



## 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.

## Join us for League Day October 2nd, 2008

# Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative

1600 East Ave, Copper Beach Room

11:45am to 1:30pm

Program will start promptly at noon.

*Speaker*

**Stephen Lewandowsky**

### Inside this issue:

<b>League Day</b> . . . . .	1
<b>From the President</b> . . . . .	2
<b>Congrats to Kent Gardner</b> . . . . .	2
<b>New Study Nat'l. Popular Vote</b> . . . . .	2
<b>Visit the U.N.</b> . . . . .	2
<b>What is LOCI</b> . . . . .	3
<b>Annual Luncheon</b> . . . . .	3
<b>Annual Luncheon Speaker</b> . . . . .	3
<b>New Members</b> . . . . .	4
<b>Celebrating the U.S. Constitution</b> . . . . .	4
<b>FEC Pledge Signing</b> . . . . .	4
<b>Sarah Liebschutz</b> . . . . .	4
<b>Political Tea</b> . . . . .	5
<b>Social Policy Report</b> . . . . .	5
<b>What FEC Pledge is All About</b> . . . . .	5
<b>Calendars</b> . . . . .	6
<b>League to Host Ukrainian Visitors</b> . . . . .	7
<b>Officers</b> . . . . .	8

The Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative (LOCI), is a joint project of the Center for Environmental Information, Finger Lakes-Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance and SUNY Brockport.

The speaker is Stephen Lewandowski, the Program Director for the Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative. He previously served as its Outreach Coordinator and has been a consultant on watershed management plans for many of the western Finger Lakes. He was employed as a Conservation Educator/Technician by the Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District for 25 years and has served on the Boards of the Finger Lakes Land Trust and Friends of the Ganondagan State Historic Site.

Lake Ontario is the most important natural resource for our area. The 5 Great Lakes contain roughly 22% of the world's fresh water and Lake Ontario is the source for the County's (not the city of Rochester's) drinking water. It's important that we maintain the health of the lake. The goal of LOCI is to develop baseline data on the water quality of Lake Ontario and expand the monitoring plan to focus on the nutrient and contaminant levels in the coastal region including the streams, rivers and embayments. For more information about LOCI go to p. 3 and visit [www.ceinfo.org/loci/index.php](http://www.ceinfo.org/loci/index.php).

Bring a brown bag lunch, a beverage and join us.

## From Your President

by Nancy Kleintop



Welcome to fall in the League!

Fall is the busiest time of the year, especially in a presidential year: voter registration, Fair Campaign Practices, Celebration of the US Constitution, October League Day, Open World Ukrainian visitors, and the "Making Democracy Work" luncheon.

The exemplary programs and services provided by our membership cost us in terms of money

and time. They require our financial support. Our dues are, increasingly, less and less able to cover the costs of our local operations. The dues paid to State and National Leagues are going up as their expenses increase. Fall is, therefore, the fund raising time of the year.

The following steps in our fund raising efforts have taken place. Pat Thompson has been appointed an Off Board Specialist in Development. Pat brings her considerable experience in institutional leadership to the role. She has been a leader in the Rochester Teacher's Association, American As-

sociation of University Women and Women Helping Girls. She has set the agenda for fall activities.

On October 23rd the annual "Making Democracy Work" luncheon will take place. Your participation is very important. Please support the luncheon by attending, supporting us at the Carrie Chapman Catt level, or bringing a friend with you. We have an exciting program planned.

The Annual Giving Campaign will take place later this fall, In December it will be kicked off by the Holiday Thank You Program. Please look for information about this event in the November VOTER.

As in the past, Judy Weinstein, an Off Board Specialist, administers the Open World Program. Visitors from other countries come to the US to study democratic institutions. Our League earns an administrative fee for providing these services.

Your support will help fund the ambitious public relations plan the League has adopted. Its goal is to promote the League and build our membership. We need to pay for software, professional expertise, printing, mailing and educational materials.

Certainly, the bulk of our activities are provided by our tremendous volunteers. Please consider lending your additional financial support to their efforts.

## Congratulations to Kent Gardner!

Kent Gardner, President of the Center for Governmental Research and a League member has been appointed to Governor Paterson's Council of Economic Advisors. The Council reviews the state budget and provides recommendations to the Governor regarding the state's fiscal crises.

## NEW STUDY: National Popular Vote (NPV)

At the LWVUS Convention in Portland, OR in June, the delegates voted to adopt a national study titled "The Advisability of Using the National Popular Vote Compact Among the States as a Method for Electing the President".

Lori Dawson, study chair for LWVNYS, encourages NYS Leaguers to get a jump start on preparing for this national study by reading the NPV study materials assembled last year by our state League study committee. These materials are available for download at the state League website. The actual study and consensus questions will be put together by the national study committee.

## REMINDER:

Please join us October 17th for a pot luck dinner to welcome our Ukrainian visitors, at 6PM in the River-ton Community Center located at 280 Scottsville-W. Henrietta Rd.

## Visit the United Nations: Save the Date!

On Tuesday, December 2, 2008 the League will sponsor its annual briefing at the United Nations. The subject this year is the "Impact of Worldwide Food Shortages on Women and Children". The format includes a tour in the morning, lunch, and a briefing in the afternoon.

The League helped lead the effort to establish the United Nations and to ensure US participation. Due to the efforts of Eleanor Roosevelt (an active member of the NYS LWV), the League was one of the first organizations in the country officially recognized by the UN as a nongovernmental organization (NGO); it still maintains observer status.

The state League is sponsoring a bus from Albany to the UN at \$40.00 round trip (compared to \$72 for AMTRACK). If an interested group emerges from Rochester, a carpool to Albany on December 1st will be arranged. The trip would require an overnight stay at a local motel and taking the 7AM round trip bus to the UN. Upon the return to Albany on the evening of December 2nd, all would carpool home.

Information and registration are available through the Rochester League. Please call the League office at 262-3730 by October 20, 2008 to register.

This is an exciting event. There are only 55 seats on the bus, so sign up early! Non-members are also welcome.

## What is LOCI?

The Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary says it is the plural of locus which is a “place where something is situated or occurs”. That’s also not a bad definition for Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative (LOCI).

Jane Schmitt, VOTER Editor & Natural Resources member, put together the following article from various websites.

LOCI is the result of an effort that began back in 1998 when the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of seven counties along the lake formed a Lake Ontario Embayment Education Initiative. They received a grant from the Watershed Protective Alliance to establish that the bays, river and creek mouths, wetlands, and ponds collectively (referred to as embayments) are of vital importance to the economic and recreational well-being of the area and are threatened by pollution. In 2000 Dr. Joseph Makarewicz of SUNY Brockport, with input from the seven counties, issued a report, “New York Coast – A Troubled Coastline”. A regional conference was held and resulted in the creation of Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative (LOCI) Steering Committee. The Center for Environmental Information (CEI) was awarded a grant from the EPA in 2002 to work with LOCI to:

- Create a community based regional approach for protection and improvement of water quality in Lake Ontario’s coastal zones and embayments,
- Build a framework of New York’s Lake Ontario coastal communities, agencies and citizens to work cost-effectively with state and federal government agencies and each other,
- Identify and help secure resources needed to insure the environmental and economic health of Lake Ontario’s coastal communities.

CEI received an additional \$500,000 grant in the Federal fiscal year 2005 budget for LOCI as a result of funds earmarked by Congressman James T. Walsh. These funds were to enhance capabilities of coastal communities, agencies and citizens to work with State and Federal Agencies and each other.

Attend the October League Day and find out what has happened, and what the future holds for LOCI.

## We Need Your Help!

Volunteers are needed for the Nov. 4th Election to open absentee ballots. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Sheila Abeling at 585-223-6819.

## Annual Luncheon Making Democracy Work

NYS Comptroller, Thomas DiNapoli, will be the speaker for the fall luncheon, with the theme “Making Democracy Work”. He will discuss *Transparency – Sunshine in Government*. The luncheon will be held at Locust Hill Country Club, 2000 Jefferson Road, Pittsford from 11:15 AM until 1:30 PM. The cost for this year’s luncheon is \$50.00. The menu choices are Warm Roasted Pecan Crusted Chicken or (vegetarian) Cobb Salad. Reservation cards will be in the mail shortly.

This year’s Outstanding Leadership Award honoree is Carol Love who recently retired after thirteen years as the President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of the Rochester/Syracuse Region. Carol has been visible in our community in many capacities, informing us about reproductive issues, managing the business of Planned Parenthood and as an activist promoting awareness of Planned Parenthood and its many services. We are proud to honor her for her hard work and dedication. Carol is a member of the Rochester League.

## About our Annual Luncheon Speaker

Our annual luncheon speaker on October 23, 2008 at Locust Hill Country Club will be NYS Comptroller, Thomas DiNapoli. He has served in this position since February 2007. Mr. DiNapoli had represented the 16th Assembly District of Nassau County for 20 years; he chaired the Local Governments Committee, Governmental Operations and Environmental Conservation Committees. He holds a Master’s Degree in Human Resources Management from New School University Graduate School of Management and Urban Professions. He graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor’s Degree in history from Hofstra University.

As Chief Fiscal Officer for NYS, Mr. DiNapoli is responsible for managing the State pension fund, auditing all State agencies and local governments, and reviewing NYS and City budgets.

Since taking office last year he has emphasized transparency in governmental agencies at state, county and municipal levels. As you have read in the Democrat and Chronicle many times this year, Comptroller DiNapoli’s audits have revealed many issues needing immediate attention in NYS schools, prisons, municipal and state agencies.

We will hear from Mr. DiNapoli about the latest work of his office regarding the LWV’s agenda of transparency in government. There will be a Q and A following his presentation.

## Celebrating the U.S. Constitution

The LWV-USA sponsored a competition among local leagues to develop programs celebrating the US Constitution. Leagues had to produce programs which were timely and appropriate. LWV/RMA received a grant from the National League in recognition of its September program plan. The following Board Members made this possible:

- Kathy Smith, VP Action, coordinated and planned the activities, successfully negotiating the LWV/RMA grant. She also developed a speakers list for various activities.
- Gaynelle Wethers, Budget Chair, created a partnership with Nazareth College. Facilities and experts on the constitution were made available.
- Sheila Abeling, VP Voter Service, organized a voter registration campaign for Nazareth College. She also conducted a Naturalization Program at SUNY Brockport as part of this program.

A special thank you to Nazareth College, President Daan Braveman, Assemblywoman Susan John, Assemblyman Joseph Morelle, and Assemblyman Joseph Errigo who participated in a panel discussion on "Safeguarding the Constitution".

Also, a thank you to T. Andrew Brown, President of the Monroe County Bar Association, for his September 17th presentation on the Constitution and to all who attended.



*Speakers: President of Nazareth College Daan Braveman, State Assembly members Joseph Morelli, Joseph Errigo, and Susan John.*

## Pledge Signing, September 3, 2008



*League President Nancy Kleintop with League member Rome Celli at Pledge Signing Ceremony*



*NYS Senator Joseph Robach with visitors from Turkmenistan.*

## Sarah Liebschutz to Address Ukrainian Visitors

On Monday, October 20, Sarah Liebschutz, LWV member and Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus, will provide the Ukrainian visitors with a presentation on the U.S. system of federalism and its relationship to the Help America Vote Act; this will provide a foundation for their remaining professional appointments. League members are welcome to attend Sarah's stimulating presentation which is guaranteed to teach you something that you didn't know before. The location has not yet been determined, but if you would like to attend, call the LWV office at 262-3730.

## New member:

Patricia Thompson  
882 Independence Dr.,  
Webster, NY 14580  
585-671-2589

## Dear League Members: Please Join Us for a “Political Tea”

On Sunday, October 26, from 2:00 – 4:00 PM, we have invited all women candidates running in this election cycle to come to AAUW House at 494 East Ave. to meet and greet the members and friends of the sponsoring organizations (see below).

The format is informal, a meet and greet format. There will be no speeches, etc. Upon arrival, we will announce that the candidate is in the house making rounds.

We think this is an important event. We hope that women who would not otherwise have the opportunity, can meet the candidates, hear their ideas and have an opportunity to voice their own concerns. We hope you can attend.

This is a first for the sponsors; we see this as the first step in a collaboration to reach more women and to encourage their involvement in local government and politics.

Sincerely,

Patricia Thompson, *Chair Public Policy*  
*Greater Rochester Area Branch of the American Association of University Women*

Nancy Kleintop, *President*  
*League of Women Voters/Rochester Metro Area*

Carolyn Rapp, *President*,  
*Republican Women’s Committee, Monroe County*

Laurie Hamlin  
*Democratic Women’s Leadership Council, Monroe County*

## Social Policy Summer Report

There were many steps forward and a few backward on Social Policy issues this summer. The biggest impact came from the State’s faltering economy and the subsequent slashing of programs we support. However, let’s celebrate the positive:

### **Domestic Violence**

After almost 20 years of lobbying State Legislators, the Expanded Access to Family Court Bill was passed and signed by the Governor on July 21. The next job is to monitor the regulations that will guide the bill’s implementation. Our local committee will be presenting a program on this topic in May.

### **Lead Poisoning**

Intense lobbying led by Joan Rosenthal and her partners throughout the state resulted in the passage of outstanding State legislation to reduce lead poisoning of children. Unfortunately the State budget problems caused the funding to be reduced. Again, we will monitor this situation.

### **Early Childhood Education**

Katherine Smith gave testimony to the Governor’s Commission in support of Early Childhood Education. At the Monroe County level, Ms. Smith spoke in support of maintaining the funding for Pre-K subsidies. Unfortunately, funding was reduced, and 1,300 children were unable to attend Pre-K this September.

Join us at our committee meeting September 29 at 1:30pm, Joan Rosenthal’s, 144 Dunrovin Lane, 14618, 244-6255, to discuss strategy on these items and planning for the May League Day.

Georgia DeGregorio, *Chairman Social Policy*

## What the Fair Election Campaign Pledge is All About

The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester (TIAR) and the League of Women Voters/Rochester Metro Area (LWV/RMA) encourages all candidates for public office to run positive, issues-oriented campaigns. However, some candidates feel that negative ads are effective. We believe that positive campaigns that address important issues are “winning” campaigns, and we urge the candidates to publicly commit him/herself to running a positive, issues-oriented campaign.

A letter and a copy of The Fair Election Campaign Pledge have been sent to each candidate for review. The candidates have been urged to sign the pledge and return it to the League office not later than Friday, August 29th. Some candidates preferred to wait and sign it at the Signing and Recognition Ceremony which was held September 3rd at noon in the atrium of the Monroe County Office Building.

### **Who can sign the pledge?**

All candidates recognized by the Monroe County Board of Elections.

### **Who decides if the Pledge has been broken by a candidate?**

Only a candidate may file a complaint (in their own race). The Fair Elections Practices Committee (FEPC) hears complaints. A copy of the FEPC complaint form as well as the committee’s rules and procedures were enclosed with each candidate’s letter.

### **What if the other candidate refused to sign?**

A complaint can still be filed. Failure to sign the pledge provides no protection for unfair practices. However by signing, the candidate is publicly proclaiming his/her support for a fair, issues-oriented race. That fact can be touted in all promotions and to potential supporters.

### **When will the complaint and hearing process begin?**

This year, for the first time, the FEPC began accepting properly filed complaints during the Primary season that began August 6th and will continue to hear complaints until November 3rd, the day before Election Day.

The pledge, committee rules and procedures are available on the League’s website at [www.lwv-rma.org](http://www.lwv-rma.org).

## OCTOBER 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2 League Day 11AM	3	4
5	6 November Voter Deadline	7	8 Natural Resources 2:00PM	9 Ex. Committee Naturalization Ceremonies	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 Local Gov't Bee Bibby's	17 Ukrainian Visitors arrive	18
19	20 Sara Liebshitz, Ukrainian Visitors	21	22	23 Get Out the Vote Luncheon, 11:15AM Locust Hill CC	24	25 Ukrainian Visitors depart
26 Political Tea 2-4 pm AAUW House	27	28	29	30	31	

## 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	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving	28	29
30						

*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.

## League to Host Ukrainian Visitors

Once again, The League of Women Voters of the Rochester Metropolitan Area will be hosting six Ukrainian visitors who will arrive on Friday, October 17 and leave on Saturday, October 25. 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. This year we will be hosting six Ukrainians, ranging in age from 23 through 35. They are employed by nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), including the Committee of Voters and political parties. The theme of their visit is Elections, and in addition to professional meetings related to that theme, we will have some special activities for them, such as accompanying candidates going door-to-door.

Those who were involved with the past five Open World programs know how much the visitors valued the professional meetings, cultural activities, and social events that we arranged for them. They enjoyed the homestays and being made to feel part of the family.

All League members will have opportunities to meet our visitors. The Welcome Dinner on Friday, October 17 at 6pm will be a potluck supper in the Riverton Community Center, 280 Scottsville - W. Henrietta Rd. Please join us in welcoming the visitors to Rochester. If you wish to attend, please bring a main course, side dish, or a dessert to serve eight to twelve and RSVP to the office by Monday, October 13.

The Farewell Dinner will be held at Nazareth College on Friday, October 24. Please send a check for \$20 per person to the League office by Friday, October 10, if you would like to join us in saying farewell to our Ukrainian friends. Contact Judy or the League office for time and location at Nazareth College.

The program 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.roc@gmail.com](mailto:j.weinstein.roc@gmail.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 six 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 \$3,000. If you are able to help in any way, please contact Judy Weinstein at 442-9815 or [j.weinstein.roc@gmail.com](mailto:j.weinstein.roc@gmail.com).

## 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 \$cale



**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:**

**Nancy Kleintop**  
*President*

**Ann Weintraub**  
*Secretary*

**Dorothy Borgus**  
*Treasurer*

**Sheila Abeling**  
*V.P. Voter Service*

**Sula Baxter**  
*V.P. Program*

**Katherine Smith**  
*V.P. Action*

**Off-Board:**

**Jane Schmitt**  
*VOTER Editor*

**Pat Thompson**  
*Development*

**Board of Directors:**

**Georgia DeGregorio**  
*Social Policy*

**Beth Keigher**  
*Local Government*

**Roxanne Kuliner**  
*Public Relations*

**Chris Pryor**  
*Natural Resources*

**Gaynelle Wethers**  
*Budget*

**Chris Burleigh**  
*VOTER Layout & Production*

**November VOTER  
Deadline is October 6!**

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

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

“The tongue of man is a twisty thing, there are plenty of words there of every kind”  
Homer, *The Illiad*