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VOTER will be published eleven times this year. Copy for the September Voter is due Friday, August 6, 2010.

90th LWVUS Anniversary Celebration, June 5, 2010

Judy Metzger and her committee planned and carried out a fine program with special guests, Eleanor Roosevelt (Elsa Bondar makes a great first lady!) and Carrie Chapman Catt. (Actress Tina Rausa shared both wise and humorous anecdotes about the League's founder that had the audience nodding their heads with the relevance of her words in today's world and laughing appreciably at her sense of humor.) Our historian, Marie Hanrahan shared brief highlights of our local League history.

Making Democracy Work is key to the League's mission and Anne Huberman did an outstanding job recognizing two special local Leaguers for their long and tireless dedication to that important principle. Both Lee Lambert and Lee Tetkowski richly deserve this recognition. We also recognized the following members who have reached the 50-year membership milestone in the past five years: Sally Metzger, Joan Photiadis, Nancy Ryther and Mary Zaehring.

Janet Massaro was honored for her fifteen years as the League office administrator. JoAnn Ross gathered photos of those years and Anne Huberman scanned them and created a DVD that she presented to Janet after it was viewed. Joan Photiadis presented Janet with a gift from League members.

Thank you, especially to Judy Metzger and everyone else who made the occasion very special, indeed! And now begins the countdown to our centennial celebration!

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.

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## President's Message

This has certainly been a busy year for the League of Women Voters of Buffalo/Niagara. We started with great programs last fall, held candidate's nights and produced the online Voter Guide. Kathleen McCarthy and her committee conducted the BMHA Tenant Commissioners Election in June. When Janet Massaro announced her retirement we went into action in preparation for hiring a new office manager. We updated the job description, advertised the position, read resumes, held interviews and selected Eugene Abrahamson from a large group of applicants.

Legislative interviews were held, Leaguers traveled to Albany in May. Lyle Toohey and Margaret Brunson were interviewed for "Public Record" on WNYB-TV.

The League is also celebrating its 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday so a birthday bash was planned in conjunction with the annual meeting and retirement party. At our annual meeting we adopted the budget for 2010-2011, elected a slate of officers and directors and adopted the local program for the coming year.

Last month the board approved the State League's budget, a new concurrence on Marriage Equality, evaluated the state board's performance and sent directions to the state board.

During the summer months we will be working on the 2010 Voter Guide to be published in the fall. The Issues & Action committee will meet July 27th to set up a calendar including interesting and informative programs for you.

Unfortunately we did not send any delegates to the LWVUS convention in Atlanta. I will distribute a summary of actions taken at that convention by email.

Volunteers are needed to help with the Voter Guide, upcoming BMHA elections and for projects our other committees. We urge you to become actively involved in our League.

*Margaret Brunson, LWVB/N Co-President*

### **New Studies Approved at the National Convention in June**

Study of the **Federal Role in Public Education**: The study would focus on the role of the federal government in education policymaking, with possible consideration of funding, common standards and/or governance relationships among all levels of the government. The scope will be dependent on available resources, including committee and LWVUS staff time.

Study on **Privatization**: the policy agenda to transfer government functions, services and assets to the private sector.

**The Recognition of New Leagues** included the **LWV of Eastern Putnam County, New York.**

### **Election of LWVUS officers for 2010-2012**

Elizabeth MacNamara, President, Jane Duffy, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Judy Davis, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Susan M. Wilson, Secretary/treasurer

### **Coming Events of the State League**

LWVNYS United Nations Briefings scheduled for November 9, 2010 in New York City.

LWVNYS Convention will be held at the Desmond Hotel in Albany, NY In May 2011.

## **Great Decisions**

I hope everyone has been enjoying the July/August hiatus from exploring worldwide woes and that you're refreshed enough to address them once again. *Europe's 'Far East': the Uncertain Frontier* is where Joan Mondul will lead us on Thursday, September 2 from 10 AM - noon at 1272 Delaware. "Russia's policy of maintaining a "sphere of influence" in former Soviet satellites has been challenged in recent years by movements against pro-Russia regimes.

Russia has pushed back by cutting Ukraine's natural gas supply and intervening in Georgia's campaign in South Ossetia. Will Russia regain its traditional leadership role in the region?"

*Bernice Baeumler* [events@lwvbn.org](mailto:events@lwvbn.org)

## Voter Services

**Naturalization:** Marie Hanrahan and Janet Goodsell represented the League at the New Citizens ceremonies on July 1 held at the Little Rock Navy Ship at the waterfront. Joyce Bol and Arlene Miles were at the ceremonies at the Court House on July 15.

**Presentations Regarding the New Voting Machines:** Any organization who 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 me at 839-2623 or Jo Ann Mecca at 884-5312 or the League Office at 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. The last date to register to vote in the November election is October 8.

### Election Information for Erie and Niagara Counties

#### Primary Election September 14, 2010

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| August 20    | Last Day to register for the primary election  |
| August 25    | Notices of change of address from registered voters to be received by the Board of Elections |
| September 7  | Last day to postmark application for absentee ballot   |
| September 13 | Last day to postmark ballot. The county board must receive it no later than September 21     |



#### 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/>

### Agreement Between State League and PBS Stations to Organize Debates

The PBS stations of New York and the League of Women Voters of New York State 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 US Senator and is considering coverage for others including Attorney General and State Comptroller.

*Joyce Bol*, Voter Services Chair

## Welcome to the League, Eugene!

We're delighted to welcome our new office manager, Eugene Abrahamson, to the League of Women Voters of Buffalo Niagara. He brings much experience and many skills from his work with other not-for-profit organizations in our community, especially in working with volunteers, computers and in fund development. He has connections with a wide range of community organizations and office and technical expertise that will benefit us as we go forward.

This summer's office hours are Mondays and Fridays from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. on Tuesdays - Thursdays. His actual hours are flexible, so as usual, you should call the office before heading to 1272 Delaware. Eugene may be out of the office for meetings or other business related activities.

*Terri Parks* for the Transition Team

## The 2010 National Convention Votes to Support the National Popular Vote Compact

Yes, you read correctly, delegates to the 2010 LWVUS Convention approved the following words be added as the third sentence to the LWVUS position on the selection of the president, **“We support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for election of the president until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished.”**



This concurrence negates the “no position” on the NPV Compact announced by the LWVUS board just one year ago. This unusual reversal, greeted enthusiastically by supporters, needs further explanation.

Following the NPV Compact study and consensus in May 2009, the national NPV study committee and the program planning committee realized that, although the pro NPV Compact position prevailed, a great number of local leagues were unable to reach consensus, and half the leagues complained that the questions were confusing and/or biased. A careful reexamination of the responses and comments indicated considerable misunderstanding, specifically, that a choice had to be made to either support the NPV Compact or to abolish the Electoral College. This contradicted the study directive that the NPV Compact be considered as “a method” to achieve the goal of the direct election of the president.

Disheartened by the consensus responses, the national study committee concluded that a position could not be reached. However, they also felt that an up or down vote on the NPV Compact was preferable to “no position”. They suggested a few options, one being to seek a position through concurrence at the 2010 Convention.

Barbara Klein, LWV of Arizona, and a member of the national committee, spearheaded the concurrence effort, encouraging leagues to review the study material still available on the LWVUS website. Our League had reached consensus in support of the NPV Compact and in April our board voted to support the NPV concurrence at Convention.

**Concurrence was approved on June 14, 2010 by the required 2/3-majority vote. We now have a new position on the selection of the president including the NPV Compact as an acceptable way to achieve the direct election of the president.**

*Janet Massaro*, Chair of the LWVBN NPV Compact Study Committee

## A Farewell from Janet

June 30<sup>th</sup> was my last official day in the League office. We began fifteen years ago when members agreed that an expanded League needed a “real physical home”. (We just had merged from six smaller Leagues into the *LWV of Greater Buffalo Area*.) We moved into a postage stamp size room at 1272 Delaware Avenue in Buffalo. It contained a desk, a computer table, two file cabinets and a linen closet with deep drawers. Cozy but...

We soon outgrew the space, so down the hall we went to a larger, more accommodating room with four windows, a fireplace and a wall of bookshelves. (It was like home – in fact, I slept there on the soft carpet during the blizzard of 2000.) We added another file cabinet and filled the bookshelves.

At that time we were busy developing the Citizens Education Campaign on the Costs of Urban Sprawl, grant funded and headed by Taffy Tarbell. (We changed our name to *LWV of Buffalo Niagara* to better reflect our geographical area.) The existing office was not sufficient – we needed more space. Luckily the room next door became available and the Ed Campaign and its staff moved in. When the sprawl campaign concluded some years later, we decided to consolidate the two offices and chose the larger space. We added our original file cabinets to those in the sprawl office and moved the overflow into storage closets. And here we are.

Of course this history of space and time is not the real story. That belongs to all of you who continue to study the issues, write the papers, attend meetings, volunteer for community service, prepare publications, stuff envelopes, and, yes, fill up all those file cabinets with who we are and what we do.

For me it has been a wonderful, enriching experience. Thank you.

*Janet Massaro*

## BMHA Tenant Commissioners Election

The Election process for electing two tenant commissioners to Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority's Board of Commissioners was completed on June 11, 2010. The two winners, Joseph Mascia of Marine Drive Apartments, and Elaine Diallo of Shaffer Village, assumed their positions on July 1, 2010. The results of the election are as follows: Joseph Mascia, 494 votes; Elaine Diallo, 415 votes; Leonard Williams, 366 votes; and Rudolphus Boans, Jr., 311 votes.

A total of 933 ballots were verified and counted by the team of League volunteers. I appreciate especially the help of Marjorie Gardner and Janet Massaro for their guidance and advice to me in my first time as the Project Coordinator. The verification process and the counting of the ballots went smoothly thanks to the fine efforts of the following volunteers – some of whom were veterans and others newcomers to their tasks: Agnes and Robert Annis, Abbey Bernardis, Judy Capodicasa, Judy Clarke, Delight Dann, Alan Dozoretz, Nuala Drescher, Mike Egan, Barbara Klobberdanz, JoAnn Mecca, Judy Metzger, Sally Metzger, Arlene Miles, and Terri Parks.

*Kathleen McCarthy*, Election Services Chair

## Bumps in the Road

Just when it looked like New York State's "Complete Street" bill was coming to a dead end as a result of Assembly Transportation Committee chair David Gantt's efforts to restrict its application to state roads only (thus exempting 90% of them), action alerts—including an editorial in the Buffalo News—mobilized an effective response. As a consequence, the Assembly version has been revised to match the stronger Senate bill.

What are Complete Streets? They are streets that are safe for "... all users of the road network, including motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transportation users, regardless of age or ability..." Pedestrian crosswalk signals, bike lanes, pavement striping, and traffic calming measures must be considered in the design of any roadway construction or repair that is eligible for federal or state funding. The result: user-friendly streets that accommodate people, not just cars.

Noting that New York State has the third highest rate of fatalities of older pedestrians, AARP has been campaigning for passage of Complete Street legislation in New York. Fifty-seven State Senators voted for this bill. Let your Assembly representative and Speaker Sheldon Silver know that they should do the same (Bill A08587).

*Kristin Allen*, Transportation Group Chair

## 2010 Annual Meeting Election Report

Congratulations to the officers, board and committee members who were elected at the Annual Meeting on June 5, 2010.

### **2010-2012 Officers and Board Members**

Officers: Donna McNally, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Janet Goodsell, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President; Deborah Billoni, Treasurer  
Directors: Judy Huber, Membership Chair; Joyce Bol, Voter Service Chair; Theresa Pope and Lyle Toohey, At-Large Directors

### **2010-2011 Nominating Committee**

Chair: Lee Tetkowski; Members: Janet Massaro, Arlene Miles, Joan Photiadis

They join the following board members whose term continues until June 2011:

Officers: Co-Presidents, Margaret Brunson & Loretta Peszynski; Secretary, Judy Clarke  
Directors: Ramona Gallagher, Corresponding Secretary; JoAnn Mecca, Volunteer Coordinator; Terri Parks, Voter Editor; Lynne Vallone, Local Government Committee Liaison

We greatly appreciate the work of the 2010 Nominating Committee, Kristin Allen, chair; Judy Clarke, Janet Goodsell, Judy Huber, Sandra O'Hara, Lynda Stevens and Judy Weidemann.

## Outstanding Local League Leader, Emily Hamlin

Mrs. Chauncy Hamlin, President of the Erie County League of Women Voters from 1924-1926, nee Emily Gray, was born in Buffalo, NY into a distinguished family. Her father, David Gray, was a nationally renowned poet and at one time editor of the *Courier Express*.

After her marriage to Chauncy Hamlin, Emily became active in politics in the Progressive Party Movement. Her interest in politics led to her involvement in the League of Women Voters.

As president of the Erie County LWV she was particularly interested in Child Welfare, US entrance into the World Court and disarmament. At one time she arranged a conference on disarmament in Buffalo that drew attendees from throughout the United States.

Emily Hamlin brought many women's groups together to study politics. She felt that since the LWV was the only group formed with the objective of political education, it should take the lead in forming political study groups.

The *Courier Express* quotes her as saying, "It is of the utmost importance that women understand the definite needs of our state and nation and city...and be informed to express public opinion they must learn to know facts and where to find facts. When the time comes for action, informed co-operating groups will be able to express public opinion by the volume of their votes."

Emily Gray Hamlin died in September 1933 at the age of 51 as the result of an automobile accident. She was survived by her husband and three children. In her obituary in the *Courier Express* she was lauded as an "outstanding leader of the LWV".

*Marie Hanrahan*, LWVBN Historian

## Amherst Unit Picnic

The Amherst Unit picnic will be held August 10, 2010, at the Canterbury Woods clubhouse on Downing Lane at noon. Please bring a salad or dessert. Beverages will be supplied. We will review our Lunch and Issues program and planning for combined events with LWVBN and the Clarence Unit when possible. Town Board Observer meetings continue throughout the summer. Contact Joyce Zobel to volunteer at [events@lwvbn.org](mailto:events@lwvbn.org). See you at the picnic.

*Judy Metzger, Arlene Miles and Sally Metzger*, Amherst Unit Coordinators

## Travelin' Trash, Part One

Did you ever wonder where our voluminous garbage and recyclables go? Here is what we were able to find out about the garbage and recyclables collected from residents of Canterbury Woods in Williamsville. This is the first of a two-part article about the two companies that serve Canterbury Woods.

### Modern Corporation

Trash and recyclables from Canterbury's main building are trucked by Modern Corporation 29 miles to a landfill in Lewiston in Niagara County. The landfill can be seen from the escarpment on the way to Artpark. This landfill is expected to be adequate for 27-45 years.

Trash and garbage stays in Lewiston. Methane from the landfill is sucked off and burned to generate electricity. The electricity, enough, they say, to power 10,000 homes, joins the area's electrical grid. Water that cools the generators is used by Modern to grow hydroponic tomatoes in Lewiston. The tomatoes are sold locally so we may well be eating tomatoes grown with warm water from the burning of our garbage.

The recyclables are trucked about 38 miles south to the brand new Buffalo Recycling Enterprises plant on Hopkins Street in south Buffalo near Tiff Street. BRE's "Single Stream" system allows customers like Canterbury Woods to mingle cardboard, paper, plastics and cans in its recycling totes. BRE can separate 20 tons per hour into its components. Other companies (some middlemen) purchase the baled recyclables from BRE. Since there is more than one company per commodity it was not possible to find out all the destinations but they include Canada and the South.

Sources: *Modern Corp., Buffalo Recycling Enterprises*

*Sally Metzger*, Natural Environment Committee Member

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)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$65 Individual (Basic Membership)                | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Household<br><i>(2 members living at the same address)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Carrie Chapman Catt Membership               | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Student membership  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$90 Elizabeth Cady Stanton Membership            |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Susan B. Anthony Membership                 |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed is my additional contribution of \$_____ |   |

**Unit Affiliation**  
*(optional)*

Amherst

Buffalo Metro

Clarence

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me the LWVB/N VOTER via email.

*This includes local, state and national League dues.*

### Membership News

Did you renew your membership? If not, please do so now! We need you in the upcoming year, which promises to be very busy. All congressional seats are up for reelection as well as our major New York State officials, so our **Voter Guide** is very important this fall. And after the elections, we will once again be producing **They Represent You**. Perhaps your interests lie in natural resources or registering new voters, studying issues or moderating Candidates Meetings, educating our young or local governance - there is a place for you. Whether your commitment is big or small, we look forward to you joining us once again!

*Judy Huber, Membership Chair*

**If you change your e-mail address**, please send an e-mail notifying us of the change from your new e-mail address to: [lwvbn@lwvbn.org](mailto:lwvbn@lwvbn.org), and to me at [events@lwvbn.org](mailto:events@lwvbn.org). We need this notification to reach you by e-mail with the latest news, advocacy requests, and information.

*Elsa Bondar, LWVB/N Grassroots Lobby Coordinator*



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### Welcome to New Members

Victoria Ross, Buffalo  
Janet Benjamins, who has rejoined LWVBN

### News about Dues

A modest increase in dues from \$62 to \$65 for individual members and from \$95 to \$100 for households was approved as part of the LWVBN Budget for 2010-2011 that was adopted at our Annual Meeting.

At its June national convention, the national League approved the following:  
A motion to adopt a PMP rate of \$29.70 for 2010-2011 was approved.  
A motion to adopt a PMP rate of \$30.00 for 2011-2012 was approved.

PMP refers to per member payment that each League sends to LWVUS as its share of our membership dues. This represents an increase of \$.50 for 2010-2011 and \$.30 more for 2011-2012.

There will be no increase in the PMP for the New York State League for 2010-2011.

## August 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 <b>BOARD MEETING</b> 4:30 p.m.	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 <b>AMHERST UNIT PICNIC</b> noon	11 <b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT</b> 1:15 p.m.	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 <b>LAST DAY to REGISTER for PRIMARY ELECTIONS</b>	21
22	23	24 <b>ISSUES &amp; ACTION COMMITTEE</b> 4:30 P.M. at HARLEM ROAD	25	26	27	28
29	30 <b>BOARD MEETING</b> 4:30 p.m.	31	9/1	9/2 <b>GREAT DECISIONS</b> 10:00 a.m.	9/3	9/4