



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 at Our 12th Annual Go-See Tour

May 19, 2011

University Services Center

Platinum Award Winning LEED Building @ RIT

10 am at the RIT Campus

Meet at the east side entrance (see directions on page 2). Following the tour, we will adjourn to the adjacent University Crossroads cafeteria/dining room for lunch (you pay).

If you have not visited the RIT Campus recently, you are in for a surprise! Not only has it grown, but it also is the site of the new University Services Center which has earned the highest sustainability rating from the U.S. Green Building Council – its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating of platinum.

For a building to achieve LEED Platinum status, it must meet the following requirements:

- 48.6 percent energy cost reduction over industry standards for heating and cooling efficiency
- 43 percent reduction in water usage over national requirements
- 35 percent of the building's electricity is supplied from renewable sources, including on-site solar photovoltaic panels
- 33 percent recycled content of materials
- Materials and products necessary for the project must be from within a 500-mile radius.

RIT's University Services Center became the first building in Monroe County to receive platinum certification. It is also only the second such designated facility at a college or university in New York. Extensive measures were taken during the building's construction to minimize environmental impact, including an erosion and sedimentation control plan. In addition, 89 percent of construction waste was diverted from landfills and recycled. To limit the cost and environmental impact resulting from transportation, RIT acquired more than 20 percent of the materials and products necessary for the project from within a 500-mile radius.

From RIT University News, by permission. See map on page 2 for directions to RIT and the University Services Center.

Since Last Month

Naturalization ceremonies were performed on April 14th at 10 am at Minerva DeLand School in Fairport and April 14th at 1 pm at the Federal Building

On March 29th, Chris Burleigh, Barb Hendry and Sheila Abeling opened absentee ballots for the Rochester Mayoral Election. We really appreciate you volunteering to help the Board of Elections. Thank you!

Students Inside Albany took place this year from April 10th - 13th. The League of Women Voters New York State Education Foundation, Inc. sponsored the conference. Our local League provided the transportation for our student. Students had the opportunity to see the state government in action. They learned how to make their voices heard in the political process. Approximately forty students statewide participated in the program.

The students participated in a series of interactive lectures on topics such as the state budget process, the role of lobbyists in the legislative process, citizen rights to access government information, the role of media in politics and the movement to reform state government. While in Albany, the students toured the state's Capitol. All students also had the opportunity to attend sessions on the chamber floor.

Sheila Abeling, *VP Voters Service*

Directions to RIT:

Since Jefferson Road is undergoing construction between the Post Office and Marketplace Mall; you may want to take an alternate route. Suggestions:

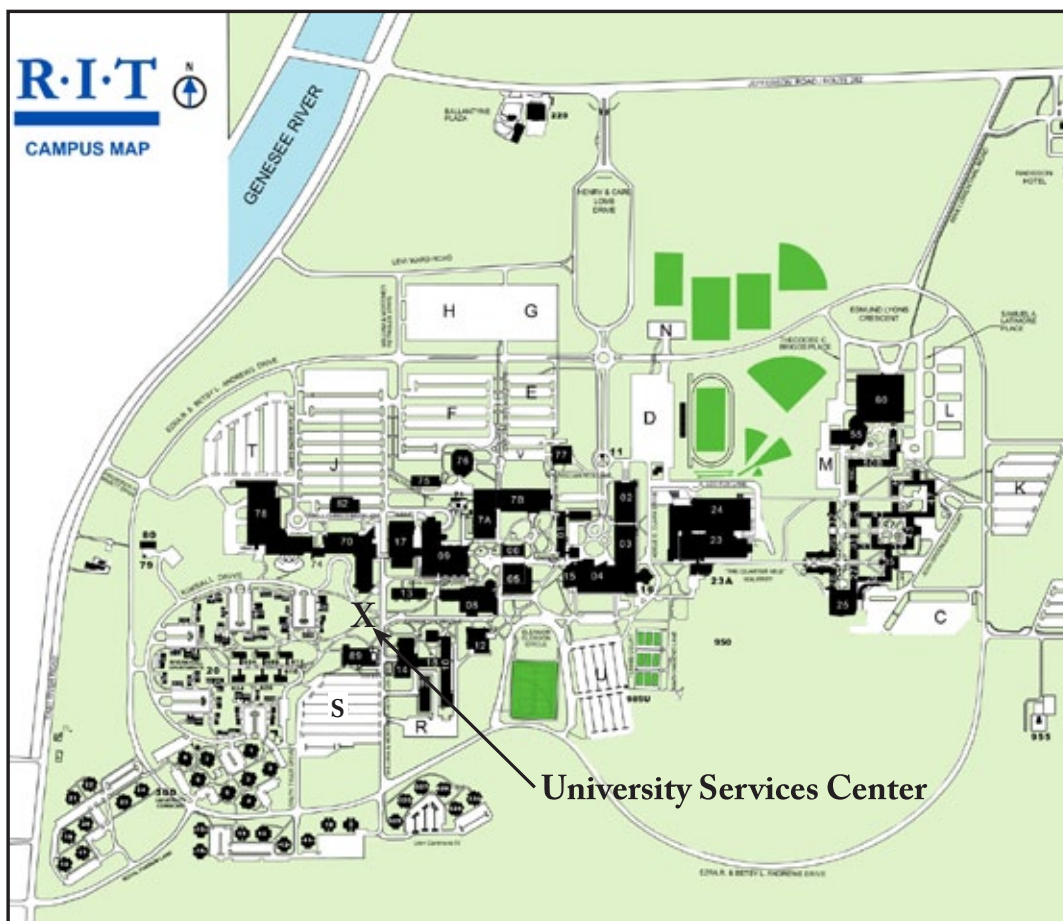
From the east, Elmwood Ave, Allens Creek/Westfall Rd, Brighton-Henrietta Town Line Rd, and Calkins Rd are cross streets that will take you from the east side over to Route 15 (W. Henrietta Rd); turn onto route 15 and go to Jefferson Rd (past the construction). Take Jefferson Rd west, past SouthTown, Park Point, and the Radisson Hotel to the main entrance of RIT.

Note: B-H Town Line Rd takes you all the way to Park Point.

From the west, take 390 to Route 15 and turn right; go to Jefferson Rd and turn right; or take Ballantyne Rd which goes directly to RIT.

Turn into the main entrance (RIT Sign). At the traffic circle, turn right and drive around the west side of the campus (past student housing) to parking lot S.

At the bottom of the map is parking lot S. Above it is the Crossroads Bldg [dining] and just above that is the **University Services Center Complex**. Take the walkway on the right side of the Crossroads Building and follow it to the University Services Center; enter the door on that side (east) of the building.



Annual Report From the President

The Board's goal of increased visibility in the community was achieved this year. The President of LWV/RMA spoke more than two dozen times before civic groups, gave six TV interviews, delivered testimony before legislative bodies; and a "Speaking Out" piece, letters, notices and coverage of a dozen LWV/RMA events appeared in the D&C. Additionally, under the guidance of Beth Keigher, more than a hundred citizens attended three public forums.

A major priority in 2011 - 2012 will be to raise revenues. The budget report analysis by Gaynelle Wethers and John Schmitt shows that we need to raise over \$2,000 additional income next year in order to keep our local league operating. This will take the support of all our members and our community civic organizational partners. The LWV/RMA Board of Directors Organizational Meeting in July will establish a plan for this purpose.

Another goal for 2011 - 2012 will be to revive our contacts with local elected officials. LWVNY's agenda "Fix Albany Now" has remained the same for two years and we need to continue advocating for these reforms. We are looking forward to our new Board again becoming a leading advocate in our community for improving how our local and state governments serve citizens.

The LWV/RMA's 2010 - 2011 year was a time of transition. After a decade of declining membership and, under the leadership of Gin Busack, we held steady this year. We adjusted our PMP commitment with LWVUS with the help of Annette Miller and we drastically reduced expenses as recommended by the members at the 2010 Annual Meeting. The LWV/RMA will be operated by all volunteers in 2011 - 2012. The Board of Directors will continue to reorganize areas of responsibilities.

With more time commitment from fewer directors, increased work by committee members and substantial use of technology by Barbara Grosh, LWV/RMA is confident it will carry out its main mission of Voter Services and voter education to the Rochester area in 2011 - 2012. Voter Services under the outstanding leadership of Sheila Abeling will continue its numerous programs; voter education through our exceptional Voter will continue under Jane Schmitt with help from Chris Burleigh and Barb Hendry.

Katherine Smith, *President LWV/RMA 2010-2012*

Annual Report for Voter Services

The League has been represented at the monthly naturalization ceremonies by Sheila Abeling, Marcia Eisenberg, Barbara Hendry, and Mimi Wilson. For some ceremonies, we had volunteers attend to learn about the oath ceremonies. They have been students from Brockport College and Nazareth College. We've also had newer League members who volunteered to assist us. The League explains to new citizens what registering to

vote means and then we help them complete the forms. At the ceremonies, we distributed more than 1500 registration forms during the year.

We published our brochure *Who Represents You 2011*. Five thousand brochures were printed and are being distributed to various community organizations, including the libraries and Board of Elections. In 2008, the League was awarded a grant for \$5000 from the Rochester Area Community Foundation to cover publishing *Who Represents You* for five years.

League volunteers opened absentee ballots for the Board of Elections at the September Primary, the November Election and the Rochester Mayoral Election in March. We have wonderful, reliable volunteers in the League!

Voter registration drives were successful. We discussed the process of voting and helped to register those qualified to vote at many events and places. Some of the events where we registered voters were: General Hospital's "Spring Into Safety", St. John Missionary Baptist Church's Block Fair, 19th Amendment Festival at Susan B. Anthony Square Park, Constitution Day at Nazareth College, "Books Sandwiched In" at the Rundel Library, Brighton High School's "Wellness Fair", and School 22's Parent/Student Night. We co-sponsored a voter registration table with the Fairport Area Branch of the AAUW at the Clothesline Arts Festival in September.

Our Fair Election Campaign Practices Committee encourages all candidates for public office to run positive, issues-oriented campaigns. Some candidates feel that negative ads are effective. The League believes that positive campaigns that address important issues are winning campaigns. This year the committee monitored seven complaints that were filed in the general election. The 2010 Committee members were: Sarah Liebschutz (Chairperson), Margaret Freeman, Thomas Frey, Channing Philbrick, and Kay Wallace. Alternates were John Curran, Lois Giess, Jim Peters, and Jim Turner.

The League made itself available to speak in the community about the importance of voting. We met with students from elementary to high school levels. Also, we visited and spoke at area senior citizen facilities and refreshed their knowledge of the importance of voting.

This year, the League sent Tenacious Jackson, a junior at School Without Walls, to Students Inside Albany. This conference brings about forty students from across the state to Albany to get a first hand education about their state government. The program is designed to increase high school students' awareness of their responsibility in representative government and to provide information about the tools necessary for meeting this responsibility. Students also shadow legislative representatives while in Albany.

Voter Services' goals for the coming year are to increase visibility of the League in the community, to increase the number of voter registrations, to increase our Voter Services volunteers, to continue educating citizens about the importance of voting and participating in our democracy, and to increase our volunteer activities with the Board of Elections.

Sheila Abeling, *Vice President Voter Services*

LWV BUDGET 2011-2012 Proposed Draft

INCOME	2011-2012 Proposed	EXPENSES	2011-2012 Proposed	SUMMARY
Community Support		Community Relations		Expenses 19682.00
Contributions-Non-members	30.00	Public Relations	250.00	Income 15355.00
Contributions-WRY	100.00	Education & Community		Deficit 4327.00
Grants		Facts For Voters	100.00	B. Bibby Legacy Income 2000.00
Who Represents You	1000.00	Newsletter Printing	500.00	New Deficit 2327.00
Meetings & Events		Newsletter Lay-Out	1000.00	Rev 4/5/11
Annual Meeting	1000.00	Who Represents You	1000.00	Submitted by Gaynelle Wethers, Director, Budget
Constitution Day	500.00	LWV Supports		
Member Support		State PMP	2412.00	
Contributions-Members	1200.00	National PMP	4020.00	
Dues	9925.00	Meetings & Events		
Voter Services		Constitution Day	1000.00	
Election Services	1200.00	Annual Meeting	1000.00	
Moderators & Speakers	400.00	Committee	600.00	
TOTAL INCOME	15355.00	Public Forum	400.00	
		Operating Expenses		
		Accounting	100.00	
		PayPal fees	100.00	
		Postage	2000.00	
		Printing	1000.00	
		Miscellaneous	1500.00	
		Telephone & Internet	500.00	
		Organization		
		Administration	2000.00	
		Students inside Albany	200.00	
		TOTAL EXPENSES	19682.00	

Thank you, Rae!

Our thanks to Rae Bernacki, our long time secretary, for her loyalty, hard work, and support during her 17 years working for the League. Rae not only did our typing, filing and answering the phone, but she also listened to our complaints, attended our meetings and forums, and was a true friend of the League. Good luck and good health!

*Board of Directors,
LVW/RMA*



REMINDER: Public Hearings on REDISTRICTING are being held

- April 18: Mendon Fire Department, 101 Mendon-Ionia Road, 7:00 pm.
- April 19: Legislature chambers, room 406, County Office Building, 39 W. Main St., 7:00 pm.
- April 21, Hamlin Town Hall, 1658 Lake Road, 7:00 pm.

Comments may also be sent by email to:
redistricting@monroecounty.gov

Annual Membership Report

The LWWUS bylaws require that an annual membership count be taken as of January 31st of each year. This number is used for the calculation of the LWV/RMA Per Member Payment (PMP) to the National and State Leagues. As of January 31, 2011, the member count of the Rochester Metro Area League was as follows:

Individual Members (\$75 dues)	111
Student (\$25 dues)	1
1st Household Members (\$75 dues)	15
2nd Household Members (\$30 dues)	15
Honorary 50 year members (\$0 dues)	8
Total	150

Our membership has been in a steady decline over the past five years. This pattern has been attributed to an aging membership, non-renewal of members who joined at the national level, single issue members and lack of a formal monitoring program to track renewals. Average overall length of membership is 14.7 years with 62% of local membership under 20 years, 23% between 21 and 40 years, and 15% over 41 years membership.

The Membership Committee has worked extensively this year to implement structured membership renewal monitoring and new member integration programs. Our new member contact now includes welcoming phone calls and new member orientation sessions.

New members for the year 2010-2011 are:

Susan Dambrowski	Jolene Smith
Emily Jones	Julie Johnson
Linda Donahue	Barbara Grosh
Rita Garretson	Elaine Schmidt
Marilyn Vane	Kathryn Saunders
Brian Valenti	Cathryn DeGregorio

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
 PO Box 10573
 Rochester, NY 14610

Ida Holloran
 Ellen DeGregorio

Elaine Schmidt
 Jean Tischer

Our welcome to them!

Respectfully submitted by the Membership Committee:

Gin Busack, Chairperson, and members Georgia DeGregorio, Beth Keigher, Sula Baxter, Judy Dresnack, Lois Winterkorn, Chris Burleigh, J. Ernest DuBois, and Technology Consultant, Barbara Grosh.

Report of the Nominating Committee

**Starred are candidate for election, June 2, 2011*

OFFICERS

President	Katherine Smith	2010-2012
Vice President	Sheila Abeling	2010-2012
*Treasurer	John Schmitt	2011-2013
Secretary	Judy Dresnack	2010-2012

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Public Relations	Brian Valenti	2011-2013
Membership	Gin Busack	2010-2012
Budget	Gaynelle Wethers	2010-2012
Local Government	Beth Keigher	2010-2012
VOTER Editor	Jane Schmitt	2010-2012
*At Large	J. Ernest DuBois	2011-2013
*At Large	Barbara Grosh	2011-2013

OFF BOARD POSITIONS

Nominating Committee

Chair, Open
 Members, Sally Brown
 Open

Nominating Committee: Sula Baxter, Chair, Gin Busack, Georgia DeGregorio, Lauren Frank, Jane Schmitt

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

Coming Events!



May

- 2** Voter deadline
- 5** Local Government 10 am
- 6** Membership Committee 1 pm
- 9** Voter Deadline
- 12** Naturalization Ceremony 10 am
- 12** Board Meeting 2 pm
- 19** Go-See Tour 10 am

Save the Date! Annual Meeting

June 2, 2011 • 11:00 - 2:00 pm

Locust Hill Country Club, 2000 Jefferson Road

Lunch 11:30 - 12:15 pm, \$30

If you plan to attend the luncheon, please send check to:

LWV/RMA, PO Box 10573, Rochester, NY 14610

or call Gaynelle Wethers at 389-2008 to make a reservation.

Annual Local Government Committee Report

The Local Government Committee has focused on four areas of interest to the Local League:

1. Local Development Corporations: Since the Bee Bibby endowment paid the Center for Governmental Research (CGR) to research Monroe County initiatives in Local Development Corporations in 2007, one more LDC has been formed. Sula Baxter and I have been following these events. It has been reported that the MCC Ice Rink may also become an LDC.
2. Consolidation: Governor Cuomo has stated that consolidation of public services and governmental entities is one of his priorities. Locally we were very active regarding this issue and the Brockport vote on consolidation.
3. Redistricting: The Local Government Committee held a forum in February on this top priority issue of the LWVNY legislative agenda. Barbara Bartoletti (LWV-NY) and Jill Terreri (D&C) were presenters. It was well attended and lively. Monroe County has defeated an independent commission for redistricting. On April 14 we held a forum on local redistricting where Kent Gardner and Erika Rosenberg from CGR presented an alternative redistricting plan. This plan was produced using funds from the Bee Bibby endowment.

4. Observer Corps: This group remains under the Local Government Committee. Gin Busack and Georgia DeGregorio have revived this important activity. See Elaine Schmidt's report on Observer Corps on page 7.

Submitted by Beth H. Keigher, *Chair, Local Government*

Committee Members: Julie Johnson, Sula Baxter, Brian Valenti, Ida Holleran, Judy Weinstein, Gin Busack, Anna Bundschuh, and Elaine Schmidt.

Redistricting Forum Photos



Kathy Smith, presenters Hannab Griese, Erika Rosenberg, Dr. Kent Gardner



Presenters Hannab Griese, Erika Rosenberg, Dr. Kent Gardner

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

Local Government meets at the Brighton Town Hall, Stage Conference Room. For details, call Beth Keigher 271-6694.

Membership Committee meets at Brighton Town Hall - Stage Room at 1:00 pm, first Friday of each month. For details, call Gin Busack 467-6131

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 262-3730 or e-mail us at LWV/RMA@frontiernet.net

LWV Takes on Ambitious Voter Registration Goal

Monroe County was the home of Susan B. Anthony, who fought tirelessly for the right to vote. We should be leaders in voting! But NY State is 4th from the bottom of all states in voter registration rates. To bring Monroe County's registration rate up to the national average, we need to register 50,000 additional voters. To surpass the highest state registration rate, we need 57,000 additional registered voters. Our goal is to make Susan B. Anthony proud by registering that many voters by October 1, 2012, the deadline for the next presidential election. The name of this program will be *Vote Rochester*.

In order to achieve this ambitious goal, we aim to enlist a cadre of enthusiastic younger voters to seek out citizens to register. If we could get 600 people to register 100 voters, we could meet our goal. We will use rewards, social media tools, leadership development programs, and good old-fashioned PR combined with aggressive use of the usual tools of voter registration at public venues.

To get young people fired up, we will use Vote 18 (<http://vote18.org/>), a lively interactive curriculum designed for high school classrooms that has been very successful at getting high school seniors excited. We'll be looking for lots of volunteers to go into area high schools and use this curriculum. It should be a rewarding experience.

We will also be working with college students from all the local campuses. We have a couple of approaches in mind for getting them involved, but if you have connections or ideas, please, speak up!

We'll also be seeking out organizational partners who share our goals. So far, the Susan B. Anthony House and Metro Justice have signed on. If you know other organizations that would be interested, again, speak up.

In order to keep up excitement among our young people, we plan to hold drawings for rewards. Those who have registered 10 voters would be eligible for small rewards, 25 voters bigger rewards, etc. So we will need to approach many local organizations and businesses for contributions of items that our young members will find inspiring and motivational. Again, if you can help, speak up!

We will be developing a new website which will be the nerve center for keeping track of who has registered how many voters and provide inspirational and motivational materials. It will be coming soon at VoteRochester.org. If you have ideas or would like to help, speak up!

Offers to help, questions and ideas can be directed to Barbara Grosh at 264-1691 or barbara@grosh.net.

Barbara is organizing this effort. Please speak up!

Observer Report

Observer Corp has once again become active. We are observing the Monroe County Legislature, the town board meetings of Irondequoit, Henrietta, and Chili (also the workshop). A League member may start observing the City of Rochester soon. We hope to increase our observation sites.

The Observer Corp sponsored the recent panel on Sunshine in Government in celebration of Sunshine Week in March.

We will keep the League members informed via The Voter. We are calling our articles "Sunshine Corner".

Below is our first article.

Observer Corp committee members are Elaine Schmidt, Chairperson, Georgia DeGregorio, Gin Busack, Ida Holleran, Julie Johnson, and Brian Valenti.

Sunshine Corner

The towns we are currently observing have reported the following:

Henrietta Town Board

No LWV positions discussed
Meeting accessible by public
Main agenda items were library lighting upgrade, vehicle purchases, various appointments

Irondequoit Town Board

No LWV positions discussed
Meeting accessible by public
Main agenda items were Mark IV senior living center, budget appropriations, various appointments

Irondequoit Workshop

LWV issue: Possible decrease/selective coverage by cable TV to avoid coverage of "grandstanding" during public comments by some members of the public

Monroe County Legislature

No LWV positions discussed
Meeting accessible by the public
Main agenda items were increased cost of Lincoln Rd improvements and hiring of lobbying services

City of Rochester

Pending observation

Are you attending local government meetings? Are you watching government meetings on TV? Please consider helping out the Observer Corp. Contact Elaine Schmidt 530-7414.



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PO Box 10573
Rochester, NY 14610
p 585-262-3730
www.LWV-RMA.org

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Rochester **VOTER**

Monthly Publication of the League of Women Voters/Rochester Metropolitan Area.

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President

Judy Dresnack
Secretary

Sheila Abeling
VP Voter Services

John Schmitt
Treasurer

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Beth Keigher
Director, Local Government

Gin Busack
Director, Membership

Gaynelle Wethers
Director, Budget

Jane Schmitt
VOTER Editor

Barbara Grosh
At-Large

Off-Board:

Chris Burleigh
VOTER Layout & Production

**June VOTER
Deadline is May 9!**

Goals of the League of Women Voters:

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

“We know the past but cannot control it.
We control the future but cannot know it.”
Claude Shannon