



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 Upcoming Events!

Fair Election Practices Campaign Pledge Signing

September 7, 2011 • 12:00 noon • Atrium in the Monroe County Office Building.
The ceremony will include a press conference. All local media will be invited to witness the ceremony and interview candidates in attendance who have signed The Pledge.

Constitution Days

September 15, 2011 • 4:00 pm • Nazareth College Otto Schults Building

Daan Braveman*, speaking on First Amendment and Free Speech

Sponsored by Nazareth College and LWV/RMA

Open to the Public

Are you concerned about protests being staged at military funerals?

Does it bother you to hear hate speech at public rallies against targeted groups?

Are you upset to see religious leaders burn sacred texts from another religion?

These questions and more will be addressed in this year's Constitution Day activities.

Come join us with our partner, Nazareth College, on September 15th. Voter registration will take place from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm in the Reading Lounge of the Otto Shults Building.

Daan Braveman, President of Nazareth College, will speak at 4:00 pm.

More information can be found on the www.lwv-rma.org and Facebook page.

Naturalization Ceremony

September 16 • 10:45 am • SUNY Brockport, & Registration of Voters

Come join in SUNY Brockport's celebration of Constitution Day!

Making Democracy Work Luncheon

October 13, 2011 • 11:30 am, Hyatt Hotel

Lena Taylor, Wisconsin State Senator

Would you like to learn more about the recall vote in Wisconsin?

What impact does it have here in New York State?

Would you like to learn more about the dismantling of collective bargaining?

See page 5 for details.

League Forum

October 6, 2011 • 7:30 pm • Monroe Community College

Professor Paul Finkelman*, Albany Law School, President William McKinley Distinguished Professor of Law, Public Policy and Senior Fellow at the Government Law Center

Speaking on 14th Amendment and Immigration Rights

Are you concerned about the impact of the Immigration laws in Arizona?

What if any impact does it have here in New York State?

What is the pathway to citizenship for illegal aliens?

See page 7 for details.

*Bios on page 3

Since Last Month

Naturalization Ceremonies:

July 4th - at the Genesee Country Museum, Katherine Smith and Bob Saunders welcomed citizens.

July 14th - 48 candidates became citizens with Sheila Abeling and Lois Winterkorn representing the League.

August 11th - at the Monroe County Office Building, Mimi Wilson and Lois Winterkorn welcomed new citizens.

Also on August 11th, Barbara Hendry represented the League in an oath ceremony at the Federal Building.

Our thanks and appreciation to all who participated in these ceremonies.

Sheila Abeling, *VP Voter Services*

Facebook

I wanted to write this article to introduce a new venture we have undertaken and why I feel it is necessary to utilize it in order to promote our voice. We recently set up a Facebook page for LWV/RMA. Let me give you a little background on Facebook. First, Facebook is a social networking service and website launched in February 2004, operated and privately owned by Facebook, Inc. Users may create a personal profile, add other users as friends, and exchange messages. Facebook users must register before using the site. Additionally (this is where we fit), users may join common-interest user groups, organized by workplace, school or college, or other activities.

When trying to promote our voice, attract new members, keep members informed etc. it is important that we take advantage of the services out there that let us do this (and for free). With the right controls in place, Facebook will give us the power to share our voice and connect to the community in a timely and effective matter.

One of the major concerns for users (and non-users) is the privacy of their information. As it would be too difficult to discuss this in a letter, I set up an informational session where I will be happy to address any concerns. I will also be discussing how League members can effectively utilize this ingenious service to promote our voice. Please feel free to bring anyone who may be interested. Refreshments will be served.

Introduction to Facebook

Wednesday, September 21, 2011 • 6 – 8:30 pm
Brighton Town Hall (lower meeting room)

In the meantime, please feel free to contact me at pr@lww-rma.org and make sure you search for our page on Facebook. You can do this by going to www.facebook.com, sign-in and put 'League of Women Voters of Rochester Metropolitan Area' in the search field.

Brian Valenti, *Public Relations Director*

VOTE ROCHESTER is Starting to Roll

Our goal is to bring Monroe County from near the bottom in rates of voter registration to the top. Specifically, we'd like to increase the number of registered voters by 57,000 before the 2012 general election.

Unregistered voters are everywhere in Monroe County (about 1/3 of adult citizens are unregistered), but they all have many friends who are registered. If we can get enough voters asking their friends to register and vote, we could reach most of them.

We're starting to look for all kinds of ways to make that happen. Our first thought is partner organizations. What if many organizations in Monroe County went down their membership rolls and determined which of their members are not yet registered voters? This might make a good project for a youth group. What about Girl Scout troops? Chamber of Commerce groups? Rotary clubs? Neighborhood associations?

Another conversation we're having is about individuals or groups setting goals and sharing a wish that inspires them. Maybe, an organization would like to set a goal of registering a certain number of new voters and celebrate when they achieve it with a big organizational barbecue. Goals could lead to wonderful things in Rochester, as people recognize each other's contributions and make new connections.

Our website is live: www.VoteRochester.org. Anyone can join by creating an account. Once you've done that, you can keep track of voters you've registered. You can also look up your friends to see if they're registered. You can also share a picture or a story about voting, to help inspire others. You can also "like" us on Facebook or sign up for our electronic newsletter.

Our team has made contact with the Social Studies department in the Rochester City School District. We'll be visiting each Participation in Government (PIG) classroom to talk about the importance of voting and invite them to join up. We need volunteers to make these classroom visits, so if you'd like to help, please let us know. We'd love to do the same thing in other school districts. If you could make a connection to help that happen, please contact us. We'll meet such requests to the extent we can find the volunteer energy to do so. We're using a curriculum that's been developed - you don't have to be an expert teacher to do these visits!

If you have questions or ideas or would like to get involved, please contact Barbara Grosh, 264-1691, or info@voterochester.org.



Save the Date!

Making Democracy Work Luncheon

October 13, 2011

11:30 am, Hyatt Hotel

Speaker: Lena Taylor

Wisconsin State Senator

Rochester Area Community Foundation Luncheon

Join League members at the annual luncheon of the Rochester Area Community Foundation. The foundation supports some of our important activities, such as printing for *Who Represents You* each year, so it's only fitting that we join them at their annual luncheon.

We'd like to invite you to join us at the League table on Wednesday, September 14, 2011. Reception begins at 11:45 am (lunch and program begin promptly at noon) at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center.

The foundation will be honoring local philanthropists Dr. Ruth H. Scott, Edward P. "Ted" Curtis Jr., Ruth I. Morton and the Louis and Betty Iacona family.

Seats are \$50. If you'd like to join us, please let Kathy Smith know. You can call her at 334-3991 or email her at kathysmith292@gmail.com. Make checks payable to Kathy Smith and mail them to her at 292 Countess Drive #1809, West Henrietta, NY 14586.

We look forward to you joining us.

From Facebook, LWV/RMA

Constitution Day Speaker

Daan Braveman, the ninth president of Nazareth College, is a Rochester, NY, native. Braveman graduated from Brighton High School and the University of Rochester. He obtained his law degree from the University of Pennsylvania and was a law clerk to Justice Samuel J. Roberts of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. He worked as an attorney for the Greater Upstate Law Project, located in Rochester. While at the Project he was engaged in civil rights litigation throughout New York State. Braveman joined Syracuse University College of Law in 1977 and served as Dean from 1994 - 2002. During his tenure, he taught courses in civil procedure, civil rights, constitutional law, federal courts, and federal Indian law, and was one of the founders and directors of the Public Interest Law Firm at the College. He has published many articles and books on constitutional law, civil rights, legal education, and federal Indian law. In 2005, Braveman was inaugurated as the President of Nazareth College.

League of Women Voters Launches Clean Air Promise Campaign

July 26, 2011, Press Release from LWVUS.

Washington, DC – The League of Women Voters today launched a months-long campaign, including a significant national advertising effort, seeking to renew America's promise to protect clean air and public health embodied in the highly successful and popular Clean Air Act.

"Americans from all walks of life will be asked to make the 'Clean Air Promise,'" said Elisabeth MacNamara, president of the National League of Women Voters.

"We are deeply concerned about attacks on EPA and health protections. Any action to block the EPA from updating Clean Air Act protections, or any delay on behalf of the Administration to avoid implementing new clean air and industrial pollution requirements, is an attack on the health of our children and families, plain and simple," she said.

The Clean Air Promise Campaign will call on citizens, elected officials and community leaders around the country to join in making this simple promise to protect the health of our children and families:

- I promise to protect America's children and families from dangerous air pollution.
- Because toxics and pollutants such as mercury, smog, carbon, and soot, cause thousands of hospital visits, asthma attacks, and even deaths.
- I will support clean air policies and other protections that scientists and public health experts have recommended to the EPA to safeguard our air quality.

The League will ask its members to make the promise to protect clean air and will actively work to engage the public and our leaders to make the promise as well. Other clean air advocacy groups are expected to join the campaign in the coming days and weeks.

For more details go to www.lwv.org and click on NEWS AND EVENTS

October Forum Speaker

A specialist in American legal history, race and the law, Paul Finkelman is the author of more than 100 scholarly articles and more than twenty books. He is an expert in areas such as the law of slavery, constitutional law, and legal issues surrounding baseball. He was a Fellow in Law and the Humanities at Harvard Law School and received his Ph.D. and M.A. from the University of Chicago. His scholarship on religious monuments in public space was cited by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Van Orden v. Perry* (2005). His work on legal history and constitutional law has been cited by numerous courts and in many appellate briefs.

State League Convention

The State League Convention was held in Albany on May 20-22, 2011. Over 100 League members and friends attended the Convention to participate in workshops, speak and vote during plenary session or hear from the renowned speakers. Most of our local leagues were represented at the Convention, but not all.

A quick summary of action at the Convention:

- 2011-2013 Board and Officers were approved
- 2011-2012 Budget was adopted
- No amendments to the Bylaws were presented
- Current program was re-adopted for 2011-2013 with no changes and no new studies.

The following officers/directors were elected for the next 2 years:

President: Betsy Swan (Albany LWV)
Vice President/Issues & Advocacy: Sally Robinson (NYC LWV)
Vice President /Member Services: . . . Georgia T. DeGregorio (LWV/RMA)
Secretary Kay Sharp (Tompkins County LWV)
Treasurer Ellen DeGregorio (LWV/RMA)
Citizens Education/Youth Programs Judy Gorenstein (Huntington LWV)
Regional Director Coordinator Cheryl Feldman (New Castle LWV)
Public Relations Arlene Hinkemeyer (The Hamptons LWV)
At Large Polly Kuhn (Somers LWV)

For more details go to www.LWVNY.org, then to 2011 CONVENTION and click on Convention page.

Voter is Going Electronic!

This will be the last printed issue of the LWV/RMA VOTER. In an effort to conserve funding and trees, we will no longer be sending our local newsletter via US mail, unless you contact us at 262-3730 requesting a copy be sent. We will still be issuing a bimonthly electronic newsletter. E-blasts on all our activities and events will be sent in a timely fashion.

If you are already signed up to receive e-mail from LWV/RMA you are all set. If you have not signed up, you can visit our website at www.lwv-rma.org and sign up today (lower left corner).

We understand and respect that some members may not have e-mail or may not want to share their e-mail address with us. We apologize for any inconvenience this change may cause you. It will also be possible to download the VOTER from our website. Please use our website and call us at 262-3730 for information you need.

Don't forget to provide us with your email address if you wish to receive The Voter electronically.

Kathy Smith, *President LWV/RMA*

To read the Voter in pdf form you need Adobe Acrobat Reader. This is a free download from Adobe.

Go to: www.adobe.com where you will find a section called downloads. Click on Acrobat Reader. This will bring up a new window. Make sure your operating system is showing in the Your System Information at the top. Click Download Now and the software will download and will automatically begin installation.

Fair Election Practices Campaign

The League of Women Voters/Rochester Metro Area and The Interfaith Alliance of Rochester (TIAR) are encouraging all candidates for public office in this year's primary and general elections to run positive, issues-oriented campaigns. Some candidates feel that negative ads are effective. We believe that positive campaigns that address important issues are winning campaigns and we urge candidates to publicly commit themselves to running a positive, issues-oriented campaign.

On August 29th, the Fair Election Practices Campaign (FEPC) will begin. From that date through Sept. 2nd, candidates may sign a Fair Election Pledge or they may attend the Signing Ceremony on Sept. 7th at noon in the atrium in the Monroe County Office Building. The ceremony will include a press conference. All local media will be invited to witness the ceremony and interview candidates in attendance who have signed The Pledge. Complaints may be filed by candidates with the Fair Election Practices Committee until November 7th, the day before Election Day.

The Fair Election Practices Committee for 2011 is composed of the following members: Jim Morris - Chairperson, Ralph Esposito, Lois Giess, Channing Philbrick, Kay Wallace; Alternates - John Curran, Tom Frey, Tracy Logel, Jim Peters, Sue Roberts, Jim Turner. The League and TIAR thank all of these people for volunteering their time for this important campaign.

Further information about the campaign, including The Pledge and the complaint process can be found on the League website www.lwv-rma.org; click on Positive Campaigns.

Sheila Abeling, *VP Voter Services*

LWV Membership and Leadership Development (MLD) Initiative

LWV/RMA was recently selected to participate in a leadership development training program conducted by the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS). Ellen DeGregorio, Lois Winterkorn and Gin Busack, representing our local Membership Committee, attended the initial session held on July 30th and 31st in Albany, New York.

The leadership program which sponsors this training, is a "best practices" mentoring program, established by the LWVUS to help enrich the democracy-building efforts of our more than 90-year-old grassroots organization. The training is being implemented by local leagues in all 50 states with the support of a volunteer national coaching team and a cadre of state coaches. Our Rochester League was included in the initial round of the New York State roll out.

During the two day training session in Albany, Lois, Ellen and Gin attended "best practices" workshops conducted by national trainers from LWVUS and LWVNY. Training included techniques for empowering citizens to have a voice in their communities, for heightening League visibility, improving leadership skills and growing our membership.

Gin Busak, *Chair, Membership Committee*

Observer Corps

County Legislature 7/12/11. The meeting was conducted in an orderly and efficient manner. Several items were passed with little or no discussion before the public. The evening's discussion centered on MCC's operating budget for 2011-2012. Rep. Paul Haney presented 2 amendments to decrease certain expenditures; both were defeated 13-15 along party lines.

A member of the public, Jeff Goldblatt, addressed the legislature regarding an issue of hazardous waste. He called for a new flyer to be developed to inform citizens on how to properly dispose of used syringes and other hazardous waste. This is an issue the LWV follows.

Irondequoit Town Council Workshop. Under 5 people attended this meeting which is open to the public. The meeting was orderly and discussion could be heard. Sea Breeze Water Authority was discussed.

Due to a negative cash flow the possibility of merging with Monroe County Water Authority was entertained. Further investigation is planned. Sea Breeze Water is an LDC, another of LWV's focus of interest.

Irondequoit Town Council 7/19/11. Orderly meeting with cable TV coverage. There appeared to be an intermittent problem with the microphone.

The issue of a change in zoning from R-1 to R-7 along Titus Ave. to allow the Legacy Senior Housing project continues. There will be a second public hearing after review by the Planning Board. Question of whether appropriate venue for project review should be Zoning Board.

Proposal for a cell tower near St. Paul Fire House was again tabled.

Greece Town Board, Preliminary Agenda, 7/13/11. Under 5 people were present for this public meeting. The meeting was orderly and audible. No issues presented that were LWV issues.

Rochester City Council 7/19/11. Over 20 attended this meeting. It is noted that there was no agenda available prior to the meeting which was orderly and audible. Standing room only during public comment portion of the meeting.

There was little discussion on the proposals. No LWV issues were brought up.

Elaine Schmidt, *Observer Corps Chair*

LWV/RMA Annual Meeting

The June 2011 Annual meeting of LWV/RMA at Locust Hill Country Club was attended by 20% of members. The following directors were elected: Brian Valenti, John Schmitt, Barbara Grosh and Ernest DuBois.

The proposed budget printed in the April VOTER was adopted as published. The members recommended to the Board that redistricting, health care and immigration be topics for public forums this fall. (Information on first forum is on page 1 of this Voter.)

Tributes were paid to Ann Weintraub, retiring Board Vice- President and Rae Bernacki, office secretary.

Katherine Smith, *President LWV/RMA*

Making Democracy Work Luncheon

October 13, 2011

11:30 am, Hyatt Hotel

Speaker: Lena Taylor, Wisconsin State Senator

Would you like to learn more about the recall vote in Wisconsin?

What impact does it have here in New York State?

Would you like to learn more about the dismantling of union rights?

These questions and more will be addressed in this forum.

A life-long Milwaukee resident, Senator Lena Taylor is serving her second term in the Wisconsin State Senate, representing the 4th Senate District, including northern portions of the City of Milwaukee. Taylor was elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly in a special election in April 2003 and was subsequently elected to the Wisconsin State Senate in 2004.

In early 2011, the Senator took a principled and dramatic stand against Governor Scott Walker's goal of ending collective bargaining as part of the "Wisconsin 14"—the fourteen Democratic Senators who left the state in order to prevent the passing of the "Budget Repair Bill" that would strip away the right of workers and end democracy in the public sector workplace. Taylor and her colleagues were and are revered by many for their stand in support of workers' rights in Wisconsin. The National Education Association awarded Taylor and the rest of the Wisconsin 14 individually their 2011 Friend of Education Award, the first time ever the award was granted to a collective group's action. (From State of Wisconsin website and Wikipedia)

Make reservations by calling Ms. Frances Gonzales at 585-389-2073 or by email to fgonzales8@naz.edu.

Cost is \$50.00. Send checks to LWV/RMA at PO Box 10573, Rochester, NY 14610 by October 7.

New Member

Mary Hussong-Kallen
8 Old Elm Drive
Brockport, NY 14420
585-637-5183
mmhk@rochester.rr.com

Save the Date!

Introduction to Facebook

Wednesday, September 21, 2011 • 6 – 8:30 pm
Brighton Town Hall (lower meeting room)



Coming Events!



September

- 7** Signing – Fair Election Practices Campaign
- 8** Naturalization Ceremony 10:00 am
- 8** Budget, Local Government Meetings
- 9** Membership Committee, 1:00 pm
- 13** Primary Day
- 14** Rochester Area Community Foundation Luncheon
- 15** US Constitution Day, Nazareth College, 4:00 pm
- 16** Naturalization Ceremony, SUNY Brockport, 10:45 am
- 21** Facebook Workshop, 6:00 pm-8:30 pm, Brighton Town Hall
- 22** Board of Directors Meeting
- 27** Observer Corps Meeting

October

- 3** November/December VOTER deadline
- 6** Public Forum, 14th Amendment & Immigration 7:30 pm at Monroe Community College
- 6** Local Government Meeting
- 7** Membership Committee, 1:00 pm
- 13** Making Democracy Work Luncheon, 11:30 am Hyatt Hotel downtown
- 13** Naturalization Ceremony, 10:00 am and 1:00 pm
- 14** Budget, Observer Corps Meetings
- 20** Board of Directors Meeting

Save the Date!

Making Democracy Work Luncheon
October 13, 2011
11:30 am, Hyatt Hotel
Speaker: Lena Taylor
Wisconsin State Senator

Don't forget: We need your email address if you wish to receive your voter electronically!

Board meets at 2:00 pm on the third Thursday of each month.

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

The Latest on Fracking

This weeks' newspapers contained articles that three of NY southeastern counties, Broome, Tioga and Chemung are targeted for drilling. This is due to four basic parameters (depth, thickness, core pressure and richness of natural gas) found in the Marcellus shale 3-4,000 ft below the surface in this area. The Binghamton area is likely to be targeted first.

Fifty eight applications for fracking have been filed with the NYS Department of Conservation. The Department received more than 13,000 public comments on the first Draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (SGEIS) issued in September 2009. The Draft SGEIS addresses permit conditions required for gas drilling in Marcellus Shale.

In response to issues raised, DEC has prepared a Preliminary Revised Draft SGEIS. As of July 1, an Executive Summary of the document is available for public review. To help those interested in understanding the issues involving horizontal drilling and high-volume hydraulic fracturing, several fact sheets are also available. Comments are being accepted. See www.dec.ny.gov.

Several flaws have already been identified by environmental groups regarding the Preliminary Revised Draft SGEIS.

It doesn't ban any chemicals—even those known to be toxic and carcinogenic. It fails to classify drilling waste as hazardous—even if it is hazardous under the law.

It would allow sewage plants to treat drilling waste—even though New York's capacity and ability to treat drilling waste is questionable.

It would inadequately protect drinking water supplies.

It would restrict some areas of the state to drilling—but many restrictions would expire, and some only call for individual review rather than complete prohibition.

It does not analyze public health impacts, even though there is growing evidence of negative health impacts related to gas extraction in other states.

It would allow fracking permits to be issued before the recommendations are complete and finalized in hard and fast regulations.

It breaks up environmental impact reviews by different agencies and processes, which would result in disjointed reviews. Governor Cuomo must require state agencies to coordinate their efforts.

It would inadequately protect—or completely fail to protect—aging drinking water infrastructure in New York City, Syracuse, and other areas.

It does not provide for adequate staff or resources to properly oversee fracking.

Sources: Democrat & Chronicle, Environmental Advocates of NY and www.dec.ny.gov.

The League supports national regulation of hydrofracking and a moratorium on hydrofracking in New York State at least until the full life cycle and cumulative environmental impact of this method of gas extraction has been fully considered by the Environmental Protection Agency. If the results of that study indicate that the process can be made sufficiently safe, the League supports strong regulation accompanied by strict enforcement and intensive oversight. In addition, the League believes that careful planning concerning the pace and extent of the drilling must be done, since this is a highly industrial process that will occur in predominantly rural areas. This planning should include an analysis of any impact the extraction activity will have on the current local economy, especially the growing agricultural and tourism businesses in the areas over the shale. (From www.lwvny.org)

League Forum

October 6, 2011 • 7:30 pm • Monroe Community College

Professor Paul Finkelman, Albany Law School, President William McKinley

Distinguished Professor of Law, Public Policy and

Senior Fellow at the Government Law Center

Speaking on 14th Amendment and Immigration Rights

Are you concerned about the impact of the Immigration laws in Arizona?

What if any impact does it have here in New York State?

What is the pathway to citizenship for illegal aliens?

These questions and more will be addressed at this forum.

More information can be found at www.lwv-rma.org and our Facebook page.

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

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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p 585-262-3730
www.LWV-RMA.org

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**Nov./Dec. VOTER
Deadline is October 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

Just because everything is different doesn't mean anything has changed.

Irene Peter, author