

## 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 Welcomes Our Ukrainian Guests!

On October 17, 2008 League members Nancy Kleintop (President), Judy Weinstein (Program Coordinator), Dorothy Borgus and Hosts Georgia DeGregorio, Jane & John Schmitt, and Galyna Lisova (friend of the League) met our Ukrainian guests at the Rochester Metropolitan Airport. That evening a Welcoming Dinner was held at the River-ton Community Room; several other League members and friends also participated.

Our guests are sponsored by the Open World Center at the Library of Congress and are here to study and observe our democratic system and the election process. This is the sixth year the League has participated in this program.

Welcome Oleksandr Anatoliyovych Lomako, Nataliya Vasylivna Lynnyk, Yuriy Mykhaylovych Sas, Denys Valeriyovych Tkachenko, Serhiy Serihyovych Verko and Nataliya Rudolfvna Mazur, Facilitator.



## From Your President

by Nancy Kleintop



### A CALL TO ACTION!

Over the summer, Kathy Smith, VP for Action, and myself observed and reviewed the crises in child care confronting our community. The county failed to adequately fund child care subsidies. As a result, the demand for daycare exceeded the ability of parents to pay for quality care. Many families who lost their subsidy will likely become welfare

recipients if they do not have access to child care.

Kathy Smith serves as the Social Policy Committee representative to the Coalition for Early Childhood Advocacy. She has become a League expert on the funding issue. She and I attended the Monroe County Legislature's Ways and Means Committee to gain a firmer handle on the issue. We focused on the procedures used by the Legislature.

After a review of League policy on child care, Kathy prepared testimony for Governor Paterson's Economic Security Cabinet which was designed to gather information

on efforts to protect and enhance the economic security of low-income families. Her testimony made these key points:

- Strong public support is needed to increase subsidies for affordable child care.
- This subsidy is geared toward low income families.
- With the economic difficulties we are facing, we cannot afford to be short sighted in funding this need.

Emergency funds of \$250,000 were found in an over funding of New York City child care. This is a stop gap measure. The League needs to remain vigilant over the next budget year.

At the September Board Meeting it was decided to appoint League Observers to attend Ways and Means Committee meetings of the County Legislature; Sula Baxter and Ann Weintraub have agreed to do this. Kathy Smith will follow the State's funding of child care.

Our efforts will be organized and focused as a result of these activities.

Remember to VOTE!

Nancy Kleintop

## REMINDER – You're Invited to Tea

On October 26th the League of Women Voters, along with the Republican Women's Committee, Democratic Women's Leadership Council, and American Association of University Women are hosting a tea for all women running for office this year. The format is "meet and greet" and will take place Sunday, October 26, 2-4PM, at the AAUW House, 494 East Ave. The event is free to all League members. Please plan to attend.

## New Members:

M. Adrienne Simpkins  
28 Fern Castle Dr.  
Rochester, NY 14622  
585-342-8492

## Recognition from the National League

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK - Over 500 people at two different events helped celebrate Constitution Day by witnessing a naturalization ceremony in the morning and coming to hear T. Andrew Brown, President of the Monroe County Bar Association speak in the afternoon on "The Constitution: The Past, Present and Future" at Nazareth College.

This article appeared in the LeagueE-Voice Newsletter on September 29, 2008.

## Registering Voters!

On Sept. 21st Cindy Drozd and Sheila Abeling participated in the Third Annual Gates-Chili 5K and Family Festival where they registered citizens to vote.



Member, Cindy Drozd registering voters at Gates Family Festival

## For Your Voting Information: NYS Proposition #1

The purpose of the proposal is to eliminate the requirement that disabled veterans must actually be receiving disability payments from the federal government in order to receive additional credit points on civil service exams. The proposal extends the bonus to veterans with disabilities who do not receive disability benefits; it would require only that the United States Veteran Administration certify the veteran's disability exists at the time he/she applies for an appointment or promotion under civil service.

Applicants for many jobs in New York State and local government are required to take a civil service examination; the appointment or promotion to the job is based upon civil service scores. Veterans who were disabled in the actual performance of duty in any war receive a defined amount of extra points on those examinations to increase their scores; this point bonus increases the likelihood of being appointed. Proposition #1 eliminates the requirement that the applicant must actually be receiving disability benefits to receive the bonus points for a disability. For additional information go to [www.smartvoter.org/2008/11/04/ny/state/prop/](http://www.smartvoter.org/2008/11/04/ny/state/prop/) sponsored by the LWV NYS Education Foundation, Inc.

## League Day: Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative (LOCI)

October League Day featured Stephan Lewandowski from LOCI. Although technical difficulties prevented him from giving his power point presentation, his knowledge and wide field experience led to lively discussion and Q/A with attendees. Pollution from rivers and streams flowing into the lake was explored along with the escalation of phosphorous levels in the lake and the resulting problems with plant life. LOCI grants are used to monitor pollution levels and to raise awareness in the general population regarding problems of the lake.

In his capacity as the Outreach Coordinator for LOCI, Mr. Lewandowski interfaces with local municipalities within the Lake Ontario Watershed. A focus of his work is helping towns obtain grants so they can begin to plan to repair waste treatment facilities.

Additional information on LOCI activities can be requested at [stachu14512@yahoo.com](mailto:stachu14512@yahoo.com).

Our thanks to Mr. Lewandowski for a stimulating program.

## Tax Caps & Circuit Breakers

On August 19, 2008, the League weighed in on Governor Paterson's Program Bill 62, introduced as S8763, imposing a tax cap on school district increases, and A11838, a need-based real property tax circuit breaker program and millionaire's tax. The League opposed both of the bills on the grounds that they represented one-house bills designed to provide political cover for the upcoming elections rather than the series of serious recommendations for real property tax reform and education finance reform outlined in the Suozzi Commission preliminary report. As predicted, each bill was passed by one chamber and went no further.

The League has a long standing interest in education finance and property tax reform, having studied these issues over the past 25 years as part of ongoing investigation into the manner in which New York State funds crucial services. The League last updated its positions in these areas in 2006 when, after a year-long study, it determined that:

- The state should adopt a foundation approach to funding education;
- Additional funding, required to provide all children with a sound basic education, should be provided by means of the state personal income tax, implemented in a progressive fashion;
- Cost savings should be implemented by replacing the constellation of STAR programs with a real property tax circuit breaker program based on need and indexed to inflation;
- Stability in the funding of education should be increased by creation of an education reserve fund, calculated to stabilize state funds available for education purposes in times of economic downturn.

From "League Weighs in on Tax Caps and Circuit Breakers" at <http://lwvny.org/advocacy/legAction/caps.breaker.html> where additional information is available.



## Meet Pat Thompson

Appointed as an Off Board Specialist in Development, Pat Thompson has joined the League in its efforts to grow and continue its service. She brings a wide based experience in community organization to the League. She has been a leader in the Rochester Teachers and the New York State United Teachers Associations. Presently she serves on the Boards of AAUW and Women Helping Girls. She is dedicated to advancing the roles of women.

Her leadership has been immediate. She has organized the “Making Democracy Work” luncheon and spear-headed the “Tea with Women Candidates”, a new venture for the League this year. The National League has encouraged projects with AAUW, and Pat is a natural fit.

Welcome Pat and thank you for your energy and leadership.



## In Colonial Days, To vote you had to:

Own property.  
Be a male.  
Be white.  
Be Protestant.

Black men gained the right to vote with the passage of two Constitutional Amendments, the 14th (1868) and 15th (1870). Women received the right to vote in 1920 after the passage of the 19th amendment.

Today, men and women citizens, poor or rich... CAN VOTE!!!

Let us not forget the struggle to obtain our right to vote. Go to the polls November 4th!

*From LWV of Port Washington-Manhasset.*

### Save the Date!

Don't forget the Holiday  
Open House at the AAUW  
on December 11th!

## MOVING ON – the 1920's

In the September VOTER an article appeared about the founding of the League of Women Voters. This article is a continuation of their history.

“(National) League President Maud Wood Park called the first League program adopted in 1920 a kettle of eels. And no wonder! It contained some 69 items grouped in broad subject areas: child welfare, education, the home and high prices, women in gainful occupations, public health and morals, and independent citizenship for married women! The League's first major national legislative success was the passage of the Sheppard-Towner Act providing federal aid for maternal and child care programs.

Since the League had inherited its structure from the National American Women Suffrage Association in 1920, it was a federation of affiliated state Leagues, most of which had been in existence as state headquarters of the NAWSA. By 1924 the National League was organized in 346 of 433 congressional districts. A convention, held annually at first and then later biennially, of the state League representatives selected a program that for many years was national, state and local all in one. Local Leagues were not represented at the conventions and the state League delegates also chose the national officers and directors.

The League also set up classes to train volunteer teachers for citizenship schools. And the League organized institutes to study defects in our system of government, initiated “Know Your Town” surveys, candidate questionnaires and meetings, and nationwide get-out-the-vote campaign activities. In 1928 the League sponsored “Meet the Candidates”, the first national radio broadcast of a candidate forum. Voters service efforts remain a hallmark of the League's services to the electorate today and laid the foundation for the efforts that make up the League's education program – from candidate debates and candidate questionnaires produced by the Leagues throughout the country, to the myriad projects funded through the League of Women Voters Education Fund, which was founded in 1957.”

The above is from “The League through the Decades!” compiled by Kay J. Maxwell for League of Women Voters of the United States, 2007. As space allows, this series will continue in the VOTER.

## City Goes Live on TV!

Recently, the City of Rochester Council began live broadcasts of committee meetings on City Channel 12. Calendar of meeting dates and agenda items are posted two weeks before the meeting on the city's website, [www.cityofrochester.gov](http://www.cityofrochester.gov). Bravo for the city!

Council meetings are also televised on Channel 12.

## Wetlands, Wetlands Everywhere!

1400 school children from 12 schools attended the annual Conservation Field Days held September 23-25 in Ellison Park. The Natural Resources Committee, using their wetlands model, gave their presentation on “Wetlands Matter” 18 times. The children were very receptive and enthusiastic about the program – which is why the League is asked to participate every year.

The park provides the perfect setting to discuss wetlands (which are throughout the park) and the benefits they provide, including flood control (which is one of the benefits the park provides).

Our thanks to members Chris Fredette, Jane and John Schmitt, Ann Jones, and Elizabeth Rapjohn (friend of the League) for presenting this program.

If you are interested in participating in this worthwhile endeavor, please contact Chris Pryor at 585-392-4818. The committee receives more requests than they can fill.



If you are interested in participating in the voting process, volunteer to open absentee ballots on Nov. 4th. We need lots of volunteers. Call Sheila Abeling at 585-223-6819.

## We've been busy!

The League and the AAUW (American Association of the University of Women) held a voters registration at the Clothesline Arts Festival on the lawn of the Memorial Art Gallery on Sept. 6th and Sept. 7th. It was a wonderful opportunity to register voters.

Barbara Hendry and Sheila Abeling held a voter registration at the Block Fair sponsored by St. John Missionary Baptist Church on Edwards Street on September 21st. It was a wonderful turnout! Along with people registering to vote, there were a variety of activities, information tables, clothes, household items and food available.

Katherine Smith, VP for Action and League Representative at Early Childhood Advocacy, spoke before the Governor's Cabinet on Economic Security, attended meetings of the Monroe County Legislature's Ways and Means Committee on the 2009 Budget and presented the LWVNY position on childcare. She also spoke before Commissioner Patricia Smith, NYS Department of Labor, urging support of subsidies for affordable high quality childcare/learning programs. See the From Your President column for more about this.

On Primary Day, Sept. 9th, Linda Mauck, Bertha Simpson and Sheila Abeling opened absentee ballots at the Board of Elections Service Center. They are looking forward to doing the same volunteering on Nov. 4th.

On Oct. 1st Nancy Kleintop visited the Friendly Home and shared lunchtime with the residents. She spoke to them about the importance of voting and registered some to vote.

Barbara Hendry spoke to students about voter registration and the voting process at the Brighton School District on Sept. 24th. Disabled students were especially eager to learn about voting.

School #22 held a Health Fair/Parent Night on Oct. 1st. Barbara Hendry and Phyllis Masters held a voter registration from 5-7 pm at the school.

Sept. 11th found Nancy Kleintop on Central Avenue discussing voter education and registration at a workshop/discussion event sponsored by the Catholic Family Center in collaboration with The League of Women Voters, The Rochester Voters Alliance and the host, Rochester Surround Care Community Corporation.

Our thanks to all for representing the League so well. You, too, can participate in these vital and rewarding activities of the League. Call 585-262-3730 and volunteer.

## NOVEMBER 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3 VOTER deadline	4 Election Day Count Absentee Ballots	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Natural Resources 2:00pm	13 Executive Committee	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 Board Meeting  Naturalization Ceremony	21	22
23    30	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving	28	29

## DECEMBER 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 January Voter Deadline	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Natural Resources 2:00PM	11 Holiday Open House AAUW, 4:30- 8PM	12 ← Executive Com ← Naturalization Ceremony	13
14	15	16	17	18 Board Mtg	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

*Board meets in the Bagel Bin Conference Room, 2600 Elmwood Avenue, at 2:00 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. For Natural Resources details, call Chris Pryor 392-4918  
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 Beth Keigher 271-6694*

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.

Board meetings of the LWV/RMA are open to membership.

## What is the LWV Education Foundation?

How many times have you read the following: Make a tax deductible contribution to the LWVNYSEF Education Foundation. Perhaps an explanation about the foundation is in order.

The League of Women Voters of New York State Education Foundation (LWVNYSEF) was established in 1950 as the Foundation for Citizen Education (FCE) to support the educational activities of the League of Women Voters of New York State. It derives its strength from the energy and commitment of the women and men in about 60 local Leagues throughout the state. It is strictly nonpartisan, and works primarily on projects that enlighten the electorate i.e., empower through education, without advocating for any particular cause or policy, party or candidate.

The charitable support of individual people, corporations and foundations throughout New York State help us accomplish three central missions:

- Educate people on the importance of their participation in government, in the political process and, most importantly, in the life of their home community.
- Create awareness of the issues at the local, state and national levels and what average citizens can do to have an impact on their government.
- Instill in young people and new citizens the knowledge of their role and responsibilities in managing their own government.

Throughout its history the Foundation has produced and distributed nonpartisan, educational materials;

funded activities which promote citizen responsibility in the democratic process; and facilitated communication between citizens and their government officials. It has a strong commitment to young people and to the promise of the continued success of democracy.

It is incorporated under the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law of New York and is classified as a public educational charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Foundation is dedicated exclusively to the support and promotion of the educational programs of the League of Women Voters in New York State. These funds may be used to support educational efforts. Regular funds, such as dues that are given to the League directly, are not tax deductible due to the nature of League activities and support of issues and legislation.

To learn more about the Education Foundation and the LWV, visit [lwny.org](http://lwny.org).



# VOTE!

## It's The Only Chance We Have!

## 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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# Rochester **VOTER**

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**December VOTER  
Deadline is November 3!**

**Goals of the League of Women Voters:**

- To encourage informed citizen participation in government and politics
- To influence public policy through education and advocacy

“I believe that every right implies a responsibility; every opportunity, an obligation; every possession, a duty.”  
John D. Rockefeller, Jr., *speech 1941*