined with the WQCC.

More recently another group, the RERAP Oversight Committee, has been looking over the delisting criteria and making determinations as to whether the criteria have been satisfied. In some cases, all targets listed for a BUI may be met; in other cases, a majority of the targets may be met and decisions made whether it is not possible to attain full restoration or no longer necessary to restore the BUI. An example is restrictions on fish and wildlife

consumption – restrictions may be lakewide and caused by pollution from sources not in our area or not under our control.

Chris Fredette, *Natural Resources Committee*.

Addendum.

During this time numerous sub committees were established to develop programs to address sources of pollution such as lawn runoff, best management practices for salvage yards and public works departments, and monitoring of stream quality. The following League members serve(d) on committees: Chris Fredette and Jane Schmitt (League representative) on WQCC; Ann Jones and Jane Schmitt on WQMAC; Ann Jones, Chris Fredette, Joyce Pearson and Barbara Wagner on our stream team.

## Super Delegates

What is a super delegate? Who is a super delegate? How many super delegates are there? Why do we have super delegates?

The AAUW, Fairport Chapter, requested a League speaker to answer these questions. The issue of super delegates is relevant to the convention rules of the Democratic Party. Nancy Kleintop, Vice President of LWVRMA, gave the presentation on Wednesday, March 19 at the Fairport High School. The presentation was well attended. Eileen Hartman, Fairport AAUW, stated that the presentation was “a fine representation of the League of Women Voters’ knowledge of democracy and passing it along so eloquently”.

Many AAUW members came well prepared with questions and citizen awareness regarding the primary elections. Barbara Hendry, board member, and Shiela Ablang, member of the LWV, also attended. Our thanks to Nancy for her presentation.

## Meeting with Legislators

Meetings with Monroe County Assembly members and State Senators are being set up in May. We will be asking for their support of the LWVNYS agenda. If you would to attend please call Katherine Smith at 344-3991

## Program Ideas for 2008-09??

Do you have a hot topic you’d like to suggest for next year’s program? Pass along your ideas to Dorothy (dorothyborgus@aol.com) or Sula (billsula@frontiernet.net).

**Please note change in time and place  
of the May 8th League Day!**

## MAY 2008

MAY 2008						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5 VOTER Deadline	6	7	8 League Day Great Lakes 7:00 pm Executive Com. 9:00 am	9	10
11	12	13 Social Policy Committee 5:30 pm *	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Natural Resources Committee* 9:30 am	22 Board Meeting 1:45 pm	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 Annual Meeting	30	31

## JUNE 2008

JUNE 2008						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	Have a Great Summer!		13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.lwv-rma.org), call the office at 262-3730 or e-mail us at [lwvrma@frontiernet.net](mailto:lwvrma@frontiernet.net)

## League Sponsors Student to Albany

Our League is sending a student to the Students Inside Albany Conference from April 27-April 30, 2008. Amanda Ballard, a senior at the John Marshall Law and Government Magnet School in Rochester, was selected by the faculty at her school and will be attending the conference. She is an exceptional student who has been active in the school newspaper, sports and volunteer work.

The Education Foundation of the League of Women Voters of New York State sponsors the Students Inside Albany conference. High school students from all over the state learn about their responsibilities in a representative government, how they can participate in policy making, and the workings of the New York State government.

Amanda will go by train on Sunday, April 27th to Albany. On Monday, April 28th, she will learn how public policy is developed, have a tour of the Capitol, and then shadow her assemblyperson. On Tuesday, she will continue the study of public policy, investigate the role media plays in politics, tour parts of Albany, and shadow her state senator. Students will also work on group presentations. On Wednesday, there is a wrap-up and Amanda returns to Rochester.

We look forward to hearing what she learns and her reaction to what she sees!

Submitted by Barb Hendry, *VP Voters Service*

## LWV U.S. Convention

Dorothy Borgus, Nancy Kleintop and Georgia DeGregorio will represent Rochester at the LWV National Convention in Portland, Oregon from June 13 to 17, 2008. The Board of Directors passed a resolution at the March 31 meeting to cover \$500. of expenses for each delegate.

## 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

## Local Development Corporation Reform Update

Senator James Alesi he has introduced legislation (S.7186) which would extend the application of the accountability standards, open meetings law and freedom of information (FOIL) to Local Development Corporations (LDC's) so that there would be full and public disclosure of LDC activities. The bill has several co-sponsors in the Senate, but there is not yet support in the Assembly. It is not clear from a review of the bill whether it meets all the recommendations of the Center for Governmental Research report that was commissioned by the LWV:

- File IRS form 990 tax returns, as most nonprofits do
- Make those forms and annual reports available to the public
- Comply with open meetings and open records laws
- Buy and sell property at fair market value
- Solicit bids for work and make them public once a vendor is chosen.

The committee has requested a meeting with Sen. Alesi to discuss the bill. We assure you that we will inform him of the League's role in bringing the need for oversight of LDCs to the public's attention.

Judy Weinstein, Chair, *Local Government*

### 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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*VOTER Layout & Production*

**June VOTER Deadline is  
May 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

**"It is easier to fight for one's principles than to live up to them."**

*Alfred Adler*