

VOTER - September 2018

Note: The deadline for the October Voter is Wednesday, September 12. Please email submissions to Nancy DeTine.

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Our Damaged Democracy: Can We Fix It?

Monday, October 1, 2018

Registration: 5:30 p.m.
Program: 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site
641 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14202

Panelists and their presentations

James E. Campbell, PhD, UB Distinguished Professor of Political Science, SUNY University at Buffalo, on polarization in American political life, plus the role and impact of the president

Jamie P. Pimlott, PhD, Associate Professor of Political Science, Niagara University, on the role of Congress, plus women in politics or the lack thereof

Peter Yacobucci, PhD, Associate Professor of Political Science, SUNY Buffalo State, on the role of the Supreme Court, current issues, plus ideas for conflict resolution

Join us for what is certain to be a lively discussion, inspired by *Our Damaged Democracy: We the People Must Act*, the recent book by Joseph A. Califano, Jr. Refreshments will be served.

Free and open to the public

RSVP by Wednesday, September 26. Make reservations online at lwvbn.org or call the League office at 716-986-4898.

The TR Site is easily reached via public transportation. Parking is free in the lot behind the building accessible from Delaware Avenue or Franklin Street, between Allen and North Streets. Note: Franklin Street is one-way northbound.

Special thanks to our co-sponsors:

The Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site

The Association for a Buffalo Presidential Center

Great Decisions

Joan Sillman has volunteered to facilitate our sixth Great Decisions topic: U.S. Global Engagement and the Military, to be discussed from 10 a.m. until noon on Thursday, September 6, at 1272 Delaware. "The global power balance is rapidly evolving leaving the United States at a turning point with respect to its level of engagement and the role of its military. Some argue for an 'America first' paradigm with a large military to ensure security, while others call for a more assertive posture overseas. Some advocate for a restoration of American multilateral leadership and a strengthened role for diplomacy. Still others envision a restrained U.S. role, involving a more limited military. How does the military function in today's international order, and how might it be balanced with diplomatic and foreign assistance capabilities?" Lots to ponder.

Bernice Baeumler

Naturalization Ceremonies

On July 12, Elisabeth Zausmer and Patricia Wille welcomed 62 new citizens at the naturalization ceremony at ECC/North. On July 19, Sandra O'Hara and Michele Greco represented the League at the U.S. Courthouse where 35 candidates from 17 countries became citizens. Joyce Bol and Josette Cunningham welcomed 55 new citizens from 25 countries at the July 26 ceremony at the Burchfield Penney Art Center.

On August 2 at the U.S. Courthouse, seven federal judges appeared together for the first time at a naturalization ceremony to celebrate the 115 years that the Buffalo courts have been granting citizenship. The judges all spoke openly about their own immigrant heritage. Sharon Cramer and Elisabeth Zausmer represented the League, welcoming 50 new citizens from 24 countries.

Patricia Wille, Volunteer Coordinator for Naturalization Ceremonies

Election Services Committee

During July, this committee came together to accomplish an amazing feat: an election notice mailing to Marine Drive that called for more than 800 pieces to be folded, stuffed and stamped.

My great appreciation to members Judy Clarke, Judy Weidemann, Ramona Gallagher, Sally Metzger, Shirley Joy, Mike Egan and her daughter, Kathleen Macaluso, Marlene Katzel, Marianne Poprosky, Lois Uteg and Ellie Johnson. This month Al Dozoretz, Nora Mikes, Ramona Gallagher, Marlene Katzel and Lois Uteg will be conducting elections at Marine Drive, with Judy Capodicasa and Marianne Poprosky as back-ups.

My deepest appreciation for all of those valued members who have consistently given their time and efforts to this committee and to our League.

Alan Dozoretz, Co-Chair

Summer 2018 Voter Registration Activity

Many, many thanks to all the League members who gave their time and energy to register new voters this summer. In addition to twice monthly naturalization ceremonies, League members registered voters at the following venues:

May 12, Hamburg Music Festival

Agnes Annis, Dana Lamb, Terri Parks and Betty Krist

May 19, Vet Fest

Sue Kirkland and Mike Egan

June 6, Buffalo Academy of Science Charter School

Ramona Gallagher and Mike Egan (arranged by Lee Tetkowski)

June 9, Buffalo Naval Park

Deb Shiffren and Barb Rubin

June 9, University United Festival

Judy Capodicasa, Scott Gehl, Sue Kirkland and Mary Ellen Dye

June 23, World Refugee Day

Lyle Toohey, Chris Reichsmuth, Janet Goodsell and Marian Deutschman

June 30, Taste of Diversity

Dana Saylor and Eva Hassett

June 30, March for Families

Mike Egan

July 4, Naval Park

Pat Egan and Peg Mergenhagen

July 14, March for Science

Terri Parks and Helen Mayo

August 3 and 24, Hilbert College Student Orientation

Peg Mergenhagen, Kathy Elias, Linda Koenigsburg and Liz Zausmer (arranged by Janet Goodsell)

Our appreciation to all for your vital community service!

Mike Egan

Welcome New Members!

We extend a very warm welcome to everyone who joined the League of Women Voters this past year, including our most recent members: Eileen Cassidy, Kathleen Elias, Michelle Perkins, Thomas Sciolino, Christine Prygon, Barbara Gunderson, and Pamela and Tom Sivertsen.

When asked what sparked your interest in League, many of you immediately responded that you wanted to help register new voters – and then you jumped right in. Fantastic!

Voting is the essential connection between citizens and their government and the League's mission has always been to make that connection stronger. In this important election year, we embrace your enthusiasm and willingness to participate in our voter service activities. But, whatever your reason for becoming a member of the League – and there are many – we are pleased to have you with us.

To get to know you better, and to tell you about all League programs and activities, we hope you will be able to attend our New Members Meeting in October. **An invitation will be coming to you soon.**

Janet Massaro, Chair, Membership Committee

Our Nuclear Times: Article Nine

A selection of timely, and timeless, quotations

“Clean-up work, which includes a mixture of radioactive and chemical wastes, is the largest environmental remediation ever undertaken by mankind and the most technologically challenging.”

Gregory Freidman, Inspector General (retired), Department of Energy, “Budget Hobbles Nuclear Cleanup,” The Wall Street Journal, November 2, 2015

“The situation is so grave that we should more properly be camped out night and day in front of legislative and regulatory bodies demanding the permanent end to any and every expression of this continued nuclear menace, be it civilian or military.”

*Excerpt from the foreword by Jerry Mander and Ernest Callenbach from the book **Nuclear Roulette: The Truth About the Most Dangerous Energy Source on Earth** by Gar Smith, Chelsea Green Publishing, Vermont, 2012.*

“Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men.”

Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968), American civil rights leader

“Nuclear power is unacceptable because it unavoidably inflicts cancer and genetic injury on people. It is mass, random, premeditated murder.”

John Gofman, M.D., Ph.D., 1971 founder of the Committee for Nuclear Responsibility

Helpful links:

<http://www.westvalleyctf.org/> <http://www.nirs.org/> <http://www.westvalleyphaseonestudies.org/>
<http://www.wv.doe.gov/> <http://www.chbvw.com/>

Note: Questions and suggestions are welcome! Email Barb at bfbuffalony@yahoo.com

Barbara Frackiewicz

2018 ELECTIONS
IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR VOTERS

Primary Day: Thursday, September 13, 2018

Election Day: Tuesday, November 6, 2018

You can register to vote if you will be 18 years old by December 31, 2018.

You must be 18 years old to vote.

DEADLINES TO REGISTER TO VOTE
in the general election on November 6, 2018

October 12, 2018

Last day to postmark voter registration form (must be received by October 17, 2018) or register in person at Board of Elections.

If you have moved you need to RE-REGISTER.

October 17, 2018

Last day by which change of address must be received by the Board of Elections.

OUT OF TOWN ON ELECTION DAY?

To vote in your home district you will need an ABSENTEE BALLOT.

October 30, 2018: Last day to postmark application for absentee ballot

November 5, 2018: Last day to apply in person for absentee ballot

November 5, 2018: Last day to postmark ballot for general election (must be received by November 13, 2018)

November 6, 2018: Last day to deliver absentee ballot in person to Board of Elections

Margaret Brunson, Voter Service Chair