



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 Hydroponics, a Go-See Tour

Join us on the 11th Annual Go-See Tour of Freshwise Farms, a hydroponic farming operation in Penfield.

May 6, 2010, 9:30 am

Meet at Panorama Plaza, then carpool to Freshwise Farms 1345 Penfield Road (approximately 10 minute drive)

Lunch at 12:30 pm at Panera Bread Company

In the past, the Natural Resources Committee has sponsored tours of the Monroe County Water Filtration Plant at Hemlock, the Monroe County Recycling Center on Lee Road, local wetlands, the City of Rochester, the Erie Canal, Lake Ontario/Irondequoit Bay, the Genesee River, Lake Ontario at Braddock's Bay, the windmill at Harbec Manufacturing and Sunnking recycling facility for electronics. This trip will be different.

We will meet at Panorama Plaza near the Panera Bread Company (restaurant), then carpool to the farm where we will tour the greenhouses and learn about hydroponics. (Is it the future of locally grown food?) Upon our return, we will regroup in the Plaza where we can eat a delicious lunch at the Panera Bread and talk about the morning tour. No fee this year; each person will order and pay for their own lunch. We hope to see you there! Panorama Plaza is accessible from Routes 441, 286 and Old Penfield Road. Parking at Freshwise Farms is very limited, making it necessary to carpool; directions will be available for each car. For more information about hydroponics, see article on page 3.

Sponsored by the Natural Resources Committee of LWV/RMA.

Consensus! Consensus! Consensus!

May 13, 10:00 am

Brighton Town Hall, Lower Level Meeting Room

TOPIC: Government Consolidation/Shared Services

Consensus questions were published in the March and April VOTERS. Please bring them with you.

Consensus, or membership understanding and agreement, is the basis of the grass-roots character and effectiveness of the League of Women Voters. The League is a study and action organization. Therefore, it is important to have a clear expression of member views to determine what action to take. Consensus-taking is a complex procedure at the local, regional, state and national levels. The consensus reached by members through group discussion is not a simple majority, nor is it unanimity; rather it is the overall "sense of the group" as expressed through the exchange of ideas and opinions. The local consensus will be reported to the state league who will then analyze the consensus from the other state leagues and develop a statement of position which will be the basis for future action by leagues throughout the state.

Extracted from the www.LWVNY.org.

Since Last Month

On April 8th at 1:00 pm, Marcia Eisenberg welcomed new citizens in a Naturalization ceremony in the Federal Building. Also in April on the 14th at Minerva Deland School in Fairport, Sheila Abeling and Marcia Eisenberg participated in the Naturalization ceremony at 9:00 am.

Chris Fredette, Jane Schmitt, Ann Jones and Elizabeth Rabjohns demonstrated the wetlands model at Brooks Hill Elementary School in Fairport on March 31. They met with 8 different classrooms, one after the other. According to them, it is always inspiring to see how quickly the children pick up on the principles demonstrated and how enthused they are.

Thanks to all those who volunteered!

From Our Birthday Party!



Speaker
David Cay Johnston



LWVNY President
Betsey Swan



Mayor Robert Duffy



Rochester League
Co-President
Katherine Smith



Attendees in the Rochester Club Ballroom

In Memorium:

Beatrice (Bea) Bibby, see article page 3.

League member, June Lacelle, recently passed away.

New Members:

Barbara Grosh
12 Whittlers Ridge
Pittsford, NY 14534
264-1691

Claude Noyes
33 Vick Park A
Rochester, NY 14607

Welcome to both!

League to Host Mayors from Tajikistan

Once again, the League of Women Voters of the Rochester Metropolitan Area will be hosting a group of international visitors, sponsored by the Open World Center at the Library of Congress. The program enables elected officials, political candidates, and emerging political and civic leaders from the former Soviet Republics to observe the American democratic system firsthand. The mission of the Open World Program is to enhance understanding and opportunities for cooperation between the United States and the countries of Eurasia and the Baltic States.

This year, we will be hosting a group of mayors from Tajikistan. They will arrive on Saturday, September 25, and leave on Sunday, October 3. Those who were involved with the past 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 home stays and being made to feel part of the family. In anticipation of their arrival, some background information on Tajikistan is presented:

Population: 7,349,145 (July 2009 est.)

Noun: Tajikistani(s), adjective: Tajikistani

Ethnic groups: Tajik 79.9%, Uzbek 15.3%, Russian 1.1%, Kyrgyz 1.1%, other 2.6% (2000 census)

Contemporary Tajiks are the descendants of ancient Eastern Iranian inhabitants of Central Asia, in particular the Soghdians and the Bactrians, and possibly other groups, with an admixture of western Iranian Persians, Mongols, and Turkic peoples.

Religion: Sunni Muslim 85%, Shia Muslim 5%, other 10% (2003 est.)

Language: Tajik (official), Russian widely used in government and business

More next month about the country and life style.

We have not yet started scheduling appointments for the visitors, but you will be kept informed as the visit approaches. As usual, there will be opportunities for League members to meet the visitors to learn about their country and their views of the U.S.

You can join in this important project which provides the League with needed revenue by contacting Sula Baxter at 225-5284 or billsula@frontiernet.net; she will be responsible for coordinating the many volunteers required to make the program successful. We need League members to participate as home hosts, drivers, meeting facilitators and dinner hosts.

Please join us in making this a successful project. It is fun, helps U.S. international relations, and provides us with \$2,000.

Judy Weinstein, *Open World Co-Chair*

Albany On-The-Road

On May 5, 2010, there will be a rally in Albany from 11:00 am - 4:00 pm to urge lawmakers to reform the governance of New York State. A bus will leave Rochester that morning. There is no charge. Check www.lwvny.org and sign up.

LWVNY, Common Cause, Citizens Union of the City of NY, NY Public Interest Research Group, Interfaith Alliance and Brennan Center for Justice are all supporting this event.

There are two events in Rochester this month in preparation for the rally.

- April 15th, Blair Horner from NYPIRG led a news conference at noon.
- April 25th, 1:30 pm at the Unitarian Church there will be a work-shop led by Assemblyman Joseph Morelle on lobbying tactics.

The Pledge that lawmakers are asked to sign states that they will:

- Ensure that ethics, lobbying and campaign finance watchdogs are independent and powerful
- End the practice of legislators drawing their own district lines
- Provide fairness in advocating legislative resources and member items
- Close obsolete public authorities
- Establish an independent fiscal watchdog
- Open up the budget process
- End pay to play for lobbyist
- Require the public disclosure of independent campaign contributions
- Encourage small donors for campaigns.

Katherine Smith, *Co-President, LWV/RMA*

Student Goes to Albany

Yar Deng, a senior at the School Without Walls in Rochester, has been chosen to attend this year's "Students Inside Albany Conference" sponsored by the League of Women Voters/New York State Education Foundation, Inc.

This ninth annual program took place from April 11-14, 2010. It brought forty students from across the state to Albany to get a first hand education about their state government. The program was designed to increase high school students' awareness of their responsibility in representative government and provide information about the tools necessary for meeting that responsibility. The League of Women Voters/Rochester Metro Area provided the transportation for Yar to attend the program.

A special thank you goes to Jack Hurley, a teacher at the School Without Walls. We appreciate his help in the selection of our 2010 student.

Sheila Abelung, *VP Voters Services*

Hydroponics is Here!

From the Greek words hydro (water) and ponics (work), hydroponics is the technology for growing plants in water laced with nutrients, instead of in soil. The technology is not new; the Hanging Gardens of Babylon used hydroponic techniques.

With use of this technology, the roots of plants have direct access to water and nutrients, instead of extending through soil to reach sustenance. Roots are compact and plants direct their energy to top growth.

Advantages of this technology include ability to grow food plants in winter here in western New York, and the ability to produce food where space, water, and good soil are scarce. Growing food here means not having to transport it from warmer climes, resulting in fresher and more nutritious produce as well as saving transport costs and energy. Plants grow faster because of the easy availability of nutrients to the roots, and diseases and insect damage are more readily controlled in the greenhouse atmosphere. Because the plants have easy access to nutrients, they are grown closer together and thus more produce is grown per unit of space.

The initial infrastructure costs are considerable, and it takes energy to keep greenhouses warm in winter and to pump the nutrient-rich water to the plants.

Please join other League members on May 6 as we tour Freshwise Farms in Penfield, a hydroponics farm on property owned by the Foodlink Foundation. There are many exciting projects going on there, and we'll hear about hydroponic growing and Foodlink projects like community gardens elsewhere. Be sure to ask our tour guide, Tom Sheridan (Operations Manager), about a possible wind turbine, water usage, pesticide use, what nutrients are supplied to plants, and how plants are supported in the water. He will be happy to answer any other questions you may have.

The tour is free; but members may want to make a donation to Foodlink. There is a store there where we can purchase salad greens, and we will have an opportunity to taste different lettuces. If you would like to visit their website, go to www.freshwise.org.

We hope to see you May 6th!

Chris Fredette, Natural Resource Committee

Bee (Beatrice) Bibby

It is with sadness that we inform League members that former president of LWV/RMA, Bee Bibby, aged 101, has passed away. Bee was an active member of the local and state league for many years. She participated in League events up until she moved into Atria Senior Living. Even after moving to Atria, Bee continued to stay informed of League activities, read the VOTER, and was looking forward to the 85th birthday celebration of the League. We shall miss her wise counsel and support.

Sula Baxter, *Co-President LWV/RMA*



LWV/RMA Budget 2010-2011

Income

	2008-2009		Budget 2009-2010	3/2/2010 Actual	2010-2011 Proposed
	Budget	Income			
COMMUNITY SUPPORT:					
Contributions-Non-members	700.00	35.00	485.00	30.00	100.00
Contributions-WRY	1,000.00	5.00	1,000.00	45.00	100.00
EVENTS SPECIAL					
Foreign Vistiors *	5,500.00	7,306.11	-	-	8,000.00
Book Sale/Garage Sale	700.00		700.00	639.40	-
GRANTS:					
Educ. Foundation-Democracy Luncheon *	3,000.00	1,991.56	3,000.00	1,519.00	1,000.00
Educ. Foundation-LWV/US PMP *	3,150.00	3,330.50	3,500.00	1,698.65	2,000.00
Educ. Foundation-LWV/NY PMP *	2,030.00	2,178.00	2,250.00	2,142.00	2,000.00
Educ. Foundation-Overhead	1,500.00	2,827.00	1,500.00	-	-
Who Represents You				995.00	1,000.00
Constitution Day (Fall League Day)	600.00	500.00	600.00	-	200.00
MEETINGS & EVENTS:					
Annual Meeting	1,000.00	650.00	1,000.00	-	600.00
Breakfast w/ Legislators	300.00	-	300.00	-	-
Democracy luncheon	3,000.00	2,705.00	3,000.00	1,519.00	1,500.00
Spring League Day	600.00	585.00	600.00	585.00	600.00
League Day		105.00		-	0
September :League Day		444.00		-	0
MEMBER SUPPORT:					
Contributions-Members	2,100.00	2,786.60	2,100.00	1,090.00	1,200.00
Dues	12,000.00	11,010.00	17,930.00	6,980.00	11,000.00
VOTER SERVICES:					
Election Services	2,000.00	2,200.00	2,000.00	111.18	1,000.00
Moderators & Speakers	350.00	105.00	100.00	50.00	50.00
OTHER:					
Newsletter Advertising	250.00		-	-	0
Memorial/Tributes	700.00		700.00	-	0
LWV/NYS Raffle	100.00	60.00	100.00	66.00	100
TOTAL INCOME	40,580.00	38,823.77	40,865.00	17,470.23	30,450.00

Actual as of 3/2/2010
EXPENSES: \$18,835.45
INCOME: \$17,470.23
DEFICIT: 1,365.22

Proposed
Expenses: \$38,763.00
Income: \$30,450.00
Deficit: \$8,313.00

- * Foreign Visitors Income Budget is not reflected due to final project numbers unavailable at this time.
- * Democracy Luncheon projected income is not expected
- * State PMP and National PMP projected income not expected in Education Fund.

EPA Initiates Hydraulic Fracturing Study

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that it will conduct a comprehensive research study to investigate the potential adverse impact that hydraulic fracturing may have on water quality and public health.. There are concerns that hydraulic fracturing may impact ground water and surface water quality in ways that threaten human health and the environment. To address these concerns and strengthen our clean energy future and in response to language inserted into the fiscal year 2010 Appropriations Act, EPA is re-allocating \$1.9 million for this comprehensive, peer-reviewed study for FY10 and requesting funding for FY11 in the president's budget proposal.

To support this initial planning phase and guide the development of the study plan, the agency is seeking suggestions and comments from the EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB), an independent, external federal advisory committee. The agency has requested that the Environmental Engineering Committee (EEC) of the SAB evaluate and provide advice on EPA's proposed approach. The agency will use this advice and extensive stakeholder input to guide the design of the study.

Hydraulic fracturing is a process that drills vertical and horizontal cracks underground that help withdraw gas, or oil, from coal beds, shale and other geological formations. While each site is unique, in general, the process involves vertical and horizontal drilling, taking water from the ground, injecting fracturing fluids and sands into the formation, and withdrawing gas and separating and managing the leftover waters.

From Federal Register notice issued March 18, 2010.

LWV/RMA Budget 2010-2011 Expenses

	2008-2009 Budget	Expense	Budget 2009-2010 Budget	As of 3/2/2010 Actual	2010-2011 Proposed
Community Relations:					
Public Relations	250.00	\$33.00	250.00	25.00	\$33.00
Education & Community:					
Facts For Votes	100.00		100.00	38.55	\$40.00
Newsletter Printing	2,000.00	\$1,947.44	2,000.00	1,194.14	\$1,500.00
Newsletter Lay-Out	2,000.00	\$2,000.00	2,000.00	1,200.00	\$2,000.00
Who Represents You	1,000.00	\$995.00	1,000.00	-	\$1,000.00
LWV Supports:					
State PMP	4,060.00	\$4,356.00	4,500.00	3,213.00	\$4,500.00
National PMP	6,300.00	\$6,661.00	7,000.00	3,397.30	\$7,000.00
Meetings & Events:					
Spring League Day		\$605.00		-	\$200.00
League Days (other)	300.00	\$203.97	400.00	44.42	\$200.00
Constitution Day/ League Day	400.00	\$1,146.07	400.00	-	\$200.00
Annual Meeting	900.00	\$946.00	900.00	-	\$900.00
December League Day	150.00	\$104.88	150.00	-	\$0.00
Operating Expenses:					
Accounting	400.00	\$335.00	400.00	335.00	\$400.00
Bank Charges		\$51.57		-	\$50.00
Employer FICA	235.00	\$223.51	220.00	206.07	\$220.00
Employee FICA		\$223.51		205.61	\$220.00
Employer FUTA	75.00	\$28.84	75.00	26.56	\$30.00
Employer Medicare	55.00	\$52.26	50.00	48.53	\$50.00
Employee Medicare		\$52.29		47.75	\$50.00
Employer SUTA	55.00	\$36.94	50.00	36.01	\$50.00
Insurance (DBL)		\$53.59		125.00	\$150.00
Liability	1,200.00	\$792.12	1,200.00	689.39	\$750.00
Worker's Comp		\$307.00		307.00	\$320.00
Office Equipment					
Parking	650.00	\$595.00	600.00	322.00	\$600.00
Postage	2,000.00	\$969.55	1,885.00	817.74	\$1,000.00
Printing	600.00	\$994.57	500.00	438.96	\$1,000.00
Rent & Utilities	1,550.00	\$1,625.00	1,550.00	875.00	\$1,550.00
Salary	3,800.00	\$3,172.21	3,800.00	1,755.27	\$3,500.00
Supplies	1,000.00	\$306.14	1,500.00	419.05	\$1,500.00
Telephone & Internet	1,100.00	\$951.22	1,060.00	627.73	\$1,000.00
Organization:					
Administration	200.00	\$533.33	300.00	58.84	\$300.00
Development	700.00		700.00	-	\$700.00
Membership	300.00		300.00	21.60	\$500.00
Voter Service	200.00	\$167.70	175.00	222.36	\$250.00
Convention	1,500.00	\$465.00	1,200.00	-	\$500.00
Special Events:					
Democracy Luncheon	3,000.00	\$1,991.56	3,000.00	1,938.89	\$2,500.00
Foreign Visitor	3,600.00	\$4,098.94	-	-	\$4,000.00
Book/Sale/ Garage Sale	300.00		300.00	198.68	
Breakfast w/ Legislators	200.00		200.00		
TOTAL EXPENSES	40,180.00	\$37,025.21	37,765.00	18,835.45	\$38,763.00

Note -

Transfer to reserve fund: \$17,144.42 (2008)

Transfer to wry reserve fund: \$4,,060.00 (2008)

MAY 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3 June VOTER deadline	4	5 Naturalization Ceremony 10:00 am	6 Go-See Tour 9:30 am Hydroponics	7	8
9	10	11	12 Natural Resources 11:30 am	13 Consensus Mtg.	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 Board Mtg, 2 pm	21	22
23	24	25	Don't Forget Consensus May 13th Brighton Town Hall 10:00 am			29
30	31					

JUNE 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	Don't Forget the Annual Meeting! June 3 - Locust Hill Country Club			3 Annual Mtg. Locust Hill CC	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Naturalization Ceremony 10:00 am 1:00 pm	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	Have A Great Summer!			26
27	28	29	30			

Board meets at 2:00 pm on the third Thursday of each month at Brighton Town Hall, Stage Conference Room, unless otherwise noted.

Natural Resources meets at the home of Ann Jones, 244-9337. Local Government meets at the Brighton Library.

For Social Policy details, call Judy Dresnak 637-4753 .

For Local Government details, call Beth Keigher 271-6694.

10:00 am Naturalization Ceremonies are held at Monroe County Office Building, 39 W. Main St;

1:00 pm Naturalization Ceremonies are held at Federal Court House at 100 State Street.

Forums 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

Join Us at Our Annual Meeting!

June 3, 2010, 11:30 am - 2:00 pm
Locust Hill Country Club

Agenda:

- Election of Officers & Directors (below)
- Adoption of Budget (see pages 4 & 5)
- Adoption of Program Luncheon at 11:30
- Business meeting at 12:00

Please plan to attend; a quorum is required to convene the business meeting.

Please send your check for \$25 to LWV/RMA, 45 Exchange Blvd., Rochester, NY 14614, if you plan to attend the luncheon.

The following are proposed for election, June 3, 2010

Officers:

- President:* Katherine Smith 2010-2012
- VP Voter Service:* Sheila Abeling 2010-2012
- Secretary:* Judy Dresnack to complete vacated term to 2011
- Treasurer:* Annette Miller 2010-2012

Board of Directors:

- Virginia (Gin) Busack 2010-2012
- Beth Keigher 2010-2012
- Gaynelle Wethers 2010-2012

Off Board non-elected, to be appointed

- Nominating Chair:* Sula Baxter
- Member:* Georgia DeGregorio
- Member:* Lauren Frank

Continuing Board of Directors

- VP Development 2009-2011,* Ann Weintraub
- VOTER Editor 2009-2011,* Jane Schmitt,
- Off Board:* Chris Burleigh, VOTER Layout & Production

Membership Socials

We would like to get to know you and for you to learn about us. In order to do this, LWV/RMA have scheduled several "socials". Yes, socials – 3 of them!

They will be held:

- May 11th, 7:00 pm at Virginia (Gin) Busack's home, 348 Belmeade Rd., Rochester, NY; phone 467-6131
- May 22nd, 2:00 pm at Sheila Abeling's home, 18 Kildeer Lane, Fairport, NY; phone 223-6819
- June 15th, 7:00 pm at Judy Dresnack's home, 11 Brook Terrace, Brockport, NY; phone 637-4753

Choose one that is convenient for you; please call for directions and to let the hostess know you are planning on attending. We will tell you about our goals and activities.

We want to hear from you!

How long have you been a member?

What do you expect from us?

The socials are open to all members and those who are thinking about joining. We would particularly like to hear from those of you who have joined recently (last 2 years). Bring a friend, relative or another member.

We need your feedback in order to plan programs and activities that will keep you interested and active.

Board of Directors, LWV/RMA

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	\$75
Household	\$105
Susan B. Anthony/Frederick Douglass	\$150
Carrie Chapman Catt	\$200
Student (full-time/under 25)	\$25
Low income, call office	\$sliding \$scale



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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

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Co-President

Sula Baxter

Co-President

Ann Weintraub

VP Development

Sheila Abeling

VP Voter Service

Dorothy Borgus

Treasurer

Board of Directors:

Judy Dresnack

Social Policy

Beth Keigher

Local Government

Gaynelle Wethers

Budget

Jane Schmitt

VOTER Editor

Off-Board:

Chris Burleigh

VOTER Layout & Production

**June VOTER
Deadline is May 3!**

Goals of the League of Women Voters:

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

“Action is eloquence.”
William Shakespeare, *Coriolanus*