



The League of Women Voters  
of Buffalo/Niagara

VOTER

Volume 22 Number 5

Late January, 2017 & February, 2017

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for the March issue are due  
Monday, Feb. 6, 2017



*Lunch & Issues*

Friday, February 17, 2017  
Registration at 11:30 a.m.  
Scotch 'n Sirloin Restaurant  
3999 Maple Road, Amherst, NY 14226

Larry Brooks will talk about:

**Buffalo Niagara: Diagnosis and Prescription for Change.**

Recently, it's been easy to find positive signs of a change: waterfront development, medical campus construction, new business expansion and startups, and an uptick in the population and employment. But how are we really doing? We'll discuss the state of the region, why we are where we are today, and ways to go forward in order for this region to realize its potential.

Buffalo native and life-long resident Larry Brooks is a UB graduate with a degree in philosophy. Most of his career was spent in industrial construction as a draftsman, designer, and project manager but then he transitioned into contractor and staff for the Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper, from which he recently retired. Since retirement, Brooks has been a freelance writer with his work appearing in local publications such as the *Buffalo News*, *Buffalo Spree*, and others. His book *Buffalo Niagara: Diagnosis & Prescription for Change* was published in 2015. Larry is currently president of the boards of the Western New York Land Conservancy and the Central Council of Buffalo's St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Make reservations online at [lwvbn.org](http://lwvbn.org) or call the League office at 986-4898 by noon on Tuesday, February 14.

Luncheon cost is \$20. Pay at the door with cash or check to LWVBN. To attend the program only (no charge), call 986-4898. All guests, please make reservations by February 14.

Mission of the League of Women Voters:

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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## *Presidents' Report and Board Actions*

*Thank you for all you do*



On December 3, League members again demonstrated their generosity and good will with donations to the Family Justice Center. We welcomed Mary Travers Murphy to speak about the work of this important and much-needed service and contributed gifts and gift cards to the Center. Mary wrote a lovely thank you letter in which she expressed warm appreciation for the donations.

We also recognized the volunteer work by League members and a few other volunteers with a wine toast. No one came close to guessing the number (95) of members who have donated time to League efforts in 2016. People give their time and talents to the League in three ways: Voter Service (82), Advocacy (40) and League Administration (37). Some folks contributed in all three ways during the year.

Without the 95 people listed below, this League would certainly not be able to continue its many efforts. We offer our heartiest thanks to you all, whether you were able to help us in one effort or many. Every minute you spent working for the League was important to serve and educate voters, promote the League's issues and carry out the tasks to operate the League in a responsible and efficient manner.

Kris Allen	Mary Egan	Kathie Macaluso	Judy Schiffert
Sue Fay Allen	Marion Fay	Ann Marie Malachowski	John Segman
Agnes Annis	Wynnie Fisher	Janet Massaro	Mary Sheeder
Bonnie Asch	Mike Fitzpatrick	Nicole Matteson	Deborah Shiffner
Harold Asch	Jean Flowers	Kathleen McCarthy	Lynda Stephens
Bernice Baeumler	Judy Frank	Laura McDade	Sue Stievater
Phyllis Banas	Ramona Gallagher	JoAnn Mecca	Flora Summe
Marian Bass	Ellen Gibson	Peg Mergenhagen	Dorothy Tao
Joyce Bol	Gladys Gifford	Sally Metzger	Lee Tetkowski
Roberta Bothwell	Janet Goodsell	Judy Metzger	Mary Ann Turkla
Joan Broderick	Richard Hemann	Jim Metzger	Lois Utech
Dot Brown	Mary Herbst	Nora Mikes	Lynne Vallone
Margaret Brunson	Fran Holmes	Arlene Miles	Sara Vernor
Dan Brunson	Betty Howell	Joan Mondul	Kate Wagner
Judy Capodicasa	Jack Howell	Jayne Murray	Judy Weidemann
Judy Casassa	Judy Huber	Amelia Palka	Dorothy Westhafer
Judith Clarke	Barb Jezioro	Terri Parks	Patricia Wille
Ann Converso	Shirley Joy	Joan Photiadis	Karen Williyoung
Pat Costanzo	Marlene Katzel	Theresa Pope	Amy Witryol
Josette Cunningham	Beth Kauffman	Marianne Poprosky	Liz Zausmer
Nancy DeTine	Suzanne Kelly	Betty Preble	Paul Ziebarth
Marian Deutschman	Carolyn Kerr	Christine Reichsmuth	Joyce Zobel
Krysta Doerfler	Carl Klingenschmitt	Lori Robinson	
Alan Dozoretz	Ann Lazore	Alice Say	
Pauline Dyson	Joan LoCurto		

*Terri Parks & Judy Metzger, Co-Presidents*

### ***Making Democracy Work—Honoring Local League Leaders***

This edition of the Voter includes a nomination form for the 2017 Making Democracy Work Award. Please consider nominating a community member who you feel has made memorable efforts to make democracy work. Recent honorees include attorney Michael Kuzma, Erin Heany, Bill Nowak, Sam Magavern, Bonnie Smith from WEDI, and Scott Gehl from HOME. We welcome your nomination for the 2017 award by February 21, 2017. The nomination form has the details.

*Terri Parks, Co-President*

### ***Great Decisions***

*Join the discussion in 2017*

Thus far, 10 people have requested the 2017 Great Decisions briefing books (9 regular \$25 and 1 large print \$15). For those who are still thinking about joining the discussion group, which meets the first Thursday of each month from 10 a.m. till noon at 1272 Delaware Avenue, March through November, please contact me by January 31 at 876-0672. If no answer please leave a message and I'll get back to you as soon as possible. I hope to hear from you.

*Bernice Baeumler,*

## ***Election Services Committee***

### ***BMHA election update***

December 2016 was relatively quiet for the Election Services Committee. This committee conducted an election at Kenfield-Langfield with the assistance of members Ramona Gallagher and Janet Goodsell. Later in the month we conducted a mailing. My thanks to Nora Mikes and Marlene Katzel for their able assistance. Thanks also go to Judy Huber, Judy Capodicasa, Lee Tetkowski, Kathleen Macaluso, and Mike Egan for their willingness to volunteer to assist this committee in fulfilling its mission.

Before any nominations or election meetings take place at a BMHA facility, I communicate with one of three housing aides at BMHA. When I know that a certain site or sites are overdue for an election, I contact the housing aide for that site. How soon we hold an election, or if we ever do conduct one, depends on the willingness of that aide to assist in setting the stage for us to arrive at the site to conduct our mission. I am currently in contact with one of the BMHA housing aides concerning two sites that are way overdue for elections. We are prepared to do our thing, but the aide has to open the door for us. I will be in contact with him next month to hopefully expedite this process.

*Alan Dozoretz, Election Services*

## ***Nominating Committee***

### ***Notes from the Nominating Committee***

The Nominating Committee is building a slate of nominees for president, first vice president or co-president, second vice president, secretary and five at-large board positions for a two-year term (2017-2019) and for a chair and three members of the 2018 Nominating Committee for a one-year term, all to be elected at the 2017 annual meeting.

If you're excited about building, enhancing, or sharing your leadership skills, volunteer now to be a possible candidate. We need your commitment, experience and talents to continue to make democracy work in our communities.

For more information, contact Ramona Gallagher at [events@lwvbn.org](mailto:events@lwvbn.org)

ASAP.

## ***Waterfront Committee***

### ***Going, going, gone!***

The former Freezer Queen building on the Outer Harbor was demolished recently, and the Queen City Landing developer has run into snags... So what's next? The Waterfront Committee meets January 11, 3-4 p.m., in the cafe area of the Central Library in downtown Buffalo. We will hear more details and work on strategy to ensure that the Outer Harbor be preserved for the public.

*Gladys Gifford*

## ***Volunteer Coordinator***

### ***Volunteer opportunities at naturalization events***

We finished our commitments at the U.S. Courthouse with one more ceremony in November, attended by Pat Wille and Pauline Dyson. Judy Huber and Judith Schiffert represented the LWVBN at the first naturalization ceremony in December. Special mention should be given to Kathleen Macaluso and Jayne Murray who braved some nasty weather on December 15 to represent our League at the last ceremony of the year.

The new naturalization ceremony schedule for 2017 was sent out to our volunteers and we had a satisfying early response. It is always easier to fill the calendar as soon as possible, although it can certainly be difficult to plan too far ahead. Our most immediate need is for the February 16, March 16, March 23, and March 30 dates. If you are interested in representing the LWVBN at any of those ceremonies, please let me know.

A few new people have joined our ranks. Their volunteerism is very much appreciated by the League. Our goal is to register as many new citizens as possible. The work our volunteers do is very valuable!

*Judith Clarke, Volunteer Coordinator*

## ***State League Program Planning*** ***Help set the agenda***

In a grassroots organization, it is vital that all members have the opportunity to participate. The League "Program" is determined by members and consists of federal, state and local issues. National issues are adopted at LWVUS Convention, state issues at LWVNY Convention and local issues at local Leagues' annual meetings. This process provides every member an opportunity to influence new areas of study and the issues that will direct state League action during the 2017-2019 League years. All Buffalo/Niagara League members are invited to attend the February 7, 2017, meeting of the Issues & Action Committee with suggestions for the League of Women Voters of New York State Program for the State League Convention June 9-11, 2017, to retain or delete any positions, and to recommend updates, new studies or concurrences. **Changes in Program cannot be suggested for the first time at Convention** and must be submitted to the state League by March 3, 2017. The meeting will be at the Harlem Road Community Center from 4 till 6 p.m. Please contact the League office by January 31 if you plan to join us. The summaries of the State Program and Program Planning Process are included in the electronic mailing of this Voter.

*Terri Parks*

## ***Money in Politics Committee*** ***"Dark Money" book discussion***

All League members are invited to our January 2017 MIP meeting to join us in a discussion of Jane Mayer's book, *Dark Money: The Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right*. Mayer's book was selected by the *New York Times Book Review* as one of the ten best books of 2016. We reviewed it in the December Voter.

The book discussion is scheduled for Friday, January 20, 2017, at 1 p.m. at the League Office, 1272 Delaware Ave., Buffalo.

We look forward to having you with us. This might even be the beginning of a LWVBN Book Club.

*Money in Politics Committee*

***Save the Date!***

Thursday, March 23, Lunch & Issues presentation by Margaret Wooster and Nicole Matteson on the Outer Harbor, 11:30 a.m. at the Scotch 'n Sirloin Restaurant in Amherst.

*Gladys Gifford*

## ***League's 57th Biennial State Convention June 9-11*** ***All work and some play***

The 57th State League Convention is scheduled for June 10-11, 2017, at the Holiday Inn Express in Liverpool, NY, just off the Thruway near Syracuse.

### **Field trip!**

To celebrate women achieving the right to vote in 1917 in New York State, the state League is organizing a field trip from Liverpool to Seneca Falls on Friday, June 9, the day before Convention actually begins. There will a separate charge and everyone is welcome, not just convention attendees. Tours of the Elizabeth Cady Stanton home, the Women's Hall of Fame and the Women's Rights National History Park (and Wesleyan Chapel), as well as dinner and a speaker at an historic restaurant in Seneca Falls, will be included. You will need to be in Liverpool by noon on Friday to join this trip. Watch for more information in the registration kit that will be sent in February.

### **Workshops**

Workshops will be organized for Friday evening, June 9, and Saturday morning, June 10. Please email the state office ([Katrina@lwvny.org](mailto:Katrina@lwvny.org)) with specific topics you would like us to offer as a workshop during Convention. Local Leagues and members can also offer caucuses or information sessions to share their own concerns or successes and times will be available for these also.

**Mark your calendar to join us NOW!**

***Give the Gift of League Membership***

***Invite a friend to join or give the gift of League membership!***

In the weeks prior to the 2016 general election, the League was mentioned in nearly 3,000 media reports highlighting our efforts in everything from restoring the Voting Rights Act to redistricting to renewable energy and, of course, our Voter Guide and Vote411.org efforts.

Do you know someone who is passionate about any of these issues, but is not yet a League member? Or have you friends or family who have expressed interest in our work or in becoming a member of the League? The League celebrates its 97th birthday on February 14, 2017. It's an especially fitting time to welcome new members.

People who join the League after February 1, 2017, for the first time will be members until June 30, 2018. A gift card will be sent if desired.

**League of Women Voters of Buffalo/Niagara Membership Registration Form  
February 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018**



Make checks payable to LWVBN and return to LWVBN, 1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209

Check one category.

- Individual Member (\$65)
- Household (all members living at the same address: first member \$65, all others \$35 each)
- Carrie Chapman Catt Membership (\$75)
- Susan B. Anthony Membership (\$100)
- Student Membership (\$30)
- Renewal
- New membership
- Returning former member

Enclosed is an additional donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

For gift memberships, name and address of donor  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please e-mail me the LWVBN bulletin: LWVBN Voter.

Send card with gift? Yes/No  
 Message (if any) to be included: \_\_\_\_\_

League Member since \_\_\_\_\_

***LWVBN Awards Committee  
Honoring local League leaders***

It's time again to think about honoring local League Leaders. If you'd like to help select the honorees, please contact Terri Parks at [lwvoter@verizon.net](mailto:lwvoter@verizon.net) or call her at 876-0184.

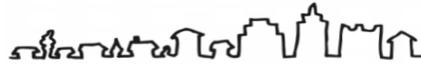
The Joan K. Bozer Leadership Award recognizes outstanding League leadership that reflects on some of the many qualities that Joan has demonstrated in her long experience as a League and community leader.

We selected five key characteristics exhibited by Joan that we feel are essential qualities for recognition: ethical, innovative, resourceful, respected, steadfast. Please submit a paragraph of up to 250 words that describes how your nominee embodies these characteristics. Be sure to include each characteristic as you write about your nominee.

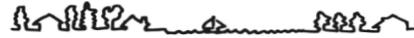
The League of Women Voters of Buffalo/Niagara LEE Award is presented to a League member who has made a Long-Term Commitment to the League with Energy and Excellence, in short the initials LEE.

The award honors Lenore Tetkowski, Leonore Lambert, and Lenore Banks. Please submit a paragraph of up to 250 words about your nominee in which you note the approximate number of years the person served the League actively, and give examples of her/his Energy and Excellence in League activity.

Please email completed nominations to [lwvbn@lwvbn.org](mailto:lwvbn@lwvbn.org) or mail them to the League office by February 21, 2017. Be sure your name is noted as the nominator.



OF BUFFALO/NIAGARA  
1272 Delaware Ave, Buffalo, NY 14209-2401



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## January and February Meetings & Events

Visit [lwvbn.org](http://lwvbn.org) for the latest event details

**Fri., 1/20, 1:00 p.m.**

Money in Politics Book Club, League office

**Mon., 2/13, 4:00 p.m.**

Board Meeting, League office

**Thurs., 1/26 1:30 p.m.**

Education Committee, League office

**Fri., 2/17, 11:30 a.m.**

Lunch & Issues, Scotch'n Sirloin Restaurant

**Tues., 2/7, 4:00 p.m.**

Issues Committee, Harlem Rd. Com. Cntr.  
All welcome; State League Program to be discussed.

**Thur., 2/23, 1:30 p.m.**

Education Committee, League office

**Wed., 2/8, 1:15 p.m.**

Local Gov. Committee, League office

**Thurs., 3/2, 10:00 a.m.**

Great Decisions, League office

Be sure to check your email and our website for other events as they are scheduled!

**League meetings are open to all! Come and bring a friend to learn what we're doing.**

### Reminder

Many thanks to all who contribute articles to the Voter – it is such a pleasure working with you. The deadline for the March Voter is Monday, February 6, 2017, and items should be sent to copy editor Nora Mikes, [events@lwvbn.org](mailto:events@lwvbn.org)