



your
★VOTER★

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June 2019

President

Terri Parks

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LWVNYS website

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**Voter is published 11
times a year. Summer
Voter copy is due
Monday, July 1. Send
copy to Nancy DeTine at
nancy@nancydetine.com.**

Yum ... you won't want to miss this!

Annual Potluck Picnic

Monday, July 15, 2019

Noon – 2:00 p.m.

*Chelsea Clubhouse at Canterbury Woods
Downing Lane, off Renaissance Drive
Williamsville, NY 14221*

Anyone who has ever attended our summer potluck picnic knows it's an event unlike any other. League members are fabulous cooks! Bring a dish to pass and join us as we give a special welcome to new members.

One of over 20 theaters in the Theater Alliance of Buffalo, the Lancaster Opera House is a small and unique playhouse, located in an 1897 building in **Lancaster**. Artistic/Executive Director David Bondrow, himself a performer, accompanied by another staff member, will be our guest to give us a Taste of Theater and the next season at the Opera House.

Please let us know you'll attend by making a reservation at lwvbn.org or by calling the League office at 716-986-4898.

**Join us on Thursday, June 13, 2019, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.
for a benefit sale for the League of Women Voters at
Ten Thousand Villages, 736 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo 14222.**

All sales of the handcrafted products created by artisans in developing countries will profit the League, so plan to come and bring your friends. We'll also conduct voter registration in front of the store during the sale. Ten Thousand Villages creates long-term relationships with the artisans to ensure that they can depend on a living wage. Their beautiful creations are produced by adults often using recycled materials and always crafted in a sustainable manner. At least 70% of the artisans are women. What could be a better way to gift anyone?

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 and Board Decisions

There was a very short board meeting in May following the board's efforts to create an action plan for our expanded efforts to get people to the polls in 2019 and 2020. We will be reaching out to all of our members once we have established the timeline. We'll need everyone's help.

The League of Women Voters of New York State is a member of the Coalition to Simplify NY Courts and requested that all Leagues in the state also join. All six members of the Executive Committee voted approval by email. Terri Parks completed the online form that confirmed that LWVBN joined the coalition.

At the May board meeting, we gave kudos and special thanks to Ann Converso, Janet Massaro, Mary Herbst and Janet Zehr for their service to the board. We thanked Liz Zausmer for organizing the board retreat – the Appreciative Summit on April 13 – and all the effort it took to find our fine facilitator, Lesley Diaz. We also noted the outstanding efforts of Lyle Toohey and the Centennial Celebration Committee for the fantastic celebration on May 4 at the Garret Club.

Terri Parks

Great Decisions

Joan Photiadis has agreed to lead topic two for Great Decisions 2019, The Middle East Regional Disorder, on Thursday, June 6, from 10 a.m. to noon at 1272 Delaware Avenue. "As the presidency of Donald J. Trump passes the halfway point, the Middle East remains a region in turmoil. The Trump administration has aligned itself with strongmen in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt, which along with Israel have a common goal of frustrating Iranian expansion. What will be the fallout from policy reversals such as withdrawing from the Iranian nuclear accord and moving the U.S. embassy in Israel to Jerusalem? Does the United States see a path forward in troubled states such as Syria, Yemen, Libya and Iraq? Is the United States headed toward war with Iran?" This is a very comprehensive assessment, in my opinion, and I hope all of you will be able read and weigh in on it.

Bernice Baeumler, 876-0672

Election Services

Last month's article described a huge mailing and I listed our League volunteers who assisted in that massive task led by Nora Mikes. However, I did neglect to name Janet Goodsell, who ably endeavored in that very successful undertaking. At the most recent mailing, Marianne Poprosky, Ramona Gallagher, and Mike Egan happily shared their mailing talents.

During this month, seven sites will be conducting nominations. Again, Nora Mikes and I will be splitting the duties of supervising these meetings. For the first time in numerous years, our League will conduct nominations for the BMHA Resident Advisory Board. This will be the first time since Kathleen McCarthy headed this committee that we will be involved. Stay tuned for the next Voter for a list of those very kind members who will be assisting Nora and me.

My thanks to all of those members who are extremely generous of their time when they work for the Election Services Committee.

Alan Dozoretz, Chair

Welcome, New Members!

We welcome Lynn Marinelli and Ann and Joseph Zawicki to the League. Please remember to return the member survey to the League office. We look forward to meeting you at many League events and activities.

The Membership Committee

LWVBN and the West Valley Citizen Task Force

Since I became the representative of the League to the West Valley Citizen Task Force (CTF) in this year of celebration of LWV history, it seemed only right to dig into the history of the League at West Valley.

Lee Lambert was a valued member of the West Valley Citizen Task Force, representing the League. She attended meetings faithfully as an observer until accepted as a full member in February 1999. She retired from the CTF for health reasons in 2015. LWV representatives from other states have made significant contributions to the advisory boards at other Department of Energy sites, such as Hanford (Washington) and Rocky Flats (Colorado).

The League was active at West Valley from the late 1970s after Nuclear Fuel Services left the site for cleanup by the state and federal governments. At that time there were still separate Leagues in several towns. The East Aurora League had a cluster of women working on the issue of West Valley nuclear wastes: Frances Arcara, Helen Smythe, and Joanne Hameister. The first two are no longer alive, but Joanne is still very actively engaged with the Coalition on Nuclear Wastes at West Valley.

Fran Arcara, as local president and as a member of the state board of the LWV, was well positioned to take the nuclear issue to a wider audience. Her signature is on a set of comments submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy in 1981 on the letterhead of the League of Women Voters Lake Erie Basin Committee for Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York. The letter was published with other public comments on the 1982 Environmental Impact Statement. Ironic, is it not, that so little progress has been made in nuclear cleanup that we are engaged in preparing yet another Environmental Impact Statement there 40 years later?

The emphasis of the League's 1981 statement was on the protection of the Great Lakes from the release of radionuclides. It indicates a long list of remaining research needs as well as entering in the record a bibliography of existing research on the geology and hydrology of the region that their committee had been studying. An impressive work product!

Pat Townsend

Save the Date to Tour City Hall

League member Sharon Cramer has offered to lead us on a special docent tour of Buffalo's City Hall at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, August 20. Bring friends, adults and children. The tour costs \$5 per person and Sharon will accept exact cash. No reservations are needed. Watch for more information in the Summer Voter.

Naturalization Ceremonies

The Buffalo & Erie County Botanical Gardens was a new site for a ceremony on April 22, when Ramona Gallagher and Elaine Cusker welcomed 30 new citizens. Joan Simmons and Liz Zausmer greeted 52 new citizens on April 15 at the U.S. Courthouse. On May 2, Barbara Brooks and Liz Zausmer welcomed 50 new candidates at the U.S. Courthouse. Kathleen McCarthy and Janet Goodsell welcomed 50 new citizens at the May 16 ceremony at the U.S. Courthouse.

Recent naturalization ceremonies have resulted in 96% return of voter registration forms!

Patricia Wille, Volunteer Coordinator for Naturalization Ceremonies



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF BUFFALO/NIAGARA

1272 Delaware Ave, Buffalo, NY 14209

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

June and Early July 2019 Calendar

Saturday, June 1, 10:00 a.m.

Annual Meeting

Fairdale Banquet Center

Tuesday, June 4, 4:00p.m.

Issues/Program Committee

Harlem Road Community Center

Thursday June 6, 4:00 p.m.

Great Decisions

League Office

Wednesday, June 12, 1:30 p.m.

Local Government Committee

League Office

Thursday, June 13, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Benefit Sale for LWVBN

Ten Thousand Villages

Friday, June 21, 1:30 p.m.

Money in Politics Committee

League Office

Thursday, June 27, 1:30 p.m.

Education Committee

League Office

Tuesday, July 2, 4:00 p.m.

Issues/Program Committee

Harlem Road Community Center

Monday, July 8, 4:00 p.m.

Board Meeting

League Office

Wednesday, July 10, 1:30 p.m.

Local Government Committee

League Office

Thursday, July 11, 10:00 a.m. – noon

Great Decisions

League Office

Monday, July 15, Noon – 2:00 p.m.

Annual Potluck Picnic

Chelsea Clubhouse, Canterbury Woods