



your
★ VOTER ★

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Voter copy is due
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lwvbn@lwvbn.org.

**Perspectives on What Works
in Public Education**

Wednesday, May 23, 2018

5:30 p.m. registration, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. program

Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site

641 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14202

Come hear our panel of expert educators.

Sherry M. Cleary, Executive Director, New York Early Childhood
Professional Development Institute

David Mauricio, Chief of Strategic Alignment and Innovation,
Buffalo Public Schools

John Starkey, Principal, Lafayette International High School

Wendy Paterson, Dean, School of Education, Buffalo State College

They've been teachers, principals and administrators – so they know which
programs actually work and which ones show promise, now and for the
future. Join us to ask questions, make suggestions and learn from their
experience.

***This program is free and open to the public. Educators and parents
are especially encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be served.***

Make reservations online at lwvbn.org or call the League office at 716-986-4898.

Special thanks to our co-sponsor



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

This edition of your Voter accompanies the Annual Meeting booklet. We expect that many League members will join us for the business meeting in the morning and even more of you will join us for the luncheon to honor the outstanding contributions to the League by Judith Clarke and Alan Dozoretz and the many contributions to the community from Rev. Kirk Laubenstein. Make your reservations soon.

It doesn't seem possible that another League year is winding down. It has been an eventful year for the League and the world. Every day seems to bring more news that makes us cringe or cheer. I cheer about the continued efforts of League members and their strong commitment to being political, but not partisan. While we each have personal views in support of particular government officials, as a League we never endorse or support any candidate or political party.

We acknowledge the Nominating Committee and Budget Committee in the Annual Meeting booklet, but I'd like to give a special thank you to their respective chairs, Ramona Gallagher and Amy Witryol. Their leadership in these important efforts is exemplary.

We're pleased that Ramona Gallagher, Shirley Joy, Lori Robinson and Terri Parks have agreed to be our delegates to the 53rd National Convention of the League of Women Voters of the United States in Chicago from June 28 to July 1, 2018.

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 conduct voter registration in front of the store during the sale. What a great way to celebrate Flag Day!

Terri Parks

Don't Forget to Renew Your Membership!

Membership renewal information will be mailed in early May. We need you! The work of the League needs many minds and hands! Please complete the Membership Survey and submit it with your payment. It is very helpful to know the ways that members are willing and able to help with the work of the League. We also need to know which members prefer to provide only their financial contribution. We respect the needs of all members. Everyone is important.

Great Decisions

Nora Mikes has volunteered to lead our second Great Decisions 2018 topic, *Russia's Foreign Policy*, on Thursday, May 3, from 10 a.m. to noon at 1272 Delaware. "Under President Vladimir Putin, Russia is projecting an autocratic model of governance abroad and working to destabilize liberal democracies. Russia caused an international uproar in 2016, when it interfered in the U.S. presidential contest. But Putin's foreign policy toolkit includes other instruments, from alliances with autocrats to proxy wars with the U.S. in Georgia, Ukraine and Syria. How does Putin conceive of national interests, and why do Russian citizens support him? How should the United States respond to Putin's attempts to spread right-wing authoritarianism?" These are questions to ponder during our discussion. Please note! WNED-TV ran the Great Decisions program at 10 a.m. on Sunday, April 8, instead of the time I was given. Be sure to check the Buffalo News' TV Topics for the four remaining programs in May.

Bernice Baeumler

Our Nuclear Times: Article Six

All the rocks in each wagonload had to be split, then crushed, into small pieces. Marie did much of this herself with simple tools and grinders. The rock fragments were placed in chemicals to extract a tiny amount of a mysterious substance that glowed faintly in the dark. This was the famous Polish-born Marie [Skłodowska] Curie. She worked in a large, unheated shed in Paris, earning a Nobel Prize in physics in 1903, and another in chemistry in 1911. What did she discover? The radioactive elements radium and polonium. Heavy radiation exposures caused the leukemia that claimed her life in 1934.

Questions and Answers

Q: How is radioactivity in a substance measured? In an amount called the “curie” [pronounced KYu-ree] in honor of Madame Curie and her physicist-husband Pierre Curie.

Q: What is radioactivity? Let’s look at an atom. An unstable atom is radioactive: it emits radiation. This unstable atom can create other smaller atoms, plus particle energy and/or wave energy. These energies are called radiation.

Q: Why is radiation harmful? Radiation (both particle and wave energy) can cause serious biologic damage to humans and to the complex genetic environment of the whole world.

Q: How many curies remain at the West Valley site in Western New York? Most of it, 15 million curies, is high level waste that is stored in 56 huge casks. The SDA, NDA, Waste Tank Farm, plus other areas, contain hundreds of thousands of additional curies.

Q: Radioactive waste is extremely hazardous. What can be done about it? Much of this waste requires costly and continuous special monitoring, special handling, special transport, and special disposal for many thousands of years.

Q: What is a curie, really? It is a measure of radioactivity in a substance. Let’s look at radium-226. It is the designated standard. One tiny gram of radium-226 has a rate of disintegration of 37 billion atoms per second. This is called one curie of radiation. After 1600 years, this one gram of radium-226 will have only half its radiation. NOTE: This is different from a radiation dose that a human may receive if exposed to radioactive materials.

Q: Then what is a becquerel? In 1980 an international unit for radioactivity was adopted: the becquerel (after the French physicist Henri Becquerel; the third person in the 1903 Nobel Prize team of Curie & Curie). Each becquerel is just one nuclear disintegration or transformation per second. And so, one curie is equal to 37 billion becquerels. The abbreviations are Ci for curie and Bq for becquerel.

Q: How many curies of radiation were released by the atomic bomb explosion over the city of Hiroshima, Japan, on August 6, 1945? One million curies. And by the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear power plant explosion and meltdown? 50 to 80 million curies into the atmosphere alone.

Barbara Frackiewicz

Welcome new members!

Please extend a warm welcome to Pete and Bobbie Neal. They are not only new members of the League, they also joined our Money In Politics Committee.

Janet Massaro, Membership Chair

Voting Reminder

We’re planning our annual Voter Registration Drive. It’s important for us to remember that U.S. citizens who will be at least 18 years old on voting dates this year may register and vote. To vote in the federal primary on Tuesday, June 26, 2018, registrations must be postmarked by June 1, 2018, and received by June 6, 2018. There are only two federal primaries scheduled for our region. Kristin Gillibrand and Scott Noren are vying for the Democratic Party candidacy for the U.S. Senate. In the 27th Congressional District, Frank C. Smierciak II opposes Chris Collins.

Money in Politics Update

What's so bad about "the question"?

Every ten years, the United States conducts a census of everyone living within its borders. The last census was conducted in 2010, and the next will be in 2020. The accuracy of that head count has a great effect on all our lives, although we probably don't give it much thought during the years between.

Census data is the basis for drawing district lines to ensure fair political representation. It is used to allocate resources for education needs, hospitals, veterans' assistance, public safety, disaster response, and business planning.

The Department of Commerce has surprised us all with a recent decision to add a new and unnecessary question to the census form, asking about the citizenship of the person completing the form. In response, the League of Women Voters has joined with business leaders, elected officials of all parties, grassroots leaders, and civic activists, to tell Congress to remove the citizenship question from the census for the following reasons:

- The U.S. Constitution says the census counts *all persons* — not all citizens.
- This is viewed as a political move designed to frighten immigrants into not participating.
- Getting an accurate count in the 2020 census is critical to all American communities.
- The citizenship question is invasive and will raise concerns about the confidentiality of personal information.
- It will cause participation in the census to plummet.
- Businesses will have inaccurate data when making economic decisions.
- The cost of adding this question, this late in the process, is significant to taxpayers.

The stakes are too high to allow this unnecessary question to derail the count. We get only one chance every ten years to get this right. The League of Women Voters vows to work with everyone who cares about the accuracy of the census to remove the question on citizenship.

Janet Goodsell, Money in Politics Committee

Save July 24 for our Annual Potluck Luncheon!

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. Bring a dish to pass. The camaraderie and cuisine are guaranteed to please everyone!

Naturalization Ceremonies

League volunteers have been very busy recently at several sites. Joyce Bol and Kate Wagner welcomed 108 new citizens from 37 countries at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery on March 22. On March 29, Lynne Vallone and Janet Goodsell represented the League at West Seneca West High School's ceremony for 54 new citizens from 25 countries. (Lynne reported that this was her first visit to her alma mater since graduation!) At the U.S. Courthouse on April 5, Barbara Brooks was present when 52 applicants from 27 countries became citizens, and Janet Goodsell and Judy Weidemann welcomed 53 applicants from 25 countries there on April 17. League volunteers have been successful in registering our newest citizens to vote with assistance from representatives of the Board of Elections.

Patricia Wille, Volunteer Coordinator for Naturalization Ceremonies

Election Services

I would like to thank Nora Mikes for taking on the extremely challenging project of chairing our League's Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority's 2018 Tenant Commissioner Election. This is an extremely time-consuming and complicated process which will see Ms. Mikes in consultation with a variety of entities including BMHA management, the candidates themselves, BMHA residents, Erie County Board of Elections, the printer used by BMHA, and League volunteers.

This election will require League volunteers donating their time and talents as needed so that Ms. Mikes has the support she needs to supervise this whole process.

In March, Ms. Mikes and I traveled to the A.D. Price BMHA site and conducted resident nominations.

This month brought seven League volunteers out to complete a mailing of 600 letters. My sincerest gratitude goes out to Sally Metzger, Scott Gehl, Marianne Poprosky, Judy Weidemann, Shirley Joy, and Anne Creaven for their enthusiasm, humor and dedication. And what about those oatmeal raisin cookies? They were such a hit that there was a request to include the recipe in this report! It appears below.

Later this month, this committee will conduct a nominations meeting at Marine Drive.

Alan Dozoretz, Election Services Chair

Oatmeal Raisin Cookies

Ingredients

1 1/2 cups pecans	1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 pound (2 sticks) unsalted butter, at room temperature	1 teaspoon baking powder
1 cup dark brown sugar, lightly packed	1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 cup granulated sugar	1 teaspoon kosher salt
2 extra-large eggs, at room temperature	3 cups old-fashioned oatmeal
2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract	1 1/2 cups raisins

Directions

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.

Place the pecans on a sheet pan and bake for 5 minutes, until crisp. Set aside to cool. Chop very coarsely.

In the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, beat the butter, brown sugar, and granulated sugar together on medium-high speed until light and fluffy. With the mixer on low, add the eggs, one at a time, and the vanilla.

Sift the flour, baking powder, cinnamon, and salt together into a medium bowl. With the mixer on low, slowly add the dry ingredients to the butter mixture. Add the oats, raisins, and pecans and mix just until combined.

Using a small ice-cream scoop or a tablespoon, drop 2-inch mounds of dough onto sheet pans lined with parchment paper. Flatten slightly with a damp hand. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes, until lightly browned. Transfer the cookies to a baking rack and cool completely.

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Book Review

The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote, by Elaine Weiss

Although the book is lengthy, 400 pages, and at times dense with many characters, it is a must-read for the League of Women Voters. Elaine goes back to the early 1920s when the 19th Amendment was passed and 35 states had ratified it. However, in order for it to become the law of the land, the 36th state, Tennessee, had to pass it in their state legislature. Elaine focuses on the campaign's last six weeks in Tennessee. The Suffragists were divided but especially had to battle the "Antis" – women opposing their own enfranchisement because they feared the moral collapse of the nation. The Suffragists, under the leadership of Carrie Chapman Catt and other women, have to deal with the Antis, wary politicians, corporate lobbyists, and racists. The book also mentions the importance of the newly established League of Women Voters.

Joyce Bol



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF BUFFALO/NIAGARA

1272 Delaware Ave, Buffalo, NY 14209

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

May 2018 Calendar

Thursday, 5/3, 10:00 a.m. - noon

Great Decisions

League Office

Tuesday, 5/8, 4:00 p.m.

Issues Committee

Harlem Road Community Center

Wednesday, 5/9, 1:30 p.m.

Local Government Committee

League Office

Monday, 5/14, 4:00 p.m.

Board of Directors

League Office

Wednesday, 5/23, 5:30 p.m.

Perspectives on What Works in Public Education

Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site

Thursday, 5/24, 1:30 p.m.

Education 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