



your
★ VOTER ★

Volume 24, Number 6

February 2019

President

Terri Parks

Office

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

Office Manager

Mary Ann Turkla

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

LWVB/N website

www.lwvbn.org

LWVNYS website

www.lwvny.org

LWVUS website

www.lwv.org

Voter is published 11
times a year. March Voter
copy is due Monday,
February 11. Send copy
to Nancy DeTine at
nancy@nancydetine.com.

Western New York's Place in Black History

Friday, February 15, 2019

Registration: 11:30 a.m.

Speaker: 12:00 noon, lunch to follow

Scotch 'n Sirloin Restaurant

3999 Maple Road, Amherst, NY 14226

Guest speaker: Eva M. Doyle

Celebrate Black History Month with an award-winning pillar of our community! Community activist, retired teacher, newspaper columnist and author of a dozen books on African and African American history, Eva Doyle is a natural as well as professional storyteller. Her recounting of the history we know – and much we do not – is sure to intrigue and inspire.

RSVP: Reservations and \$18 lunch payment must be received by Monday, February 11. Make checks payable to LWVBN and mail to LWVBN, 1272 Delaware Ave., Buffalo, NY 14209. To attend the program only at no charge, reserve online at www.lwvbn.org, send email to lwvbn@lwvbn.org, or call 716-986-4898.

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.

President's Report and Board Actions

On January 14, 2019, both houses of the state legislature passed a package of voting reforms for New York State. League members were cheering all across the state with good reason. These are among the reforms that the League has promoted for more than 30 years – they include early voting, same day voter registration, a single primary in June for state and congressional offices, pre-registration for 16 and 17-year-olds, statewide voter registration transfer, no-excuse absentee voting and closure of the LLC loophole. However, without adequate funding, these measures are meaningless. While Governor Cuomo promoted these reforms, and expected they would be passed on the first day of the 2019 legislative session, he failed to allocate any funds for them in the budget. We have been asked to speak with our state legislators and urge them to make sure the final budget includes the dollars to make these welcome changes happen.

To assist League members who may not have met with legislators or who would like to polish their presentations, and also to give members tools to help them write their elected officials as individuals, we will present a Citizens Lobbying Workshop on Saturday, February 9, 2019. We urge you to attend and to participate in our lobby efforts this winter and spring. Ann Converso, who has much experience in advocacy efforts, will lead the workshop. The details for February 9 are on page 3.

The board also discussed and decided to submit three key areas to the state League for this year's advocacy: Election Law Reform (the issues that we featured last year and were not enacted this year), Campaign Finance and Ethics Reform, and Health Reform including Single Payer Health Insurance, safe staffing in hospitals and nursing homes and reproductive health. While some League members seem to feel that the League should focus only on issues related to elections, ethics and voting, the League has, since its beginning, focused on other important issues of the day. Our many positions give us the ability to comment on many issues, often in letters and press releases. Our actual legislative lobbying each year is focused on a much smaller set of issues that will be part of the legislative session and have been suggested by the local Leagues in New York State.

Terri Parks

Great Decisions

The 2019 briefing books arrived early in January and are now ensconced below my green chair in my computer room. I'm hoping I will see all of you who ordered one on Thursday, March 7, at 1272 Delaware Avenue from 10 a.m. to noon, at which time I'll be happy to exchange your book for \$29.80. We will also be looking to sign up facilitators for NINE topics this year. If you should wish your copy before March 7, please call me to arrange to obtain it.

Bernice Baeumler,

In memory of Phyllis Hanlon

Phyllis Hanlon, a long-time member of the League, died on January 6, 2019. As a member of the Amherst League, she initiated the Lunch & Issues programs at Scotch 'n Sirlain. Her son, Kevin, has cooked every lunch for these programs.

An obituary in *The Buffalo News* on Sunday, January 13, reported that Phyllis was also a member of the Amherst Republican Women, Amherst Garden Club, Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village and Salad Ladies.

Citizens Lobbying Workshop
How to make elected officials hear your voice!

Saturday, February 9, 2019

Registration: 9:45 a.m.

Workshop: 10 a.m. to 12 noon

Harlem Road Community Center

4255 Harlem Rd., Amherst, NY 14226

Training conducted by **Ann Converso, LWVBN Legislative Advocacy Chair**

Letters to the editor, phone calls, petitions, personal visits ... what are the best ways to make *your* voice heard? Come and find out from our experienced community activist. You'll learn how a bill becomes a law, how to track its progress, how to conduct a lobbying visit, how to follow up and much more.

Refreshments will be served.

Free and open to the public! Reservations required.

RSVP by Tuesday, February 5, online at www.lwvbn.org, via email to lwvbn@lwvbn.org, or by calling 716-986-4898.

Honoring Local League Leaders

It's time again to think about honoring local League Leaders.

The Joan K. Bozer Leadership Award recognizes outstanding League Leadership that reflects 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 or mail them to the League office by February 28, 2017. Be sure your name is noted as the nominator. Please feel free to contact Terri Parks [at lwvbn@lwvbn.org](mailto:lwvbn@lwvbn.org) or 986-4898 if you need help with your nominations.

Our Nuclear Times: Article 14

I cook at home. I use an electric stove. I am worried about this sentence on page 28 of an October 15 report titled **Reset of America's Nuclear Waste Management, Strategy and Policy, 2018**. "...[C]ompeting congressional priorities relegated to the back-burner the AEC's [Atomic Energy Commission's] efforts to direct its contracting corps to establish a program for the long-term management of its radioactive waste." Please re-read that sentence.

"Back-burner." That's the word that caught my eye. Not everyone will immediately understand it. Putting a cooking pot on a stove's back-burner means it can be virtually forgotten. The food cooks slowly over low heat. It doesn't need constant stirring. Over time, people have cooked food over a fire on a stick, on a spit, in a pot, or in a pit. Now? Food can be bought in a pouch or tray, box or can. Put it in a microwave. Press a button. And in the future? The report should omit idiomatic language that will become obsolete in the next 1,000 years — the true initial phase of this megaproject.

I read the 125-page report, most of it anyway. It envisions a new not-for-profit nuclear industry organization to handle nuclear wastes. It would include consensus-based decision making of local, county, state, federal, and tribal governments, plus others. But the processing, packaging, transporting, tracking, repackaging, siting, storing, monitoring, and administering — all that is extraordinarily expensive and commanding well into the future... (What about low level wastes? What about the many thousands of acres of radiation contaminated commercial and defense sites? What about uranium mine tailings? Accidents?)

As I stir my pot of vegetable stew, I think about Western New York's nuclear wastes. Maybe I will put it on the back-burner.

NOTES: The "back-burner" sentence is from the section "History of U.S. Organizations Responsible for Nuclear Waste." The AEC [Atomic Energy Commission] was dissolved in the 1970s. That 2018 report says that subsequent piecemeal laws and regulations have not adequately addressed the nuclear waste problem... that it requires integrated actions of corporate, technical, regulatory, political, legislative, administrative, judicial, transportation, fiscal, educational, and emergency preparedness bodies. So, really, that means everyone — including you and me.

Barbara Frackiewicz

Welcome to these new members:

Andrea Baldi, Jennifer Hoffman and Amanda Irons-Rindfleisch. We look forward to working with you and seeing you at League events.

Naturalization Ceremonies

Deborah Shiffner and Ellen Moomaw welcomed 52 new citizens at the ceremony on December 20 at the U.S. Courthouse. On January 3, Karen Keaton and Deborah Shiffner represented the League, welcoming 56 new citizens at the U.S. Courthouse.

Patricia Wille, Volunteer Coordinator for Naturalization Ceremonies

Election Services

The committee has just one site to report on regarding nominations and elections. On December 5, 2018, Janet Goodsell and I conducted nominations at the Frederic Douglass site on Jefferson Avenue. On January 23, 2018, Scott Gehl, Judy Wiedemann, and I conducted their elections. We had to maintain strict neutrality among the candidates, as our League office, Terri Parks, and I received numerous requests to alter the times and dates of the election. This occurred after all of these details had been previously agreed upon by all of the candidates. We politely declined to initiate any changes and kept the original time, date, and procedures intact.

Alan Dozoretz, Chair, Election Services

A suggestion to honor long-time member, Joan Bozer

The Buffalo News published an outstanding front-page article on Saturday, December 1, 2018, giving well-deserved congratulations to Joan Bozer for leading the uphill battle to save the beautiful Gothic Revival Old Post Office Building for the downtown campus of Erie Community College. As Dan Hocoy, ECC president, noted, towers and spires like those of Europe are important to the cityscape. For example, the city hall in Buffalo's Sister City, Lille, France, has a phenomenal belfry.

My grandson, Austin Ford, a senior at Rochester Institute of Technology, considers it a shame that Rochester tore down many landmark buildings, such as its stunning railroad station, before the preservation movement took hold there. Fortunately, Buffalo has fared better with preservation.

Joan Bozer has always used her remarkable skills to work across the political aisle and unite people of various points of view. She helped me get a federal law changed by eliciting assistance from Republican Jack Kemp and Democrat Geraldine Ferraro. Buffalonians are lucky to have had Joan's exceptional talents working for us for more than 40 years.

It is my suggestion that we make the downtown site "The Joan Bozer Campus of Erie Community College" in her honor.

Bonnie Gordon Flickinger, Ph.D.

This was published in *The Buffalo News* on January 19, 2019.

Save this date and join us!

An Afternoon with Eleanor

Celebrating the centennial of the League of Women Voters of New York State

Saturday, May 4, 2019

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

The Garret Club

91 Cleveland Avenue, Buffalo, NY

Our special guest will be Eleanor Roosevelt, as portrayed by Denise Reichard

More details coming soon!



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF BUFFALO/NIAGARA

1272 Delaware Ave, Buffalo, NY 14209

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

February 2019 Calendar

Tuesday, February 5, 4:00 p.m.
Issues/Program Committee
Harlem Road Community Center

Saturday, February 9, 9:45 a.m.
Citizens Lobbying Workshop
Harlem Road Community Center

Monday, February 11, 3:30 p.m.
Board of Directors
League Office

Wednesday, February 13, 1:30 p.m.
Local Government Committee
League Office

Friday, February 15, 11:30 a.m.
Western New York's Place in Black History
Scotch 'n Sirloin Restaurant

Thursday, February 21, 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