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Loretta Peszynski, Co-President events@lwvbn.com

Margaret Brunson, Co-President events@lwvbn.com

Judy Weidemann, Membership Chair events@lwvbn.com

Office: 1272 Delaware Ave Buffalo, NY 14209 884-3550 Fax 882-3797 E-Mail: lwvbn@lwvbn.org

Janet Massaro, Administrator

Office Open: Mon-Thurs Office closed Fridays

LWVB/N website www.lwvbn.org

LWVNYS Home Page www.lwvny.org

LWVUS Home Page www.lwv.org

Terri Parks, Voter Editor events@lwvbn.com

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Buffalo's Waterfronts – Key to the Region's Economic Future, a presentation for LWVB/N and the General Public,



Wednesday, October 7, 2009, from 7 – 9 p.m.
Harlem Road Community Center Auditorium
4255 Harlem Road, Amherst, NY

Join us to hear from Western New York's premier waterfront experts & spokespersons,

Julie O'Neill, Executive Director, Buffalo/Niagara Riverkeeper
Tim Tielman, Executive Director, Campaign for a Greater Buffalo History, Architecture and Culture

This program was planned by the LWVBN Transportation Group, Kristin Allen, Chair, and the LWVBN Waterfront Committee, Jim Metzger, Chair.



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President's Message

As we kick off the 2009-2010 League year I look forward to a full schedule of exciting events and programs. We started with our September 23rd General Meeting. You have the details for the two important programs in October in this Voter.

We have already had pre-primary candidates forums in several of our towns. We start preparing for the General Election in the next few days.

Those of you who are on Elsa Bondar's Grassroots ListServ have received notices about many interesting events taking place in Western New York in the next few weeks. Examples include the Southtowns Energy Fair on September 26, the Tour of Solar Homes on October 3, and a trip to the National First Ladies' Library in Canton, Ohio on October 16 & 17.

Something new from LWVUS – League Geeks are available to help you use League's online materials.

Locally we are focusing on membership. Bring a friend to a League event and ask her/him join the League.

Thank you, Ann Shub, for your new fund-raiser for LWVBN. You'll be able purchase Equal Exchange coffee from Ann at League events. The profits will be deposited in our operating fund account. I look forward to seeing you all very soon at one of our fine League events!

Margaret Brunson, Co-president, LWVBN

VOLUNTEERS are **NEEDED** to prepare the *2009 ELECTION GUIDE*. We need researchers, typists, proofreaders, distributors and a coordinator. This is a fast paced, short-term commitment that runs from now to the middle of October. Call the League Office at 884-3550 to volunteer.

If you have any questions email Margaret Brunson: events@lwvbn.com

Board Meeting Highlights

It's time to think about national program for the LWVUS for the next biennium. What issues do you think our national League should focus on during 2010-2012? Share your thoughts with any board member.

The LWVUS Nominating Committee will build the 2010-2012 slate only from those names *submitted by members*. Please consider nominating yourself or someone you admire. The postmark deadline for nominations is September 30.

Board Member Committee Appointments for 2009-2010:

LWVBN Nominating Committee - Janet Goodsell, Judy Weidemann, Judy Clarke

LWVBN Budget Committee - Treasurer, Debbie Billoni. Voters Service Chair, Joyce Bol, Membership Chair, Judy Weidemann, Judy Clarke, Terri Parks, Ex-officio, Co-presidents and Office Manager

Membership Committee - Judy Weidemann, Ramona Gallagher, Terri Parks

Great Decisions

Kristin Allen (the person who has valiantly been responsible for trying to make it possible for us to see the Great Decisions television series on the Network's TV, thank you!) will lead our 7th discussion for the year, **Cuba on the Verge** on Thursday, October 1, from 10:00 a.m.- noon at 1272 Delaware Avenue. "Since Fidel Castro handed over the presidency of Cuba to his brother, Raul in early 2008 signs of greater economic openness have led to much speculation. Will Raul seek to reopen ties with the US? What role will Cuba's American exiles play in shaping a post-Castro Cuba?" PS: Did you know that Cuba has oil?

Bernice Baesumler events@lwvbn.com

Re-Entry Support in Western New York

October 24, 2009
Erie Community College City Campus

Moderator: Chris Warden

8:30 - 9:00 a.m. - Registration and coffee

Local agencies will have information tables in the front hall all day.

9:00 a.m. - Noon

Overview of Agencies in Erie County

Donald J. Livingston, Superintendent of Jail Management, Erie County Sheriff's
Department

Presentations by Local Agencies

Caroline Camm, Director, Single Point of Contact, Assisted Outpatient Treatment

Mike Robinson, Director of Men's Ministries, Buffalo City Mission

Sophia Miller, Site Team Leader, Mid Erie Counseling & Treatment Services

Anne Constantino, President & CEO, Horizon Health Services

David Merlo, Board of Directors, Restoration Society

Noon: Lunch in the Atrium, provided free of charge for all participants

1:30 p.m. - Presentation, questions and answers

Ann Graham, Coordinator, Monroe Re-Entry Program, Catholic Family Center

3:00 p.m. - Closing Remarks, Bart Blum, Executive Director, Action for Mental Health

Special thanks to the Conference Co-sponsors

Action for Mental Health, Inc.

Action for Mental Health, Inc. has been and continues to be successful in accomplishing delivery of consumer empowerment and improving the quality and delivery of mental health services in Erie County.

American Association of University Women

The American Association of University Women promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education and positive societal change.

League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

**Register early; seats are limited. Call Therese Warden, events@lwvbn.com,
to register and for further information.**

Voter Service

New Voting Machines for this Year's Elections

For the Primary Election on September 15 and the General Election on November 3, voters in Erie County will be using the DS200 optical scanning machine that will read paper ballots. The DS200 machine was developed by Election Systems & Software, Incorporated in Nebraska. However, voters in the City of Buffalo will still be using the old lever machines. In Niagara County, voters will also use an optical scanning machine but a different one called the Sequoia/Dominion Image Cast.

Though the machines are new in New York State and Ohio, several counties in Florida used the DS200 in the 2008 General Election. Some problems encountered in Florida with the DS 200 have been corrected according to the company. While the lack of a paper trail and worries about electronic votes disappearing have been key concerns, Erie County Elections Commissioner Dennis E. Ward noted, "The paper ballot voters complete is a paper trail itself. The ballot drops into the box. The original is there; it will be preserved. If all else fails we can hand-count ballots. At the same time the ballot goes through the counter, the machine digitally images that ballot and stores it, so in addition to the computer tallies, each system will also have pictures of every ballot cast."

Joyce Bol, Voter Service Chair

General Election

- Oct. 9 - Last day to register for the General Election - Registrations that are mailed must be postmarked by this date and received by the Board of Elections by October 14. Exceptions: if you have been honorably discharged from the military or have become a naturalized citizen after October 9, you must register in person at the Board of Elections by October 23.
- Oct. 14 - Last day to notify Board of Elections of change of address
- Oct. 27 - Last day to postmark application or letter of application for Absentee Ballot for the General Election
- Nov. 2 - Last day to apply in person for Absentee Ballot for General Election
- Nov. 2 - Last day to postmark Absentee Ballot It must be received by the Board of Elections no later than November 10.
- Nov. 3 - Last day to deliver Absentee Ballot in person to your Board of Elections
- **General Election Day - Tuesday, November 3, 2009**
Polls open at 6 a.m. and close at 9:00 p.m. in both Erie and Niagara Counties.

For questions and ballots requests, call the Erie County Board of Elections, 858-8891 or the Niagara County Board of Elections, 438-4040.

Local League History Archive Web Site

To provide some historical background for Western New York League of Women Voters, I have been going through material stored in the League office. It is primarily this material that is being used for the occasional history columns in the Voter.

To make this material more accessible, our web master, Kristin Allen, has established a link from the LWVB/N web site to an archives web site, www.lwvbn.org/lwvbnorg/members.html. Click on **History Archives** to view the items posted there.

Currently there isn't too much posted at the site and adding information will be a gradual process. As the site develops we will be interested in your comments and ideas. Our material is limited because at least 90% of our information is from newspaper clippings. There are few actual League documents available.

The web site isn't intended to replace the pieces in the Voter but to provide more background and to encourage anyone with an historical bent to pursue the rich history of the League in Western New York and throughout the state and country.

Marie Hanrahan, Historian

Enjoy a 24 Hour Adventure to the First Ladies Library in Canton, Ohio.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 16 - SATURDAY OCTOBER 17, 2009

Friday evening our special guest dinner speaker will be Buffalo attorney, Maryann Saccomando Freedman, the first woman president of the New York State Bar Association, who will speak about "Buffalo's First Ladies, Abigail Fillmore and Frances Folsom Cleveland". Saturday morning we have reserved the early tour of the First Ladies Museum at 9:30 a.m.

You may make a reservation with Joan Bozer at events@lwvbn.com.

Joan must receive your reservation by October 1, 2009.

Send her the following information:

Your name, phone number or e-mail address

Indicate if you'd like to reserve a place at dinner at the Comfort Inn, Friday evening, October 16, at 6:00 p.m.

Indicate if you plan to make your own travel arrangement or if you'd like to car pool with other folks who plan to take the trip. Car pool participants will leave Buffalo at 1:00 p.m. and arrive at the Comfort Inn at 5:00 p.m. Indicate whether you're willing to drive or would like to be a rider.

If you wish to stay at the Comfort Inn, Canton Ohio, please reserve by calling 330-492-1331 and indicate that you are with the **Buffalo Group**, which has a block of rooms reserved. The cost is \$79 for a double. If you would like to share a room, please contact Joan Bozer, events@lwvbn.com

Media Event for West Valley Cleanup

Several members of the League of Women Voters of Buffalo/Niagara joined environmentalists carrying mops, brooms and buckets to demonstrate on September first in front of the offices of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) in Buffalo. NYSERDA officials represent New York State as site managers of the West Valley nuclear waste site, along with officials of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). The DOE is primarily responsible for implementation of the 200-acre West Valley Demonstration Project (WVDP) at the site about 35 miles south of Buffalo. They manage 90% of the funding to cover their expenditures that include hiring contractors to work on the project and cleanup. Because New York State owns the full 3340-acre site, NYS citizens have a huge stake in the extent of future cleanup of the site. **DOE's preferred alternative** in the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) issued last December **is a partial cleanup** involving about 1.2% of the radioactivity on site, **with a delay of up to thirty years for further decisions** regarding cleanup. The site has been problematic from its beginning as a commercial attempt to recycle nuclear fuel rods that ended in the early Seventies. Despite the successful vitrification of high-level liquid waste as part of the Demonstration Project Act of 1980, DOE preference for further delay in decision-making is unacceptable as an alternative.

League members have been following this issue for decades and it is not going to go away soon. The latest and most exciting news is that Betsey Swan, president of the League of Women Voters of New York State, on behalf of all of us, has sent comments to the DOE regarding the new Draft (DEIS). She also sent a letter to U.S. representatives from Western New York- Higgins, Massa and Slaughter, as well as to Senators Schumer and Gillibrand. State Senate Chair Silver, Assembly Speaker Smith and Governor Paterson request assistance to advocate for a full cleanup of the site. The League also issued a press release in that regard (available on line at www.LWVNY.org) that was read during the media event.

Attending the event were Loretta and Chuck Peszynski, Amy Witryol, Ann Ingleman, Ellen Moomaw, Joan Herold, Ellie Becher and Lee Lambert, who answered questions about the site. TV Channel 7 covered the demonstration, and shots of two speakers from the League and the Seneca Nation were included in their newscast that evening. On Wednesday, September 2, 2009, *The Buffalo News* article, "Coalition urges complete West Valley cleanup", <http://www.buffalonews.com/cityregion/otherwny/story/782237.html> reported about other speakers.

It was gratifying that there were so many League members in attendance. What better way to spend one of the few sunny days we had in Buffalo this summer than demonstrating for the League? Talk about dedication!

Lee Lambert, events@lwvbn.com

Lunch & Issues

Friday, October 16, 2009
11:30 a.m.

Scotch and Sirloin Restaurant
 Corner of Bailey and Maple Road,
 Amherst, NY

Denise Herkey,

Red Cross Disaster Preparedness
 Program Coordinator, is our guest speaker.

Please come and bring a friend.

The cost of full service meal is **\$15.00**.
 Make checks payable to **LWVBN**.

Please contact Judy Metzger at
events@lwvbn.com
 by **October 14**, to make reservations.

Amherst Unit News

Joann Ross will moderate and Mike Egan will be timekeeper at the **Amherst Candidates' Breakfast**, October 22, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. at the Senior Center on John James Audubon Parkway. Come, enjoy some coffee, bring your questions and a friend.

With a new Supervisor and Amherst Town Board members taking office in 2010, there will be some changes in committee assignments in the town. Our unit has secured speakers from two of the committees, Conservation and Planning. They will present programs in January and February. Meanwhile, please contact Joyce Zobel at tiff@verizon.net to volunteer to attend Town Board meetings. Your unit volunteer coordinators are seeking program ideas for March and April. Please contact Judy Metzger at judmetz78@roadrunner.com or Arlene Miles at Amiles@daemen.edu.

Judy Metzger and Arlene Miles

Hamburg Candidate Forum

Wednesday, October 21, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
 at the Union-Pleasant School Auditorium

East Aurora Candidate Forum

Tuesday, October 20, 2009, Candidate Forum at
 7 p.m. at the East Aurora Senior Center

Clarence Unit News

The Clarence unit has been inactive over the summer but will soon resume vigorously with its annual community finance drive and support of the LWVBN General Programs. We will also join with the Amherst Unit to sponsor Lunch & Issues on October 16, and on November 20, when our State Senator, Michael Ranzenhofer, will speak.

Our **Clarence Candidates' Forum** is scheduled for Monday, October 26, at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Allene Falk

East Aurora Pre-Primary Forum

Thank you to Leaguers who made our Aurora Pre-Primary Candidate Forum a success! Ellen Moomaw, Laura Mc Dade, Lynn Wilkins, Judy Weidemann, Joe Logan, Lee Lambert, Joan Herold and all the Leaguers who attended and helped with set-up performed a great service to the community.

A copy of the ballots obtained from the Board of Elections was available online and actual size ballots were on display at the library thanks to Allene Falk. The East Aurora Advertiser expressed interest in printing ballots in their newspaper in the future, which will be helpful for citizens, who appreciate being able to see the ballot before going to the polls.

Ellen Neumaier

Small Farmers, Big Change

Support our League and farmers in Central America with purchase of Fairly Traded Coffee from Equal Exchange, a co-operative since 1986, whose great coffee pleases all who taste it. Ann Shub has volunteered to sell to Leaguers and friends with the profit from each sale going to LWVBN. Regular, decaf and some specialty coffees will cost \$9.00 per bag. Ann plans to have coffee available at League events. We all thank Ann for offering this service that benefits everyone who's involved in the production and sale of Equal Exchange coff

Membership dues and contributions to the LWV are not deductible as a personal or business expense for tax purposes.

RENEW

CUT OUT AND MAIL TODAY

Make check payable to **LWVB/N** and send to **LWVB/N**, 1272 Delaware Ave., Buffalo, NY 14209-2401 (Attn: Membership Chair, Judy Weidemann)

- \$62 Individual (Basic Membership)
- \$75 Carrie Chapman Catt Membership
- \$90 Elizabeth Cady Stanton Membership
- \$100 Susan B. Anthony Membership
- Enclosed is my additional contribution of \$_____
- \$95 Household (2 members living at the same address)
- \$30 Student membership

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.

Dear League Members,

Membership

Reminders have gone out to members who have not yet renewed. We need every one of our members and of course we need to add to our numbers. We are taking note of non-members who come to our outstanding events and membership invitations and information will be sent to them. Consider inviting your friends who are not members to our events. Some of them may be interested in joining our vibrant organization.

Judy Weidemann, Membership Chair

Welcome to New Members, Barbara Demerst, Amherst, NY and Amy Duell, Sanborn, NY.

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, and to me at events@lwvbn.com. We need this notification to reach you by e-mail with the latest news, advocacy requests, and information.

Elsa Bondar, LWVB/N Grassroots Coordinator

If you're willing to receive your VOTER by e-mail, please e-mail me at events@lwvbn.com. You will help the environment, save printing and postage costs, and learn about upcoming events at least a week earlier than folks who receive the printed copy. We currently are sending VOTER by e-mail to 53 members who requested it. Their comments about the electronic delivery have been positive.

Terri Parks, VOTER Editor

In Memoriam

We're saddened to report that **Reverend Robert Grimm**, husband of League member Roberta Grimm, and **Martin Bates** both died in late August. Reverend Grimm was the Executive Director of the Council of Churches, a forerunner of the Network of Religious Communities, where our League office is located. He was a passionate worker for peace and justice, understanding and cooperation among people of many faiths.

We also mourn long time League member and Voter proofreader, **Margit Spector**, who died September 1.



Join Us for a Benefit Shopping Day for LWVBN

We look forward to seeing you at **Ten Thousand Villages, 5596 Main Street in Williamsville** on **October 22, 2009** between **10:00 a.m.** and **8:00 p.m.** A percentage of each purchase will benefit LWVBN.

OCTOBER 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
9/27	9/28	9/29 ISSUES COMM MEETS 4:30 p.m.	9/30	1 GREAT DECISIONS Page 2	2	3
4	5 LWVBN BOARD MEETS 4:30 p.m.	6	7 WATERFRONT EVENT Page 1	8 NATURAL RESOURCES 9:30 a.m.	9 VOTER COPY DUE	10
11	12	13	14 LOCAL GOV'T 1:15 p.m.	15 CHARTER SCHOOLS 1:30 p.m.	16 LUNCH & ISSUES Page 6 TRIP TO CANTON, OH	17 FIRST LADIES' MUSEUM Page 5
18	19	20 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EAST AURORA Page 6	21 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HAMBURG Page 6	22 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AMHERST Page 6	23	24 RE-ENTRY CONFERENCE Page 3
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

CANDIDATES' FORUMS

LWVBN SHOPPING DAY AT TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES, OCTOBER 22, 10 A.M. – 8 P.M.