



**Call to the 2016 Annual Meeting** of the  
**League of Women Voters of Buffalo/Niagara**  
**Join us at the Hyatt Place Restaurant**  
**5020 Main Street, Amherst, NY 14226**

**Saturday, June 3, 2017**

**The Annual Meeting of begins with coffee/tea and pastries at 10:00 a.m.**

## **Annual Meeting Luncheon and Program**

Luncheon will be served at noon.

### **Special Awards:**

*Joan K. Bozer Leadership Award: Kathleen McCarthy*

*LEE Award: Joanne Hameister* for Long Term Commitment to the League with Energy,  
and Excellence

*Making Democracy Work Award: Roger Cook*

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**Please cut and return with your reservation and payment.**

**Luncheon: Salad and Sandwich Buffet Dessert, Coffee, Tea and Soda**

### **Cost:**

\$25 members and students

\$30 guests (Guests may plan to arrive shortly before noon.)

**Write checks payable to LWVBN and send your check and this reservation return with the names of everyone whose reservation is included in your payment to:**

**LWVBN  
1272 Delaware Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14209**

**Reservations due by May 25, 2017**

Join us in the company of League members and friends to hear Paul McQuillen, upstate coordinator of New Yorkers Against Gun Violence, address that issue. We will also hear brief remarks from our two Students Inside Albany participants.

Hyatt Place is located on Main Street in Amherst just west of Exit 7A from the I90 or the I290 at Main and Kensington. It is on the north side of Main Street. Parking is available all around the building, but the rear entrance is closest to the banquet room.

**Reservations for the League of Women Voters of Buffalo/Niagara Annual Meeting,  
June 3, 2017, are due by May 25, 2017**

Names, as you would like them written on nametags: (Please note that League members will receive their magnet backed name badges.)	Mark X for each League Member	Vegetarian	Mark X for each person who will attend the morning meeting.
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
<b>Total amount of check payable to LWVBN</b>	_____		
<b>Phone Number:</b>	_____		

**League Of Women Voters Of Buffalo/Niagara  
Report of the 2016-2017 Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of candidates for the election to take place at LWVBN's Annual Meeting on June 3, 2017:

**Officers: (Two Year Term-2017-2019)**

President -----Vacant  
First Vice President-----Vacant  
Second Vice President-----Judith Clarke  
Secretary-----Mary Herbst

**Directors: (Two Year Term – 2017-2019)**

Director (Board Governance)-----Shirley Joy  
Director-----Ann Converso  
Director-----Terri Parks  
Director (Voter Copy Editor)-----Nora Mikes  
Director (Communications/PR Chair)-----Nancy DeTine

**Director: (One Year Term- 2017-2018)**

Director-----Vacant

**Nominating Committee: (One Year Term-2017-2018)**

Nominating Committee Chair-----Ramona Gallagher  
Nominating Committee members-----Kathleen McCarthy  
Janet Goodsell  
Lynne Vallone

**2016-2017 Nominating Committee:**

Chair: Ramona Gallagher  
Members: Kathleen McCarthy, Janet Goodsell, Lynne Vallone  
Lori Robinson, Nicole Matteson

**Officers and Directors whose term continues until 2018:**

Third Vice President-----Marian Deutschman  
Treasurer-----Lori Robinson  
Director-----Pat Costanzo  
Director-----Margaret Brunson  
Director-----Kathy Macaluso

**2017-2018 Budget Notes: League of Women Voters of Buffalo/Niagara**

Due to BMHA unpredictability, this year's budget includes a 5% withdrawal from investments. Grant writing and sponsorship goals should be established and monitored by the Board. If the Board approves unbudgeted items, which *cumulatively* total more than \$1,000 in any one year, the Budget Committee chair should be notified. The board should establish an informal target of roughly \$10,000 cash on hand between the total of the checking and savings accounts.

**2015-2016 Budget Committee**

Chair: Amy Witryol  
Committee members: Margaret Brunson and Lori Robinson  
Ex-officio members: Terri Parks, Mary Ann Turkla

## League of Women Voters of Buffalo/Niagara Proposed 2017-2018 Budget

		Approved 2016-2017	Forecast to 6/30/17	Proposed 2017-2018
<b>Income</b>				
<b>A. Dues</b>				
45001	1. Individuals @ \$65	10,010	10,080	10,660
45002	2. Households @ \$100	1,800	1,700	1,800
45003	3. Other (Students @ \$30)		30	
	Total A. Dues	<b>\$11,810</b>	<b>\$11,810</b>	<b>\$12,460</b>
<b>B. Contributions</b>				
46001	1. Members	4,000	4,301	4,300
46002	2. Non-Members (Individuals & Organizations)	400	65	
46003	3. Bequests/Memorials		-	
	Total B. Contributions	<b>\$4,400</b>	<b>\$4,366</b>	<b>\$4,300</b>
<b>C. Other Types of Income</b>				
47001	1. Meetings	5,000	6,543	5,500
47003	3. Election Services - BMHA Contract	9,500	11,935	
47004	4. Student elections/Election Night Reporting	400	545	400
47005	5. Voter Services/Moderators	300	150	150
47006	6. Speakers' Bureau/Moderators	150	230	150
47008	8. Fundraising	300	-	3,500
	Total C. Other types of Income	<b>\$15,650</b>	<b>\$19,503</b>	<b>\$9,700</b>
<b>D. Investments</b>				
48001	1. Dividends, Interest (TIAA CREF Investments)	4,000	3,963	4,000
48002	2. Interest: 1st Niagara Savings		2	
	Total D. Investments	<b>\$4,000</b>	<b>\$3,965</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>
<b>E. Revenue Released from Restriction</b>				
49001	1. LWVNYS Education Foundation	2,896	2,760	3,056
		1,000	1,000	1,000
				1,100
49002	3. Students Inside Albany	214		314
49003	Mary Zaehring Awards Fund			150
	Total E: Revenue Released from Restriction	<b>\$4,110</b>	<b>\$3,760</b>	<b>\$5,620</b>
<b>F. In kind - 50000</b>				
			-	
<b>G. Savings/ Investment Release (Contingency)</b>				
		<b>2,000</b>	-	<b>4,290</b>
	Total Income	<b>\$41,970</b>	<b>\$43,404</b>	<b>\$40,370</b>
<b>Business Expenses</b>				
<b>A. Operations</b>				
65001	Capital Expenses		2,000	
65002	Maintenance of Equipment & IT Support	250	375	400
65003	QuickBooks Online (Annual Fee)	320	328	330
65004	General Supplies/Office Expenses/Printing	1,100	2,000	1,200
65005	Postage & Bulk Mail Permit	900	600	600
65006	Bank Charges/ PayPal	50	20	30
65007	Telephone & Internet	650	744	750
65008	Website Maintenance	115	120	120
65009	Rent	3,000	2,950	3,000
66001	Insurance (Worker's Comp)	255	300	300
66002	Staff/Payroll & Taxes	7,500	8,728	8,700
66003	Audit/Payroll Services	1,200	1,115	1,200
	Total A. Operations	<b>\$15,340</b>	<b>\$19,280</b>	<b>\$16,630</b>

<b>B. Board &amp; Administrative Committees</b>			
67001	Board tools & expenses		
67003	Awards & Donations	300	150
67004	Membership	300	1,500
67005	Fund Development		290
67006	Marketing/ Advertising	400	
<b>Total: B. Board &amp; Administrative Committees</b>		<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$1,500</b>
<b>C. Meetings – 68000 (Luncheons, Annual Mtg, Hospitality)</b>		<b>\$4,500</b>	<b>\$5,608</b>
<b>D. Income Producing Activities (expenses)</b>			
69001	1. Expenses for fund-raisers		2,400
69002	2. Expenses BMHA Election Services	2,660	3,163
<b>Total D. Income Producing Activities</b>		<b>\$2,660</b>	<b>\$3,163</b>
<b>E. Delegates</b>			
70001	1. National Convention		2,000
70002	2. State Convention	1,500	1,500
70003	3. Students Inside Albany	800	850
<b>Total E. Delegates</b>		<b>\$2,300</b>	<b>\$2,350</b>
<b>F. Financial Support for the League</b>			
71001	1. National PMP @ \$32	5,792	6,112
71002	2. State PMP @ \$20	3,258	3,820
<b>Total F. Financial Support for the League</b>		<b>\$9,050</b>	<b>\$9,932</b>
<b>G. Newsletter - 72000</b>			
		<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$850</b>
<b>H. Education Activities</b>			
73010	1. TRY (print & post)	1,500	1,730
73020	2. Program Committee Expenses	2,000	
73030	3. Voter Services		175
73031	a. Voter registration/naturalization	420	250
73032	b. Voter's Guide	2,000	2,100
<b>Total H. Education Activities</b>		<b>\$5,920</b>	<b>\$4,255</b>
<b>I. Position Support</b>			
74001	1. Publications on League Positions/Postage	50	
74002	2. Action Activities	50	
74003	3. Lobbying/Committee Expenses	100	
<b>Total I. Position Support</b>		<b>\$200</b>	<b>\$-</b>
<b>K. INKIND -Other Audit Adjustment</b>			
			<b>\$-</b>
<b>Total Business Expenses</b>		<b>\$41,970</b>	<b>\$45,762</b>
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$41,970</b>	<b>\$43,404</b>
<b>Surplus/ (Deficit)</b>		<b>\$-</b>	<b>\$(1,937)</b>
<b>Cash: Checking &amp; Savings as of 3/31/17</b>			<b>\$8,659.36</b>
<b>Marketable Securities as of 3/31/17</b>			<b>\$89,700.91</b>

## 2017-2018 Proposed Local Program Focus: League of Women Voters of Buffalo/Niagara

1. 6/2009 Action consistent with these criteria for support of intergovernmental relationships: Local intergovernmental relationships may include but not be limited to shared services, cooperative agreements, mergers of local government functions, consolidations of local government structures, dissolutions of villages and towns, and annexations.

When deciding whether to support a local intergovernmental relationship, the following criteria should be applied:

- a. Cost saving and positive effect on taxes;
  - b. Quality and efficiency of services;
  - c. Cooperative and collaborative planning process;
  - d. Transparency of the process;
  - e. Well defined channels for citizen input and review;
  - f. Social and economic justice;
  - g. Provision of both short and long term evaluation.
2. 6/2012 Support of the 2012 LWVUS position on the Role of the Federal Government in Public Education, with action when appropriate. Support of the 11/2006 LWVNY position on financing education. Continue to monitor compliance of New York Charter Schools Act.
  3. 6/2012 Support for the 1984 LWVUS Federal Fiscal Policies position with emphasis on educating League members and the public on this position.
  4. Action in support of regional land use planning enhancing urban neighborhoods, containing urban sprawl and protecting agricultural land, open space, watersheds and other sensitive areas.
  5. Support of a broader management of local government services. Specifically support of:
    - a. Regional land use planning developed by a representative body with professional staff, adequate funding, citizen participation and with authority to implement its plans;
    - b. Strategic planning and management on a Regional basis for the region-serving infrastructure such as sewers, water, highways, hospitals, regional cultural facilities and parks;
    - c. Regional support and management of services such as public transit, solid waste disposal, environmental planning, central police services and libraries;
    - d. Extension of metro light rail transportation on surface rights-of-way to connect the cities and suburbs; and
    - e. Development of redistributive revenue programs, which would narrow the inequities

- between the city and the suburbs and would strengthen the region economically; and
- f. Regional management of the promotion, marketing and economic development of the region. The League further supports the consolidation of industrial development agencies on a county or regional level.

6. Support of plans for the waterfronts of Erie County (along Lake Erie and the Niagara and the Buffalo Rivers) that provide and ensure

- a. Year-round public access to the waterfront;
- b. A coherent regional planning process arrived at and adopted with adequate public participation;
- c. Only such commercial development as makes appropriate use of a waterfront location;
- d. Documentation and preservation of the area's significant industrial, commercial and social history;
- e. Development of services and facilities necessary for a variety of recreational activities; and
- f. Protection and enhancement of the natural environment at the water's edge.

7. 6/2012 Support of the LWVUS position on climate change with emphasis on encouraging local governments to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to inevitable climate change.

8. 6/2013 Examine and investigate the Erie County budget and budget process for the purpose of taking action consistent with League positions and priorities. Prepare substantive programs regarding the budget with the goal of educating the committee, League members and the general public.

9. 6/2015 Support (action for) establishment of a living wage policy by government and for-profit businesses that receive tax incentives and/or other public funds:

- a. A living wage should provide sufficient income without government assistance, for food, clothing, housing, energy, transportation, health care, education, child care, and a small amount of discretionary income.
- b. Erie and Niagara Counties should set minimum standards for a living wage for county employees.
- c. Additionally, laws should be enacted that enable communities to establish living wage ordinances for local government employees and private enterprises that receive public tax money. *The LWVB/N opposes legislation that prohibits such local action.*

### Continuing Responsibilities 2017-2018

1. 6/2014 Continue the education campaign on sprawl, with emphasis on the impact of subsidies to sprawling development and the lack of financial incentives for redevelopment in already developed areas.
2. 6/2014 & 6/2010 Continue the 6/2004 studies to examine the situation that exists in the two Erie County jails involving the incarcerated population and their children. Recommendations will be devised to improve the outcome for this population, including but not limited to alternatives to incarceration, discharge planning, service provision in jail as well as upon release and other similar measures.
3. 6/2013 Support reduction of the use of pesticides and support the permanent passage of Pesticide Neighborhood Notification (PNN) in Niagara County.
4. 6/2013 Review the Erie County ethics code
5. 6/2012 Support for a change in the way the Erie County sales tax is distributed. Specifically, support of a formula that includes consideration of a municipality's
  - a. Population
  - b. Percentage of residents at or below the poverty level
  - c. Amount of tax-exempt property
  - d. Relative fiscal capacity
  - e. The value of urban centers
6. Support for the consolidation of the registration of vital records (birth and death records) into a single Erie County district in order to obtain a system that:
  - a. Is efficient and economical,
  - b. Provides accurate records,
  - c. Holds records confidential and secure,
  - d. Affords convenient access to the public and
  - e. Ensures that the revenue derived would benefit all taxpayers in the county equitably.
7. Support for an Erie County Charter with a strong executive form of government in which:
  - a. The lines of responsibility are clearly fixed;
  - b. The governmental organization and administration contribute to economy and efficiency;
  - c. The county legislature shall consist of 17 or fewer uneven number of single member districts apportioned equally according to population:

#### Adoption of Program

Program adoption is guided by Article XI of the LWVB/N Bylaws, which states in Section 2: The program of the LWVB/N shall consist of: A. Action to implement the principles of the LWVUS. B. Those governmental issues chosen for concerted study and action. There are no changes to the 2016-2017 program proposed for 2017-2018.

#### League of Women Voters of Buffalo/Niagara proposed bylaw changes

*The new language is in Italics.*

#### Article III Membership

##### Section 2. Types of Membership

- A. Voting members. Citizens at least 18 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of Local Leagues, state Leagues and of the LWVUS; (1) individuals who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large; (3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.
- A. Voting members. *Persons at least 16 years* of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues and of the LWVUS; (1) those who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-t-large; (3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.

**This bylaw change was approved at the 2016 LWVUS National convention: This change is required for all Leagues. We note it here only for your information.**

#### Article IV Officers

*Suggested Change: Add this paragraph to Section 1. In the event that no one accepts the presidency, the board shall divide the responsibilities of the president among its members who will then comprise the board leadership team. It may change the number of officers, but will not affect the total number of board members. Leadership team members will serve for one year at a time and may be appointed again.*

**Rationale: There needs to be a defined procedure to operate the League if no one steps up to be president or co-presidents.**

#### Article VI Committees

Section 2 Budget Committee: A budget committee and chair shall be appointed by the board of directors at least four (4) months prior to the annual meeting. The members shall be the treasurer, development chair, voter service chair and at least one chair of a committee working on LWVB/N issues and may include up to two (2) additional members to ensure representation from all units. The treasurer shall not be eligible to serve as budget chair. The chair should be an off-board person.

Section 2 Budget Committee: A budget committee and chair shall be appointed by the board of directors at least four (4) months prior to the annual meeting. The members shall be the treasurer, development chair, voters service chair, and at least one *member* of a committee working on the LWVB/N issues and may include up to two (2) additional members. The treasurer shall not be eligible to serve as budget chair. The chair should be an off-board person. *The budget committee should seek advisement from all committees and from the office manager in preparing the budget.*

**Rationale: These changes are requested because there are few program committee chairs and they are reluctant to serve more than once. It provides for advisement from a wider range of stakeholders. The two (2) additional members permitted on the budget committee are not specific to Units, because there may not be any Units as is true at this time.**

Section 3. Nominating committee: The nominating committee shall consist of seven members. The annual meeting shall elect the chair and three (3) members, who shall not be members of the board. Promptly after the annual meeting the board shall appoint three (3) of its members to the committee. Members of the committee shall be representative of the Units as much as possible. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the board.

Section 3 Nominating committee: The nominating committee shall consist *of five (5) or seven (7) members*. The annual meeting shall elect the chair and *two (2) or three (3) members*, who shall not be members of the board. Promptly after the annual meeting, the board shall *appoint two (2) or three (3)* of its members to the committee. *Board members in the final year of their term may not serve on the Nominating Committee.* Members of the committee shall be representative of the units as much as possible. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment of the board.

**Rationale-This change allows flexibility within the nominating committee structure and conforms to current board policy for board members service on the nominating committee that was recommended by a recent nominating committee.**

#### Article VIII Financial Administration

Section 2: Annual Dues. Members' annual dues shall be due on the first day of each fiscal year. Any member who fails to pay dues within three (3) months after they become payable shall be dropped from the membership rolls.

Section 2: Annual Dues. Members' annual dues shall be due on the first day of each fiscal year. Any member who fails to pay dues *within six (6) months* after they become payable shall be dropped from the membership rolls.

**Rationale: This conforms with current practice and the need to remove members from membership who have not paid by January 31st each year.**

#### Article XI Program

Section 3. Adoption of Program Section 3: *Rename as Adoption of Local Program*

**Rationale: a clarification**

*New Section 5: No League committee or member may enter into any agreement or contract without board approval. Only the LWVBN President or Treasurer may sign contracts and agreements. Rationale: The Finance Committee recommends this addition to the bylaws to clarify who may make arrangements for events or expenses.*

*Current Section 5: Program Action Rename as Section 6.*

Bylaws Review Committee: Kathleen McCarthy, Lori Robinson, Marian Deutschman, Terri Parks and Chair, Shirley Joy