

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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Join Us for our April League Program!

Tour of Sunnking, Inc.

An electronics recycling & scrap consulting firm

Thursday, April 2, 2009

10:30 am

4 Owens Road, Brockport

(Parking available at the site but limited)

Lunch at 12:00 noon

Two Brothers Restaurant

Cost is \$15 for lunch.



This will be an interesting tour of a facility that has a zero landfill policy. We will have an opportunity to see how Sunnking reduces, reuses and recycles electronic items. They encourage us to bring our outdated electronic items for recycling. See page 3 & 4 for list of what they will accept, map and directions to Sunnking, and more about the company.

Lunch choices include:

- *Grilled Chicken Breast* dressed with lettuce, tomato & mayo;
- *Roast Beef Supreme:* Grilled roast beef slices topped with melted cheese on grilled French bread;
- *Garden Burger* dressed with lettuce, tomato and mayo.

All sandwiches come with a side salad and tea, coffee or soft drink.

Parking is limited. PLEASE PLAN TO CARPOOL.

A League member will be at the site to direct you to parking and the entrance to Sunnking. *Please wear walking shoes.*

DEADLINE for lunch reservations is March 30th.
Please include your lunch selection on your check.

Send check payable to LWV/RMA
for \$15 to League office, 45 Exchange Blvd #508,
Rochester 14614.

League programs are open to the public.

From the Board

At their February meeting LWVMA Board of Directors reviewed ways to continue our 2008-2009 program and goals set at the last Annual Meeting.

First they agreed to have five Directors do the lobbying since the VP of Action is now Acting President. Sula Baxter, Katherine Smith, Dorothy Borgus, Jane Schmitt and Roxanne Kuliner will meet with Monroe County's State Senators and Assembly members on Fridays in May to discuss the LWVNY 2009 Legislative Agenda. Any member interested in attending one of these sessions, please call the local League office (262-3730) and leave your name.

Secondly, the website update will be completed by Chris Burleigh, Roxanne Kuliner, Dorothy Borgus, Katherine Smith and Jerry Seward this month. Other communication tools and media capabilities are under review by Roxanne Kuliner with assistance by Rae Bernacki, Jane Schmitt, Dorothy Borgus, Katherine Smith and Suzanne McNamara. Members interested in giving their time and expertise in this area should call Katherine Smith (334-3991).

Finally plans for the June 4th Annual Meeting at Locust Hill, at 11:30 AM, are well under way. The 2009-2010 program and possible reorganizational needs will be discussed. *It is very important for members to attend this annual event, so mark your calendar now: June 4, 2009 at Locust Hill Country Club.*

LWVMA has seen good growth in recent years with more than 60 new members since 2007. Under the excellent leadership of our elected officers we are producing a monthly Voter, keeping the League agenda before our elected officials, conducting voter registration drives and providing outstanding League Days with increased attendance. Directors and dedicated members have made all this happen. In order to continue and maintain our many activities, we look forward to seeing you in June at the Annual Meeting.

Katherine Smith, *Acting President*

Since Last Month

On March 12th Mimi Wilson greeted new citizens at the morning Naturalization Ceremony, and Ellie Newell greeted new citizens at the afternoon ceremony. Our thanks to them.

Sheila Abeling would like to remind members that we need volunteers for Naturalization Ceremonies. It's a wonderful opportunity to be with new citizens, and it's also rewarding. Please call Sheila Abeling at 223-6819 for more information.

Who Represents You and the **2008-2009 Membership Directory** were printed. Members will be receiving them shortly. A big THANK YOU goes to Sheila Abeling and Chris Burleigh who spent many hours bringing these projects to fruition. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

Bigger Better Bottle Bill

The Bigger Better Bottle Bill (BBBB) still needs your help! When the current bottle bill was passed in 1982, noncarbonated drinks made up a small portion of total bottled drink sales. Since then sales of bottled water, iced tea, sport drinks and juices have exploded. According to the NYS Department of Conservation, the current bottle bill has reduced roadside litter by 70%; more than 90 billion containers and 6 million tons of glass, aluminum and plastic have been recycled. This has saved more than 50 million barrels of oil and eliminated 5 million metric tons of greenhouse gases. The non-deposit bottles end up in landfills and incinerators, litter our parks and open areas, along roadsides and beaches.

Back in the 70's and 80's the League fought tirelessly for passage of the bottle bill. And we heard of potential problems with sanitation, storage and transportation - the same problems projected by opponents today. Somehow it all worked out, and the bottlers profited. Now it is time to resume the fight.

The big difference in the content of the BBBB is that the state will direct the unclaimed nickels to the Environmental Protection Fund in order to protect farmland, the Great Lakes, urban forests and other environmental projects. Currently the nickels go back to the bottlers and handlers. More than 4.6 billion bottles and cans were sold in New York State in 2006 according to the Container Recycling Institute. The unclaimed deposits, \$144 million in 2006, according to a NYPIRG report, went back to the bottlers.

I used to tell my girls when we went hiking that I didn't think there was any place on earth one could go where they wouldn't find a beer can when they got there; today I could say the same thing about water bottles. And think of all the energy that will be saved by not manufacturing new glass, plastic and aluminum.

Governor Paterson's plan to use BBBB to help meet this year's budget gap failed. The bill is still under consideration in order to help balance the budget for the next year. Contact your state legislator or senator and ask him to promote the BBBB. The addresses and phone numbers are in the new **Who Represents You** enclosed in this VOTER.

Jane Schmitt, *Member Natural Resources Committee*

New Study

Katherine Smith met with Bee Bibby and CGR regarding a proposed study on Municipal Shared Services. A League representative will work with Bee Bibby and CGR on this study. The study on municipal shared services is expected to take 18 months and will be available in 2010. The initial focus will be on Fire Districts.

The Sunnking Policy

Reduce

At Sunnking, we practice what we preach. We strive to achieve a ZERO landfill goal every day. With that in mind, all of the hardware that we use for our internal business operations comes from our own refurbished channels.

Reuse

Over a computer's life cycle, reusing that system saves 5-20 times more energy than recycling alone. Sunnking has developed an infrastructure that maximizes recovery and resale value by finding value in equipment that would otherwise be invisible to others. Using proprietary software developed specifically to market surplus items online we can move more equipment and receive higher values than our competitors.

Recycle

Computers contain a variety of elements such as metals, plastics and glass. These materials are segregated and collected through our manual mechanical dismantling process so we can prevent the leaching of heavy metals and potentially hazardous toxins into the environment. No unprocessed material is sent overseas to underdeveloped countries.

From their website, www.sunnking.com

Directions to Sunnking

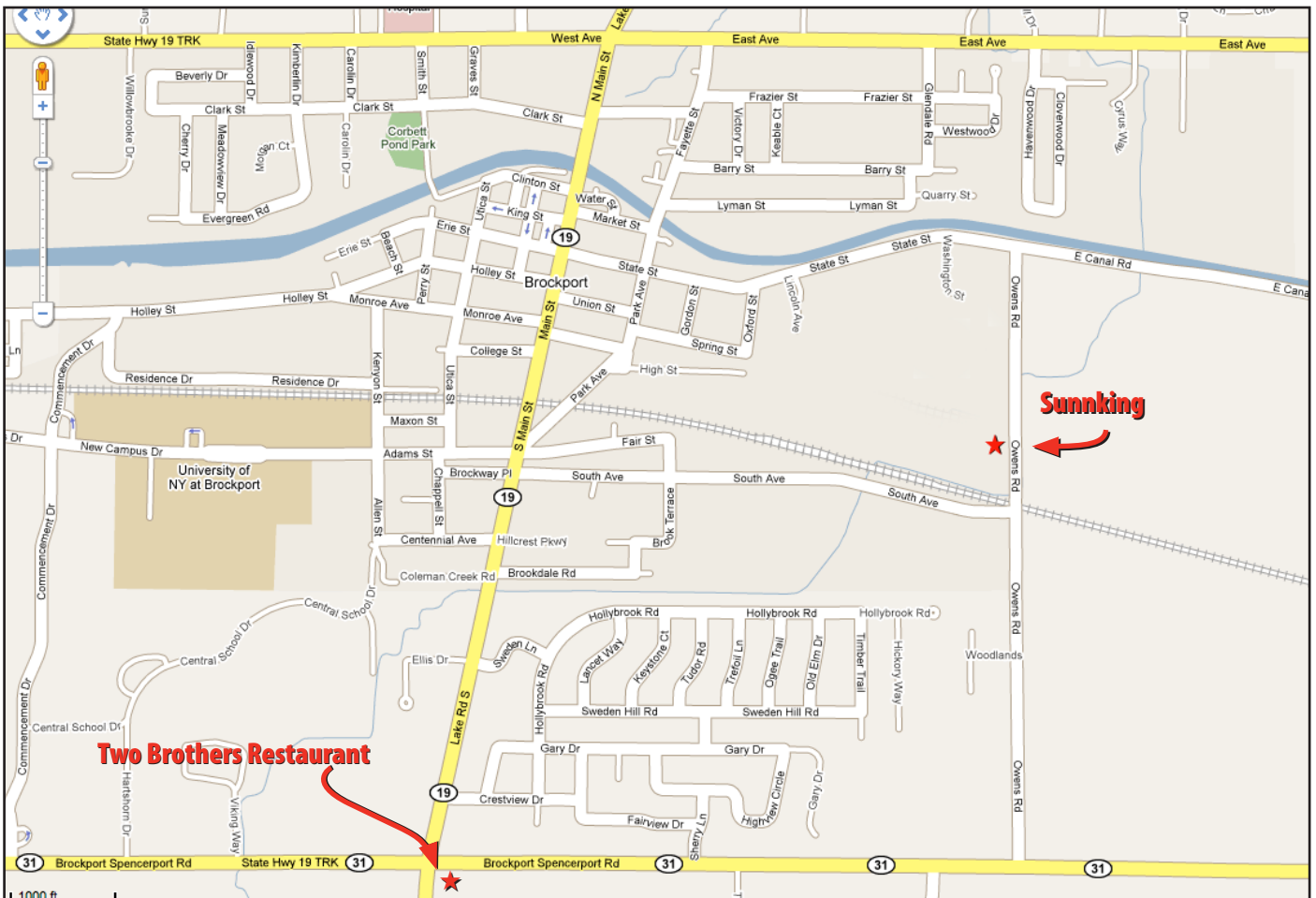
Take 490 westbound to 531, go to the end, turn right and immediately turn left onto Route 31. Go 3.7 miles and turn right at Owens Rd. (Lowe's sign is on the corner). Go past the apartment complex on the left, over the railroad tracks and turn left at the driveway for Allied Frozen Storage; a large brick sign for Allied indicates the location. Park in the small lot on the right. Sunnking is located at the north end of the building complex. A committee member will be there to direct you.

Lunch is at Two Brothers Restaurant. To get there, return down Owens Rd. to Route 31, turn right and go .9 mile. The restaurant is located in the plaza on the left side of Route 31 just before the intersection with Route 19; it is in the west end of the plaza.

PLEASE CARPOOL! Invite another League member to go with you. Or, if you would prefer to ride with someone else, call Chris Fredette at 425-8539 for a ride (in the Perinton area) or Jane Schmitt at 334-0588 and she will try to find a ride for you.

Save the date:

Noon, Thursday, June 4th, Annual Meeting at Locust Hill Country Club



Recyclable Digital Products

Cleaning House?

And don't know what to do with your old cordless or cell telephones, remote controls, etc? Bring them along!! At our April League Day Sunnking will gladly accept the following items for recycling:

- Computers/laptops
- Printers
- Computer Mice
- Keyboards
- Monitors (CRTs) all sizes (\$5 fee)
- Televisions (\$10 fee)
- Copiers
- Typewriters
- Fax Machines
- Cellular phones
- Pagers
- Audio equipment
- Video equipment
- Telephone equipment
- Test equipment
- Laboratory equipment
- Circuit board of any kind
- Cables/wire
- Any item with a circuit board



There is no fee, except where mentioned. Please let Chris Pryor (585-392-4918) know if you plan to bring items for recycling.



February League Day

Sandra Frankel, Town of Brighton Supervisor and member of the Governor's Commission on Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness, spoke about efficiency and consolidation in governments. In addition to the NYS Constitution, local laws, state laws and mandates, the Commission looked at municipal governmental structures, school district restructuring, special voting districts, aid and incentives, and cost drivers such as health care, state retirement tiers, and the Wicks Law. The Commission's report and full list of recommendations are at www.nyslocalgov.org. Our thanks to Supervisor Frankel for her interesting and informative program.

Cuomo's Proposal on Local Government

Following up on the February League Day with Brighton Supervisor Sandra Frankel (a League member) regarding her participation on the New York State Commission on Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness, Sula Baxter and I attended Attorney General Andrew Cuomo's presentation on his "Comprehensive Plan to Enable Reform And Efficiency in Local Government Operations".

On December 11, 2008 the Attorney General proposed legislation to empower communities across the state with the ability to fundamentally reorganize and consolidate local governments.

Mr. Cuomo stated that there are at least 10,521 overlapping government units that duplicate services. Currently local governments are "too big, too many and too expensive". He acknowledged that change is hard. Over the past 19 months, his office has been conducting statewide investigations into waste, fraud and abuse at various levels of government.

He mentioned the dysfunction in Albany that has been studied by many commissions over the years with little structural change; however this current economic situation presents the possibility for local governments to address structural change. He suggested that the State get rid of mandates on local entities. He cited, for instance, that in 1947 a Master Plan for school districts encouraged reduction of the 10,000 school districts which resulted in fewer than 700 today. Mr. Cuomo encouraged citizens to feel empowered to make changes. He stated that a petition by 5,000 voters in a community could force reform.

Mr. Cuomo was introduced by Tom Golisano who heads an organization, Responsible New York. I would encourage you to go to both Attorney General Cuomo's website (oag.state.ny.us) and Mr. Golisano's website (responsiblenewyork.com).

Beth H. Keigher, *Local Government Chair*



Sandra Frankel giving her League Day Presentation

What About 3, 4, 5, 6, 7?

Plastics- that is what we're talking about. A few months ago the Natural Resources Committee discussed the Green Movement and recycling. In Monroe County plastics labeled 1 and 2 are recycled, but what about 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7? We know that some communities recycle higher number plastics. Should we be encouraging Monroe County to recycle more? How much of the other types of plastics, 3-7, are actually used in the market?

The Natural Resources Committee decided to do a small experiment in order to answer that question. Chris Pryor saved (for 6 weeks) and Jane Schmitt (for one month) all the plastics not labeled 1 and 2 that came into their homes. They did not expect to have a large quantity of plastics 3-7. Were they surprised!! Each of them had filled large containers. Chris's container weighed 7.8 lbs and Jane's 2.8 lbs, indicating that we were not talking weight, but volume (think landfill).

What did they collect?

Included were many bottle caps, plastic clothes hangers, jars (mayo, mustard, etc.), tubes (cosmetics, prescriptions, lubricants), pill containers, styrofoam trays (eggs, meats, cookies, etc.), plastic wrap (foods), packaging (to secure tooth brushes, electronics, etc.), food containers (yogurt, cottage cheese, etc.), lids (coffee, sour cream), bubble wrap (packages), styrofoam cups and styrofoam inserts (packaging to hold items in place), and they continue to discover items made of plastics not labeled 1 and 2.

NYS mandates labeling and recycling of plastics 1 and 2; 39 states have similar mandates.

What happens to the plastics when they are recycled?

#1 –PETE (polyethylene terephthalate) is the easiest to recycle and goes into many common bottle and containers. It is recycled into fiberfill for coats, sleeping bags, life jackets or into bean bags, rope, car bumpers, combs, cassette tapes, furniture and other plastic bottles.

#2 –high density polyethylene goes into heavier containers for items such as laundry products, milk, motor oils and is recycled into toys, plastic lumber and rope.

#3, 4, 5 – are less recyclable and are found in items such as pipes and tubing, shower curtains, wrapping films, Tupperware, etc.



#6 – polystyrene used in the manufacture of styrofoam items such as coffee cups, meat trays, packing peanuts and insulation; these items can be reprocessed into many items.

#7 – most difficult to recycle; it is created from combinations of the above plastics and manufactured items are usually not labeled.

Recycling depends on state mandates, ease of recycling and demand for the used plastic. However, let us not forget the other methods of conservation: Reuse and Reduce.

Chris Pryor, Chairman Natural Resources

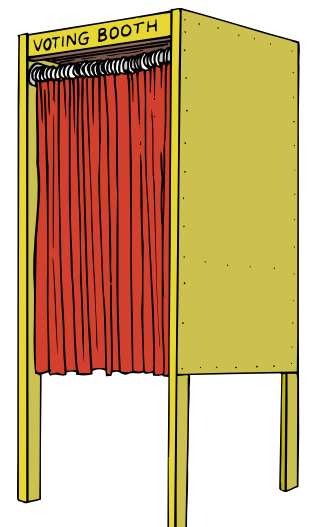
New York Voting Machines Unacceptable

The League of Women Voters of NYS and New Yorkers for Verified Voting released a statement on “*Why Lever Voting Machines Do Not Provide An Acceptable Method of Voting for New Yorkers*” on February 9. The long, complicated process of implementing HAVA in NYS has led some people to suggest that it is possible and desirable to retain the lever voting machines. Our organizations recognize that frustration and concern over the costs and difficulties of transitioning to new equipment for local boards of elections is very real.

“The League of Women Voters supports voting systems which provide a voter verifiable paper record of their vote and allows confirmation of the results by an independent count of those paper records,” said Aimee Allaud, Elections Specialist for the League of Women Voters of New York State. “Lever machines do not meet these standards.”

The League and its local chapters will continue to work to assist voters and local boards of elections to achieve the goals of HAVA and the LWVUS goal of SARA (Secure, Accurate, Re-countable and Accessible voting).

For more information go to lwwny.org.



APRIL 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2 League Day 10:30 am	3	4
5	6 May VOTER Deadline	7	8 Natural Resources 2:00PM	9 Executive Com Naturalization Ceremony AM & PM	10	11
12	13	14	15	16 <i>NPV Consensus</i> 12:00 pm	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Board Mtg	24	25 Earth Day
26	27	29	29	30 Save the date: Noon, June 4th, Annual meeting at Locust Hill Country Club		

MAY 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4 June VOTER Deadline	5	6	7 League Day Program	8	9
10	11	12	13 Natural Resources 2:00PM	14 Executive Com Naturalization Ceremony AM & PM	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 Board Meeting	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

*Board meets at 2:00 PM on the fourth Thursday of each month. For a location, please call the office.
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 1570 East Avenue at 12:00 pm 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
For Local Government details, call Beth Keigher 271-6694*

11:00 AM Naturalization Ceremonies are held at Monroe County Office Building, 39 W. Main St;

2:00 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.

The League Is 89!

This month the League celebrated 89 years of service and impact in communities across the country and renewed its commitment to keep democracy strong in 2009. We thank all of you who sent the League wonderful birthday wishes, and we share here a few of your inspiring messages:

Democracy requires informed and active voters which makes Leagues guardians of freedom in our nation. Mazal tov on 89 years.

The League remains the most successful training ground for women leaders—who become key players in our communities, states and the nation thanks to the skills they acquire in the League.

Happy Birthday! Thank you for being a trusted voice in our community and your commitment to stand up for the rights of all citizens.

Join us in our work to keep democracy strong getting involved with your local League!

From LWVUS.

New Member:

Salena Boyd
51 Phelps Ave.
Rochester, NY 14608
585-458-7235

**Remember to participate in the
National Popular Vote consensus,
April 16, 12:00 noon at 1570 East Avenue**

Why Do Consensus on National Popular Vote?

The League is a grass roots organization with tremendous credibility, due in large part to its reputation for conducting valid studies resulting in positions that represent our grassroots. *From LWVNY.*

Consensus is the members' way of telling our Boards what we, the members, support. However it follows study and discussion. The topic has previously been chosen by the boards at local, state or national level for study. A study is conducted by the League, and information containing the pros and cons of the issue are disseminated to membership. Consensus questions that could lead to League action are developed as a result of the study. League members meet to discuss the questions and come to consensus. The results of each question may range from complete agreement to total disagreement, anywhere in between or nonconsensus. Sometimes a minority opinion is developed, but most often members will come to consensus regarding the questions.

At the state and national level, the answers to the consensus questions are evaluated and, if warranted, a position statement is developed regarding the issue.

This position statement becomes the basis for League action.

When someone from a League speaks on an issue, they are representing the entire membership of that League, whether it is local, state or national. They are not speaking for themselves, but for a large group of people.

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



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Rochester **VOTER**

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Rochester Metropolitan Area.

Office Hours: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Monday and Wednesday

Officers:

Katherine Smith
Acting President

Ann Weintraub
Secretary

Dorothy Borgus
Treasurer

Sheila Abeling
V.P. Voter Service

Sula Baxter
V.P. Program

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Georgia DeGregorio
Social Policy

Beth Keigher
Local Government

Roxanne Kuliner
Public Relations

Chris Pryor
Natural Resources

Gaynelle Wethers
Budget

Off-Board:

Jane Schmitt
VOTER Editor

Chris Burleigh
VOTER Layout & Production

**May VOTER
Deadline is April 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

“Our deeds determine us as much as we determine our deeds.”
George Elliot, *Adam Bede*