



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

September 4, 2008



A Public Forum on the US Constitution

US Constitution, 1st Amendment Right to Freedom of Speech

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Nazareth College, 4245 East Avenue, Pittsford

Moderator

Dr. Daan Braveman, *President Nazareth College of Rochester*

Panel will consist of:

Joseph Errigo, (R) NYS Assembly

Susan John, (D) NYS Assembly

Joseph Morelle, (D) NYS Assembly

Within in the context of the stated theme, panel will address:
Safeguarding US Democracy: Promoting an Independent Judiciary
and Campaign Finance Reform in NY

Q&A at 12:00 – 1:00PM

Luncheon at 1:00PM – 2:30PM

Program is open to the public. Event will be broadcast by WXXI.

Reservations are required for the luncheon.

Please send check for \$12.00 to LWVMA,
45 Exchange Blvd. Suite 508, Rochester, NY 14614.

Deadline for luncheon reservations is August 20.



From Your President

by Nancy Kleintop



I want to begin the program year by thanking the membership and the Board for the fantastic support given me as I begin the presidency. The League has functioned for over eighty years - I have some big shoes to fill! Its tradition of service and research make it unique; the quality of its members and volunteers has been fantastic.

This past summer Dorothy Borgus and Georgia DeGregorio accom-

panied me to the National League convention. It was stimulating and interesting, not to mention social and enjoyable.

The National League's costs for wages and benefits have increased precipitously. At convention, PMP increases for the next two years were adopted. At the local level we can only absorb this if we grow membership and urge due diligence at the national level. Locally we have a stable financial base. **AS WE GO FORWARD, WE MUST INCREASE OUR MEMBERSHIP.**

Due to the economic environment, we know that local League costs, like our household costs, will increase. The office and the Board will be focused on their fiduciary responsibility.

In the past year an evaluation process was developed and led by member Rome Celli to guide us through the program year. We learned that to increase membership, we need to take advantage of our positives:

Confirm Your Voter Registration

The local Board of Elections has forwarded NYS voter registrations to the State Board of Elections this year. It is possible that your name could have been dropped from the list that is checked when you go to vote. Therefore, it is suggested that you go online to the NYS Board of Elections Home Page website (elections.state.ny.us), and on the right side at the bottom of the page click on "Voter Registration" to check your status. If you do not receive a notification of your polling place, it is possible you have been dropped; however there are a variety of reasons why this could have happened. NOW is the time to correct the problem, not when you are about to vote in November. Inform your friends and neighbors about this opportunity.

Project Sunlight – have you tried it?

If you tried Sunshineny.com, you learned about office buildings in NYC. Apologies from the Editor – I goofed. Please try sunlightny.com where there is a wealth of information about state government, election finances, state legislature, status of bills, and much more. Let us use and support this website.

We have "brand" identity;

We have a wholesome tradition and history;

We have volunteers noted for their scholarship and expertise.

As a result our energies this year will be devoted to growing. The following volunteers and their talents have been enlisted in the past year to make this possible:

- Rome Celli lent his PR expertise to guide our evaluation process and develop a strategic plan.
- Jane Schmitt continues as Board liaison/editor of the VOTER. Her institutional memory and creativity will be at work.
- Roxanne Kuliner, a new Board member, brings her professional and volunteer PR experience to her PR role for the League.
- Greg Clyde continues to improve our web page, evaluating its visual attractiveness and "user friendliness".
- Ann Weintraub maintains an administrative eye on our planning and follow-through.
- Chris Burleigh created our new membership brochure and did the photography for the cover. She'll be helping with the web site.
- The Executive Committee develops a strategy for expanding the membership base.
- Rae Bernacki administers and processes membership.

We will all be focused on growing our membership.

Be prepared for an exciting year!

Nancy Kleintop

Dr. Daan Braveman

Dr. Braveman, President of Nazareth College since 2005 and moderator for September League Day, is a graduate of the University of Rochester and University of Pennsylvania Law School. His teaching experience includes classes in Civil Procedure, Civil Rights, Constitutional Law, Federal Courts, and Federal Indian Law at Syracuse University. Dr. Braveman has participated in the formation of the Law College's Public Interest Law Firm (PILF), a clinical program in which law students work (for course credit) on civil rights and other public interest cases pending in federal and state courts; on separate occasions he has served as Director of PILF.

Dr. Braveman has authored six books on constitutional law, structure and rights; civil rights; and protecting constitutional freedoms. He has had 19 articles published in various journals and also serves on the Board of six different organizations.

We are pleased to have him participating in our League Day program.

Have You Received a CATT Action Alert?

To be honest, I am discovering that the answer is “probably not”. But every member with e-mail can participate in this important League activity. Yes, even if you can’t make a League Day meeting or be on a committee, YOU can be an active League member.

What is CATT? Carrie Chapman CATT was one of the founders of our NYS League and its first President. This website is named after her. Her last name became the acronym for **Citizen Action ToolkiT** which facilitates Action Alerts submitted by our League Off Board Specialists to the State Issues Committee for their approval.

What are Action Alerts? When a specific issue or legislation is being either supported or opposed by the League, e-mails are sent to all League members on the database. When you open the e-mail, you will find background material related to the subject and a request for your zip code. Your representatives related to the issue (State Assembly, Senate, local county legislators, etc.) will appear along with a suggested e-mail letter to be sent to them. You can either send this suggested format or change it to suit your style and message.

When would you be expected to do this? During the last legislative session, eight Action Alerts were sent from January to June. Among the issues/laws covered were childhood lead poisoning, smart growth, domestic violence, campaign finance reform. Most members take about 5 minutes or less to respond to the Action Alert. As mentioned above, the best part of this process is that it enables ALL League members to take part in our advocacy work.

How do you become part of the database? E-mail the LWVNYS Program Coordinator, Stephanie Lopez, at stephanie@lwvny.org with a note to put you on the CATT Action Alert data base. And it is done. And for those who are wondering, this is a private data base kept solely for the purpose of enabling League members to contact their representatives. This list is not sold or used for any other purpose.

Any more questions? Contact me at georgiatd@frontiernet.net or 787-9692.

Pledge Signing

The Pledge Signing and Recognition Ceremony will take place this year on Sept 3rd at 12:00 noon in the Atrium of the Monroe County Office Building. The pledge will be read as well as the names of all candidates who signed. For many years The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester and the LWV/RMA have encouraged candidates to sign a pledge for positive campaigning. This is a fine example of the work of the League. Please attend if you can.

How We Started

From the spirit of the suffrage movement and the shock of the First World War came a great idea – that a nonpartisan civic organization could provide the education and experience the public needed to assure the success of democracy. The League of Women Voters was founded on that idea.

In her address to the National American Women Suffrage Association’s (NAWSA) 50th convention in St. Louis, Missouri in 1919, President Carrie Chapman Catt proposed the creation of a league of women voters to “finish the fight” and aid in the reconstruction of the nation. And so a League of Women Voters was formed within NAWSA, composed of the organizations in the states where woman suffrage has already been attained.

The next year, on February 14, 1920, six months before the 19th amendment to the Constitution was ratified, the League was formally organized in Chicago as the National League of Women Voters. Catt described the purpose of the new organization:

“The League of Women Voters is not to dissolve any present organization but to unite all existing organizations of women who believe in its principles. It is not to lure women from partisanship but to combine them in an effort for legislation which will protect coming movements, which we cannot even foretell, from suffering the untoward conditions which have hindered for so long the coming of equal suffrage. Are the women of the United States big enough to see their opportunity?”

Maud Wood Park became the first national president of the League and thus the first League Leader to rise to that challenge.

The above is from **The League of Women Voters Through the Decades** compiled by Kay J. Maxwell for League of Women Voters of the United States, 2007. More excerpts will follow in future VOTERS.

Save the date October 23

For the *Get Out the Vote Luncheon* at the Strathallan. Guest Speaker will be Thomas DiNapoli, Comptroller of NYS.

New members:

We have two new national members. They are:

William Feldman
45 Winding Creek Lane
Rochester, NY 14625

James Moser
12 Circle Wood Rd.
Rochester, NY 14625
moser@aol.com

League to Host Ukrainians

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 six Ukrainian visitors will arrive on Friday, October 17 and leave on Saturday, October 25. The visit is sponsored by the 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. The theme for their visit is Elections.

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 feeling like part of the family.

Their program is still being arranged, but we plan on providing all League members with several opportunities to meet our visitors. The Welcome Dinner on Friday, October 17 will be a Potluck Supper. All League members are welcome to come. The Ukrainians will be attending our Get Out the Vote luncheon on October 23. Finally, their Farewell Dinner will take place at Medaille Hall at Nazareth College on Friday, October 24. All League members are welcome to attend.

More details on their program and reservation information will be printed in the October Voter.

There is a need for 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 or 442-9815. We need League members to participate:

- **MOST URGENTLY, HOSTS.** We still need one or two more hospitality homes to provide a bed, breakfast, and a few dinners.
- **DRIVERS** to transport the Ukrainians between meetings. If you could spare an hour or two during that week, please volunteer.
- **MEETING FACILITATORS** to 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 guests.

Please join us in making this a successful project. It is fun, helps American international relations, and provides us with \$3,000. If you are able to help in any way, please contact Judy Weinstein at 442-9815 or j.weinstein.roc@gmail.com.

LOCI - What Is It?

Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative (LOCI) is a joint project of the Center for Environmental Information, Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance, and SUNY Brockport. The area included in the mission of LOCI encompasses all of the New York North Coast stakeholders from the Niagara River to the St. Lawrence River. It is their mission to enlist and retain broad public commitment for the remediation, restoration, protection, conservation and sustainable use of the coastal region.

Since 2003, LOCI has sponsored scientific testing of 20 sites along the 320-mile long coast of Lake Ontario in NYS. LOCI publishes a newsletter sent to municipal officials in the 145 municipalities in this watershed area and has conducted outreach activities in the forty-five shoreline municipalities. LOCI has sponsored several area-wide conferences attended by hundreds at which the condition of the lake, its watershed and its ongoing restoration have been addressed. In 2005-6, LOCI was able to fund four research projects and ten remedial action projects including creation of a plan for Durand Eastman Beach.

Save the date. LOCI is coming to October 2nd League Day!

Volunteers Needed!

Do you have two or three hours to volunteer? Please think yes: and give us a call at 262-3730, if you can help with:

League Day at Nazareth College September 4

- 10:00am-1:00pm

Registration of voters September 17, US Constitution Day:

- SUNY Brockport 10:45am - 12:00pm Noon
- Nazareth College 3:00-6:00pm

Rochester's Voters Alliance & League of Women Voters at Tops on West Ave:

- Sat., Aug. 9 4:00pm-6:00pm
- Thurs., Sept. 4 4:00pm-6:00pm
- Fri., Sept. 5 12:00pm-2:00pm
- Fri., Sept. 5 4:00pm-6:00pm
- Sun., Sept. 7 10:00pm-12:00pm
- Sun., Sept. 7 12:00pm-2:00pm

Call Sally Chamberlain at 248-0765 to volunteer.

Annual Get Out the Vote Luncheon, October 23

- 10am-12:00pm Noon

Your help is crucial to the success of the League's mission.

Over the Summer

Many things happened that involved or were of interest to LWV/RMA members.

For the first time, City Council televised its budget hearings at City Hall.

Nancy Kleintop, Georgia DeGregorio and Dorothy Borgus attended the national LWV Convention in June in Portland, Oregon.

Naturalization Committee gathered at Barb Hendry's home on July 7th and honored Ellie Newell for her 50 years in League; she was presented with her very own "specialized" voter registration form. After a business meeting, the group enjoyed a wonderful dinner, according to Sheila Abeling.

LWVUS opposed the ban on voter registration drives in VA hospitals, clinics and homes by the Department of Veteran Affairs.

Sojourner House hosted its first annual Empowerment Tea at the Century Club on May 10th. Nancy Kleintop, LWV/RMA President-Elect, and Sheila Abeling, VP Voter Services, attended the Tea. Nancy spoke about the importance of voting as empowerment.

The US Senate voted, without objection, to ratify a compact to prevent diversion of water from the Great Lakes on August 2, 2008. It now goes to the House, and President Bush is expected to sign it into law.

On July 4th approximately 50 candidates became naturalized citizens outside Village Town Hall at the Genesee Country Museum. Judge Telesca officiated. Kathryn Smith, LWVRMA Vice President of Action, Barb Hendry and Kay Saunders participated in the ceremony.

Please let us know if you are aware of events that have occurred since the last VOTER (or before and were missed). We would like to start a new column, **SINCE LAST MONTH**, with news items about the League, its members and relevant happenings. Contact me at mjane@rochester.rr.com.

"Let's Have Tea"

The Friends of Susan B. Anthony House will hold its annual Afternoon Tea on Sunday, October 5, 2008, at 3:00pm. A Gilbert and Sullivan Revue will be presented by the Off-Monroe Players. The event will be held at the Rochester Club Ballroom, 120 East Avenue. Call 381-2121 for tickets, \$40 each, handicapped accessible. All proceeds benefit the Susan B. Anthony House.

★★★ US Constitution Day ★★★ September 17, 2008

On September 17, 1787 the US Constitution was signed by 39 brave men who changed the course of history. Please plan to attend one of the events below and help the League of Women Voters celebrate this event.

Nazareth College, 4245 East Ave, Rochester 14618

- 3:00pm-6:00pm Registration of Voters
- 4:30pm Speaker Mr. T. Anthony Brown, President of Monroe County Bar Association

Sponsored by: Nazareth College Office of Multicultural Affairs and LWVRMA

State University of NY, Brockport, 350 New Campus Dr., Brockport 14420

- 10:45am - Noon - Naturalization Ceremony for 160 applicants for citizenship.

Sponsored by: SUNY Brockport, Customs Immigration Services (CSI), LWVRMA, American Legion Auxiliaries, and Monroe County BOCES.



Dorothy Borgus, retiring President, at the Annual Meeting, May 29, 2008



Tim Donaher, Monroe County Public Defender, at the Annual Meeting, May 29, 2008

SEPTEMBER 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 October Voter Deadline	3 Pledge Signing Noon	4 League Day 11 AM	5	6
7	8	9	10 Natural Resources 2:00	11 Local Gov't 10AM Ex. Committee	12	13
14	15	16	17 US Constitution Day	18 Naturalization Ceremony 10:00AM County Ofc Bldg	19	20
21	22 Social Policy 1:30PM	23	24	25 Board Meeting	26	27
28	29	30				

OCTOBER 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2 League Day	3	4
5	6 November Voter Deadline	7	8 Natural Resources 2:00PM	9 Ex. Committee Naturalization Ceremonies Local Gov't 10AM Bagel Bin	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 Ukrainian Visitors arrive	18
19	20	21	22	23 Board Meeting Get Out the Vote Luncheon, 11AM	24	25 Ukrainian Visitors leave
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. 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*

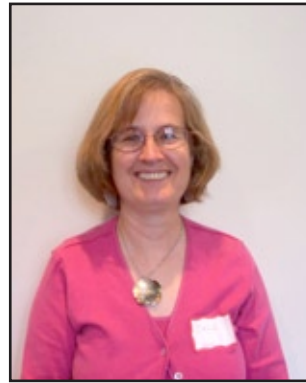
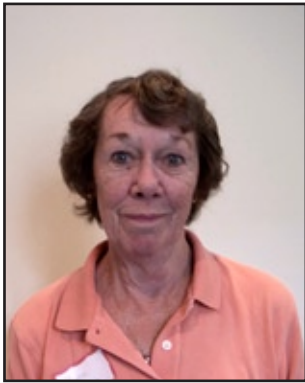
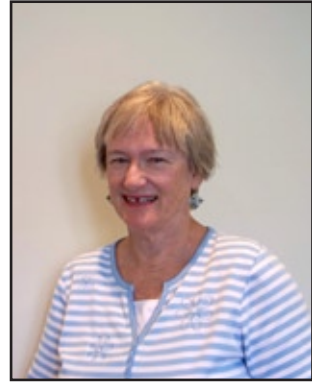
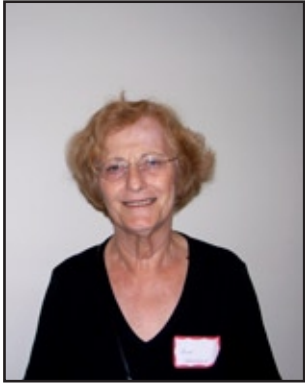
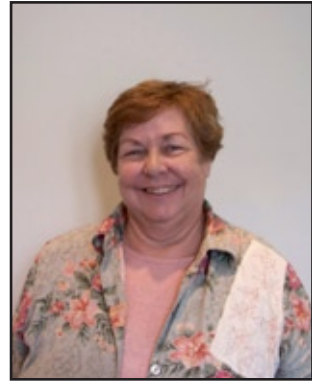
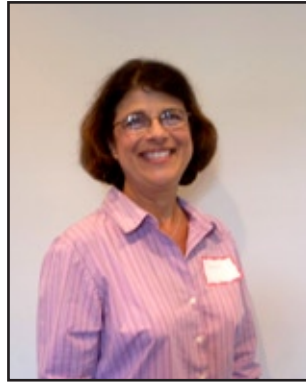
AM Naturalization Ceremonies are held at Monroe County Office Building, 39 W. Main St;

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.

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



Our New Board

Left to Right
Top Row: Nancy Kleintop, *President*; Sheila Abeling, *Voter Services*; Sula Baxter, *Program*; Katherine Smith, *Action*

Middle Row:
 Ann Weintraub, *Secretary*; Dorothy Borgus, *Treasurer*; Roxanne Kulinier, *Public Relations*; Georgia DeGregorio, *Social Policy*

Bottom Row:
 Beth Keigher, *Local Government*; Gaynelle Wethers, *Budget*; Chris Pryor, *Natural Resources*

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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Officers

Nancy Kleintop
President

Ann Weintraub
Secretary

Board of Directors
Georgia DeGregorio
Social Policy

Gaynelle Wethers
Budget

Beth Keigher
Local Government

Roxanne Kuliner
Public Relations

Chris Pryor
Natural Resources

Sula Baxter
V.P. Program

Katherine Smith
V.P. Action

Dorothy Borgus
Treasurer

Sheila Abeling
V.P. Voter Service

Off-Board Director

Jane Schmitt
VOTER Editor

Chris Burleigh
VOTER Layout & Production

**October VOTER Deadline
is September 2!**

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

In the long run every government is the exact symbol of its People, with their wisdom and unwisdom.
Thomas Carlyle, Past and Present