



your
★ VOTER ★

Volume 23, Number 9

April 2018

Leadership Team

Nancy DeTine
Marian Deutschman
Lori Robinson
Terri Parks

Office

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

Mary Ann Turkla
Office Manager

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

LWVB/N website

www.lwwbn.org

LWVNYS website

www.lwwny.org

LWVUS website

www.lww.org

Voter is published 11
times a year. The May
Voter copy is due
Wednesday, April 11.
Send copy to Nancy
DeTine at
nancy@nancydetine.com.

**Gentrification:
Exploring Solutions**

Wednesday, April 25, 2018

5:00 p.m. registration, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. program

Buffalo & Erie County Downtown Public Library
Auditorium
1 Lafayette Square, Buffalo, NY 14203
Use Clinton Street entrance



Guest speaker

J. Rosie Tighe, PhD, Associate Professor of Urban Policy and
Planning, Cleveland State University

Panelists

Veronica Hemphill-Nichols, Founder, Fruit Belt McCarley Gardens
Housing Task Force

Sam Magavern, Executive Director, Partnership for the Public Good

Marimba Milliones, President & CEO, Hill Community Development
Corporation, Pittsburgh, PA

Dennis Penman, Penman Development Partners

Join us for a positive, enlightening evening!

Our speaker focuses her work on affordable housing, social justice and
equitable development as she seeks ways to bridge the gap between
research and practice. Our panelists will add insights and perspectives
as we consider: *What might work here?*

This program is free and open to the public. Make reservations
online at www.lwwbn.org or call the League office at 716-986-4898 by
Friday, April 20.

Street parking is free after 5 p.m. There are also paid lots nearby.

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

By now you should have received your copy of the 2018 They Represent You brochure. This helpful reference is one benefit of League membership. We have also sent the brochures to all public libraries and city and town halls in Erie and Niagara counties for distribution. It is also available at www.lwvbn.org. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to use the online version. While we checked carefully, there is an error that has already been corrected in the online version. Erie County is now represented by April Baskin (D) in the 8th Legislative District, phone: 858-8869, email: AprilMcCants-Baskin@erie.gov.

At the March board meeting the board selected Rev. Kirk Laubenstein, Executive Director of the Coalition for Economic Justice, to receive the League's 2018 Making Democracy Work Award, in recognition of his many years as an amazing and tireless voice and advocate for the many who have difficulty either speaking for themselves or are not recognized to speak. We'll be honored to present the award to Rev. Kirk at the annual meeting luncheon on Saturday, June 9, 2018. Save that date on your calendar.

Tuesday, April 10, 2018, is the national observance of Equal Pay Day, when women and men around the country recognize the wage gap between working women and men, and offer remedies to address pay inequity. That is the date that indicates how much longer it takes women to earn wages comparable to what men earned on December 31, 2017. One website correctly noted that Equal Pay Day should be December 31 each year. Wear red on April 10 to show the world that, compared to men, women are in the red in their wages every day.

Terri Parks

Opportunities for Service to the League

The League has been a member of the WNY Environmental Alliance since its founding. While Gladys Gifford has agreed to continue as the primary contact for the League, we need a secondary contact. This requires mainly that someone will keep current on the work of the Alliance and, if possible, attend its meetings. It is a fine opportunity for a League member who is interested in efforts to obtain and maintain a healthy natural environment in our region. Please email us at lwvbn@lwvbn.org if you're interested in this important service to the League.

Call to National Convention 2018 – We Need You!

The League of Women Voters' 53rd National Convention will take place at the Hilton Chicago in Chicago, Illinois from Thursday, June 28, through Sunday, July 1, 2018. We invite our League members to save these dates and plan to join hundreds of passionate and engaged leaders for our biennial national gathering. More information and the full "first call" is available at lwv.org.

LWVBN is entitled to four voting delegates. Please consider being a delegate in 2018 and contact the League office if you're interested. The National Convention is stimulating and rewarding.

Welcome new members!

Please extend a warm welcome to four new members of our League family: Melissa Bolz, Mary Ellen McGowan, Ann Nichols and Alissa Shields.

Janet Massaro

Great Decisions

Great news! Colleen Miller from WNED-TV called to tell us the channel will run eight episodes of the 2018 Great Decisions program at 10:30 a.m. Sundays beginning in April. Hopefully you are able to DVR the series and get to watch each segment just before our Great Decisions discussion on that topic. Fortunately Marie Hanrahan offered to both host and kick off our 2018 season from 10 a.m. to noon on Thursday, April 5, at 1272 Delaware. The topic is *The Waning of Pax Americana?* During the first months of Donald Trump's presidency, the U.S. began a historic shift away from Pax Americana, the liberal international order that was established in the wake of World War II. Since 1945, Pax Americana has promised peaceful international relations and an open economy buttressed by U.S. military power. In championing "America First" isolationism, President Trump has shifted the political mood toward selective U.S. engagement, where foreign commitments are limited to areas of vital U.S. interest. Geopolitical allies and challengers alike are paying close attention. Hope there will be a good turnout on this vital topic.

Bernice Baeumler

Earth Weekend Shoreline Sweep!

Unity Island, 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, April 21

Join your League friends to celebrate Earth Day Eve by cleaning up litter at Buffalo's Unity Island Park. This scenic park is located off Niagara Street near the International Railroad Bridge, almost across from the foot of Amherst Street. Volunteers must register on the Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper website, bnwaterkeepere.org. Please be sure to sign up for the Unity Island location, and do it as soon as possible to get that site before it's sold out. (However, if you prefer a different site, just choose it from the online list.)

It's windy and usually cool or cold along Niagara River in April, so bring a hat, warm gloves, and a wind-proof jacket or rain jacket. Sunglasses and a water bottle, too. Waterkeeper provides bags for trash and recyclables, as well as cotton gloves. Questions: leave a message for Ellen Gibson at 986-4898 after April 5. If you prefer not to register online, please *please* sign up by calling Wendy Paterson at Waterkeeper, 852-7483, ext. 26. All volunteers are welcome to sign up for the After-Sweep Party.

Ellen Gibson

Welcoming New Citizens

Something new! A donation from a League member has enabled us to purchase pens with the League logo to give to new citizens when they complete their voter registration forms at naturalization ceremonies.

League volunteers at the ceremony on February 20 at the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site were Kate Wagner and Marian Bass. On February 22, Judy Casassa and Marie Hanrahan represented the League at the U.S. Courthouse, and Judy Metzger and Judy Casassa were present at the ceremony there on March first.

Patricia Wille, Volunteer Coordinator for Naturalization Ceremonies

Our Nuclear Times: Article Five

Nuclear Wastes in West Valley, New York, Summaries

1. Under current criteria, the siting of a new nuclear waste storage facility at West Valley would not be permitted due to the height of the water table, and to surface processes at the site such as erosion.... [Citizen Task Force, Final Report 1998]
2. A seismic survey only showed approximate depths [30-40 feet] and boundaries of waste trenches. It could not distinguish between crates and barrels due to excessive shielding by containers and clay soils. Specific radionuclide locations could not be determined and corroborated with inventories. Surface water levels within trenches could not be measured. [Seismic Refraction Tomography Geophysical Survey, 2017]
3. The Department of Energy cannot adequately address long-term safety and communications issues at the West Valley site – even with a multiple-marker, word-and-picture, warning-and-information system. Why? Continuity of government and language is unlikely. Iceland is the only nation with an unbroken lineage spanning the last 1,000 years. Shakespeare’s 400-year-old plays are difficult to understand. Beowulf’s 1,000-year-old saga is unreadable except to a few experts. [Synapse Energy Economics, 2008]
4. The West Valley site currently has an average annual rainfall of 40 inches, and sand lenses irregularly distributed in the clay soil, affecting site integrity. ...Waste containers could eventually corrode and then leak toxic radionuclides and toxic chemicals. These waste containers could also become exposed from gradual processes [such as slow erosion] or from dramatic events [such as earthquakes or rapid erosion from floods]... . Nature’s processes will prevail over engineered solutions.... “Institutional controls” and “active site maintenance” are necessary but can’t be depended on in the long-term.... Specific emergency response plans and training are essential. [Citizen Task Force, Final Report, 1998]
5. “Sec. 607. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING STORAGE OF NUCLEAR WASTE NEAR THE GREAT LAKES. It is the Sense of Congress that the governments of the United States and Canada should not allow permanent or long-term storage of spent nuclear fuel or other radioactive waste near the Great Lakes.” [H.R. 3053, House of Representatives Bill 3053: Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2017 (introduced but not yet passed)]
6. Comment: The time for [radiation] dose calculations [to future humans] of 1000 years is too short for difficult sites like West Valley. Response: The Commission concluded that the West Valley site “presents some unique challenges in that significant quantities of mobile, long-lived radionuclides are present at the site.” Also, “The Commission believes that an analysis of impacts beyond 1000 years should be provided....” [U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, February 1, 2002]

Barbara Frackiewicz

Save the Date:

On May 23, 2018, the Education Committee will host a panel discussion on the topic, Perspectives on What Works in Public Education at the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site. Registration will be at 5:30 p.m. The program will be from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Details will be in the May Voter.

Regional Training

The League of Women Voters of New York State holds regional training meetings in the years when there is no state convention. This year's training session for Leagues in Western New York will take place at Rush Henrietta Senior High School on Saturday, April 14, 2018, from 10:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m. The cost is \$20 per participant. The session offers an excellent opportunity to meet and network with members from other Leagues and obtain useful information. Flyers were sent by email to all members with email addresses. We hope we'll have a large delegation attending the event, which is only one hour away. If you need a registration form, please contact our League office. And please make sure to call or email our office if you register. We plan to meet at the Transit Road Park & Ride parking area to carpool to the training. For details, phone 716-986-4898 or email lwvbn@lwvbn.org.

The registration form accompanies the electronic copy of the Voter. Please complete it and send the completed form and \$20 check payable to LWVNYS to: League of Women Voters of NYS, 62 Grand St, Albany, NY 12207. We can also send you a registration form. Phone the League office, 716-986-4898 if you need a form.

You may also register online at www.lwvny.org on the home page under LEAGUE COMMUNICATIONS with credit card, by fax 518-465-0812 or by phone 518-465-4162 or email Meg@lwvny.org.

Electronic Voter Guide: Ballot Ready

As many of you have heard, the state League will not be subscribing to Vote 411 this year for its electronic voter guide. Instead, we have a contract with Ballot Ready to provide race and candidate information online. You can view their website at: <https://www.ballotready.org/> or see how ours will look at the LWV of Illinois website (they have an election coming up): <https://lwvil.civicingine.com/>. The good news is that the local Leagues will have to do NOTHING for this program but can provide questions for candidates if they desire. Ballot Ready will cover ALL races in NYS for the June primary, September primary and the November general election.

We do not know at this time how this will affect our local League printed Voters Guide.

Sign Up for the Weekly Session Update from LWVNYS

This year the League has launched a new initiative to help keep members up to date on what's going on in Albany. Our weekly legislative newsletter includes what's happening at the Capitol, upcoming events surrounding advocacy, weekly legislative committee agendas, and weekly League news clips. The newsletter is sent to all members every Friday. If you haven't been receiving the newsletter, check your Spam or Junk folder or email Jennifer at Jennifer@lwvny.org to make sure you're on the list.

This Weekly Session Update will be especially helpful for our League members who will be lobbying our state delegation later this month.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF BUFFALO/NIAGARA

1272 Delaware Ave, Buffalo, NY 14209

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

April Calendar

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

Issues Committee

Harlem Road Community Center

Thursday, 4/5, 10:00 a.m. - noon

Great Decisions

League Office

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

Board of Directors

League Office

Wednesday, 4/11, 1:30 p.m.

Local Government Committee

League Office

Saturday, 4/14, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Regional Training

Rush Henrietta Senior High School

Saturday, 4/21, 10:00 a.m. - noon

Shoreline Sweep

Buffalo's Unity Island Park

Wednesday, 4/25, 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Gentrification: Exploring Solutions

Buffalo & Erie County Downtown Public Library

Thursday, 4/26, 1:30 p.m.

Education Committee

League Office

Please remember to wear your League name badge to all League events.

We thank the sponsors from our Celebration of 100 years of Women Suffrage in New York State:
the Erie County Commission on the Status of Women, Ingold Law, Kirsits & Associates
and New York State Women, Inc., Buffalo Niagara Chapter