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**Office Hours**

Please call or email to arrange to visit if needed.

**LWVBN website**

[www.lwvbn.org](http://www.lwvbn.org)

**LWVNYS website**

[www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org)

**LWVUS website**

[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

Voter is published 11 times a year. Send copy by the second Monday of the month to Terri Parks at [lwvoter@verizon.net](mailto:lwvoter@verizon.net).

***The Harder We Run:  
The State of Black Buffalo in  
1990 and the Present***

**Thursday, October 13, 2022**

**11:30 a.m. registration, luncheon at noon followed by the speaker**

**Chef's Restaurant, 291 Seneca St., Buffalo, NY 14204**

Speaker: Henry Louis Taylor, Jr., Professor in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning and Director of University at Buffalo Center for Urban Studies

Using the report of a study done in 1990, Dr. Taylor will tell us what happened to Black Buffalo over the past 32 years, why it happened and what we can do about it.

Choose either Small Spaghetti Parmesan or Chicken Cacciatore and spaghetti.

Registration and \$25 payment for each meal ordered are due by Friday, October 7, 2022.

Register and pay online at [lwvbn.org](http://lwvbn.org) or by cutting and mailing the registration form on page 5 with your check to the League Office, 1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209.

Program is co-sponsored by the NAACP and Voice Buffalo



**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,

It feels like autumn is here. It seems like the whole country is abuzz with the coming election. Thank you, Barbara Gunderson, chair of the Voter Services Committee; you are Getting Out the Vote (GOTV)! Along with Barbara's troops of volunteers, the League has been out all over town registering voters and sharing information about this year's election.

Watch for LWVBN GOTV displays at your local libraries during the month of October. Alberta Roman and Ann Zawicki have created and installed them in more than 10 libraries throughout Erie and Niagara Counties. Nice job, ladies!

At the September board meeting, Amy Moritz, chair of the Communications Committee, presented the updated Communications Policy and Communications Committee job description. Amy is a great asset to our League. The board reviewed and approved the committee's revisions.

I presented to the board a new internal project that our local League is undertaking. In partnership with a Buffalo State College student who is working on his master's degree, we are conducting a committee structure review. We are looking to learn how we can improve our internal structure to have thriving, productive committees to increase our membership and member participation. With this information we will be able to create consistent committee charters that will give us all the opportunity to get the same information and have the same orientation for each committee.

LWV United States is proposing new policies on League Rights and Responsibilities and Member Rights and Responsibilities. The League is asking ALL members to review these proposed policies and **provide comments or feedback to LWVUS by October 11** on the form at the bottom of the page of each of the policies. They can be found at

<https://www.lwv.org/league-management/policies-guidance/proposed-member-rights-responsibilities-policy>.

On October 5 I will be speaking to the New York State Women Inc. Buffalo Niagara Chapter. The topic is Women's Votes Make All the Difference. Check out their organization at <https://www.bncwomeninc.org>.

Early voting starts October 29! Please remind all your friends, family, and neighbors to VOTE. Our democracy depends on it.

In League,  
*Lori Robinson*

## Great Decisions

The Great Decisions discussion group will meet on Thursday, October 6, via Zoom to discuss Chapter 7 in the 2022 Great Decisions book: **Foreign policy, economic power, and U.S. industrial policy**. The Foreign Policy Association, which sponsors this discussion group nationwide, says this about the topic:

The current discussion of industrial policy in the United States is not simply about whether or not to support specific companies or industries, but about trust or mistrust of the government and its ability to manage the economy and deal with a rising China. The upheaval in supply chains during the pandemic exposed weaknesses in the international economy. What policies can the United States implement to deal with trade and the economy? *By Jonathan Chanis*

Fran Holmes will moderate this discussion. Contact her for additional information.

*Fran Holmes, Great Decisions Coordinator*

## Naturalization Ceremonies

On September 14 Ellen Moomaw and Jayne Murray greeted 30 new citizens at the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site. The naturalization ceremony, on the 121st anniversary of Theodore Roosevelt's inauguration, was very moving. Twenty-eight new citizens completed voter registration forms. On September 15 Kate Wagner and Paula Dyson greeted 31 new citizens at the Amherst YMCA, of whom 27 completed registration forms. Since August we have assisted 146 new citizens in registering to vote.

We thank all those who helped in this important task.

*Deborah Shiffner, Coordinator, Naturalization Ceremonies*

## Candidate Forum

The League is pleased to partner again with the Amherst Center for Senior Citizens, 370 John James Audubon Parkway, Amherst, NY 14228 for their Ask the Candidates event at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 27, 2022. This year, candidates for the following offices are invited: United States Congress, District 26 (Brian Higgins and Steven L. Sams II); New York State Senate District 61 (Edward A. Rath III and Sean M. Ryan); New York State Assembly District 146 (Karen M. McMahon and Katrina A. Zepowitz); and Erie County Clerk (Melissa M. Hartman and Michael P. Kearns). Of course, each office will be a separate portion of this candidate forum. To participate in their section, both candidates for that office must be present at the forum.

*Terri Parks, Coordinator, Candidate Forums*



### **Ukraine: A Closer Look at Our Local Ukrainian Immigrants**

**Thursday, October 13: 6:30 registration, 7:00 program**

**St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church, 3275 Elmwood Avenue, Kenmore, 14217**

Program presented by Ukrainian National Women's League of America, UNWLA Branch #97, sponsored by the American Association of University Women and co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Buffalo Niagara.

Enjoy Ukrainian desserts and hear local Ukrainian women discuss their country and the current situation from personal perspectives. Donations will be gratefully accepted.

There is no cost for this public program but please register with Diane O'Brien for planning purposes. Provide your name, phone number, email address and the names of your guests.

**Registration deadline: October 6**

## West Valley Update

### Demolition of a Massive Radioactive Building in our Backyard Began September 22

The Main Process Plant Building is “the hottest building in the United States nuclear complex,” someone told me early in my volunteer work at the West Valley Demonstration Project, as I attempted to grow into League predecessor Lee Lambert’s shoes on the Citizen Task Force. In a conversation with me in early September, a United States Department of Energy (DOE) health physicist confirmed this and explained why. Other DOE sites such as Hanford or Savannah River are engaged in production (of fuel rods or bombs), so each step of the process has its own building, spread over many acres. Here, in the Main Process Plant Building, they were taking apart fuel rods, one at a time, into their components so all the steps were under one roof. That roof is 35 miles south of Buffalo in Ashford Township just across the southern border of Erie County south of Springville.

Huge pieces of equipment are now on site to demolish that building in a project to be spread over the next three to four years. They have been nibbling away at the attached offices. Demolition has now begun on the core of the Main Process Plant Building, a warren of small rooms called “cells,” with five-foot-thick concrete walls. For more than a decade, contractor crews have been cleaning out everything they could cut or scrape and applying fixatives to surfaces. Shipping records indicate that 98% of the radioactive pollution is gone from the building. The remaining 2% will come down gradually with the concrete and embedded piping from the cells where processing was done. It will be packaged and shipped away in rail cars loaded on the rail spur that leads directly onto the site and connects to the Buffalo Pittsburgh Railroad’s main line.

**Why should we worry?** The remaining 2% amounts to much danger, as much as 40 curies of radionuclides such as cesium, plutonium, and uranium. One curie is an enormous amount of radiation. Breaking it down to a more appropriate unit for talking about plutonium, for example, that would be 18 billion nanocuries or 18 trillion picocuries. Each one of them is enough to cause many cancers and much environmental havoc. This is the reason that a coalition of environmental groups advocated for a cover over the building during demolition – which was thought to be too expensive by the DOE.

Most of the remaining radioactive waste will travel by rail or truck to the facility in Utah, Nevada, or Texas that is best prepared to store it. Some will fall close to the building in dust particles, dampened by a fine mist of water, which is collected and treated before entering the watershed.

**Why might we sleep well at night?** As we learned from Elizabeth Lowes, a longtime employee at West Valley and other challenging remediation projects, when she spoke to the League in March, the staff is highly motivated to achieve a safe demolition. Radiation monitors ringing the site allow work to stop quickly at the first sign of a radiation release to resolve the problem.

During the 2018 demolition of the adjacent vitrification building, a release of cesium was detected by one of the ambient air monitors at the boundary of the site, a mishap that was not discussed with the public until many months later. This led the agencies to avoid using the offending equipment, a hot-cutting torch, during the coming open-air demolition. They also added more on-site air monitors. The mishap also led the environmental coalition that includes LWVBN to ask for more transparency and prompt reports of monitoring, for which the public will need to remain vigilant.

*Patricia K. Townsend*

## Candidate Information

The best place to learn about the candidates for U.S. Congress District 23 will be a debate on CW23WNLO, WIVB.com, and WETA-TV in Elmira. It will take place on Tuesday, October 18. Check the TV listings for the time. This congressional district spans seven counties including southern Erie County. Of course, we expect all candidates to respond to [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) and the League’s questions.

*Terri Parks, Coordinator, Candidate Forums*

**Reservation for the luncheon at Chef's Restaurant on October 13, 2022**

Use this form if you would like to order and pay by check.

Please mark an X in the box of each menu choice for the people in your party

Name (please print)	Small Spaghetti Parmesan	Chicken Cacciatore with Spaghetti

Total number of meals ordered: \_\_\_\_ X \$25 per meal = \$\_\_\_\_\_

Write checks payable to LWVBN and mail to LWVBN, 1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209 by October 5, 2022.

Your phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Your email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Pulling the Race Card: Fact or Fiction?**

Thursday, October 26: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

**SANYS Western NY Office**

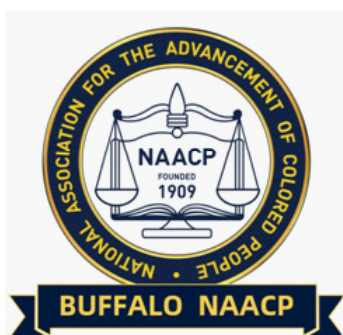
**Jericho Road Plaza, 1021 Broadway, 4th Floor, Buffalo, NY 14213**

The League and several partners are hosting this live and Zoom event. Participation is limited to 30 people for the live event, where refreshments will be served.

You may join us on Zoom as the in-person participants discuss myths and stereotypes about race to help dispel misperceptions. The discussion will be facilitated by the women who developed **Pulling the Race Card**, exploring biases in a self-reflective manner.

A link to register to attend in person or by Zoom will be available on the [LWVBN website](#) after October 14.

Participating organizations are LWV Buffalo/Niagara; the Buffalo Chapter of the NAACP; Westminster Presbyterian Church; Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC); Self Advocacy of Western New York (SANYS) and National Action Network.







1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## October 2022

**Tuesday, October 4, 4:00 p.m.**  
**Program, Issues & Events Committee**  
via Zoom

**Thursday, October 6, 10:00 a.m.**  
**Great Decisions**  
via Zoom

**Monday, October 10, 4:00 p.m.**  
**Board of Directors**  
via Zoom

**Wednesday, October 12, 2:00 p.m.**  
**Local Government Committee**  
via Zoom

**Thursday, October 13, 11:30 a.m.**  
**The Harder We Run: The State of Black Buffalo in 1990 and the Present**  
Chef's Restaurant

**Thursday, October 13, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Ukraine: A Closer Look at Our Local Ukrainian Immigrants**  
St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Catholic Church

**Tuesday, October 18, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Diversity/Equity/Inclusion Committee**  
via Zoom

**Friday, October 21, 11:00 a.m.**  
**Healthcare Committee**  
via Zoom

**Friday, October 21, 1:00 p.m.**  
**Money in Politics Committee**  
League Office

**Tuesday, October 25, 4:30 p.m.**  
**Education Committee**  
via Zoom

**Thursday, October 27, 6:00 p.m.**  
**Ask the Candidates**  
Amherst Center for Senior Citizens