



your
★ VOTER ★

Volume 23, Number 2

October 2017

Leadership Team

Judith Clarke
Nancy DeTine
Marian Deutschman
Lori Robinson
Terri Parks

Office

1272 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14209
716-986-4898
Fax 882-3797
Email lwvbn@lwvbn.org

Mary Ann Turkla
Office Manager

Office hours are flexible.
Always call before going
to the office.

LWVB/N website
www.lwvbn.org

LWVNY website
www.lwvny.org

LWVUS website
www.lwv.org

Voter is published 11
times a year. The
November Voter copy
is due Wednesday,
October 11. Send copy
to Nancy DeTine.

**Single Payer Health Care:
Medicare for All**

Would a single-payer system in the U.S. eliminate waste, inefficiencies and profiteering? How would we pay for it? Join us and learn the details.

Countries that guarantee health care as a human right may do so through a single-payer system that replaces for-profit health insurance. Single-payer is financed by taxes that cover the costs of essential health care for all residents, as opposed to a multi-payer system in which private individuals or their employers buy health insurance or health care services from private or public providers. Canada and the United Kingdom are two examples — Canada’s single-payer system contracts for health care services from private organizations, while the UK’s system owns and employs health care resources and personnel.

Date: Thursday, October 12
Place: Harlem Road Community Center Auditorium
Time: 6:30 p.m. registration, 7 p.m. program

Speakers

Debra Street, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Sociology Department at the University at Buffalo. Dr. Street conducts research on health and retirement issues, including the impact of planning, public programs and tax policies on health and income security. She is also an excellent resource on the Canadian health care system.

Kevin Ketchum is an attorney, local health care organizer and active member of the Campaign for New York Health, a statewide coalition dedicated to passing and implementing legislation for universal health care in New York State.

The program will begin with a short film presenting the benefits of a single-payer system for both the public and employers.

Please register for this free program at lwvbn.org. We welcome the public.

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.

News from the Board

On November 9, 2017, the League of Women Voters of Buffalo/Niagara begins a celebration of women's suffrage centennial events with a gala luncheon at the Twentieth Century Club. The insert with this Voter provides the registration form as well as information for sponsorships. We have selected a number of businesses — mostly woman owned or women led — and the committee has written and called them. If you have a business to suggest as a sponsor, contact us immediately at the League office, or reach out yourself.

We're excited about this special event to celebrate 100 years of women's suffrage in New York State. We're also looking forward to 2019, when we'll celebrate 100 years of the League of Women Voters in New York State, plus the dual celebrations of the League of Women Voters of the United States in February and the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that gave all women citizens in our country the right to vote.

These are momentous dates for women and the League. We need many hands and minds to celebrate well. We need you! You are invited to join the committee at our next meeting — at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, October 6, 2017, in the smaller building at The Buffalo History Museum. If you cannot join us at that time, please contact the League office by email (lwvbn@lwvbn.org) or phone (986-4898) to let us know you're willing to help out for the next phase of our celebration.

Finally, we will give an especially warm welcome to anyone who chooses to attend any of our celebration events in the next three years in period costumes from 100 years ago.

Terri Parks, Leadership Team Member

Great Decisions

October 5: Prospects for Afghanistan and Pakistan

Michele Dunham has volunteered to facilitate our seventh Great Decisions 2017 topic, Prospects for Afghanistan and Pakistan, on Thursday, October 5, from 10 a.m. till noon at 1272 Delaware. "Major internal conflict has plagued Afghanistan for four decades. The U.S., for its part, has conducted military operations in the country nearly continuously since 9/11. Today war with the Taliban persists, and tensions between the U.S. and Pakistan have gradually deteriorated. As his time in office drew to a close, President Obama limited further withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan. The incoming administration has a choice: will it maintain the status quo, completely reverse the Obama administration drawdown or withdraw completely? Does the U.S. face a no-win situation in Afghanistan and Pakistan?" Just reading the history is a fascinating reminder of our involvement and its leading to 9/11. Hope to see everyone.

Bernice Baeumler

Remember to wear your magnetic League badges at every League event or activity.

Money in Politics Update

Give Us the Ballot, by Ari Berman



The 1965 passage of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) was the most significant advancement in American civil rights since Reconstruction. This act also opened the door wide for lawmakers to attempt to suppress minorities from voting, and this suppression continues today.

The Money In Politics Committee has been reading and discussing Ari Berman's well-researched book, "Give Us the Ballot: The Modern Struggle for Voting Rights in America." Berman takes us from the initial impact of the VRA, and the constant struggles with literacy tests, voter IDs, and redistricting, to the fateful U.S. Supreme Court Shelby decision in 2013. In *Shelby County v. Holder*, the court declared sections of the Voting Rights Act unconstitutional, reversing decades-long voting rights protections for minority populations. We now have numerous court cases challenging the VRA from Texas, Alabama, North Carolina and Wisconsin.

One incident highlights recent laws preventing people from voting. Craig Thomas, a black man from Granville, North Carolina, registered to vote before he deployed to Afghanistan with the U.S. Army. After serving abroad for 18 months, he went to vote early in the state's primary. He had returned from Afghanistan to the same house, in the same precinct, but was told at the polls that there was no record of his voter registration. In the past, Thomas could have registered during the early voting period and cast a regular ballot using same-day voter registration, but North Carolina's laws had changed. Thomas had to cast a provisional ballot, which was not counted.

In August 2017, a federal judge tossed out a new Texas voter ID law. Other restrictive voting laws have been overturned by lower courts. These cases are now making their way to the Supreme Court.

The League believes that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed. The League continues to work to restore key elements of the VRA and to respond to the ongoing challenge of voter suppression.

There are many issues for us to study and action to take. We welcome all members to join our discussions.

Barb Brooks, Money in Politics Committee Member

Voter Service Report

We have scheduled three candidate forums:

Aurora Senior Citizens Center, Tuesday, October 17, 7 p.m. (Ellen Neumaier)
Union Street School, Hamburg, Wednesday, October 18, 7 p.m. (Laura McDade)
Amherst Senior Center, Friday, October 27, 9 a.m. (Ann Marie Malachowski)

Voter registration:

Environmental Summit, Daemen College, Saturday, September 30, 8:30 a.m. till noon

Margaret Brunson, Voter Service Chair

General Election 2017

Register in person at the Board of Elections by Friday, October 13
Register by mail: postmarked by Friday, October 13, and received by October 18
Apply for absentee ballot by mail: postmarked by Tuesday, October 31
Last day to apply in person for absentee ballot, Monday, November 6
Last day to postmark absentee ballot: Monday, November 6
Deliver absentee ballot in person to the Board of Elections by Tuesday, November 7, at 9:00 p.m.

General Election -- Tuesday, November 7, from 6:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m.

Volunteer Coordinator's Report

Since the Summer Voter was published, LWVBN volunteers have attended five naturalization ceremonies. The June calendar was finished off by Mike Egan and Marianne Poprosky at a service on the USS Little Rock. Patricia Wille and Judy Weidemann represented the League at a Burchfield Penney Art Center ceremony in July; two other July ceremonies at the U.S. Courthouse were attended by Barbara Brooks, Elisabeth Zausmer, Janet Goodsell and Deborah Shiffner. We started the August calendar with a ceremony at the U.S. Courthouse attended by Elisabeth Zausmer and Kate Wagner.

A request was made to the state League for moderators to cover 13 forums that the State Education Department was running across the state to comment on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) program being installed in the schools as a replacement for the plan based on the No Child Left Behind Act. Laura McDade and Agnes Annis moderated and kept time for the forum.

We have a number of new and returning members who have indicated an interest in representing LWVBN at naturalization ceremonies. I hope to see some new volunteers on our calendar. We have just six dates still open before the end of the year, including one volunteer for October 15, two volunteers each for November 2, 16, and 30, and December 7 and 21. Be sure to email Judith Clarke if you are interested in any of those dates.

Judith Clarke, Volunteer Coordinator

Vote411 and 2017 Voters Guide

The League's online Voters Guide, www.Vote411.org, will be live on September 28 for the general election. You may also access the 2017 Voters Guide online at www.lwvbn.org. The printed 2017 Voters Guide will be mailed to all League households the week of October 23. Please direct your friends to any public library in Erie and Niagara County to pick up the printed Voters Guide.

Important additions to this year's online and printed Voters Guides are pro and con arguments for the issues that will appear on the back of all ballots in New York State on Election Day.

Celebrate 100 Years of Women Voting in New York State



The League of Women Voters of Buffalo/Niagara honors the 100th anniversary of the ballot approval of the amendment that granted women in New York State the right to vote on November 6, 1917, with a special luncheon. Our emcee will be Maryalice Demler, news anchor and reporter at WGRZ-TV, Channel 2.

**Intruding in Sacred Territory —
Forging Women’s Suffrage on the Buffalo-Niagara Frontier**

Guest speaker

Shannon M. Risk, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of History, Niagara University, an expert on women’s suffrage in Western New York.

Thursday, November 9, 2017

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Twentieth Century Club

595 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14202

Individual reservations, \$35

Suffragist reservations, \$75, will receive recognition in the event program.

Please join us to celebrate one of the important milestones in the long march to women’s suffrage in the United States and honor the brave women who led that effort in our region.

For reservations, use the form that appears on the insert included with this Voter.

Please note that the insert also includes the menu of options we are offering to recruit sponsors for this important League event.

Parking is free in the Twentieth Century Club lot at 516 Franklin Street, between Allen and North Streets. Note: Franklin Street is one-way northbound.

October League Happy Hour

Don’t miss \$5 drinks and appetizers, plus lively, informal conversations.

Thursday, October 26, 2017, 5:30 p.m.

Providence Social, 490 Rhode Island Street, Buffalo, NY 14213

Save the date for the League’s holiday party!

Saturday, December 2, 2017

11:30 a.m., luncheon at 12 noon

Salvatore’s Italian Gardens

Mark your calendar for a very festive event!

Watch for details in the November Voter.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF BUFFALO/NIAGARA

1272 Delaware Ave, Buffalo, NY 14209

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

October 2017 Events and Meetings

Tuesday, 10/3, 4:00 p.m.

Issues Committee

Harlem Road Community Center, Amherst 14226

Thursday, 10/5, 10:00 a.m.-noon

Great Decisions

League Office

Monday, 10/9, 4:00 p.m.

Board of Directors

League Office

Wednesday, 10/11, 1:30 p.m.

Local Government Committee

League Office

Thursday, 10/12, 6:30 p.m.

Single Payer Health Care: Medicare for All

Harlem Road Community Center

Tuesday, 10/17, 7:00 p.m.

Candidate Forum

Aurora Senior Center, East Aurora 14052

Wednesday, 10/18, 7:00 p.m.

Candidate Forum

Union Street School, Hamburg 14075

Thursday, 10/26, 1:30 p.m.

Education Committee

League Office

Thursday, 10/26, 5:30 p.m.

Education Committee

Providence Social

Friday, 10/27, 9:00 a.m.

Candidate Forum

Amherst Senior Center, Amherst 14228