



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF BUFFALO/NIAGARA

your
★ VOTER ★

Leadership Team

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**Voter is published 11
times a year. The
January Voter copy is
due Wednesday,
December 13. Send
copy to Nancy DeTine
at
nancy@nancydetine.com.**

**100 Years of Women’s Suffrage
in New York State**

A Very Successful Celebration!

Our luncheon on November 9 was the first of a series of League events marking important milestones in the achievement of women’s suffrage, and it was a truly wonderful occasion! Perhaps this comment from one guest expresses best the thoughts of many who joined us at the Twentieth Century Club: “All three speakers shared their passion today with all of us and encouraged us to move forward in the future -- it was very inspiring!” Many people also lauded the delicious meal and stately surroundings.

Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul reminded us that we still have work to do in New York to allow voters to register on the day they vote, to enable early voting and voting by mail, and to enact campaign finance reform and meaningful ethics reform. She speaks League language! Our delightful emcee, Maryalice Demler, was also inspiring, and Shannon Risk, our featured speaker, not only gave us insight into early suffragists from Western New York, but included remarks about the role of the Twentieth Century Club in women’s suffrage. Serendipity!

League of Women Voters Mission

The League of Women Voters is a good government organization that encourages informed and active participation in the political process, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League never supports political parties or candidates.

Remember to wear your League Name Badge at all League events.

A Very Successful Celebration!

We especially thank our generous Susan B. Anthony sponsors: Erie County Commission on the Status of Women; Ingold Law; Kirisits & Associates, Certified Public Accountants; and New York State Women, Inc., Buffalo Niagara Chapter. We'll acknowledge them in each of the remaining editions of Your Voter this year and encourage you to use their services.

We also appreciate the efforts of these partnering organizations to promote the event to their members: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Gamma Phi Omega Chapter; AAUW, Buffalo Branch; Erie County Commission on the Status of Women; New York State Women, Inc., Region 8; Western New York Women's Foundation; and the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York, WNY Chapter.

These League members worked to make the event a success: Kathleen McCarthy, Ramona Gallagher, Lori Robinson, Sue Stievater, Mary Herbst, Kathie Macaluso, Marian Deutschman, Shirley Joy, Margaret Brunson, Lyle Toohey and Nancy DeTine.

The Suffrage Celebration Committee welcomes new members to help us plan future centennial functions that will culminate with a spectacular event in the summer of 2020 to honor the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution. Contact the League office or any committee member to join in the fun and help us celebrate the work of the women who sacrificed much in their long struggle so that we can participate fully in our democracy.

Terri Parks, Chair

Great Decisions

Fifteen people have signed up for the 2018 Great Decisions briefing books, so we qualified for the 20% discount, making the price \$28. We do not meet in December, January or February, so I will bring the books to our meeting from 10 a.m. till noon on Thursday, March 1, 2018, at 1272 Delaware when I will exchange the books for money. Looking forward to seeing you then!

Bernice Baeumler

Voters Guide Recap

As in the past, so many of our members did a yeoman's job of distributing **23,000 Voters Guides** to all corners of Erie and Niagara Counties. Only six town or village halls were out of range for our many workers and had to be mailed. Our indomitable crew was made up of members and friends. They are: Wynnie Fisher, Judy Weidemann, Dorothy Tao, Paul Ziebarth, Sally Metzger, Lona Allendoerfer, Judy Hoffman, Arlene Miles, Pat Wille, Marlene Katzel, Janet Massaro, Dot Brown, JoAnn Mecca, Lynda Stephens, Terri Parks, Mary Ann Turkla, Flora Summe, Lynne Vallone and daughter, Dick Hemann, Sue Faye Allen, Carl Klingenschmitt, Mary Scheeder, Marian Deutschman, Judy Huber, Sally Moehlau, Pat Costanzo, Janet Goodsell, Laura McDade, Alice Say, Joyce Bol, Beth Kauffman, Bonnie and Harold Asch, Donna Gioia, Joan Broderick, Mike Egan, Christine Reichmuth, Alberta Roman, Shirley Joy, Phyllis Banas, Betty and Jack Howell, Agnes Annis and Nora Mikes. They covered 27 routes, and the Erie and Niagara County library systems took care of getting them into all of their branches. THANK YOU ALL for a job well done.

Laura McDade

Spotlight: Local Government Committee



The eight current members of the Local Government Committee immerse ourselves in issues related to the city and county. For several years our focus has been on the Erie County budget and the Citizens' Budget Review Commission. We conducted interviews, attended hearings, wrote articles for The Buffalo News, prepared programs to educate our members and the public, and gave testimony at appropriate times. **Our current interest is gentrification and displacement.** We are planning a program in April to feature a speaker from Cleveland State University and a local panel. Historically this committee has done studies on government policies that encourage sprawl, on mergers and consolidation of local governments, and on sales tax distribution. We have presented programs on public/private cooperation and have arranged speakers who address women's issues. **We welcome any League members** who have the time and desire to join our committee, especially if you are interested in sharing ideas and directions for new studies. Currently we meet at 1:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month in the League office. Feel free to attend a meeting and check the Local Government Committee out – no obligation! We hope you'll join us.

Marian Deutschman, Chair

Money in Politics Update

LWV North Carolina challenges North Carolina's congressional redistricting maps

LWVNC v. Rucho is the most recent challenge to North Carolina's congressional map and is similar to the Wisconsin Gill v. Whitmore case now before the United States Supreme Court. (See the LWVBN November Voter article on the Wisconsin case.)

At the trial in late October, LWVNC argued that the North Carolina map violates the First and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution and constitutes a partisan gerrymander. The League advocated for *declaring partisan gerrymanders illegal and adopting a three-part test: Was the map drawn with partisan intent? Is the map an extreme partisan map? Is there any legitimate justification for drawing it this way?*

Jennifer Bremer from LWVNC Fair Elections reported that there are four active redistricting cases in North Carolina at present. (The LWVNC is a plaintiff in another case with the NAACP as lead which claims the state violated federal and state law by racially gerrymandering districts.)

Jennifer reported that she had attended most sessions of the LWVNC v. Rucho trial and felt that "our side did very well ... the partisan gerrymander is pretty hard to refute given that the North Carolina Legislature's adopted set of criteria calls for a split of 10 GOP and 3 DEM seats." She will continue to update the LWVNC website with the latest information.

Let's join in congratulating LWVNC for the hard work they are doing in this latest round in the gerrymander battles.

In August 2017, a federal judge tossed out a new Texas voter ID law. Other restrictive voting laws have been overturned by lower courts. These cases are now making their way to the Supreme Court.

Janet Massaro, Chair

We schedule the Money in Politics committee monthly meetings at the League office based on member availability, so our meeting dates are not always the same each month.

Our Nuclear Times: Article One

This article was written by Barbara Frackiewicz. A new LWVBN member, she is an alternate on the West Valley Citizen Task Force and attends its meetings.

1. How can I learn about nuclear waste in Western New York? Take this quiz!
2. What do the letters WVDP stand for? West Valley Demonstration Project.
3. Where is the West Valley Demonstration Project? 30 miles south of Buffalo, off Route 219, in Cattaraugus County.
4. What happened in West Valley between 1966 and 1972? Spent nuclear fuel was reprocessed from U.S. commercial and defense activities.
5. What big project was completed at the site in 2016? 56 huge concrete casks containing high level radioactive waste (processed into glass logs) were moved to an outdoor platform.
6. What will happen in 2020? A decision will be made about large tanks with radioactive sludge and about two burial grounds with radioactive waste.
7. Describe the two burial grounds filled with radioactive waste, called the SDA and the NDA. SDA: State Licensed Disposal Area has 14 unlined trenches that are 20 to 30 feet deep. NDA: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Licensed Disposal Area has many unlined, deep holes.
8. How much more will the cleanup cost and how long will it take? The full cleanup will cost about \$10 billion and is estimated to take more than 100 years.
9. What action I can take? Become informed. Visit www.westvalleyctf.org and www.nirs.org.

Barbara Frackiewicz



Women's Suffrage Celebration in Kenmore

The Kenmore Village Improvement society held a 100th Anniversary Celebration of Women's Right to Vote in New York on Nov. 5, 2017. Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul and Dr. Katherine Conway Turner spoke at the event as well as a number of women who were asked to read quotations from well-known women from the past.

League member Patricia Wille, pictured here, represented LWVBN and read a quotation from Carrie Chapman Catt, suffragist and founder of the League of Women Voters. Patricia reported, "It was a truly delightful afternoon."

Judith Clarke, Volunteer Coordinator

Welcome, New Members!

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to these new members of our League family: Kimberly Barnett, Stacey and Timothy Boerschig, Joyce Seegal, and Joan Simmons.

Membership Committee

Celebration of Women's Suffrage at Forest Lawn Cemetery



Several League members attended ceremonies at Forest Lawn Cemetery on Election Day, November seventh, to honor 100 years of women's suffrage in New York at the grave of African American Suffragist, Mary Burnett Talbert. Mary Craig portrayed Talbert and talked about her work and her legacy. Assembly member Crystal Peoples-Stokes and Lieutenant Governor Hochul delivered brief remarks at the roadside marker for Mary Talbert's grave. Then we all walked to the grave and placed yellow rose petals on it.

After a short trolley ride back to The Margaret L. Wendt Archive and Resource Center, attendees enjoyed coffee and pastries.

Terri Parks

Important Notices

Important Notice about Facebook Photos

Everyone's on Facebook these days – including LWVBN! It's an effective way for us to spread news about League activities and events. We encourage you to share our posts, so that more people will learn about us and, we hope, choose to join us!

If you prefer that our League NOT post photos of you on our Facebook page, you must let us know by calling the League office or by sending an email to lwvbn@lwvbn.org.

Nancy DeTine, Communications Chair

Don't Forget to Pick Up Your Name Badge!

We introduced a valuable new benefit of League membership in 2016. All members attending our annual meeting in June received an easy-to-read magnetized name badge with the LWVBN logo. Since then, we've been wearing them proudly at our events and on occasions when we represent LWVBN. If you don't have your badge yet, please pick it up at the next League event you attend. Or stop in the League office – just be sure to call Mary Ann at 716-986-4898 in advance.

Concurrence with the Utah Position on Death with Dignity

The January Voter will have the date and time for a program to present pro and con arguments about the concept of Death with Dignity. League members present will discuss and reach concurrence in favor or opposition of the position proposed by the LWV of New York State. The four page attachment with this Voter was shared with the participants at the state convention last June. There is a great deal of material on our website: www.lwvbn.org. We shared the proposed position and more background information with the November Voter on ivory colored paper.



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

December 2017 Events and Meetings

Saturday, 12/2, 11:30 a.m.

League Holiday Party

Salvatore's Italian Gardens, Depew 14043
Reservations Required

Tuesday, 12/5, 4:00 p.m.

Issues Committee

Harlem Road Community Center

Wednesday, 12/13, 1:30 p.m.

Local Government Committee

League Office



“We spend January 1st walking through our lives, room by room, drawing up a list of work to be done, cracks to be patched. Maybe this year, to balance the list, we ought to walk through the rooms of our lives...not looking for flaws, but for potential.”

— *Ellen Goodman*