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VOTER is published ten times each year. Copy is due the Friday following the monthly board meeting.

## LWVB/N Fall Kick-Off Meeting

Wednesday, September 23, 2009 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. (Networking 6:30 p.m.)

Harlem Road Community Center Auditorium 4255 Harlem Road, Amherst, NY

We welcome all League members and the general public to a presentation by The LWVB/N Local Government Committee:

### Government Change: More than Dollars and Cents

Come join us for an informed discussion of local government mergers and consolidations.

- What makes successful government changes? Does it pay to downsize? How do we achieve government efficiency? What is the impact of government change on social justice?

Learn about the League's position on intergovernmental relationships and the views of local experts.

Panelists: Craig Bucki, confirmed Bruce Fisher, confirmed John Maggiore, confirmed Renee Filip, confirmed Michael Clarke, invited

### CONTENTS

President's Message	2	Nominations for LWVUS Board	5
Re-Entry Conference, October 24	2	News from LWVNYS	5
Great Decisions	2	Unit News	6
Board & Committee Calendar	3	Climate Change Tips	6
Waterfront Sweep, September 19	3	Save Dates: Waterfront & Benefit Sale	6
Travel Opportunity, October 17-18	3	Membership News	7
Voter Services, Primary Dates	4	September Calendar	8
LWVNYS Voters Guides Available	4		

## President's Message



On August 3, our LWVB/N met with LWWNYS Regional Director, Georgia DeGregorio, for our annual board training session. Georgia also serves currently as First Vice President (Membership Director) of LWWNYS. We reviewed our local League policies, particularly those regarding nonpartisanship and diversity. We then reviewed the job descriptions of those board members and officers in attendance. We had an in-depth discussion about membership and how all board members need to work as a team to recruit and retain members. We talked about recruiting new members, retaining and revitalizing current members and set goals for increasing membership this coming year. Perhaps the easiest, and most often overlooked membership activity is simply asking people you know and those you've just met to join or come to a meeting or program and see what League is all about.

Another aspect of membership growth and retention is the program itself. We are working to schedule interesting programs at times and places that will be accessible to the greatest number of Leaguers, both current and future members.

At this time we have programs and events planned for the first half of the League year. There will be a program about Local Government on September 23. On October 7, there will be a program about Buffalo's waterfront followed by an all day conference on Re-Entry (Alternatives to Incarceration) on October 24. Clean-up of Radioactive Waste Sites, climate change and of course candidate forums, the publication of the election guide, naturalization ceremonies, Great Decisions discussions and a holiday social in December, all will be important parts of the first half of our League year. I hope to see each one of you at some or all of our events.

*Margaret Brunson*, Co-president LWVB/N

## Make your Reservation for the Re-Entry Conference Soon

There will be an all day conference at Erie Community College City Campus on Saturday, October 24, 2009. The conference will include presentations from local human service agencies that focus on the re-entry needs of people released from jail.

The guest speaker will be **Ann Graham, Monroe County Re-Entry Coordinator**. There will be no cost for the event with lunch included. Please get your reservations in early, as seats are limited. The conference is co sponsored by League of Women Voters Buffalo/Niagara and Action for Mental Health, Inc. It is funded by a grant from the American Association of University Women. Contact Therese Warden, at [events@lwvbn.org](mailto:events@lwvbn.org) for reservations and further information.

*Therese Warden*, Chair Re-Entry Study Group

## Great Decisions

Great Decisions 2009 will resume on Thursday, September 3, at 10 a.m.-noon at 1272 Delaware Avenue, when Joan Sillman will lead the discussion about Global Food Crisis. "Global prices for food staples have risen dramatically, resulting in protests and unrest around the world. What factors are driving prices up, and can they be tamed? What will the political fallout be for governments that fail to act, and what role can global institutions play?" Food is fundamental.

If you have questions please contact *Bernice Baeumler* at [events@lwvbn.org](mailto:events@lwvbn.org).

## LWVBN Board & Committee Meeting Calendar 2009-2010

	MEETING DAY	TIME	LOCATION	EXCEPTIONS
Board of Directors	First Monday	4:30 p.m.	LWV Office	Meets 9/14/09
Issues Committee	Tues. prior to Board	4:30 p.m.	Harlem Road Comm. Center	Meets 9/09/09
Great Decisions	First Thursday	10:30 a.m.	LWV Office	No mtg. Dec/July/Aug
Local Government	Second Wednesday	1:15 p.m.	LWV Office	
Natural Resources	Third Thursday	9:30 a.m.	East Aurora	
Charter Schools/Education	Third Thursday	1:30 p.m.	LWV Office	No mtg. Jul/Aug/Dec
Lunch & Issues	Third Friday	11:30 a.m.	Scotch & Sirloin Restaurant	No mtg. May-Sept.

## Waterfront Committee Sweeps the Shore Again

Help the Waterfront Committee pick up trash on North Squaw Island in the Niagara River on Saturday, September 19, 2009, from 9 a.m. until noon. We will again be working under the auspices of the Shoreline Sweep organized by Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper. All Leaguers and friends are welcome. It's fun and the view is terrific from the long fishing pier!

Bring gloves, hat or sunglasses, jacket, sunscreen, water and maybe a camera or binoculars for the shore birds. There are no restrooms.

We will drive into the park from Niagara Street on the ramp-like entrance next to 1726 Niagara Street in Buffalo. It's a short block north of the Niagara Street/Scajaquada intersection. The entrance has a large billboard and a small park sign. From the park entrance, cross the bridge spanning the Black Rock Canal. (Make sure that no one is already on the bridge as it has only one lane.) Then drive straight ahead (west) to the river. Turn right under the International Railroad Bridge and drive to the parking area at the end of the road where we will start our work.

Contact Sally Metzger, at [events@lwvbn.org](mailto:events@lwvbn.org), so we can plan supplies and arrange rides, if needed.

*Sally Metzger*, LWV/BN Waterfront Committee member

## A Travel Opportunity

An overnight visit to the National First Ladies Library in Canton, Ohio, is being organized by LWVB/N, the AAUW, and Friends of the Women's Right's National Park. The library is devoted to educating people about the contributions of First Ladies and other women in history.



The group will leave on the afternoon of Friday, October 16, and return on Saturday, October 17. We will travel by private cars and car pool, of course. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Comfort Inn in Canton, Ohio for Friday evening at a rate of \$79.99 for a double room. You may reserve your room by calling 1-800-544-4444. Be sure to say that you are part of the Women's Event Group. If you need someone to share a room with, contact Joan Bozer.

A special feature of the trip will be a talk by Buffalo attorney and first woman president of the New York State Bar Association, Mary Ann Saccomondo Freedman. Ms Freedman will speak about the two Buffalo First Ladies, Abigail Fillmore and Frances Folsom Cleveland.



For further information and to register contact Joan Bozer at [events@lwvbn.org](mailto:events@lwvbn.org).

*Judy Weidemann*

## Voter Services

Jo Ann Mecca participated in the First Annual Citizens Empowerment Conference held in Buffalo on August first. She handed out League of Women materials. In addition, she participated in a panel organized by the Western New York Prisoners Re-Entry Coalition of the Lower East Side and informed the audience that former prisoners are eligible to vote if they are not on parole. Jo Ann sent this coalition 25 pamphlets titled "Your Right to Vote in NY State: Individuals with Criminal Convictions and Those Detained in Jail or Prison".

### Naturalization Services



Thank you to the following Leaguers who have agreed to participate in the New Citizens Ceremonies in the next few months:

August 20 - Arlene Miles and Marie Hanrahan  
 September 14 - Joan Sillman and Agnes Tufariello  
 September 24 - Terri Parks and Judy Clarke  
 October 15 - Jennie Wylegala and Joan Photiadis

*Joyce H. Bol*, Voter Services Chair

## Primary Election 2009 in Erie and Niagara Counties

### Primary Election

- Aug. 21 - Last day to register for Primary Election at the Board of Elections - Registrations that are mailed must be postmarked by this date and received by the Board of Elections by August 26.
- Aug. 26 - Last day to notify Board of Elections of change of address
- Sept. 8 - Last day to postmark an application for an Absentee Ballot
- Sept. 14 - Last day to apply in person for an Absentee Ballot
- Sept. 14 - Last day to postmark an Absentee Ballot, which must be received by the Board of Elections no later than September 22
- Sept. 15 - Last day to deliver Absentee Ballot in person to the Board of Elections
- **Primary Election Day - Tuesday, September 15, 2009**  
 Erie County: polls open at 6:00 a.m., close at 9:00 p.m.  
 Niagara County: polls open at noon, close at 9:00 p.m.



## LWVNYS - 2009 Voter's Guides Available

**The Voter's Guide Part I – Facts for Voters** is on the LWVNYS website NOW! As you know, many of our polling places will be participating in the pilot of the optical scanning equipment, and so the guide has a description of the process for pilot counties, in addition to a description of the not-so-new Ballot Marking Devices (BMDs). **The Voters Guide Part II** will include info on the proposed constitutional amendment and judicial elections and will be available in September. Download **The Voter's Guide Part I** at [lwnys.org](http://lwnys.org).

Following is a link to the excellent LWVArizona **Health Care Booklet**, which has been highly recommended: <http://www.lwvaz.org/azvoterservice/LWVAZ%20%20Issues%20Behind%20HC%20Reform%20-%20General.pdf>

This general version of the Health Care Booklet is especially for people who don't live in Arizona.

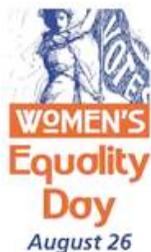
## All Members Are the Nominating Committee for the National Board

The September 30, 2009, deadline for nominations for the 2010-2012 LWVUS Board and Nominating Committee is fast approaching. Is there someone in your League you think would be an outstanding candidate to fill one of these positions? If so, it's up to you to nominate that person – or urge him or her to self-nominate.

Why is this so important? Contrary to what our name might imply, the LWVUS Nominating Committee (unlike local League nominating committees) *doesn't actually nominate anyone*. We build the slate using only the names given to us by members. If we don't get a name from you, that person – however well qualified – won't be in the running for a position on the slate. So, in a sense, the Nominating Committee is made up of all League members.

We are truly dependent for our success on strong League member participation in this process in order to have a large pool of nominees to select from when building the 2010-2012 slate. That will only happen if members like you tell us about the leaders you admire.

If you go to the *For Members* area in [lwv.org](http://lwv.org) and click on the *Call for Nominations* box on the right side of the page you will find a list of resources that provide information about the Committee and our work. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns. The postmark deadline for nominations is September 30. Remember: **LWV is US!**



LWVUS Nominating Committee

Chair: Robbie Davis ([events@lwvbn.org](mailto:events@lwvbn.org))

Members: Pam Goodman, Carolie Mullan, Sandy Powell, Marlys Robertson.

We celebrate the 89<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which gave women the right to vote. Celebrate by commitment to the League and its principles on Women's Equality Day and every day.

## News from LWNYS

### State Financial Problems

LWNYS President, Betsey Swan, has reported that LWNYS has been able to reduce its deficit by \$3000 thanks to recent contributions by members. However, LWNYS cannot afford to print the State VOTER. The state website is being updated and will offer timely updates for members. We will print information related to LWNYS, as much as space allows, in our eight page LWVB/N VOTER.

### Youth Leadership Initiative

The League is planning to develop its own youth leadership initiative to replace the LeaderSpark program in NYS. It will contain modules on civic education, financial education, and leadership skills. The modular approach will provide greater flexibility, allowing local Leagues to tailor the program to the needs of all the state's diverse students and also enabling more Leagues to participate.

### Free State Board Reports

The State Board Report is published six times a year and provides vital information on all activities and actions of the State Board. To sign up for your free electronic version of the SBR, contact Stephanie at [Stephanie@lwny.org](mailto:Stephanie@lwny.org).

## 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. Regular, decaf and some specialty coffee are available at \$8.00 per pound. Contact Ann at 688-2173 or [alshub@verizon.net](mailto:alshub@verizon.net). We all thank Ann for offering this service that benefits everyone who's involved in the production and sale of Equal Exchange coffee.

## Amherst Unit News

Denise Herkey, League member and American Red Cross Disaster Preparedness Coordinator, will present a program on October 16, 2009, at the Scotch and Sirloin Restaurant, 6999 Maple Road at 11:30 a.m. State Senator Michael Ranzenhofer will join us on November 20, 2009. Programs including full luncheons cost \$15.00. Please contact Sally Metzger at [events@lwvbn.org](mailto:events@lwvbn.org) by October 14 or November 18 to make reservations.

Clarence League members are joining us for these two luncheons and we welcome everyone else who'd like to attend.

Candidates for public office will be at the Amherst Senior Center on October 22 at 9 a.m. Joann Ross will moderate. Please come and bring your friends. We thank the Senior Center for providing set up and refreshments.

*Judy Metzger, Arlene Miles & Sally Metzger, Amherst Unit Coordinators*

## Climate Change Tips

**Remember to carry your reusable tote bags wherever you go!** Use them at Farmer's Markets, for clothing, incidentals—everything! I keep some for food products, others for meeting materials. Small bags that fit into your purse are available. They open to become large, strong bags that you can always have with you.

**Purchase a reusable, washable dry cleaning bag.** Return your plastic dry cleaning bags to the cleaners and ask them to reuse the bags.

Whenever you shop in places that sell harmful pesticide products, take a moment to look for the notice of the Erie County Pesticide Neighbor Notification Law. If you don't readily find this notice, tell the manager you are concerned, because this is a health and safety issue, and the notice should be posted in a prominent place.



*Ellen Neumaier, Natural Resource Chair*

## Save the Date

Please join us for a presentation about the Buffalo waterfront for League members and the public on Wednesday, October 7, 2009, from 7 – 9 p.m. in the Harlem Road Community Center Auditorium.

Julie O'Neill, Executive Director, Buffalo Riverkeeper and Tim Tielman, Executive Director, Campaign for a Greater Buffalo History, Architecture and Culture, will speak about Buffalo's Waterfronts – Key to the Region's Economic Future. Julie and Tim are dedicated leaders and well known in our community. They are WNY's premier waterfront experts & spokespersons.

*Kristin Allen, Chair Transportation Group  
Jim Metzger, Chair Waterfront Committee*

League members and guests listen to Tim Tielman on the boardwalk at the Erie Canal Terminus on July 8, 2009.



## Save the Date for a Benefit Shopping Day for LWVBN

**Ten Thousand Villages  
5596 Main Street, Williamsville  
October 22, 2009  
10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.**

The beautiful and useful fairly traded products sold at all Ten Thousand Villages stores make fine gifts. Your purchases on October 22 will be a three-part gift. The recipient gets a quality item, the artisans from developing nations earn a living wage to allow them to provide basic needs for their families, and our League will garner funds to help us in our work.

Also, we'll be sharing our League mission and program with other store customers.

To learn more about Ten Thousand Villages, its mission, the artisans and to see many of the items we sell, visit their website:

[www.tenthousandvillages.com/home.php](http://www.tenthousandvillages.com/home.php).

*Terrí Parks, Ten Thousand Villages volunteer*

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)**

<input type="checkbox"/> \$62 Individual (Basic Membership) <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Carrie Chapman Catt Membership <input type="checkbox"/> \$90 Elizabeth Cady Stanton Membership <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Susan B. Anthony Membership <input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed is my additional contribution of \$_____	<input type="checkbox"/> \$95 Household <i>(2 members living at the same address)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Student membership
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**Unit Affiliation**  
*(optional)*

Amherst  
 Buffalo Metro  
 Clarence

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

*This includes local, state and national League dues.*

Please send me the LWVB/N VOTER via email.

Membership

Dear League Members,

It is time to renew your Buffalo Niagara League of Women Voters membership dues. Many of you have already sent in your renewals. A number of you sent in additional contributions with your dues. That is especially appreciated since our budget is very tight and we must continue our valuable services to the community.

Thanks go to all of you for your support of the League.

*Judy Weidemann*, Membership Chair

**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](mailto:lwvbn@lwvbn.org), and to me at [events@lwvbn.org](mailto:events@lwvbn.org). 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 send an e-mail to me at [events@lwvbn.org](mailto:events@lwvbn.org). 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

**Welcome to New Member, Joan Schultz, of East Amherst.**

**LWV Mission:**

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.



<b>SEPTEMBER 2009</b>
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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 <b>LOCAL GOV'T MEETS 1:15 p.m.</b>	2	3 <b>GREAT DECISIONS Page 2</b>	4	5
6	7	8 <b>ISSUES COMM MEETS 4:30 p.m.</b>	9	10	11 <b>VOTER COPY DUE</b>	12
13	14 <b>LWVBN BOARD MEETS 4:30 P.M.</b>	15 <b>PRIMARY ELECTIONS Page 4</b>	16	17 <b>CHARTER SCHOOLS 1:30 p.m.</b>	18	19 <b>WATERFRONT SWEEP Page 3</b>
20	21	22	23 <b>FALL KICK-OFF MEETING Page 1</b>	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	10/1 <b>GREAT DECISIONS</b>		