

# TheVOTER

## Annual General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, May 17, 2023  
5:00 – 7:00 P.M.

Locust Hill Country Club  
2000 Jefferson Road, Pittsford

Plan to mingle with friends,  
to enjoy tasty treats,  
and to do the business  
of our League.



**Registration required by May 10. See Page 3 for more information.**

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## President's Corner

### Fund the Police Accountability Board - It's the Law

The LWV-RMA is speaking up to Rochester city government vis-à-vis the Police Accountability Board (PAB). The PAB was created following a referendum in 2019 in which three quarters of Rochester voters approved the creation of an independent civilian agency of city government with the power and responsibility to "investigate complaints of police misconduct and to review and assess Rochester Police Department patterns, practices, policies and procedures (City Charter, Section 18-1)."

It isn't a few people's opinion that we should have a team of civilian professionals with access to all police data, empowered to investigate, to subpoena witnesses, and to participate in and review policing policy formulation. It's the law, and in spring 2021 the PAB received full and healthy funding to proceed with the essential buildup of such an agency.

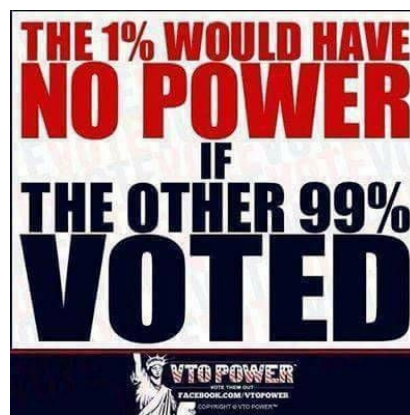
Since then, the PAB has had more than its share of challenges getting up and operational. If you want to know more, you can read League member Deb Gordon's Observer Corps reports on our website. Internally, there've been charges and countercharges, investigations, firings and resignations. Roughly a year ago, City Council froze the PAB's unspent funds and imposed a hiring freeze. Now any expenditure must receive explicit approval from Council President Miguel Meléndez. In this turbulent arena, the PAB is way under their budget this year, which may make it a target for a large reduction in funding next year.

It's very important that the Mayor and City Council continue to fund the PAB commensurate with its responsibilities. Residents of Rochester voted for and need a strong PAB. The PAB cannot accomplish its mission without adequate funding. There is a list of other things the PAB needs from the City and the Rochester Police Department to become effective, but budget season comes once per year, so that is where we can help now. We'll be lobbying the Mayor and Councilmembers in coming days to urge them to do right by the PAB. It's not just our opinion that they should, it's the law. The law is clear and well written.

If you're not up to speed on the PAB and its responsibilities, I commend to your attention the webinar we held two years ago: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jlCw-2FvzOE>

**Barbara Grosh**

[president@lwg-rma.org](mailto:president@lwg-rma.org)



## Your NYS Legislators Need to Hear From You.

If you are not sure who represents you, search for your address for:

the Assembly at <https://nyassembly.gov/mem/search/>

and for the Senate at <https://www.nysenate.gov/registration/nojs/form/start/find-my-senator>.

Reach out and let them know your priorities!

# Annual General Membership Meeting



## It's Time for Our Annual Meeting.

Members will gather and:

- Honor Reenah Golden, founder of the Avenue Black Box Theatre, with the annual Making Democracy Work Award
- Honor Judy Wadsworth with the Carrie Chapman Catt Award
- Elect officers and board members for the next year
- Discuss and approve our budget for the next year
- Vote on our revised position on Land Use (formerly Planning and Zoning)
- Receive reports from all of our committees on the past year's work
- Hear from President Barbara Grosh on where we are and where we're going
- Enjoy delicious appetizers and drinks while we meet up with old friends and make new ones

Materials for the meeting (proposed slate of the Board of Directors, proposed budget, proposed positions) are available for download at: [https://members.lwv-rma.org/members/mlogin.php?org\\_id=LWVR&bounce=%2Fmembers%2Fsecure%2Ffilearchive%2Ffile\\_secure\\_check.php%3Ffid%3D193652463%26fac%3D10029855%26org\\_id%3DLWVR](https://members.lwv-rma.org/members/mlogin.php?org_id=LWVR&bounce=%2Fmembers%2Fsecure%2Ffilearchive%2Ffile_secure_check.php%3Ffid%3D193652463%26fac%3D10029855%26org_id%3DLWVR), in the members-only section of the website. You need to be logged in to access them.

The meeting will be held at Locust Hill Country Club , 2000 Jefferson Road, Pittsford, NY 14534

There is a \$10 fee for this event. Register at [https://members.lwv-rma.org/members/evr/reg\\_event.php?evid=37838909&orgcode=LWVR](https://members.lwv-rma.org/members/evr/reg_event.php?evid=37838909&orgcode=LWVR) by Wednesday, May 10, 2023

If you wish to share news or recognize the activities of other members please send the information to [micketeditor@gmail.com](mailto:micketeditor@gmail.com)

## Making Democracy Work Award

### REENAH GOLDEN, FOR HER WORK WITH THE AVENUE BLACK BOX THEATRE

Reenah Golden founded the Avenue Black Box Theatre in 2018. She obtained an empty building at 780 Joseph Ave, in the heart of the red-lined neighborhood that has been steadily disinvested in since the thirties, long before the Riots, aka the Uprising of July 1964, destroyed parts of the neighborhood.

The Avenue Black Box Theatre has a mission “to provide affordable, meaningful, culturally rich experiences in a wide array of artistic disciplines to City of Rochester residents and visitors. We are a safe, bold, creative Queer-space highlighting art and content created by artists of color, youth and collaborators traditionally marginalized or silenced.”

The Black Box Theatre took a leap of faith and started investing in the neighborhood via building cultural pride in the residents. The Theater’s neighborhood is a prime area of League concern. About half of the adults there are registered to vote and, in a presidential year, about half of the registered voters turn out to cast a vote. Reenah is building a spirit of self-actualization and self-determination in the young people and residents with whom she engages.

In the summer of 2020, our voter registration team saw Reenah, accompanied by the Theatre’s Youth Fellows virtually every weekend at the Black Lives Matter rallies in Washington Square Park serving food and building community. In 2021 and 2022, the Youth Fellows distributed hundreds of our Get Out the Vote door hangers in the neighborhood. The Theatre has been a site for distributing our flyers on voting rights for formerly incarcerated people. The Theatre recently hosted a Transgender Day of Visibility event, which prominently featured voter registration.

Reenah Golden is encouraging members of this harshly marginalized community to stand up and be counted in every way, and we salute her. Her hard work is Making Democracy Work in Rochester.



## Opportunity to Attend NYS League Convention

The New York State League’s 60th Biennial Convention will be held Friday, June 2 thru Sunday, June 4 in Albany. There is an opportunity for an additional member of LWV-RMA to attend the convention as a delegate. This is an opportunity to engage with members from across the State and learn more about upcoming efforts of the League.

The Keynote speaker will be former Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney who will discuss the status of the national ERA and the ways that the League can ensure its certification. There are multiple workshops planned which will allow delegates to discuss topics such as what has changed in election procedures, engaging college students in advocacy, and the results of the recent Diversity, Equity and Inclusion survey.

The Convention is also where delegates will approve recommended studies and concurrences for the next two years. The Board is recommending two new Studies and one Concurrence at Convention:

1. New Study on the use of Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) and alternatives to party primaries for state, congressional and local offices
2. New Study on the process used by the state Board of Elections to approve voting systems with the purpose of seeing if the process can be improved to be more effective in ensuring that approved voting systems meet a balance of the SARAT (“secure, accurate, recountable, accessible and transparent”) criteria
3. Concurrence with the Waste position of the four Capital District Leagues

Expenses for travel and lodging for delegates will be reimbursed. This is a great opportunity to become more involved with the LWV-RMA. If you are interested in attending please contact Barbara Grosh [president@lww-rma.org](mailto:president@lww-rma.org).

## Recent Naturalization Ceremonies

March and April brought three naturalization ceremonies in Monroe County. On March 14 at the Federal Building on State Street, there was a 2:00 p.m. oath ceremony with 52 candidates. Sheila Abeling met the candidates, talked about voting, and helped the candidates fill out voter registration forms.

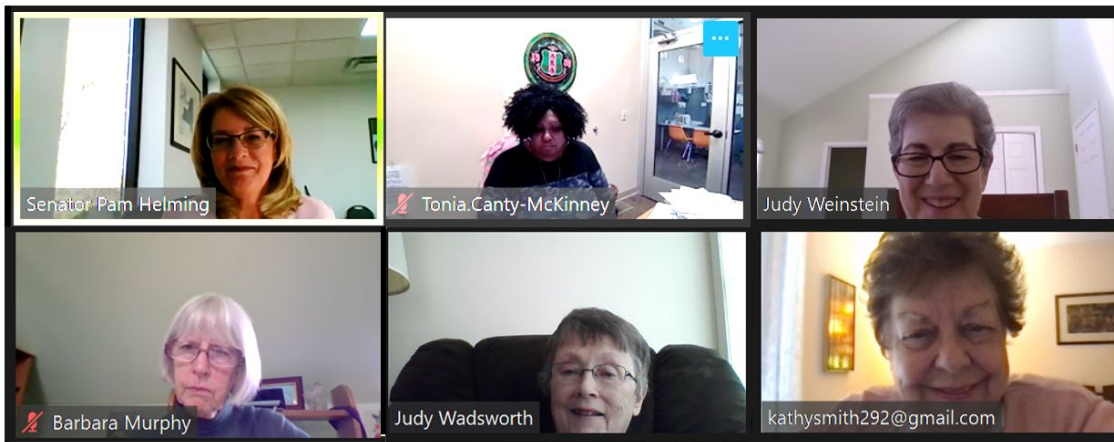
On April 11th at 11:00 a.m. there was naturalization at the County Building on Main Street. 49 candidates learned about voting from the League. Anita Hawkins and Katherine Smith helped the candidates fill out voter registration forms.

Also on April 11th, 25 candidates for naturalization were at the Federal Building on State Street for a 2:00 p.m. oath ceremony. Judge Frank P. Geraci, Jr. officiated at the ceremony. The candidates were from 24 countries. Margaret Supinski represented the League and helped the candidates register to vote.

If any member is interested in attending a ceremony or wants to join the League Naturalization Committee, please contact Sheila Abeling at [sheiler162007@gmail.com](mailto:sheiler162007@gmail.com).



TOP ROW: Scenes from the March 14 naturalization ceremony.  
BOTTOM ROW: Scenes from the April 11 morning naturalization ceremony.  
At the left in the bottom row is LWV-RMA member Katherine Smith speaking to new citizens.



On April 21 via Zoom, members of the LWV-RMA State Advocacy Team met with NYS Senator Pamela Helming to discuss LWVNY positions and to learn her legislative priorities. This was the last of several meetings with lawmakers in our Albany delegation.

## Proposed Board of Directors

At the May 17th Annual Meeting members will vote on the following Proposed Board of Directors:

President – Barbara Grosh (2023-2025)

Vice-President – vacant

Treasurer\* –

Secretary – Constance Flahive (2023-2025)

Director – Amy Hahn (2023-2024)

Director – Theresa McFarland-Porter (2023-2025)

Director – Mary Micket (2023-2025)

NOTE: \*Linda Saalman will continue serving as Treasurer for 1 year (2023-2024) but will no longer serve on the Board.

The following will be remaining on the Board:

Director - Cathy Kane\* (2022-2024)

Director – Elmira Washington (2022-2024)

NOTE: \*Director – Cathy Kane (2022-2024) will complete her elected Secretary term as a Director.

There will be no issue of this newsletter in June. We will publish again on July 1, 2023.  
Please send any ideas for articles to [micketeditor@gmail.com](mailto:micketeditor@gmail.com)

## 2023 Carrie Chapman Catt Award Judy Wadsworth

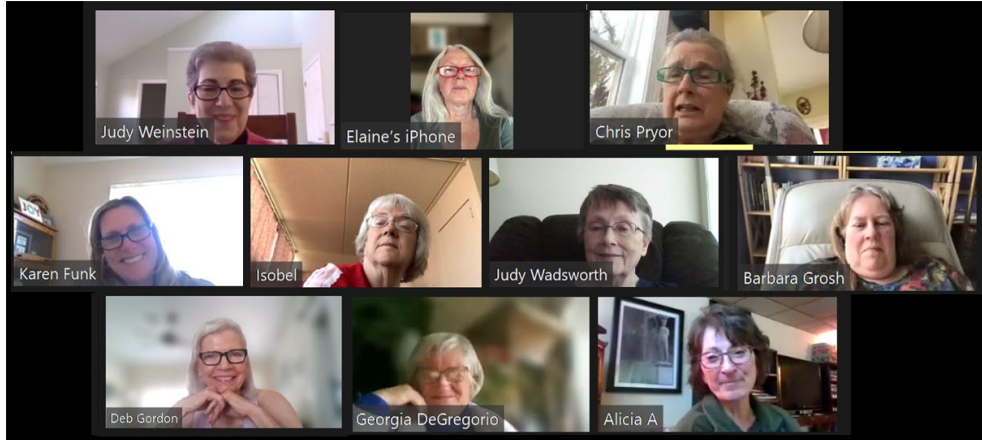
Judy is a lifelong advocate for public education. She believes that democracy cannot survive without a strong public education system. She has demonstrated this advocacy throughout her career, serving as a classroom teacher, a teacher of adults, and a Honeoye Falls/Lima School Board Member and President. She worked for the Monroe County School Boards Association for 25 years ensuring school board members had the tools and training they needed to complete their responsibilities.

When Judy moved to Honeoye Falls in the 1970s she was looking for a way to meet people with similar ideals, interests and concerns. She found that group within the League of Women Voters. In 2015 she took on the role of Editor for the LWV-RMA Voter. Through this role she educated members about key issues and how they could support the democracy she so cares about.

Despite retiring as Editor in 2022, she continues to provide the graphics and general support for the newsletter and the LWV-RMA. Judy is an active member of the League Book Club, and after every book we read she asks us, "What can the League do about this?" Her energy and ambition seem endless.



## LWV-RMA Book Club Update



During the LWV-RMA Book Club meeting on April 20, members discussed *Allow Me to Retort: A Black Guy's Guide to the Constitution* by Elie Mystal.

The book club meets at 4:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month via Zoom. A link will be sent to everyone who expresses an interest by sending a note to Judy Weinstein. ([vote411@lwg-rma.org](mailto:vote411@lwg-rma.org))

Below are the books for the next 2 months. The Club does not meet in July or August.

May 23 *The Avoidable War* by Kenneth Rudd – discussion led by Georgia DeGregorio

June 15 *The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels* by John Meacham - discussion led by Karen Funk

## Redistricting Team

Yes, it's more than a year after we expected redistricting to wrap up, but the process continues. This is where redistricting stood on April 24th.

### MONROE COUNTY

Monroe County legislative districts are drawn, and candidates are beginning their 2023 campaigns.

A lawsuit was filed in March to challenge the new districts, claiming that the map was drawn to favor incumbents. The suit asked the court for a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO), to stop the election process and draw new lines – either before the June primary, or before a postponed primary. The judge denied the TRO request. The next hearing in the case is scheduled for May 9th.

### NY ASSEMBLY

The Independent Redistricting Commission was ordered by the court to draw new Assembly districts and replace the map drawn by the Legislature in 2022. The Commission created a new map and received public reaction to it.

The Commission released its final map on April 20th, abandoning most of its proposed changes in favor of a map that resembles the Legislature's 2022 map.

The final map was submitted to the Legislature, and approved by both houses. Governor Hochul then signed the map into law.

### US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

A final appeal is expected in a case that began in 2022, challenging the court-drawn Congressional district lines. The suit asks that the Independent Redistricting Commission draw new districts again, to be approved by the Legislature. Governor Hochul and Attorney General James filed amicus briefs in support of the appeal. Court watchers note that new appointments to the Court of Appeals could tip the case in Democrats' favor.

Do you have questions about redistricting? Or know somebody with a concern? Contact the League's Redistricting team at [redistricting@lwg-rma.org](mailto:redistricting@lwg-rma.org)

## Antiracism Webinar Series

On March 17 and 24, the LWV-RMA and LWNYS co-sponsored a Zoom series on antiracism lesson plans developed and presented by the Antiracist Curriculum Project, a local team of educators. Over the last three years, the Antiracist Curriculum Project has developed lessons for grades 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 12 which are now used in most school districts in our area. Districts in other parts of New York State are learning about the project and preparing their teachers to present antiracism lessons.

On March 17, Antiracist Curriculum Project Co-Director Kesha James led a group of 90+ Zoom participants through a seventh grade lesson on slavery in New York State. On March 24, Ms. James led a discussion of racist policies in the 20th Century, particularly redlining, and their persistence, based on the antiracism curriculum in 4th, 8th, and 12th grades.

The recording of the April 17 webinar, "What Do NY Kids Learn About Our Racist History? And What Do You Know?" has been uploaded to the LWV-RMA YouTube channel. You can access it here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U6SH9\\_ex2FI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U6SH9_ex2FI).

The slide deck that Kesha used on April 17 is accessible here:

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1vdbqm3QCUaw1TDhSwT6xEqtvUUeWR-smt29tmqBwj9o/edit#slide=id.g1c5f040138f\\_0\\_4257](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1vdbqm3QCUaw1TDhSwT6xEqtvUUeWR-smt29tmqBwj9o/edit#slide=id.g1c5f040138f_0_4257).

The recording of the April 24 webinar, Part 2 of "What Do NY Kids Learn About Our Racist History? And What Do You Know?" has been uploaded to the LWV-RMA YouTube channel. You can access it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k-4ypXMWR0g>.

The slide deck that Kesha used on April 24 is accessible here: April 24 2003 slide deck

You can learn more about the Anti-Racism Curriculum Project here: <https://www.ccsi.org/blog/articles/antiracist-curriculum-project/> and here: <http://resistancemapping.org/s/m/page/welcome>.

Contact Co-Directors Kesha James [kjames@ccsi.org](mailto:kjames@ccsi.org) or Shane Wiegand [swiegand@ccsi.org](mailto:swiegand@ccsi.org) to learn more.

The curriculum project is a program of CCSI (Coordinated Care Services, Inc.) of Rochester. All materials on the project's website are available for use by anyone.

To learn more, access the Antiracist Curriculum Project here: <https://www.ccsi.org/blog/articles/antiracist-curriculum-project/> and here: <http://resistancemapping.org/s/m/page/welcome>.

To learn more about CCSI, go to News Archive - CCSI - Coordinated Care Services, Inc. at <https://www.ccsi.org/blog/news/>.



CAPTION: LWV-RMA President Barbara Grosh and Antiracist Curriculum Project Co-Director Kesha James who led the two March Zoom discussions.

# be a voter!

## 2023 Voter Registration Training May 13

Do you have questions about voter registration or absentee ballot forms? Do you wonder what the best way is to respond when someone says "I am already registered"?

We are experts, but we can always do better.

A representative of the Monroe County Board of Elections will update us on best practices for voter registration in 2023. A class is planned for Saturday, May 13 from 10:30 a.m. until Noon at the Third Presbyterian Church. The church is located at 4 Meigs St, Rochester, NY.

Further details will be sent to members via email. For questions, please contact [voterservices@lww-rma.org](mailto:voterservices@lww-rma.org).



# Calendar

Events sponsored by LWV-RMA are bolded below. The sponsors and other information on all events can be found by viewing the event on the LWV-RMA calendar. See link below.

## May

- 3 **Raising Anti-Racist Children: Author Talk with Britt Hawthorne** (1:00 p.m. -2:00 p.m. via Zoom)
- 5 **LWV-RMA First Friday** (11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.) I-Square, 400 Bakers Square (off Titus Ave), Irondequoit
- 10 **LWV-RMA Board Meeting** (6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. via Zoom)
- 13 **Voter Registration Training** (10:30 a.m. -12:00 noon) Third Presbyterian Church, 4 Meigs St, Rochester, NY 14607
- 17 **ANNUAL MEETING!** (5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.) Locust Hill Golf Club
- 18 **LWV-RMA Book Club** *The Avoidable War* by Kenneth Rudd (4:30 p.m. via Zoom)


## June

- 2 **LWV-RMA First Friday** (11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.) I-Square, 400 Bakers Square (off Titus Ave), Irondequoit
- 15 **LWV-RMA Book Club** *The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels* by John Meacham (4:30 p.m. via Zoom)

For events scheduled after publication, event information, Zoom links, and registration (if required) see:

[https://members.lwv-rma.org/members/calendar4\\_responsive.php?org\\_id=LWVR](https://members.lwv-rma.org/members/calendar4_responsive.php?org_id=LWVR)

Whenever you attend a League event, take pictures & email them to The Voter editor at [micketeditor@gmail.com](mailto:micketeditor@gmail.com).



**Note: For links to Zoom meetings, please visit our website:** [www.lwv-rma.org](http://www.lwv-rma.org).

For events scheduled after publication, event information, Zoom links, and registration (if required) see:

[https://members.lwv-rma.org/members/calendar4\\_responsive.php?org\\_id=LWVR](https://members.lwv-rma.org/members/calendar4_responsive.php?org_id=LWVR)

*Be sure to check your email and our website for other events as they are scheduled!*

## Come to First Friday for some social time at I-Square in Irondequoit!

Join First Friday In Person Join us for social time at **I-Square in Irondequoit**. There's no agenda but we talk about everything League and lots of political discussions. A lot of great ideas originate at First Fridays and a lot of work gets done. And we have a lot of fun. Come when you can, leave when you must. No need to register, just come!



- May 5
- June 2
- July 7

First Friday happens every month.

Board of Directors meetings are currently via Zoom. Board meetings are open to all members. See calendar for dates and times and contact Barbara Grosh for link.

Forums are open to the public. Calendar information is subject to change.

For more complete information, consult our website at [www.LWV-RMA.org](http://www.LWV-RMA.org), call 262-3730 or e-mail us at [info@lwv-rma.org](mailto:info@lwv-rma.org)

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[www.LWV-RMA.org](http://www.LWV-RMA.org)

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

**JULY VOTER  
DEADLINE IS JUNE 15!**

**League of Women Voters**

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, political organization which encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

The League of Women Voters is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity and inclusion in principal and in practice.

League membership is open to any person who subscribes to the League's purposes and policies.

**Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- President** Barbara Grosh (2021-2023)
- Vice President** Myra Pelz (2021-2023)
- Treasurer** Linda Saalman (2021-2023)
- Secretary** Cathy Kane (2022-2024)
- Director** Theresa McFarland-Porter (2021-2023)
- Director** Tiffany Moore-Corteville (2021- 2023)
- Director** Mira Washington (2022-2024)
- Director** Amy Hahn (2023)

**COMMITTEE CONTACTS**

Looking for info on a League committee or activity? Look no further!

- President** Barbara Grosh  
[president@lwv-rma.org](mailto:president@lwv-rma.org)
- Book Club** Judy Weinstein  
[vote411@lwv-rma.org](mailto:vote411@lwv-rma.org)
- Communication/PR** Amy Hahn  
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- VOTE411** Judy Weinstein  
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- Voter Services** Deb Gordon/Cathy Kane  
[voterservices@lwv-rma.org](mailto:voterservices@lwv-rma.org)

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*Editor,  
Mary Micket*

*Graphic Editor,  
Judy Wadsworth*

*Layout/Design,  
Chris Burleigh*

**Join the League Today!**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Check Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Level of Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this form and your check payable to  
League of Women Voters/RMA to:

LWV-RMA  
PO Box 10573  
Rochester, NY 14610  
or join us online at:

[https://members.lwv-rma.org/members/newmem/new-mem-reg.php?org\\_id=LWVR](https://members.lwv-rma.org/members/newmem/new-mem-reg.php?org_id=LWVR)

**MEMBERSHIP LEVELS:**

|   |       |                   |
|---|-------|-------------------|
| Individual/Associate  | ..... | \$75              |
| Household   | ..... | \$105             |
| Susan B. Anthony/Frederick Douglass   | ..... | \$150             |
| Carrie Chapman Catt   | ..... | \$200             |
| Student (full or part time at an accredited institution)                    | ..... | FREE              |
| Low income, call office at 262-3730   | ..... | \$sliding \$scale |
| or send an email to: <a href="mailto:info@lwv-rma.org">info@lwv-rma.org</a> |       |                   |