



your
★ VOTER ★

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**2018 Annual Meeting of the League
of Women Voters of Buffalo/Niagara**

Join us at The Fairdale

672 Wehrle Drive, Buffalo, NY 14225
Saturday, June 9, 2018

The Annual Meeting begins with coffee/tea and pastries at 10:00 a.m.

Annual Meeting Luncheon and Program

Luncheon will be served at noon.

Special awards:

Joan K. Bozer Leadership Award:

The team of Judith Clarke and Alan Dozoretz

Making Democracy Work Award:

Reverend Kirk Laubenstein

Join us in the company of League members and friends to hear Reverend Kirk Laubenstein describe the work of the Coalition for Economic Justice that he has led for many years.

We will also hear remarks from our two Students Inside Albany participants.

The reservation form is in the Annual Meeting booklet.
Reservations are due at the League office by May 30, 2018.

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

We look forward to another fine Annual Meeting on June 9, 2018. Please make your luncheon reservation and join us as we review this year, elect new board members and approve the budget for 2018-2019. Remember to bring the Annual Meeting booklet that was mailed to every League household.

At the May board meeting, the board approved a request from the Waterfront Committee for a program change in our local waterfront position, Item 6. It begins: "Support plans for the waterfronts of Erie County (along Lake Erie and the Niagara and the Buffalo Rivers) that provide and ensure..." Item 6.c. currently reads: "Only such commercial development as makes appropriate use of a waterfront location."

The committee requests replacing the wording of Item 6.c. with: **Only such development that is water-dependent as defined by the Buffalo Green Code Section 5.3.3, A2.** The change clearly strengthens the League position. The term is taken from the Buffalo Green Code. The definition written in the Green Code 5.3.3 A 2 reads: *A water-dependent use is a use which can only be conducted in, on, over, or adjacent to a water body because such use requires direct access to that water body, and which involves, as an integral part of such activity, the use of the water. Water-dependent uses include, but are not limited to, marinas and yacht clubs, boat launch and service facilities, waterborne passenger terminals, fishing facilities, tour boat and charter boat facilities, research and educational facilities requiring access to water bodies, structures needed for navigational purposes, erosion and flood control structures, and facilities for loading and unloading bulk cargo by water. A shore public walkway, plus related accessory structures, is considered a water-dependent use.*

This is the only change suggested for our Local Program Focus. It will be discussed and approved before voting approval of the program as a whole.

Many thanks for the contributions of the following board members who have elected not to accept another term on the board: Kathie Macaluso, Sara Vernon and Pat Wille. Each of you brought special skills to the board and was an active participant. We'll miss you and hope you will consider board service in the future.

Nora Mikes was approved as the new webmaster to succeed Kristin Allen. Kris has continued as our very able webmaster for several years after moving to Massachusetts, but now needs to leave the task to someone local. Thank you, Kris, for your long and outstanding service to the League. The transition will take place this summer.

The board approved revised procedures for candidate forums. We now must have at least two candidates for all elective offices present and participating in any forum hosted by the League. The rationale for this change is that any time the League permits an "empty chair forum/debate," the League appears to be partisan.

The board approved hosting an evening candidate forum in Amherst. Judy Huber has volunteered to coordinate that effort. The League should sponsor a candidate forum in Buffalo for the 2018 election for the 26th Congressional District, and all New York State Senate and Assembly districts that serve city residents. Margaret Brunson will direct this effort. We welcome League volunteers to work with Margaret. Please contact the League office by July 1 if you are willing to help.

Terri Parks

Welcome New Members!

This month we are delighted that Kristen Chilcott, Sharon Cramer, Michele Greco and Linda Koenigsberg have joined our League.

Janet Massaro, Membership Chair

Voting Reminder

There are no federal primaries scheduled for our region on June 26. The petitions for office seekers who opposed Kristin Gillibrand for U.S. Senate on the Democratic line and Chris Collins for the House of Representatives New York District 26 on the Republican line were declared invalid.

Benefit Sale at Ten Thousand Villages to Benefit the League

Join us on June 14, 2018, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. for a benefit sale for the League of Women Voters at Ten Thousand Villages, 736 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo 14222. All sales of the handcrafted products created by artisans in developing countries will profit the League, so plan to come and bring your friends. We'll also conduct voter registration in front of the store during the sale. Ten Thousand Villages creates long-term relationships with the artisans to ensure that they can depend on a living wage. Their beautiful creations are produced by adults often using recycled materials and always crafted in a sustainable manner. At least 70% of the artisans are women. What could be a better way to gift anyone?

Annual Potluck Luncheon, July 24, 2018

Join us at the League's Annual Picnic Potluck Luncheon at noon on Tuesday, July 24, 2018, at the Chelsea Clubhouse at Canterbury Woods, on Downing Lane (off Renaissance Drive), Williamsville, NY 14221. We'll give a special welcome to new members. Michelle Urbanczyk, CEO of Explore & More at Canalside, will be our guest speaker. Bring a dish to pass. The camaraderie and cuisine are guaranteed to please everyone. Please let us know you'll attend by making a reservation at lwvbn.org or by calling the League office at 716-986-4898.

Great Decisions

Joan Mondul has signed up to facilitate our third 2018 topic, China and America: the new geopolitical equation, on Thursday, June 7, from 10 a.m. to noon at 1272 Delaware. "Over the past several years, China has implemented an expansive strategy of economic diplomacy in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. Where the United States has taken a step back from multilateral trade agreements and discarded the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), China has made inroads through initiatives like One Belt, One Road and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). What are China's geopolitical objectives? What do its actions mean for the international balance of power, and how should the United States respond?" As you can see, this is another hot topic for us to pursue. Hope you can attend.

The July Great Decisions will meet on July 5, 2018, from 10 a.m. to noon at 1272 Delaware and will be led by Terri Parks. The topic is media and foreign policy. "State and non-state actors today must maneuver a complex and rapidly evolving media landscape. Conventional journalism now competes with user-generated content. Official channels of communication can be circumvented through social media. Foreign policy is tweeted from the White House and 'fake news' has entered the zeitgeist. Cyberwarfare, hacking and misinformation pose complex security threats." Quite a mess to unravel!

Bernice Baeumler

Naturalization Ceremonies

Joyce Bol and Josette Cunningham represented the League at the April 26 naturalization ceremony at the U.S. Courthouse and welcomed 51 new citizens from 21 countries. At the ceremony at the U.S. Courthouse on May 3, Barbara Brooks and Liz Zausmer welcomed 53 new citizens from 25 countries. Janet Goodsell and Deborah Shiffner represented the League at the ceremony on May 24, and Joyce Bol and Marian Deutschman will welcome new citizens at the ceremony on May 30. The Erie County Clerk's Office is readying the equipment necessary to again begin processing passport applications after the naturalization ceremonies.

Patricia Wille, Volunteer Coordinator for Naturalization Ceremonies

Our Nuclear Times: Article Seven

How did I get to West Valley in Western New York, distilling articles for the Voter? I'm rather sure it started with a find at my Massachusetts elementary school library. The book was about a Polish scientist, Maria Sklodowska, who earned her fame in France under her married name, Marie Curie. Her native Poland had few opportunities for a higher university education, especially for women, especially under a foreign occupation, especially in the 1800s. Then I forgot about her.

Along the way to my current age of 60, I've encountered radiation in many forms. But I had no deep reflections about it. Did you know that Madame Curie drove a Red Cross vehicle over the bloodied battlefields of World War I? She employed the newly invented X-ray machine, forged from her researches, to find wayward bullets and broken bones in soldiers.

I never asked about the particular radioisotope that was used to treat me, at age 22, for Hodgkin's lymphoma ... radiation, radiation. It's a word that has become so common that no one is startled by its mention. It is everywhere: medical-diagnostic, medical-therapeutic, electromagnetic, background, microwave, cosmic ray ... I'm getting off topic. I'm in Buffalo in 1981 and need several years for a healthy recovery.

Vaguely, I remember a newspaper article about West Valley, vitrification, good! They are doing a cleanup. Next, it's the year 2009 and I hear about West Valley nuclear wastes, oh – West Valley – it's somewhere south of Buffalo, still there? Still needing cleanup?! I was corralled into a 2009 meeting at the Ashford Hollow Administration Building. There was lots to swallow, and I couldn't crunch through all the acronyms ... but I figured out enough. During the August 2009 five-inch rainfall, I knew that site flooding would be an erosion concern. Now, I'm often at monthly meetings with the CTF, DOE, and NYSERDA [Citizen Task Force, Department of Energy, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority].

I began remembering my college days. Was it before or after a tour of the nuclear research reactor at U Lowell, Massachusetts? I'd attended a stray lecture on nuclear physics, and afterward asked about leftover nuclear wastes. A reply was given with an air of non-concern ... I saw, in that moment, that there were no real solutions to nuclear waste. Next was the usual: get through studies, exams ... the usual on the way to a biological sciences degree.

Recently, I was drawn to two online Stanford University courses on nuclear topics, and have sifted through internet, book, and film realms. What has happened since that August 6, 1945, atom bomb explosion over the people of Hiroshima, Japan? The world has supported, in small and large ways, a path to the horrors of worldwide nuclear contamination and nuclear devastation. Where are we going? Where are we going?

Barbara Frackiewicz

Election Services

May 2018 could be designated as "The League Meets Marine Drive Month." The most significant event for this committee was a 600+ mailing for a June Marine Drive nominations meeting. Many kind thanks to the committee members who so graciously donated their time and energy for this mailing: Judith Clarke (delicious cookies), Mike Egan (delicious apricot bread), Sally Metzger, Ramona Gallagher, Lee Tetkowski, Janet Goodsell, Joyce Bol, Shirley Joy, and Judy Weidemann. Additional gratitude goes to Nora Mikes who conducted her first nominations meeting at Marine Drive, while ably assisted by Janet Goodsell. This committee can function because of its dedicated members. Thank you, one and all. Additional appreciation goes to the Voter editor for printing last month's cookie recipe.

Alan Dozoretz, Elections Services Chair

Money in Politics Update: Transparency and Online Political Ads

Strong disclosure requirements for political ads has long been one of the League's campaign finance reform priorities. The League believes every American has the right to know who is paying for political ads, whether the money comes from organizations with ties to foreign governments or from wealthy special interests at home. Our concerns have grown with greater urgency in the digital age. In its statements to the Federal Election Commission and to Congress, the League recognized the essential role of transparency in these political advertisements.

In support of the Honest Ads Act, League of Women Voters President Chris Carson wrote: "... current transparency rules are decades behind the times. Communications methods such as telegrams and typewriters are mentioned in current rules while the internet – where 65% of Americans say they received information during the 2016 presidential election – is not. It is time to update the transparency rules around electronic communications. Online advertisements have a huge influence on information voters are exposed to and Americans have the right to know who is funding such advertisements."

The Honest Ads Act updates the definition of "electioneering communications" to include paid internet and digital advertisements. It ensures that digital ads referring to federal candidates are subject to the same campaign finance disclosure requirements as any other ad monitored by the Federal Election Commission.

The act also requires digital platforms such as Facebook and Twitter to maintain a public file around the purchase, payment and targeting of such ads online. It acknowledges that voters have a right to know about foreign sponsors and funders of campaign ads by requiring broadcasters, providers and online platforms to ensure that qualified political advertisements are not purchased by a foreign national.

The League believes congressional action is of utmost importance to our national security, to the integrity of our elections, and to protecting our democracy from sabotage by foreign adversaries.

Taken from LWV letter to members of U.S. Senate, April 23, 2018

Janet Massaro, MIP Committee Chair

Voter Registration and Candidate Forums

League volunteers have been busy with activities in April and May. Thank you all for this important service for the League of Women Voters.

April 2018

- Niagara Charter School lottery observers: Janet Goodsell and Dorothy Westhafer
- Enterprise Charter School lottery observers: Joyce Bol and Marlene Katzel
- Makowski School voter registration: Pat Wille
- Moderator and timekeeper training at the Harlem Road Community Center: Laura McDade presented training for 11 attendees.

May 2018

- Starpoint PTA School Boards Candidates Night: Ramona Gallagher, moderator; JoAnn Mecca, timekeeper
- Williamsville PTSA School Boards Candidates Night: Kathleen McCormick, moderator; Nora Mikes, Pat Wille, Joan Simmons and Joan Simon, ushers and question sorters
- Lockport PTSA School Board Candidates Night: Judy Huber, moderator
- Hamburg Music Festival voter registration: Agnes Annis, Dana and Payton Lamb, Terri Parks, Betty Krist
- Voter registration at the Amvets Post 13 Vet Fest: Mike Egan and Sue Kirkland

Mike Egan, Volunteer Coordinator, Voter Registration and Candidate Forums



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF BUFFALO/NIAGARA

1272 Delaware Ave, Buffalo, NY 14209

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

June 2018 Calendar

Tuesday, 6/5, 4:00 p.m.

Issues Committee

Harlem Road Community Center

Thursday, 6/7, 10:00 a.m. – noon

Great Decisions

League Office

Saturday, 6/9 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Annual Meeting

The Fairdale Banquet Center

Wednesday, 6/13, 1:30 p.m.

Local Government Committee

League Office

Thursday, 6/14, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

League Benefit Sale

Ten Thousand Villages

Thursday, 6/28, 1:30 p.m.

Education Committee

League Office

Thursday, 7/5, 10:00 a.m. – noon

Great Decisions

League Office

Wednesday, 7/11, 1:30 p.m.

Local Government Committee

League Office

Please remember to wear your League name badge to all League events.

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