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www.lwvbn.org

LWVNYS Home Page

www.lwvny.org

LWVUS Home Page

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The League of Women Voters of Buffalo/Niagara Fall Fund-Raisers

Macy's fifth annual "Shop For A Cause" takes place on October 16th. Purchase a "Shopping Pass" from us and save 20% on all your purchases at Macy's in the Galleria Mall or online on October 16. Your \$5.00 purchase price stays with the LWVB/N. You also will get a chance to win a \$500 shopping spree at Macy's.

"Find the magic of giving back, as Macy's celebrates a national day of support for our community."

Contact Debbie Billoni at events@lwvbn.org or call the office at 884-3550 to purchase shopping passes for yourself and your friends.

We also anticipate operating the gift-wrapping concession at Eastern Hills Mall between Thanksgiving and Christmas. LWVB/N will provide the wrapping paper and the gift wrappers and we will keep the wrapping fees paid by the shoppers. We've been assured that we'll all be expert gift wrappers in no time. The registration form and directions are on pages 5 & 6 of this Voter.

Thank you, Debbie and Eugene for arranging these two opportunities for the League to earn funds that will support our programs.

Margaret Brunson, Co-President

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.

CONTENTS

<i>President's Message</i>	2	<i>The United Nations at 65</i>	4
<i>Grassroots Coordinator</i>	2	<i>LWVNYS Convention Request</i>	4
<i>Great Decisions</i>	2	<i>Gift-Wrap Information and Sign-Up</i>	5&6
<i>Voter Services</i>	3	<i>Membership News and Renewal Coupon</i>	7
<i>Smart Voter, New York</i>	3	<i>State and National News</i>	7
<i>Lunch & Issues</i>	4	<i>October Calendar</i>	8
<i>World on Your Plate</i>	4		

General Election Information for Erie and Niagara Counties, Page 3

President's Message

Thank you Lynda Stephens, Lynne Vallone and the entire local government committee for your hard work arranging our Fall Kick-off Meeting: "Effective, Ethical Government" A Conversation" on September 21st.

Fall is the League's busiest time of year. The Voter Services committee is busy working on a multitude of projects and programs. The Voter Guide will be online at www.lwvbn.org and printed copies will be available at public libraries, banks, community centers and at the League office. Joyce Bol and her committee are speaking to local community groups about voter registration and other election related topics. Every month our League members distribute voter registration information to our newest citizens at the Naturalization ceremonies.

Our newest committee led by Judy Metzger is planning a program about Redistricting on November 17. Details about the program will be in the November Voter. This has been a "hot topic" in our state and our entire country for many years.

Our transportation committee and natural resources committee are also hard at work.

We will mail our fund-raising request to most of our members and non-members shortly after the general election. The South towns Fund Drive occurs prior to the November election. Thank you, Laura McDade, for conducting the South towns Fund Drive.

Thank you to all of our hard working committee chairmen and committee members and volunteers for all your efforts.

I look forward to seeing all of you at League events.

Margaret Brunson, Co-President

Grassroots Lobby Coordinator

Elsa Bondar our Grass Roots Lobby Coordinator is unable to continue keeping you informed about important happenings in our government – state, local, national and in our League due to her health.

We need a computer literate volunteer to step up and become the Grassroots Lobby Coordinator.

This job involves maintaining an e-mail list of LWVBN members who are online and would like to keep up to date on events of interest to concerned citizens in our community by forwarding information from LWVUS, LWVNY and LWVBN to these Leaguers. Please call the League office to volunteer: 884-3550.

Elsa has done a fine service to us all as the coordinator. We appreciate her work to keep us informed of the issues that we address as members of the League of Women Voters.

Great Decisions

Ann Marie Malachowski will be leading our 7th 2010 discussion, The U.S. and the Persian Gulf, on Thursday, October 7, 2010, from 10 a.m.-noon at 1272 Delaware. "Now more than ever the Persian Gulf region offers many difficult challenges to U. S. policymakers. How will Obama's direct appeal to Arabs and Muslims impact U. S. foreign policy in the region? What will the fallout of withdrawal of U. S. forces from Iraq be? Can the U. S. and its allies prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons?" This may be our hottest topic for the year.

Now for your own personal great decision, I received a notice from the Foreign Policy Association about 2011. The bad news is the book will now cost \$20 with a 10% discount if 10 books are ordered. There is a chance for a 20% discount if books are ordered on line by sometime in October, but that deadline was not given. They also listed the probable topics for the year: Rebuilding Haiti, U. S. National Security, Horn of Africa, Responding to the Financial Crisis, Germany Ascendant, Sanctions and Nonproliferation, The Caucasus, and Global Governance. It would be nice if those interested could make their decisions by the October meeting so we know how to proceed.

If you have any questions, contact *Bernice Baeumler*, events@lwvbn.org

Voter Services

Candidates' Forums

- EAST AURORA:** Wednesday October 20, 7 p.m. at Aurora Senior Center, Oakwood and King Street, East Aurora *Moderator: Laura McDade*
- AMHERST:** Thursday October 21, 9 a.m. at the Amherst Senior Center 370 James Audubon Parkway in Amherst *Moderator: Joan Photiadis*
- HAMBURG:** Thursday October 21, 7 p.m. at Union Pleasant Elementary School, Union Auditorium, Union at Center Street, Hamburg *Moderator: Alison Hyde*
- CLARENCE:** Monday October 25, 7 p.m. at Clarence Town Hall
We still need a moderator. Can you help?

Presentations Regarding the New Voting Machines Any organization that would like to have a presentation on the new voting machines being used in most Erie County Districts this fall can arrange for a knowledgeable presenter from the Erie County Board of Elections by calling 858-7790.

Presentations for Voter Registration My committee and I will be happy to give presentations this fall. If your church, group or organization would like to have more information regarding the general election in November, please contact Joyce Bol or Jo Ann Mecca events@lwvbn.org or the League Office (884-3550) to set up a date convenient for your group. We will be happy to explain the importance of voting, and of registering to vote. We will be glad to hand out the voter registration forms. Jo Ann obtained volunteers for a September 15th voter registration effort at the NTEU Chapter 58, Buffalo, New York representing employees at the IRS. Letters were sent to 22 nonprofit organizations in Buffalo to offer them any help with voter registration in their respective nonprofit organizations.

Election Information for Erie and Niagara Counties

General Election November 2, 2010

- | | |
|------------|---|
| October 8 | Last day to register for the general election |
| October 13 | Notices of change of address from registered voters to be received by the county board. |
| October 26 | Last day to postmark application for absentee ballots |
| November 1 | Last day to postmark ballot |

For any further election information please contact the Erie County Board of Elections at 716-858-8891 or check their website: <http://www.erieboe.com/> For Niagara County information call either 716-438-4040 or 716-438-4041 or check their website: <http://www.elections.niagara.ny.us/>



Voter Guide Kris Allen and her committee are on schedule and expect to distribute the print version of the Voter Guide on October 12 & 13. Anyone who is interested in helping, please call Kris Allen.

Joyce Bol, Voter Services Chair

Check Out the Smart Voter Site for Candidate Information

www.smartvoter.org/ny/state/



Click on any of the statewide offices to view the candidates in those races. Candidates who have provided us with biographical and position responses have links from their names (in blue and underlined) to that information. Enter your address in the boxes in the upper right and you will find the ballot for your area.

Be sure to check back on the site often, as we'll be continually adding candidate information as we receive it.

League of Women Voters of New York State Website: www.lwvny.org

Amherst Unit News

Lunch & Issues

October 15, 2010 at noon
Scotch and Sirloin Restaurant
Corner of Bailey and Maple Road,
Amherst, NY

The first of the 2010-2011 Lunch & Issues series begins with Eveline Hartz, Holistic Health Counselor, who will share with all League members her expertise on the Food and Health Connections. Evelyn is a League member and active in sustainable living projects including a monthly newsletter about a variety of subjects including Genetically Engineered Food. The Luncheon will begin at noon at our faithful Scotch and Sirloin Restaurant. The Cost will be \$15.00 payable to LWVBN. For Reservations contact Sally Metzger at events@lwvbn.org. Please note all League members are invited to attend Lunch & Issues.

Judy Metzger, Amherst Unit

LWVBN Education Committee News

The Education Committee has been working hard to organize a General Membership/Community meeting about CHANGING TRENDS IN PUBLIC EDUCATION. Our attempts at scheduling during the Primary and General Election periods encountered conflicts. After a session with Jim Ranney and two other crew members at WNED in September, we have postponed the public meeting until tentatively January 20, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the WNED studio. Our October committee meeting will be on Thursday, October 21st at 1:30 p.m. at the League office. Come with your ideas and help plan this exciting event. We expect to have a dynamic keynote speaker and a stimulating panel.

Lee Tetkowskí, Chair Education Committee

World on Your Plate, 2010



World on Your Plate (WOYP) will sponsor its 7th annual day of learning, community and food at Daemen College Wick Student Center, 4380 Main Street in Amherst on October 8 and 9. WYOP is a coalition of individuals and groups who work together to restore the earth by promoting sustainability for farmers, farm workers, and consumers alike; to advance education and action on issues of food safety, security, and sovereignty; and to create a table where all are welcome. Featured speakers are Sandra Steingraber and Anna Lappe. You may pre-register or pay at door. For more information and registration online, go to www.WorldonYourPlate.org

Judy Metzger

The United Nations at 65

On Wednesday, October 13, 2010, Road Scholar (formerly Elderhostel) will host a program at Canterbury Woods in Amherst, New York. A local expert will present the program that will "trace the 65-year history of the U.N.-from its precursor organization, the League of Nations, to its peacekeeping successes and failures in the post-cold War era." **The United Nations at 65** runs from 9:15 a.m.-12:45 p.m. will be followed by lunch, which is included in the cost. The cost for Canterbury community members is \$17.00. Other participants pay \$37.00. To enroll, call 1-800-466-8794 and request attendance at Program #1973CZQ.

Marie Hanrahan

LWVNYS Convention - May 20-22, 2011 at the Desmond Hotel, Albany, NY

The state board is looking for suggestions for workshops. See the web site www.lwvny.org and contact them with your suggestions.

The League of Women Voters of Buffalo/Niagara

1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14209

716-884-3550

Dear League Member,

Holiday shopping time is coming soon, and the League of Women Voters of Buffalo/Niagara will host a holiday gift-wrapping fund-raiser. This year presents an especially big challenge for us as it is first year for this effort and we want to succeed. **The Eastern Hills Mall** has asked us to wrap gifts for their Mall customers and we are very happy to make this the first of many annual gift-wrap seasons. It begins Friday, November 26, 2010, and entails 300 volunteer shifts through December 24, 2010.

This is a sign up sheet. All you need to do is **detach this page from the VOTER, select the shifts that you can work for the gift-wrap program by writing your name in the appropriate blanks.** We want to make this a huge success so we can do it again next year! *You will receive full details of your assignment after I receive your completed sign up sheet.*

We appreciate your help with this fund-raiser. We see this as an excellent opportunity to make a worthwhile contribution in the spirit of the holidays, earn money to support our League projects and have fun at the same time.

Please return your completed form(s) to as soon as possible to the League of Women Voters, 1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14209 or by e-mail to lwvbn@lwvbn.org. *Respond today! **Please note that whatever date(s) you sign up for are confirmed and you should write them down on your calendar.*** If for some reason this doesn't work for us, I will contact you by telephone.

Once again thank you for your commitment to the League of Women Voters and our fund raising initiatives. We welcome participation by non-members as well as members, so please sign up a friend to join you. Each person's help will make a difference.

Sincerely,

Eugene Abrahamson



EASTERN HILLS MALL SCHEDULE

DATE (no .of wrappers)	11:00 am – 2:00pm	2:00 pm - 6:00 pm	6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Friday, 11/26 (2)			
Saturday, 11/27 (2)			
Sunday, 11/28 (2)			
Monday, 11/29 (2)			
Tuesday, 11/30 (2)			
Wednesday, 12/01 (2)			
Thursday, 12/02 (2)			
Friday, 12/03 (2)			

DATE (no .of wrappers)	11:00 am – 2:00pm	2:00 pm - 6:00 pm	6:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Saturday, 12/04 (4)			
Sunday, 12/05 (2)			
Monday, 12/06 (2)			
Tuesday, 12/07 (2)			
Wednesday, 12/08 (2)			
Thursday, 12/09 (2)			
*New Hours ----->	10:00 – 2:30 p.m.	2:00 – 6:30 p.m.	6:00 – 10:00 p.m.
*Friday, 12/10 (4)			
*Saturday 12/11 (4)			
*Sunday, 12/12 (4)			
*Monday, 12/13 (6)			
*Tuesday, 12/14 (6)			
*Wednesday, 12/15 (6)			
*Thursday, 12/16 (6)			
*Friday, 12/17 (8)			
*Saturday, 12/18 (8)			
*Sunday, 12/19 (8)			
*Monday, 12/20 (8)			
*Tuesday, 12/21 (8)			
*Wednesday, 12/22 (8)			
*Thursday, 12/23 (8)			
*Friday, 12/24 (8)			**WE ARE DONE!!

You will receive your confirmation on or about November 21st. You will also receive information on mall procedures with your conformation packet. Please mark your calendar now, as what you sign up for will be your assigned days and times. Transportation and parking are your responsibilities. Thank you again for your commitment to the League of Women Voters!

Name: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Birthday: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Membership dues and contributions to the LWV are not deductible as a personal or business expense for tax purposes.

RENEW

Make check payable to LWVB/N and send to LWVB/N, 1272 Delaware Ave., Buffalo, NY 14209-2401 (Attn: Membership Chair)

\$65 Individual (Basic Membership)

\$75 Carrie Chapman Catt Membership

\$90 Elizabeth Cady Stanton Membership

\$100 Susan B. Anthony Membership

Enclosed is my additional contribution of \$ _____

\$100 Household
(2 members living at the same address)

\$30 Student membership

Unit Affiliation
(optional)

Amherst

Buffalo Metro

Clarence

Please send me the LWVB/N VOTER via email.

Name (s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

This includes local, state and national League dues.

Membership News

Dear LWVBN Members,

This is a thank you message to everyone who has already renewed membership for July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011. Reminder letters will soon be sent to anyone whose membership renewal hasn't been received. Your continued support is important to help the national, state and local League continue their programs, both in Voter Service and Issues. The two articles that follow this message reflect two important current initiatives of the League.

Judy Huber, Membership Chair

The Latest from the League of Women Voters of the United States

On September 16, 2010, the League and coalition partners sent a letter to Minority Leader Boehner urging him to make a public commitment to the American people to support the continuation of the Office of Congressional Ethics and to oppose any efforts to prevent it from effectively carrying out its mission and basic responsibilities.

Also on September 16, 2010, the League and coalition partners sent a letter to Speaker Pelosi thanking her for her leadership in establishing the Office of Congressional Ethics in 2008 and urging her to make a public commitment to the American people to support its continuation as well as to oppose any efforts to prevent it from effectively carrying out its mission and basic responsibilities.

Excerpt from LWVUS Press Releases

Our State League Will Partner with Public Broadcasting Stations for 2010 Candidate Debates

The League of Women Voters of New York State and the Association of Public Broadcasting Stations of New York have agreed to work together to broadcast a series of debates between candidates running for statewide office during the 2010 election cycle. Assuming there is candidate interest, the partnership expects to provide live, statewide broadcasts of candidate debates for the offices of Governor and U.S Senator, and is considering coverage for other statewide races, including Attorney General and State Comptroller. (Our own WNEW-TV will be involved in the debates that result from this agreement.)

“Over the years, public broadcasting has built a strong reputation for quality, in-depth television and radio programs that have informed, enlightened, and challenged viewers of all ages,” said Betsey Swan, LWVNY President. “The League is gratified and exhilarated to have been asked by such a widely respected media organization to join in this nonpartisan partnership.”

Excerpt from LWVYS Press Release

October 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
9/26	9/27	9/28	9/29	9/30	1	2
3	4 BOARD MEETING 4:30 p.m.	5	6	7 GREAT DECISIONS 10:00 a.m.	8 Last day to mail voter registration forms Page 3	9
10	11	12	13 LOCAL GOVERNMENT 1:15 p.m.	14 NATURAL RESOURCES 9:30 a.m. TRANSPORTATION 10:00 a.m.	15 LUNCH & ISSUES Page 4	16
17	18	19	20 EAST AURORA CANDIDATES' FORUM Page 3	21 AMHERST & HAMBURG CANDIDATES' FORUMS Page 3 EDUCATION COMMITTEE 1:30 p.m.	22	23
24	25 CLARENCE CANDIDATES' FORUM Page 3	26 ISSUES COMMITTEE 4:30 p.m.	27	28	29	30