**Women in Politics**

**Challenges Women Face When Running for Public Office**

Sponsored by AAUW and co-sponsored by League of Women Voters of Buffalo Niagara

**DATE:** Thursday, February 15, 2018  
**TIME:** 5:30 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. program  
**PLACE:** Classics V Banquet and Conference Center, 2425 Niagara Falls Blvd., Amherst, NY 14228  
**COST:** $25

Panelists
- **April Baskin,** 2017 unopposed candidate for Erie County Legislature  
- **Vanessa Glushefski,** 2017 candidate for Erie County Comptroller  
- **Lynn Marinelli,** Director of Intergovernmental Relations, Empire State Development WNY Regional Office, and former Erie County Legislator  
- **Lynne Dixon,** Erie County Legislator, former journalist  
- **Barbara Miller-Williams,** Erie County Legislator, former Buffalo City Councilmember

Moderator  
- **Diana Cihak,** founder and President, WEPac/Electing Women into Office

RSVP by February 7! Use the form on page 5.

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**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.
News from the Board

Board members approved several appointments at their January meeting. Pat Wille was formally approved as volunteer coordinator for naturalization ceremonies and member of the board of directors. Mary (Mike) Egan was appointed volunteer coordinator for requests for speakers from the League, Lyle Toohey as a member of the Finance Committee and Terri Parks as a board member on the Nominating Committee. All of these appointments are for the remainder of this year until the annual meeting.

The board also approved the contents of a letter from the League to the state Senate and Assembly legislators from Western New York to request restoration of funding for Neighborhood Legal Services (NLS) that was lost because of an administrative error. The most vulnerable residents in our community rely on Neighborhood Legal Services for free assistance with legal issues that relate to basic needs, utility shutoffs, illegal eviction defense, domestic violence, access to healthcare, disability benefits appeals, benefits counseling to enable them to return to work, and more.

The panel presentation for Death with Dignity on January 13 gave attendees excellent information about the pro and con arguments. The audience was smaller than is typical but, as usual, people who were there had pertinent questions for the panelists.

In the photo, Todd Vaarwerk, Corinne Carey, Esq., Dr. Robert A. Milch and Dr. Mary T. Williams listen attentively to a question from the audience.

We thank Marian Deutschman, Ann Converso and Ramona Gallagher for their work to obtain such a fine panel to discuss this difficult topic with expertise, candor and obvious compassion.

Terri Parks

Great Decisions

The 2018 Great Decisions briefing books have arrived and are being stored at 298 Middlesex Road until Thursday, March 1, when they hopefully will be transported to the League office at 1272 Delaware Avenue, where they will be distributed in exchange for $28 from 10 a.m. till noon to everyone who ordered one. Then we hope to have volunteers for each topic to facilitate the discussions. If you should want your book ahead of time, please call me to arrange a date, time and place.

Bernice Baeumler

Welcome, New Members!

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to these new members of our League family: Mary Alice Demler, Shannon Risk and Lisa Rodwin.

Janet Massaro, Membership Chair
Our Nuclear Times: Article Three

Buffalo’s toxic nuclear waste site: WVDP (West Valley Demonstration Project)

**ACTIVITIES and MEETINGS**

**WVDP PHASE I: CLEANUP for the YEARS 1980 to 2022**

Summary: Many buildings will be demolished. There is some environmental monitoring of water, air, and soil. Low-level nuclear wastes have been shipped by truck and rail to western states. High-level nuclear wastes have been converted into solid glass logs and are temporarily stored on an outdoor platform in 56 huge concrete casks.

**WVDP PHASE II: CLEANUP DECISIONS for YEAR 2022 and onward for the next 1,000 to 10,000 YEARS**

a. The goal: To limit radiation exposures to future humans from possibly contaminated soil and air, drinking water and food.

b. The main concerns: Two burial grounds with radioactive wastes [SDA 15 acres, NDA 8 acres]; four large underground tanks with radioactive sludge; and those 56 concrete casks.

c. The big question: Can these nuclear wastes be stored safely at the site — above and below ground — or should they be shipped somewhere else?

d. Data collection: Computer modelling will analyze factors such as weather, erosion, site stability, geology, underground plumes of contamination, and radionuclide inventories. A note: This modelling for the future ought to include climate change precipitation effects (though these precipitation effects might be sporadic and quite unpredictable).

e. Reports: A draft report, then a final report, will include the computer modelling results, schedule of actions, and budget forecasts. The reports are called the “Draft SEIS” and the “Final SEIS.” SEIS = Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. The reports will take several years to compile. However, reports with supporting information will be available sooner.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS AND MEETINGS**

Public comments about Phase II Decisions will be welcomed for 60 days in 2018.

Public meetings are scheduled tentatively in 2018 for March 19 in West Valley, March 20 at Buffalo’s Erie Community College City Campus, and March 21 at the Seneca Nation of Indians. Please mark your calendars, then check the dates, locations, and times. See you there!

www.westvalleyctf.org  www.nirs.org

Barbara Frackiewicz

Save the Date

On Thursday, March 8, 2018, the League will be a co-sponsor of AAUW’s program for International Women’s Day. Mark your calendars now for an informative presentation on issues facing Native American women. The speaker will be Dr. Lori V. Quigley, Vice President for Academic Affairs at Medaille College, where the program will take place.
Honoring Local League Leaders

It's time again to think about honoring local League Leaders.

The Joan K. Bozer Leadership Award recognizes outstanding League Leadership that reflects some of the many qualities that Joan has demonstrated in her long experience as a League and community leader.

We selected five key characteristics exhibited by Joan that we feel are essential qualities for recognition: Ethical, Innovative, Resourceful, Respected, Steadfast. Please submit a paragraph of up to 250 words that describes how your nominee embodies these characteristics. Be sure to include each characteristic as you write about your nominee.

The League of Women Voters of Buffalo/Niagara LEE Award is presented to a League member who has made a Long Term Commitment to the League with Energy and Excellence, in short, the initials, “LEE.”

The award honors Lenore Tetkowski, Leonore Lambert, and Lenore Banks. Please submit a paragraph of up to 250 words about your nominee in which you note the approximate number of years the person served the League actively, and give examples of her/his Energy and Excellence in League activity.

Please email completed nominations to lwvbn@lwvbn.org or mail them to the League office by February 28, 2017. Be sure your name is noted as the nominator. Please feel free to contact Terri Parks at lwvoter@verizon.net or 873-3243 if you need help with your nominations.

Election Services

December included a huge mailing that the committee volunteers accomplished with complete efficiency. Another mailing was dispatched in a similar manner with enough haste that all letters to BMHA residents arrived at their mailboxes in a timely manner. I want to thank all of the dedicated and hard-working members for their commitment to their committee. Special thanks go out to: Nora Mikes, Mike Egan, Sally Metzger, Kathleen Macaluso, Ramona Gallagher, Sue Stievater, Janet Goodsell, and Judy Weidemann for braving the snow and cold to ably assist.

If anyone has not been receiving my email requests for opportunities to serve, please contact me. Our email needed some corrections. I will return your contact.

Alan Dozoretz, Election Services Chair

Money in Politics

The Money in Politics Committee continues its work and welcomes new members to join in this important work! For meeting dates and times, email Janet Massaro (massaro.janet@gmail.com) or the League office (lwvbn@lwvbn.org).

Janet Massaro, Money in Politics Chair
Women in Politics Reservation Form

Reservations must be received by February 7, 2018.

Mail the completed form with a check for $25 made out to AAUW Buffalo Branch to:
Lilyen Mascellino,
20 Forest Creek Court, Grand Island, NY 14072.

Name ______________________________________ Phone ______________________

Dinner includes choice of entrée, potato, vegetable, salad, bread, coffee, tea, punch and ice cream.

Choose one entrée:
___ Chicken Francaise: battered breast with egg and lemon, served with lemon sauce
___ Garlic Crusted Tilapia: topped with garlic and romano-seasoned breadcrumbs
___ Maple Glazed Pork Loin: coated with pecan maple glaze

Allergy alert ________________________________________________________________

Naturalization Ceremonies

As noted in the News from the Board, Pat Wille has succeeded Judy Clarke as a member of the LWVBN board and as coordinator of the volunteers who welcome and register new citizens to vote at naturalization ceremonies each month. Feel free to contact Pat if you’d like to participate! Here’s her first report:

Judy Clarke has been wonderful in terms of making the transition an easy one for me to follow in her footsteps as coordinator of volunteers for naturalization ceremonies (she’s one very organized lady!). I look forward to working with a dynamite corps of volunteers!

Elizabeth Zausmer and Lynne Vallone represented the League at the ceremony on January 4, 2018, at the U.S. Courthouse. They obtained 39 completed voter registration forms — kudos!

Patricia Wille, Volunteer Coordinator for Naturalization Ceremonies

The League Celebrates 98 Years on February 14, 2018.

As we near the League’s 100th anniversary and the passage of the nineteenth amendment to the United States Constitution, it’s appropriate to share some of the thoughts of the League’s founder for you to think about. Certainly we each can think of many exceptions to the views of women that she describes in this quote:

“The world taught women nothing skillful and then said her work was valueless. It permitted her no opinions and said she did not know how to think. It forbade her to speak in public and said the sex had no orators. It denied her the schools, and said the sex had no genius. It robbed her of every vestige of responsibility, and then called her weak. It taught her that every pleasure must come as a favor from men and when, to gain it, she decked herself in paint and fine feathers, as she had been taught to do, it called her vain.”

Carrie Chapman Catt
February 2018 Events and Meetings

Tuesday, 2/6, 4:00 p.m.
**Issues Committee**
Harlem Road Community Center, Amherst 14226

Monday, 2/12, 4:00 p.m.
**Board of Directors**
League Office

Wednesday, 2/14, 1:00 p.m.
**Local Government Committee**
League Office

Thursday, 2/15, 5:30 p.m.
**Women In Politics:**
**Challenges Women Face When Running for Public Office**
Classics V Banquet and Conference Center
2425 Niagara Falls Boulevard
Amherst, NY 14228
5:30 p.m.

Thursday, 2/22, 1:30 p.m.
**Education Committee**
League Office

Please remember to wear your League name badge to all League events. Make arrangements to pick it up or have someone get it from the League office.

We thank the sponsors from our Celebration of 100 years of Women Suffrage in New York State: the Erie County Commission of Women, Ingold Law, Kirsits & Associates and New York State Women, Inc., Buffalo Niagara Chapter.