



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 May League Day Program

The Challenge of Domestic Violence for Us and Our Community

May 7, 2009

**Noon- 1:30 pm
Brighton Town Hall**

Challenging Questions to be Addressed:

Why doesn't the abused person just leave?

How does this affect me? My family?

Why aren't current housing & employment laws enough protection?

Presenters:

Amy Schwartz, Esq. Domestic violence Legal Program Coordinator at the Empire Justice Center in Rochester; Adjunct Professor at Syracuse University College of Law

Carly Wise, BA in Psychology/Human & Child Development; Coordinator of SAFER (Survivors Advocating For Effective Reform)

Last year over one-half of the female homicide victims in NYS were murdered as a result of a domestic incident. What can we do about this blight on our society?

The local Social Policy Committee of the League has been reviewing our state and national positions on domestic violence for the past year. We have discussed materials and interviewed community leaders as well as victims of domestic violence on their insights regarding this problem. There was overwhelming agreement that society's level of acceptance of this problem needs to be challenged. Our League Day program will provide facts and an explanation of the pending laws needed in order to protect the victims of domestic violence, especially in their housing and places of employment.

ANNUAL MEETING

Locust Hill Country Club
2000 Jefferson Road
Thursday – June 4, 2009
11:30 a.m – 2:00 p.m.

Annual Meeting is no charge
Lunch at noon, price \$25.00

Reservations by May 27, 2009 mail to League Office

A quorum is required to conduct the meeting.



Domestic Violence - The National Viewpoint

Although our League Day will focus on NYS legislation, there are two pieces of existing federal legislation that Leaguers should be aware of when the Authorization and Appropriation bills are presented this year.

The first is the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) which was enacted into law in 1984. Administered through the U.S. Justice Department by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), this law supports a variety of services at all governmental levels for persons victimized by criminal incidents. The centerpiece of VOCA is the Crime Victim Fund. This fund receives monies only from fines, penalties, assessments and property forfeitures collected from convicted criminals. In turn, the Office of Justice Program (OJP) disburses these funds. A wide variety of our local victim assistance programs receive support to provide critical services such as domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, victim-witness protection and training programs for professionals and community organizations. The fund also provides for direct compensation to a victim of crime.

The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 1994 was spearheaded by Joe Biden. This comprehensive legislation works to protect and promote the rights of women by investigating violent crime perpetrated against women, seeking criminal prosecution, increasing pre-trial detention of the accused, and instituting automatic and mandatory restitution for the victim, as well as providing for civil redress when criminal prosecution is not possible. VAWA was reauthorized in 2000 and 2005 with the next reauthorization scheduled for 2010. In January, Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) introduced legislation to strengthen VAWA by increasing victim privacy protections and improving employer education and workplace support services. These improvements will be instrumental in helping women gain access to the means to improve their lives across America and right here in Monroe County.

Judy Dresnack, *Social Policy Committee member*

LWVUS President to Visit LWV/RMA

LWV/RMA will host a morning coffee for LWVUS President, Mary Wilson, May 1st at 9:30 am in the home of League member, Gretchen Shafer, at 22 Indian Spring Lane in Brighton. There will a time for questions and answers between 10:00 and 11:00AM

Ms. Wilson also plans to visit several of our historical sites including the Susan B. Anthony House. This is a unique opportunity for members to meet the President of the National League. If you plan to attend, please call LWV/RMA office at 262-3730 by April 29th.

Report of the Nominating Committee

**Candidates for Election on June 4, 2009 are starred*

OFFICERS

Co-President*	Sula Baxter	Term 2009-2010
Co-President*	Katherine Smith	Term 2009-2010
Treasurer	Dorothy Borgus	Term 2008-2010
Secretary	OPEN	
Vice President Voter Service	Sheila Abeling	Term 2008-2010
Vice President Action	OPEN	

DIRECTORS

Budget	Gaynelle Wethers	Term 2008-2010
Development*	Ann Weintraub	Term 2009-2011
Social Policy*	Judy Dresnack	Term 2009-2011
Local Gov't.	Beth Keigher	Term 2008-2010
Nat. Resources	Chris Pryor	Term 2008-2010
Publicity/ Membership*	Roxanne Kuliner	Term 2009-2011
VOTER Editor*	Jane Schmitt	Term 2009-2011

Nominating Committee

- 1) Open
- 2) Open
- 3) Open

Submitted by 2008-09 Nominating Committee

Sally Brown, Chair
Sula Baxter
Beth Keigher
Gretchen Shafer
Suzanne McNamara

Census 2010

LWV/RMA has become a partner with Census 2010. In the fall we will be distributing materials for the US Census Bureau when we have local events, publishing information from the Bureau in the Voter and sending Judy Weinstein, our liaison, to the Complete Count Committee.

It's very important for a community to have an accurate count of its population. Representation in Congress is determined by the census count, election districts lines are drawn for state Senate and Assembly seats, and distribution of many federal funds are based on population.

We look forward to participating in this project in 2009-2010. Consider taking part. Call us!

**LWV/RMA PROPOSED BUDGET
2009-2010**

INCOME

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Contributions – Non-Members	1985
Contributions – WRY	1000

EVENTS – SPECIAL

Book Sale/Garage Sale	700
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GRANTS

Educ. Foundation – Democracy Lunch	3000
Educ. Foundation – LWV/US PMP	3500
Educ. Foundation – LWV/NY PMP	2250
Educ. Foundation – Overhead	1500

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Annual Meeting	1000
Breakfast with Legislators	300
Democracy Luncheon	3000
Fall League Day	600
Spring League Evening	600

MEMBER SUPPORT

Contributions – Members	3600
Dues	14030

VOTER SERVICES

Election Services	2000
Moderators & Speakers	100

OTHER

Memorials/Tributes	700
LWV/NYS Raffle	100

TOTAL INCOME	39965
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**LWV/RMA PROPOSED BUDGET
2009-2010**

EXPENSES

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Public Relations	250
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EDUCATION & COMMUNITY

Facts For Voters	100
Newsletter Printing	2000
Newsletter Lay-out	2000
Who Represents You	1000

LWV SUPPORTS

State PMP	4500
National PMP	7000

MEETINGS & EVENTS

League Night	600
League Days (other)	400
September League Day	400
Annual Meeting	900
December League Day	150

OPERATING EXPENSES

Accounting	400
Bank Charges	35
Employer FICA	220
Employer FUTA	75
Employer Medicare	50
Employer SUTA	50
Insurance	1500
Parking	600
Postage	1885
Printing	500
Rent & Utilities	1550
Salary	4000
Supplies	1700
Telephone & Internet	1200

ORGANIZATION

Administration	500
Development	400
Membership	500
Voter Service	400
Convention	1200

SPECIAL EVENTS

Democracy Luncheon	3000
Garage Sale	700
Breakfast with Legislators	200

TOTAL EXPENSES	39965
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March League Day



Speakers (left to right): Catherine McCabe, Lois Geiss, Joann VanZandt, Lovely Warren



League Day Attendees



Moderator:
Nora Bredes

Annual Committee Reports

Social Policy

The Social Policy committee has been active on many fronts this year. Our primary focus has been to prepare for our League Day in May on our State position on domestic violence. To do this we invited many people from the community active in this area to tell us about their work and why it is important to have legislative activity on domestic violence. Representatives from the police department, Crime Victims Service, survivors and a lawyer who works for the Empire Justice Center attended our committee meetings.

Committee member Joan Rosenthal, our LWWNYS Off-board Specialist on Lead Poisoning, worked with the state coalitions to pass the Childhood Primary Prevention Lead Poisoning and Safe Housing Act. The governor reluctantly vetoed the bill due to economic constraints. He has promised to work within budget limitations to increase moneys for primary prevention activities as well as create a State interagency task force to focus on this issue in the coming year.

Committee member Judy Dresnack participated in meetings with the Interfaith Health Care Coalition which has studied various aspects of universal health care. Our goal for next year is to continue to seek opportunities to advance the League's position advocating universal health care.

Committee member Katherine Smith has continued to work for subsidies for working poor for quality day-care programs in Monroe County. She spoke at the Monroe County Legislative budget hearing in favor of additional monies and has written state and federal elected officials encouraging the use of funds to support early childhood education. In 2009-2010 our local league will publicly lend its voice to community support for this vital cause.

A warm thank you to all of our committee members who have worked hard on our varied concerns this year.

Georgia DeGregorio, *Social Policy Chairperson*

Local Government

The Local Government Committee spent much of the fall following up on the Local Development Corporation (LDC) report with the Comptroller's office. We requested that they follow up on the report and audit of one of the LDCs. To date we have not received a response to our request.

In the interim, Senator Jim Alessi presented legislation that would review how LDCs work in New York and assessing regulation as needed. We are hoping to meet with the Senator to discuss his interest in this issue.

Our attention turned to a report from the New York State Commission on Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness. Former Mayor Bill Johnson and

Brighton Supervisor Sandra Frankel served on this Commission. In February Sandra Frankel gave a presentation to the League and guests on the report. We plan to follow up on this report with a local study. It will focus on a specific area of possible municipal sharing of services within towns and villages in Monroe County.

We presented the Center for Governmental Research with a possible area of study and members will hear more at the June Annual Meeting.

Beth H. Keigher, *Local Government Chairperson*

Natural Resources

The Natural Resources Committee planned two League Days this year. In October Steve Lewandowski of LOCI gave a talk on the Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative. In April we toured Sunnking, an electronics recycling company. Members brought outmoded electronic equipment for recycling.

Two members collected plastic containers, packaging and articles labeled 3-7 to find out how much plastic we really use. A report appeared in the April VOTER.

The committee demonstrated the wetlands model at Conservation Days at Ellison Park last fall, the Rochester Museum and Science Center over the Christmas holidays, Brooks Hill School in March and will also participate in Zoo Days in May. The model will also be displayed at the Sierra Club Forum in April.

Last fall the Stream Team (Chris Fredette, Ann Jones, Joyce Pierson & Barb Wagner) tested Irondequoit Creek in Powder Mill Park to determine water quality. Our team is the only original team still participating in this program; they will be testing the creek again this spring.

Chris Pryor, *Natural Resources Chairperson*

New Members LWW/RMA

Mary Pizzente-Morich
42 Telephone Road
West Henrietta, NY 14586
Phone: 585-359-2400

Mary Medley
46 Culver Pkwy.
Rochester, NY 14609
Phone: 585-482-4135

Theresa Bonte
38 Bromly Rd.
Pittsford, NY 14534

In Memoriam

Ruth Handelman of Canadaigua; husband, Stanley, is a league member.

Elizabeth (Betsy) Essley, former Unit Leader and member of the Natural Resources Committee.

Program Report

The program year was kicked off in September with a celebration of the U.S. Constitution and discussion of Freedom of Speech and Campaign Financing at Nazareth College. This program was very interesting and many voices were heard.

To continue informing the members with pertinent topics, the following programs were presented:

- October: the Natural Resources Committee sponsored a program on Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative. This was a very informative program which many enjoyed
- December: Holiday Open House was held with a speaker from the Center for Governmental Research
- January: a discussion regarding the new voting machines was presented by Monroe County Election Commissioners
- February: Local Government Committee invited Sandra Frankel, Brighton Supervisor and a member of the New York State Commission on Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness to speak. This was a very informative and interesting meeting
- March: the League commemorated International Women's Day. Speakers were: Lois Geiss, Catherine McCabe, Lovely Warren and Joann van Zandt; Nora Bredes, Director of the Anthony Center for Women's Leadership was moderator
- April: the Natural Resources Committee arranged a tour of Sunnking, Inc., an electronics recycling and scrap consulting firm. This tour was very informative, and we learned that this facility has a zero landfill policy. Several members who came to this tour brought old computers, printers and TVs for recycling.
- May: Social Policy Committee presented a program about domestic violence. The Committee presented our state and national positions on domestic violence and provided an explanation of the facts and of the pending laws needed to protect the victims of domestic violence.

We are very fortunate to have three active committees, Local Government, Social Policy and Natural Resources. If any of our members are interested in these issues, please call the League office or contact the chair of the appropriate committee.

Sula Baxter, *Vice-President Program*

Corrections to the 2008-2009 Directory

Esther Denaro Maltese: correct email address is emaltese@frontiernet.net

Pat Tobin: correct email address is walklvr48@aol.com

Emily Tobin: phone number is 585-314-8002.

Proposed By-Laws Amendments

All proposed changes are in **bold** print. Deletions are in parenthesis; additions are underlined.

ARTICLE V – Board of Directors

Sec. 1. NUMBER, MANNER OF SELECTION, AND TERM OF OFFICE. The board of directors shall consist of the officers of the League of Women Voters of the Rochester Metropolitan Area(:), a minimum of **(seven) five** elected directors and not more than **(seven) five** appointed directors. **(Four) Half** shall be elected by the general membership at the annual meeting in even-numbered years and **(three) the other half** in odd-numbered years and shall serve for a term of two years, or until their successors have been qualified and elected. The elected members shall appoint such additional directors, **(not exceeding seven)**, as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the League of Women Voters of the Rochester Metropolitan Area. Appointed Directors shall serve for one year. The terms of office for all directors shall begin upon election.

The above updates reflect what has occurred in recent years.

Sec. 2. QUALIFICATIONS. No person shall be elected or appointed or shall continue to serve as an officer or director of this organization except a voting member of the League of Women Voters of the Rochester Metropolitan Area.

Sec. 3. VACANCIES. Any vacancy occurring in the board of directors by reason of the resignation, death, or disqualification of an officer **other than the president** or elected member may be filled, until the next annual meeting, by a majority vote of the remaining members of the board of directors. Three consecutive absences from a board of directors meeting of any member without a valid reason may be deemed a resignation. A vote of the members of the board of directors shall determine whether the three consecutive absences were without a valid reason.

The above clarifies any contradiction in this section with Article IV Sect 3.

Addition for Who Represents You

Dan Maffei
 1280 Titus Ave.
 Rochester, NY 14617
 585-336-7291
 Fax 585-336-7274

MAY 2009

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

JUNE 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	4	4 ANNUAL MEETING Locust Hill CC 11:30 am	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	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.

For more complete information consult our website at www.lwv-rma.org, call the office at 262-3730 or e-mail us at LWV/RMA@frontiernet.net

Victory! State's Bottle Recycling Law Passes

(Albany, NY) Groups from across the state applauded passage of the Bigger Better Bottle Bill today as part of the 2009-10 state budget. This momentous achievement is the first major overhaul of the state's bottle deposit law since it was created in 1982, and caps a grueling nine-year campaign to expand and update the law. The update expands New York's bottle return law to include water bottles, which comprise nearly a quarter of all beverages sold in New York. The law also requires beverage companies to return 80% of the unclaimed bottle and can deposits to the state, generating upwards of \$115 million annually for the General Fund.

Barbara Bartoletti, Legislative Director of the State League said: "The League of Women Voters of New York State joins our coalition partners in applauding Governor Paterson, Majority Leader Malcolm Smith and Speaker Sheldon Silver for expanding beverage recycling to include water bottles. This will remove water bottles from the waste stream and return nickel deposits for much needed state revenue."



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

Voter Service, Hard at Work

A special thanks goes out to Barbara Hendry for her hard work in putting together "Who Represents You 2009". We couldn't have done it without her!!

In May our Naturalization ceremonies take us to RIT on the morning of May 8th. Phyllis Masters and Mimi Wilson will be there for the League.

Another ceremony will be on May 14th at 10:00 am in the Monroe County Building with Marcia Eisenberg. Anyone interested in observing a ceremony, contact Sheila Abeling at 223-6819. It's a wonderful experience.

The Rochester Voters Alliance sent us some data from the Board of Elections for the year 2008. The League volunteered to conduct a voters' registration at the Tops West Ave. store. The Rochester Voters Alliance (RVA) was VERY successful in voter registration as well in doing a follow up with the registrants encouraging people to vote. Of the 5,450 people registered by RVA, 4,879 voted. 1,602 of those were new voters. What impressive numbers!

Voter Service is continuing its effort of going out into the community and educating citizens about the League and voting. Barb Hendry and Sheila Abeling will be talking with the College Club in East Rochester on April 21st.

Sheila Abeling, *VP Voters Service*

Reminder! ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday – June 4, 2009

11:30 a.m – 2:00 p.m.

Locust Hill Country Club • 2000 Jefferson Road

A quorum is required to conduct the meeting.

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**

Monthly Publication of the League of Women Voters -
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

Board of Directors:

Georgia DeGregorio
Social Policy

Beth Keigher
Local Government

Roxanne Kulinier
Public Relations

Chris Pryor
Natural Resources

Gaynelle Wethers
Budget

Off-Board:

Jane Schmitt
VOTER Editor

Chris Burleigh
VOTER Layout & Production

**June VOTER
Deadline is May 4!**

Goals of the League of Women Voters:

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

A man is either free or he is not.
There cannot be any apprenticeship
for freedom.
Imamu Amiri Baraka, *Kulchur*