



your
★ VOTER ★

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President

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LWVNYS website

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LWVUS website

www.lwv.org

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Voter copy is due
Monday, January 14 .
Send copy to Nancy
DeTine at
lwvbn@lwvbn..org

Identity Theft, Scams & Fraud ... Oh My!

How to Protect Yourself

Thursday, January 10, 2019

Registration: 11:30 a.m.

Speaker: 12:00 noon, lunch to follow

Scotch 'n Sirloin Restaurant

3999 Maple Road, Amherst, NY 14226

Guest speaker: **Karen Davis, Senior Consumer
Fraud Representative, New York State Office of the
Attorney General**

It seems like every day brings reports of another data breach ... not to mention phone and email scams. Karen has helped recover millions of dollars for fraud victims. Join us as this award-winning expert advises how to guard against a wealth of financial crimes!

RSVP by Monday, January 7

Make reservations online at lwvbn.org or call the League office at 716-896-4898. The \$18 lunch cost can be paid upon arrival.

No charge to attend the program only.

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.

President's Report: Honoring League Volunteers from 2018

For the past few years, I have compiled a list of the folks who have helped carry out the work of the League. Each year, the list has grown! Most of the people on the list are League members. Many people have volunteered for two to six different League activities and many times during the year for each of them. Some of the people on the list volunteered once or for only one specific activity, such as attending naturalization ceremonies and registering new citizens to vote. We value the work of each person below regardless of the number of hours or activities where you've helped the League further its mission.

"I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy." Rabindranath Tagore

I hope that each of the 121 fine people in this list finds joy in service to the League of Women Voters. I surely do!

Kristin Allen	Scott Gehl	Ann Marie	Joan Photiadis
Agnes Annis	Ellen Gibson	Malachowski	Marianne Poprosky
Phyllis Banas	Gladys Gifford	Maggie Maloney	Tina Prygon
Marian Bass	Janet Goodsell	Janet Massaro	Christine Reichmuth
Joyce Bol	Diane Goupil	Helen Mayo	Lori Robinson
Barbara Brooks	Michelle Greco	Kathleen McCarthy	Alberta Roman
Dot Brown	Barb Gunderson	Laura McDade	Barb Rubin
Margaret Brunson	Marie Hanrahan	Angela McGowan	Dana Saylor
Judy Capodicasa	Eva Hassett	Mary Ellen McGowan	Deborah Schiffner
James Carr	Mary Herbst	JoAnn Mecca	Joan Sillman
Judy Casassa	Judy Hoffman	Peg Mergenhagen	Joan Simmons
Judith Clarke	Judy Huber	Judy Metzger	Joan Simon
Ann Converso	Ann Ingleman	Sally Metzger	Lynda Stephens
Pat Costanzo	Maxine Insera	Nora Mikes	Sue Stievater
Sharon Cramer	Shirley Joy	Arlene Miles	Flora Summe
Ann Creaven	Charles Kaars	Mary Mulcahy	Dorothy Tao
Sandy Cummings	Joanne Kahn	Jayne Murray	Lee Tetkowski
Josette Cunningham	Marlene Katzel	Pete Neal	Lyle Toohey
Carol DeLuca	Beth Kauffman	Marja Nordman	Mary Ann Turkla
Nancy DeTine	Marilee Keller	Lindsay Norval	Lois Uhteg
Kristen deGuehery	Joan Kernan	Ellen Neumaier	Lynne Vallone
Marian Deutschman	Sue Kirkland	Sandra O'Hara	Sara Vernon
Krysta Doerfler	Carolyn Koelmel	Wally Ochterski	Kate Wagner
Alan Dozoretz	Linda Koenigsberg	Barbara Ochterski	Judy Weidemann
Mary Ellen Dye	Betty Krist	Dusan Palka	Patricia Wille
Mike Egan	Claudia Kruszynski	Amelia Palka	Amy Witryol
Pat Egan	Payton Lamb	Max Palka	Liz Zausmer
Kathy Elias	Dana Lamb	Tony Palka	Janet Zehr
Lynn Ellis	Janet Lenichek	Terri Parks	Joyce Zobel
Barbara Frackiewicz	Callie Lockwood	Lisa Parshall	
Ramona Gallagher	Kathleen Macaluso	Michelle Perkins	

Terri Parks

Great Decisions

The Great Decisions briefing books for 14 people are on order and delivery is expected in early January. Because our group does not meet until March 7, either Fran Holmes or I will keep the copies until then, unless someone requests them ahead of time. We were able to qualify for the 20% discount so the price will be \$29.80 when we exchange that amount for the 2019 book. Thanks for continuing and I look forward to resuming at a time of much better weather.

Bernice Baeumler, 876 0672

Election Services

The Election Services Committee visited two sites and completed one mailing. The mailing for a Frederick Douglass nominations meeting included Kathleen McCarthy, Mike Egan, Marlene Katzel, and Ramona Gallagher. Thank you to Bernice Baeumler for transporting her Great Decisions group out of the library so that we could make use of the large table and chairs.

Nora Mikes, Marlene Katzel, and Lois Uhteg ably assisted with the resident council election at Kenfield Langfield, while Janet Goodsell demonstrated her professionalism during a nominations meeting at Frederick Douglass.

Thank you to everyone who made these commitments successful.

Alan Dozoretz, Chair, Election Services

Naturalization Ceremonies

Judy Weidemann represented the League at the November 29 naturalization ceremony at the U.S. Courthouse where she welcomed 56 new citizens. On December 6, Elisabeth Zausmer and Patricia Wille welcomed 51 new citizens at the U.S. Courthouse. Deborah Shiffner and Janet Goodsell welcomed 53 new citizens from 26 countries on December 11 at the U.S. Courthouse.

Robert Hellwitz from the Erie County Board of Elections has been very helpful in facilitating completion and collection of voter registration forms at the naturalization ceremonies.

Patricia Wille, Volunteer Service Coordinator for Naturalization Ceremonies

Welcome New Members

Please welcome Dr. Iris Danzinger and Andrea Baldi as new members to our League.

Janet Massaro, Chair, Membership Committee

Our Nuclear Times: Article 13

Today's new word is **leachate** [pronounced **LEECH-ate**]. Let's go back to the years 1966 to 1975, when Western New York's West Valley site accepted nuclear wastes. Leachate refers to the rainwater that percolated down into the waste trenches.

These nuclear wastes "came from offsite medical, educational, research, industrial, pharmaceutical, federal installations, nuclear power plants and ... from the onsite nuclear fuel reprocessing facility. The majority of waste buried at West Valley consisted of paper trash, animal carcasses, evaporator bottoms, filter, filter sludges, protective apparel, residues, plastic, glass and packing material. These materials were packaged in drums, liners, crates, bags and boxes." [page 3-25], Review of Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal History, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, November 1981]. Specifically, this report described wastes in the SDA, the State-licensed Disposal Area. If the 14 trenches of the SDA were placed end to end, they would add up to one trench 1½ miles in length.

The following notes were taken from that same 1981 NRC [Nuclear Regulatory Commission] report:

About the trenches: "The disposal site consists of 14 shallow land burial trenches." Most of the trenches are about 33 feet wide and 20 feet deep. These trenches are separated by 10 feet, so that trench walls can stand firmly, and to prevent migration between trenches. These trenches were excavated and then used in segments to minimize rainwater accumulation.

About the wastes: "Most of the waste delivered to the disposal facility and disposed was packaged in 55-gallon steel drums. Wastes having a radiation level at the container surface in excess of 200 mR/hr were required to be solidified in concrete. Many of the waste containers were placed (rolled or dropped) into the trenches by hand. Heavy containers and packages with high external radiation levels were placed into the trench with the aid of a large capacity crane. Many of the 55-gallon drums were stacked in place." [page 3-28]

About the leachate: Drains were installed in the trench floors, leading to sump pumps. Leachate [rainwater that percolated into the trenches and acquired contamination] was pumped out and treated. Between 1975 and 1976, more than 1.6 million gallons of leachate were pumped from trenches #3, #4, and #5. Additional leachate was pumped in later years. "The main performance problem which has occurred at the West Valley facility is accumulation of leachate within the disposal trenches." [page 3-29] "The leachate is contaminated with radionuclides from the buried waste." [page 3-30] Enormous, special trench covers are currently in place to prevent additional rainwater from seeping into these trenches.

Barbara Frackiewicz

We Need Your Ideas!

Each year, the state League requests suggestions for the legislative priorities for lobbying our state legislators. We are also invited to submit ideas for state League program to be decided at the biennial convention in June 2019. Please take some time to think about these two opportunities and join us at the Issues and Program Committee meeting on Tuesday, January 8, 2019, at the Harlem Road Community Center at 4:00 p.m. You may write us your suggestions and mail or email them to the League office, lwvbn@lwvbn.org by January 5. We look forward to a lively discussion.

Marian Deutschman & Terri Parks

Waterfront Committee Update

Several League members attended the open house offered by the Erie Canal Harbor Development Corporation (ECHDC) on November 19 at the KeyBank Center in downtown Buffalo. This open house was the second public meeting where the ECHDC presented its plans for more attractions at the Outer Harbor.

We were overwhelmed by the presentations and displays offered by the consultants who responded to the Request for Proposals offered by the ECHDC this past January. The whole area was segmented into three parts: the marina area opposite Times Beach, the area from Wilkeson Pointe to the Bell Slip, and Terminal B. Every part was then covered with suggestions for crowd-pleasing activity, such as trails, observation points, informational kiosks and restrooms.

The public was asked to submit comments at the open house or through contacting the ECHDC website. Some of us submitted comments on the spot; I'm planning to submit comments at the website: outerharborbuffalo.com/accessandactivation. The deadline for comments was December 23, 2018. (*Gladys also sent comments in a letter to ECHDC on behalf of LWVBN.*)

The various development projects offered by the consultants do show better sensitivity to the ecological importance of the Outer Harbor. Space is set aside for meadows and overlook locations are recognized. The sand dunes are protected. Attention is given to water habitat for fish spawning. However, greater attention must be given to the reality that the whole of the Outer Harbor land is contaminated landfill and must be respected as a brownfield, much of which must not be disturbed. The first priority should be to leave the soil intact and then to let the spaces evolve to benefit the natural environment.

As for the marina area opposite Times Beach, we can be encouraged by the various proposals to bring the public in contact with the Connecting Terminal grain silos. This fits with our LWVBN waterfront principle, to document and preserve the significant industrial history of the Outer Harbor. However, any changes in the marina area should preserve all the boating docks and facilities currently at the site, as an appropriate commercial use.

As for Terminal B, we question the intent to demolish that structure, which does witness to the commercial history of the site. Furthermore, the ECHDC should determine the impact on water and shoreline if the pilings that support Terminal B are removed.

The ECHDC intends to compile and summarize all the comments and responses from the public, and then offer a final public meeting in the spring of 2019. ECHDC will present the preferred alternative and implementation projects at that time. This process is funded with \$15 million from the Buffalo II offering from New York State.

We shall keep a close eye on these developments. The next meeting of the Waterfront Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, January 16, 2019. We meet in the Central Library café area from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. Join us!

Gladys Gifford, Chair, Waterfront Committee

The League of Women Voters is a cosponsor for the 2019 Women's March – Buffalo/WNY

Our actions are more important now than ever! Stand up for principles, the spirit, and specific local goals.

Sunday, January 20, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Niagara Square, Buffalo NY

More information including registration, cosponsors, suggesting local goals at: Wnypeace.org or contact Info@wnypeace.org or 716-332-3904

Make sure to wear your League name badge or a League pin if you march.

Money in Politics

2019 ... is this the year?

Is 2019 *really* the year the New York State Legislature passes the good government reforms we've worked so hard to achieve? So far, the signs are positive. Last year members of our League joined those of other New York local Leagues and other organizations to register thousands of new voters. As a result, the number of new voters surged upward. In my own election district more than 70% of registered voters turned up to vote on Election Day. It was exciting to witness a steady stream of voters enter our polling place and to see every seat occupied as they filled out their ballots and waited patiently to cast their ballots into the voting machines.

Our newly elected legislators are also paying attention. It is time to let them know what is on our agenda. We are listing here our priority reforms for 2019 – those that are most doable and, when enacted, will have the greatest impact.

- **Early voting.** New York is one of the remaining states that does not permit early voting. In this busy, busy world early voting is guaranteed to boost voter turnout. The proposal we support includes two weekends and some evenings for in-person early voting and is fully funded in the bill itself.
- **Automatic voter registration.** Secure online voter registration will be less of an administrative burden and will increase the accuracy of the voter rolls.
- **Same day voter registration.** Registering and voting on the same day is a proven method of improving voter turnout. We need it here in New York State.
- **Closing the LLC loophole.** The State Board of Elections presently allows corporations to pour huge amounts of money into the coffers of political parties and candidates running for office. We have long lobbied to dramatically lower these amounts. This is the year to close the LLC loophole.

We'll be listening carefully to the governor's State of the State message early in January to know if his reform priorities match ours. Then we'll get busy, so save these numbers:

- Governor Andrew Cuomo, 518-474-8390
- Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins, 518 455-2585
- Speaker of the Assembly Carl Heastie, 518-455-3791

Janet Massaro, Chair, MIP Committee

From the December 2018 LWV New York State Voter

Lawsuit with NYCLU on Voter Registration Deadline

The League has signed on as a plaintiff on the NYCLU lawsuit to challenge the 25-day voter registration deadline. Public interest in the people and issues on the ballot peaks in the 25 days before Election Day. Candidates debate each other, new information comes out about their campaign fundraising, endorsements are announced, and ads blanket the airwaves. Yet eligible voters who become motivated to vote by the flurry of electoral activity in the last four weeks of political campaigns find themselves unable to do so because they failed to register prior to the 25-day cut-off. The lawsuit charges that the voter registration cut-off is no longer necessary in the age of computers and needlessly disenfranchises thousands of voters. The suit claims that this disenfranchisement violates the state Constitution's guarantee of the fundamental right to vote as well as its equal protection clause.

From the December 2018 LWV New York State Voter

Successful Gubernatorial Debate

After failing to find a media co-sponsor, the League pursued holding a Gubernatorial Debate without a media sponsor. Of the 5 gubernatorial candidates, 4 (Stephanie Miner, Larry Sharpe, Marc Molinaro and Howie Hawkins) immediately agreed to participate when we announced the debate. Governor Cuomo was the only one to refuse to participate. The College of Saint Rose graciously agreed to host the debate and provide the technology to live stream the event on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. The state office organized a Go Fund Me to raise money to support any costs that would arise around the debate. We were able to raise over \$5,000 much of which was raised from donors who had never donated to the League.

The debate was moderated by LWVNY Executive Director, Laura Ladd Bierman, and questions were asked by the following media panel:

- Susan Arbetter, State Capitol Correspondent and News & Public Affairs Director for WCNY Syracuse Public Television and host and producer of The Capitol Pressroom
- Ken Lovett, New York Daily News Albany Bureau Chief
- Josefa Velasquez, Investigative Reporter at Sludge

The media panel also included a College of Saint Rose journalism student, Takora McIntyre. Takora is a junior majoring in communications at The College of Saint Rose with a concentration in journalism. Her work has been featured on the Times Union's Pine Hills blog.

The debate itself had great media coverage and our social media posts were shared hundreds of times. The live stream, itself, has been viewed by over 80,000 people and the Facebook post has been shared by 496 users. Overall we had great engagement and visibility around the event and everyone agreed it was a tremendous success.

Sally Robinson and Jennifer Wilson, Advocacy

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Many of you already know that working with students and the PTA is one great way of integrating your League into your community, and you also know that this sort of integration is critical to the League's health and success. Fortunately our state League is one of 20 state Leagues participating in a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) effort that the national League is spearheading. LWVUS is asking us to dig deep personally and as state (and eventually local) Leagues to be more aware of our own biases and our very human tendency to stay within the comfortable cultures we know. Now we will not just intend to do a better job of connecting with our wider communities. A self-assessment period begins in January, and by early March the participating state Leagues should have created action plans. This important work can be put off no longer.

You can read more about the DEI program here:

<https://www.lwv.org/League-management/leadership-development/diversity-equity-and-inclusion> While we will eventually be including local Leagues in our plans, don't wait for us in this work either. As you'll see at the link above, there are provocative, helpful resources on the LWVUS website that you can put to use right away personally and with your League. Finally, if this work is especially interesting to you, please let me know. We will try to involve you as soon as possible.

From LWVBN: We have already begun this effort and hope to have a board retreat in March to examine our biases if we aren't able to tap into the state League efforts.

Dare Thompson, LWVNY President



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF BUFFALO/NIAGARA

1272 Delaware Ave, Buffalo, NY 14209

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

January 2019 Calendar

Tuesday, January 8, 4:00 p.m.

Issues/Program Committee

Harlem Road Community Center

Thursday, January 10, 11:30 a.m.

Identity Theft, Scam & Fraud

Scotch 'n Sirloin Restaurant

Monday, January 14, 3:30 p.m.

Board of Directors

League Office

Wednesday, January 16, 1:30 p.m.

Local Government Committee

League Office

Wednesday, January 16, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Waterfront Committee

Café area at Central Library

Thursday, January 17, 1:30 p.m.

Education Committee

League Office

Sunday, January 20, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

2019 Women's March – Buffalo/WNY

Niagara Square, Buffalo

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

