



The League of Women Voters
of Buffalo/Niagara



VOTER

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May 2013

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The **VOTER** is published
10 times per year. Items
for the June issue are
due Friday, May 10.



**Renaissance of Buffalo—
Successful Business/
Government Partnerships**

Panel Discussion

- Howard Zemsky, Managing Partner, Larkin Development Group**
- Rocco Termini, President, Signature Development Buffalo**
- Brendan Mehaffey, Executive Director, City of Buffalo Office of Strategic Planning**
- Christina Orsi, WNY Regional Director, Empire State Development Corporation**
- Tom Kucharski, President & CEO, Buffalo Niagara Enterprise**

May 21, 2013

Hotel@Lafayette Greenhouse Room, 391 Washington St., Buffalo
Noon–2 p.m. - Hot buffet lunch promptly at 12:15 p.m.
\$35 non-members, \$30 LWV members*

For further information call LWVBN office 884-3550.
Reservation deadline – May 7. Limited seating.
Send checks written to LWVBN to LWVBN, 1272 Delaware Ave., Buffalo, NY 14209.
***\$50 option for League members who reserve for both this event and the League’s Annual Meeting, June 15 at the Protocol Restaurant, by the May 7 deadline.**

League of Women Voters Mission:

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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President's Message

We're excited about the May 21st luncheon in the beautiful Hotel @ The Lafayette Greenhouse Room. As you see, the panel that will discuss the renaissance of Buffalo includes some of the key people leading that renaissance! The momentous developments in the city are important to everyone in our region. A vibrant, healthy Buffalo benefits us all.

We're also excited about our June 15th Annual Meeting guest speaker, Katharine Bodde. Ms. Bodde will come from New York City to speak about Governor Cuomo's Women's Equality Agenda (WEA). She is currently Policy Counsel for the New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU) and has been actively involved with the WEA. She specializes in reproductive rights and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) issues. She joined the NYCLU in 2009 after graduating magna cum laude from Brooklyn Law School with special recognition for her work in international law and women's rights and her strong commitment to public service. Prior to joining the NYCLU staff, Ms. Bodde combined her background as a New York City teacher and her commitment to fighting violence and poverty to work as a legal educator for communities in provincial areas of Cambodia. While in Cambodia, she empowered women to focus on legal and extralegal remedies for violations of women's rights and citizens' land rights. Ms. Bodde's other experience includes working in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. As a volunteer immigration attorney, Ms. Bodde helped secure asylum status for recent refugees. We'll all enjoy and learn from her address.

As is our policy, League members receive discounts for our special events. And because there are two special events this spring, we're offering members a further discount if their reservations for both the May 21st luncheon and the June 15th Annual Meeting are sent by May 7. Your payment of \$50 by that date reserves your place for both luncheons. You, of course, may also make reservations for guests to either or both occasions. A reservation form can be found in the Annual Meeting booklet that accompanies this edition of the Voter.

The Buffalo/Niagara League will be well represented at the biennial state League convention in Albany on June 1–2. Ramona Gallagher, Gladys Gifford, Barbara Jezorio, Janet Massaro, Terri Parks, Lori Robinson, Dorothy Tao, Mary Ann Turkla and Amy Witryol will attend on behalf of our League.

Terri Parks

Great Decisions

Judy Huber kindly consented to lead our second Great Decisions topic for 2013. We are fortunate because she has had a twenty year connection to this country, Egypt. We meet on Thursday, May 2 from 10:00–noon at 1272 Delaware Avenue. “The popular revolution that ousted Hosni Mubarak in 2011 ushered in the promise of radical change. Two years later, what is the state of Egyptian democracy? How will the military and the civilian government balance power?” I think you will all agree it is a hot topic.

Bernice Baeumler,

The League of Women Voters:

Where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

Work with the LWV to help shape the issues that keep our community fair, vibrant and strong.

LWVBN News and Notes

NATIONAL LEAGUE HISTORY: MARGUERITE M. WELLS

Marguerite M. Wells served as the third national League of Women Voters president from 1934–1944. Ms. Wells grew up on the Minnesota prairie and became interested in politics due in large part to her father's political activity which included being elected to the territorial legislature. Ms. Wells was active in the National American Women Suffrage Association (NAWSA). She aided Carrie Chapman Catt, then president of NAWSA, in creating a new association from NAWSA to educate newly enfranchised voters. This association came to be known as the League of Women Voters.

Ms. Wells served as president of the Minnesota League from 1922–1932. She was known as the “architect of the League’s philosophy of government”, writing articles, books and pamphlets about government and governing. Marguerite Wells was dedicated to the idea that every vote counted. She urged women to learn about how government works and to be active in politics by joining political parties. Ms. Wells remained a major force working for political change until her death in 1959.



Marguerite M. Wells

Marie Hanrahan, League Historian

HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP OFF

The Town of Amherst and Erie County are hosting a hazardous waste drop off on May 18, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., at Erie Community College North Campus. Household cleaners, pesticides, fertilizers, all batteries and antifreeze will be accepted. Call 858-6800 or visit <http://www2.erie.gov/environment/index.php?q=waste-management-and-recycling> for further information. All are urged to take advantage of this opportunity to reduce toxic materials in our environment.

Judy Metzger, Amherst Unit Co-Coordinator

WOMEN'S EQUALITY AGENDA

The LWVBN joined 47 other local Leagues, the state League and nearly 750 other organizations to form the Women's Equality Coalition in April. The state League participates on the coalition's statewide steering committee. LWVBN participates on a local steering committee. Ramona Gallagher is our lead representative to the local steering committee. The coalition's main goal is to sign on more organizations in support of the Women's Equality Agenda (WEA), Governor Cuomo's plan to eliminate barriers to equality that women face every day. The agenda includes provisions that would: advance pay equity; stop discrimination against pregnant workers, low-income families, and domestic violence survivors; stop human trafficking; allow victims of discrimination to recover attorney's fees; and protect reproductive decision making. The entire agenda can be found at <http://nywomensequality.org/>. The League has positions on most of the ten agenda items and supports the entire WEA.

Kathleen McCormick

LWVBN Joan K. Bozer Leadership Award Nomination Form

Introduction

In 2012, the board of directors of the LWVBN created an award in honor of Joan K. Bozer, our long-time member and community leader. This award will be presented annually to a deserving League member who has made significant contributions to the work of the League. An award committee will accept and review nominations for the award and submit names to the board of directors for the final decision.

Criteria

The criteria for the award reflect on some of the many qualities that Joan has demonstrated in her long experience as a League and community leader. The board narrowed the criteria to five key characteristics that we feel are essential to recognize someone's accomplishments. These key characteristics are: ethical, innovative, resourceful, respected, steadfast.

Instructions

Please provide a paragraph of up to 250 words about your nominee. It would be helpful if you referred to the key characteristics in your paragraph, but you are not limited to these.

Nominee:

Submitted By:

Please e-mail the completed nomination form to Janet Goodsell by April 30, 2013.

Election Services

On December 31, 2012, the contract between our local League and the Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority (BMHA) expired. The legal counsel for BMHA, David Rodriguez, wants a three year contract, but has not issued the request for proposals yet. He told Terri Parks and me that he would like our local League to continue supervising all the same BMHA elections we have supervised in the past. We continue to provide election services to the various BMHA sites after receiving prior approval from Mr. Rodriguez on a case by case basis.

We have or will be conducting elections at Holling Homes, Monsignor Geary Apartments, Schwab Terrace, and the Stuyvesant. My heartfelt thanks go out to Judy Capodicasa, Ramona Gallagher, Janet Goodsell and Marlene Katzel for volunteering to assist in this effort.

If any member desires more information about the purpose of the Election Services Committee, please contact me.

Alan Dozoretz Election Services Chair

Education Committee

Lee Tetkowski, accompanied by Dorothy Tao, made a statement at the March 27 meeting of the Buffalo Board of Education to promote fairer prioritization of funds for School #45 and Lafayette High School. These schools are now educating many refugees speaking over forty different languages. Needs that were emphasized include: more pre-K classes, more reading and math coaches, smaller class size, a full time ESL coordinator, more interpreters, specialized staff and materials, attendance teachers and an alternative to Regents exams. Superintendent Pamela Brown expressed appreciation for the information we distributed and plans to follow up with a committee.

The Education Committee would like to encourage greater interest and voter turnout in the upcoming Buffalo School Board Election on May 7. Six seats are up for election this year. The at-large seats will come up next year.

Lee Tetkowski, Education Chair

Natural Resources

East Aurora's Climate Smart Communities Spotlight Project, our new fire hall, will be built to Silver Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards. Construction of fire hall is to begin in May or June of this year.

We are still looking for students to help with our greenhouse gas inventory. We contacted Dr. Brenda Young at Daemen College and Ryan McPherson, sustainability officer at the University at Buffalo, for assistance with finding talented students. Mr. McPherson suggested having students start in the fall to correspond with their academic studies.

We are working with New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and others to find funding for green infrastructure projects including: permeable pavement, stormwater harvesting and reuse, and underground cisterns to collect runoff water.

We are looking for League members to join our Climate Smart Communities campaign—wherever you live!

Ellen Neumaier, Natural Resources Chair



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May 2013

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2 Great Decisions 10:00 a.m.	3	4
5	6	7 Issues 4:30 p.m.	8 Local Government 1:15 p.m.	9 Natural Resources 9:00 a.m.	10	11
12	13 Board 4:00 p.m.	14	15	16 Education 1:30 p.m.	17	18
19	20	21 Renaissance of Buffalo Panel & Luncheon 12:00 p.m.	22 Transportation/ Waterfront 10:00 a.m.	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	