



your
★ VOTER ★

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LWVNYS website

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LWVUS website

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Monday of the month to Terri
Parks at lwvoter@verizon.net.



Buffalo's Outer Harbor: What's to Love?

Free and open to the public

Date: Wednesday, May 4, 2022

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Location: Buffalo History Museum, 1 Museum Ct., Nottingham at Elmwood, Buffalo 14216

Learn how the valuable ecological networks of the Outer Harbor make connections to the surrounding wetlands and to important bird habitats, and how it functions to protect urban areas from lake storms.

Presenters:

Jay Burney, a longtime community and conservation activist and accomplished photographer, has provided a video for viewing. Jay is a founder of The Our Outer Harbor Coalition, the Times Beach Nature Preserve, and the Learning Sustainability Campaign; Executive Director of the Pollinator Conservation Association, and international chair of Birds on the Niagara, the only international birding festival in North America.

Margaret Wooster is a watershed planner who has worked for almost 40 years with local governments and environmental organizations on protecting water in local streams and aquifers and in the Great Lakes Basin. She was a founder of Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, and Executive Director of the bi-national coalition Great Lakes United. She is the author of several books including Living Waters (2009) and Meander (2021).

Claudia Rosen is a Community Engagement Project Manager at Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper. She is the lead educator for the Young Environmental Leaders Program at Niagara Falls High School and also coordinates outreach for the Buffalo River Remedial Advisory Committee.

As host, the League of Women Voters will suggest ways to advocate for the whole of the Outer Harbor to become a New York State park.

Thanks to our co-sponsors:

The Buffalo History Museum

Our Outer Harbor

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 Letter

Dear Members and Friends,

With so much turmoil going on in the world it is hard to stay optimistic. We must carry on and continue to push our mission forward.

The board is preparing for our Annual Meeting on June 11, 2022, at Sean Patrick's on Niagara Falls Blvd. The details are included in the Annual Meeting Booklet that accompanies this issue of Your Voter. Thank you to all who attended the LWVNYC Concurrence meeting on April 13 with our fellow League members from Chautauqua and Cattaraugus/Allegany counties. Despite a technical issue at the end of the meeting our local League concurred that we accept all four positions on the Board of Elections Administration and Voting for the Incarcerated.

We still have three delegate positions available to attend the **LWVUS Convention**, June 23 – 26. The Convention page with all the details is at: <https://www.lwv.org/manage-your-league/council-convention>. Delegates may attend the convention in person in Denver, CO, or virtually. With the uncertainty about travel this summer, the two delegates who have been identified have decided to attend virtually. Please contact the office if you would like to attend by May 10, 2022, and we will register you for the virtual conference.

In League, Lori Robinson

Pulling the Race Card

Our League and members from four partner organizations – Jewish Community Relations Council, NAACP Buffalo Branch, National Action Network and Westminster Presbyterian Church – will discuss race in a manner that helps to debunk myths and stereotypes about certain groups of people. Sisters Sarah Pearson Collins and Kezia Pearson, who created Pulling the Race Card, will facilitate the evening's discussion groups. They are passionate about race relations subject matter and bring this enthusiasm into their seminars and courses. You may view the event at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84586881048?pwd=QnY5SVhjUS94eGs4VklrQ0lpSmtaQT09>.

This event is another experience in the ongoing collaboration between the League and other community organizations, which has been coordinated by Liz Zausmer with help from members of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee and members of the partner organizations.

Terri Parks

Great Decisions

The Great Decisions discussion group will meet on Thursday, May 12, 2022, via Zoom, to discuss Chapter 6 in the 2022 Great Decisions book: **No End in Sight: A Century of Drug Wars**. The Foreign Policy Association, which sponsors this discussion group nationwide, says this about the topic: "The issue of migration to the United States from Latin America has overshadowed the war on drugs, which has been underway for decades with little signs of progress. What are the roots and the bureaucratic logic behind today's dominant drug policies in Latin America? Is it time to reconsider punitive drug control policies that disrupt supply chains and punish drug possession?" by Mónica Serrano

Alberta Roman will moderate this discussion. For additional information contact Fran Holmes.

Fran Holmes, Great Decisions Coordinator

School Board Candidate Forums

The League will be busy during the second week in May moderating and keeping time for several school board elections in Erie and Niagara counties.

The East Aurora Union Free School District will host a live event at the Middle School Library, Main Street, East Aurora 14052, on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. It will be live-streamed and recorded.

The Williamsville PTA Council will host a candidate forum on Wednesday, May 11, 2022, moderated by the League that may be viewed on the district's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2a2-FNlgGWg>.

The Starpoint Central School District will host a candidate meeting in the Middle School cafeteria, 4363 Mapleton Road, Lockport, NY 14094, at 6:30 p.m. on May 10, 2022. This will be a live event and recorded for later viewing.

There are also candidate forums in the planning stages for the Clarence Schools, Hamburg Central School District, and Lockport City School District. We will post details on our webpage, lwvbn.org when the plans are completed.

Terri Parks, Candidate Forum Coordinator

Healthcare Committee News

Our League Healthcare Committee has been meeting for almost a year. We welcome new members who have interests in healthcare issues at any time and are open to consider issues that we haven't already discussed.

Recently our committee members have expressed interest in learning about resources for people who can no longer care for themselves. We want to know where to go for support in Erie and Niagara counties.

After several months of discussions of the possibility/need for a committee focused upon the local mental health system in both Niagara and Erie counties, a committee was formed at our March meeting, chaired by Therese Warden. Preliminary research has been in progress for many weeks with interviews of key people including clients in and out of treatment and relevant staff of the mental health system itself. Jenifer Hoffman will focus on the structure and needs in Niagara County. Judy Huber and Terri Parks have also become members but we need more people to join this effort. Currently, meetings will take place at Therese Warden's house. If anyone has any questions or would like to join the committee, please call Therese Warden.

Pat Townsend, who represents our League on the West Valley Citizen Task Force, is studying and monitoring environmental health concerns related to the West Valley Demonstration Project. One concern is that nuclear energy cannot be called clean unless the "dirty" end products are safely managed for posterity. This is the opinion expressed urgently to Congress by Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board as follows: "... Although studies have shown that the nuclear waste can be safely stored for an extended period of time if associated recommendations and programs are followed, timely progress toward the long-term solution disposal in an underground geologic repository is still a matter of urgency. The lack of a route for permanent disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High Level Waste is one of the major impediments to the nation's further development of nuclear energy and advancement of U.S. nuclear technology and commerce." The Buffalo News article of 3-16-22, headlined "Critics blast Utah mill that accepted tons of Tonawanda's nuclear program waste," speaks to the problems of management of radioactive waste.

Please check our website, lwvbn.org, for information about the Healthcare Committee and its meetings at 11:00 a.m. on the fourth Friday of every month. Join us for a short time and stay longer if you are interested.

Alberta Roman, Chair, Healthcare Committee



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF BUFFALO/NIAGARA

1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

May 2022

Note: Due to social distancing and stay-at-home practices, meetings are subject to change and may take place via phone or computer. Please contact the committee chair for the latest information.

Tuesday, May 3, 4:00 p.m.

Program, Issues & Events Committee

via Zoom

Wednesday, May 4, 6:00 p.m.

Buffalo's Outer Harbor: What's to Love

Buffalo History Museum

Monday, May 9, 4:00 p.m.

Board Meeting

via Zoom

Wednesday, May 11, 2:00 p.m.

Local Government Committee

via Zoom

Thursday, May 12, 10:00 a.m.

Great Decisions

via Zoom

Tuesday, May 17, 7:00 p.m.

Diversity/Equity/Inclusion Committee

via Zoom

Friday, May 20, 1:00 p.m.

Money in Politics Committee

League Office

Tuesday, May 24, 4:30 p.m.

Education Committee

via Zoom

Friday, May 27, 11:00 a.m.

Healthcare Committee

via Zoom