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**Office Manager**

Always call before going to the office.

The Voter will be published six times this year. Send copy by the second Monday in April for the May-June edition to lwvoter@verizon.net.



# Health Justice Is Racial Justice

**Date:** Saturday, March 16

**Time:** 10:00 to 5:00 p.m.

**Place:** Buffalo & Erie County Central Library  
1 Lafayette Square, Buffalo, NY 14203

**Cost:** Free

The Campaign for New York Health will host an all-day conference to explore the intersection of health justice and racial justice.

Local speakers will discuss a variety of topics including reproductive healthcare, maternal/newborn health, medical debt, mental and long-term healthcare, structural racism and healthcare workers. Refreshments will be available.

The event is co-sponsored by the Coalition for NY Health Plan, the LWV New York State, LWV Buffalo/Niagara, and several other organizations. For more information, email the office at [lwvbn@lwvbn.org](mailto:lwvbn@lwvbn.org) or call (716) 986-4898.

**Registrations required at** <https://www.nyhcampaign.org/buffalo0316>

**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,

Spring is coming; spring is coming! And soon will be the next presidential election, or is it the same election as in 2020? Whoever is running, we will continue to encourage all citizens to register and VOTE. And work to keep democracy alive!

We are gearing up to educate New Yorkers on the Equal Rights Amendment that will be on our ballots in November. Please see two options detailed in this newsletter, an Info-Happy Hour or a project if you prefer to stay home and knit. Of course, you are welcome and encouraged to do both!

We once again are without an office manager. Arianna Devlin resigned because she accepted a full-time position. We created an ad hoc search committee to find her replacement. In the meantime, I have hired Bea Havey as a special projects coordinator, a temporary position to complete our 2024 They Represent You (TRY) brochures and coordinate their distribution. She will also work on the next project that comes up! If you need to contact the office, please leave a voicemail, or send an email to [lwvbn@lwvbn.org](mailto:lwvbn@lwvbn.org). Bea or I are there throughout the week. If it is of utmost importance or a timely issue, please email me directly at [president@lwvbn.org](mailto:president@lwvbn.org).

*Bea's next project:* Please watch for a letter from the board in early April. I encourage all members and friends to consider a donation to the LWVBN Annual Appeal. This appeal supports our activities in Buffalo and Niagara Counties.

On behalf of LWVBN I have signed another two-year contract with Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority to continue providing election services for the BMHA commissioner's election this spring and the ongoing tenant council elections. I am very grateful that Julie Wise, a new member, has volunteered to be the coordinator for these efforts.

I am pleased to announce our two delegates for the 2024 Students Inside Albany program with our New York State League. Both are seniors – Pride David from the Buffalo Academy for Visual and Performing Arts, a young journalist, and Kimora Hargrave-Berry from Burgard High School, a young leader. Both are interested in learning about how our state government works.

As always, please contact me at [president@lwvbn.org](mailto:president@lwvbn.org) with any questions, concerns, or great ideas regarding our local program.

*In League, Lori Robinson*

*P.S. Thank you for continuing to follow LWVBN on social media and sharing with your networks. This outreach provides our League with essential visibility, and helps to spread the word about making democracy work!*

## **LWVBN Board of Directors Decisions from January and February 2024**

- The League has signed on as a partner with the Partnership for the Public Good (PPG).
- The board approved Patrice Hannotte to chair the 2024 Budget Committee. Our bylaws require that the chair be a member who is not on the board. A competent professional, Patrice has been active with the Voter Services Committee.
- The board appointed Cindy Havey, Barbara Gunderson, Timothy Priano and Terri Parks to be the members of the search committee for a new office manager. The committee will evaluate the position and job description to determine the needs of the League and find suitable candidates.

## An Invitation to Serve our League on our Board of Directors

The 2024 LWVBN Nominating Committee is recruiting candidates for its 2024-2026 slate of nominees for our board of directors and the Nominating Committee. If you are willing to share your time, talents and vision, we want to hear from you. In-depth knowledge of the League is not required; you'll have an opportunity to learn that. Currently our League is seeking folks with financial expertise, fund development experience, communications/public relations/marketing abilities, and social media/technology aptitude. If you have previous board experience, that's most welcome. Board terms are one or two years and Nominating Committee members serve a one-year term. If this sounds like an opportunity you or someone you know might want to pursue, please contact Nominating Committee Chair Ramona Gallagher for more details by Tuesday, March 5, 2024. Other members of the committee are Nancy DeTine, Becca LaCivita, Amy DiChristina and Deborah Shiffner.

Thank you!

*Ramona Gallagher, Nominating Committee Chair*

## Great Decisions

The LWVBN-sponsored Great Decisions group will commence its 2024 year on Thursday, March 7, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. We will organize future meetings and then discuss the first chapter in the 2024 Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions book: "The U.S. and the Middle East." Here is a synopsis of the chapter:

### ***Mideast Realignment*** by Marc Lynch

*The United States and Middle East are at a crossroads. In spite of a reduced presence in the Middle East, the U.S. still has significant national interests there and the area is a key arena for global power politics. Can the U.S. continue to defend its interests in the Middle East and globally with a lower level of military and political involvement, or should it recommit to a leading role in the region?*

The 2024 edition of Great Decisions was published in early 2024 and the chapter includes discussion of the October 7 attack so it is relevant to today's issues.

The Great Decisions group will continue its 2024 discussions on Thursday, April 4, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. We will discuss the second chapter in the 2024 book, titled "Global trade and green energy."

Here is a synopsis of the chapter:

### ***Climate technology and competition*** by Bud Ward

*Will the United States and China, with other powerful countries following suit, approach current and future climate initiatives with an increased commitment to trade protectionism and nationalism, by various measures including trade restrictions? Or could a growing spirit of international accord develop to confront the "common enemy" of climate change?*

Terri Parks will moderate our discussion. If you would like to participate, contact Fran Holmes to receive the Zoom invitation. The Great Decisions book can be purchased directly from the Foreign Policy Association: [www.fpa.org](http://www.fpa.org).

*Fran Holmes, Great Decisions Coordinator*

## **LWVBN Third Thursday Socials**

Let's turn out for the ERA!

The League of Women Voters of New York State and the New Yorkers for Equal Rights' Ballot Initiative Committee are gearing up for a hard launch of the Equal Rights Amendment campaign on March 21, 2024.

The ERA would amend the state constitution to provide more comprehensive protections that allow for equal rights in New York.

Join us to find out what the ERA is, what it does, and how you can get involved in its passage.

**March 21, 2024**  
**5 to 7 p.m.**  
**Britesmith Brewing**  
**5611 Main Street**  
**Williamsville, NY 14221**

**April 18, 2024**  
**5 to 7 p.m.**  
**West Side Bazaar**  
**1432 Niagara Street**  
**Buffalo NY 14213**

*Timothy Priano, Membership Chair*

## **First Call: 2024 LWV National Convention**

All League members are invited to attend the convention June 27-30, 2024, in Washington, D.C., at the Washington Hilton. If you would like to see the details for attending, use this link:

<https://web.cvent.com/event/07627034-5f27-44a8-8363-5805fab4b0ef/summary>

The business of the convention includes approval of the 2024-2026 budget, election of the 2024-2026 board of directors and Nominating Committee and submitted bylaw amendments. There will also be opportunities to network with fellow League members and participate in a variety of workshops and trainings as well as hear from dynamic speakers.

LWVBN is entitled to four delegates. If you would like to be a delegate, please contact Lori Robinson at [president@lwvbn.org](mailto:president@lwvbn.org). There is some money in our budget to offset the fees for delegates.

### **Cost**

Registration fees:

Virtual: \$125

In-person: \$550

Attendees are responsible for their own travel to the area and around the city during their stay.

Hotel rooms at the Washington Hilton will be offered to convention attendees at a rate of \$239/night (pre tax and fees). A special link must be used to obtain this group rate.

If you have additional questions, please email the national League at [cdavis@lww.org](mailto:cdavis@lww.org).

## Equal Rights Amendment – New York State Promotion – Knitted Yellow Rose

Our friends in the LVW St. Lawrence County are launching a yellow knitted flower campaign in support of the New York Equal Rights Amendment. Beginning March 8 (International Women’s Day), we are encouraging all New York knitters and crocheters to create yellow flowers to support the NY Equal Rights Amendment, which will be on the November 5, 2024, ballot.

The yellow knitted flowers are inspired by the yellow roses worn by the suffragists during their campaign for passage of the 19th Amendment and will be worn in honor of our foremothers in the suffrage movement as well as those working to move the ERA-NYS over the finish line.

The yellow flowers can be worn by all on a hat, scarf or lapel to show your support.



### Yellow Rose Knitting Pattern

Pattern by Kristen McDonnell from Studio Knit

Materials - 42 yards worsted weight yarn

Knitting needles - Size 7 U.S. straight needles, tapestry needle, scissors

Cast on 6 stitches

Row 1 - Knit all stitches

Row 2 - K1, YO, \*K1 (11 stitches)

Row 3 - Knit all stitches

Row 4 - K1, YO, \*K1 (21 stitches)

Row 5 - Knit all stitches

Row 6 - K1, YO, \*K1 (41 stitches)

Row 7 - Knit all stitches

Row 8 - K1, YO, \*K1 (81 stitches)

Row 9 - Knit all stitches

Bind off

As you bind off, you will see your rose start to take shape by curling in as you are binding off.

Take one end and curl it into a rose shape. Tack it securely together using your yarn tail and a tapestry needle.

Attach a 1 1/2” safety pin through the back.



1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## March-April 2024

**Thursday, March 7, 10:00 a.m.**

**Great Decisions**

via Zoom

**Monday, March 11, 4:30 p.m.**

**Board Meeting**

League Office and via Zoom

**Thursday, March 14, 7:00 p.m.**

**Diversity/Equity/Inclusion Committee**

via Zoom

**Saturday, March 16, 10:00 a.m – 5:00 p.m.**

**Health Justice is Racial Justice**

Buffalo & Erie County Public Library

**Thursday, March 21, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

**Third Thursday Social**

Britesmith Brewing

**Monday, March 25, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.**

**Communications Committee**

Kenilworth Library

**Thursday, April 4, 10:00 a.m.**

**Great Decisions**

via Zoom

**Thursday, April 11, 7:00 p.m.**

**Diversity/Equity/Inclusion Committee**

via Zoom

**Monday, April 15, 4:30 p.m.**

**Board Meeting**

League Office and via Zoom

**Thursday, April 18, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

**Third Thursday Social**

West Side Bazaar

**Monday, April 29, 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.**

**Communications Committee**

Kenilworth Library

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