



Loretta Peszynski, Co-President events@lwvbn.org

Margaret Brunson, Co-President events@lwvbn.org

Judy Huber, Membership Chair events@lwvbn.org

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

Eugene Abrahamson Office Manager

Office Open: Tues, Thurs, Fri: 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Mon. & Wed, as needed Always call before going to the office.

LWVB/N website www.lwvbn.org

LWVNYSHome Page www.lwvny.org

LWVUS Home Page www.lwv.org

Terri Parks, Voter Editor

events@lwvbn.org

VOTER is published eleven times this year. December Voter copy is due Friday, November 5, 2010.

What is reapportionment?

Redistricting?

How do they affect you?

Learn more about this fascinating subject and your role.

Wednesday, November 17, 2010 from 7-9 p.m.

Harlem Road Community Center

4255 Harlem Road, Amherst, NY 14225

The League of Women Voters of New York State has had a long-standing position that advocates for an independent Redistricting Commission. Our League joins Leagues across New York State in presenting a community forum on the issue of redistricting that features a power point presentation.

You have an important role to play.

Please join us and bring your friends.



League of Women Voters 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.

CONTENTS

Table with 4 columns: Title, Page 1, Page 2, Page 3. Includes items like President's Message, 2010 Voter Guide, Great Decisions, Voter Services, Grassroots Lobby Coordinator, Mystery Woman Photo, Amherst Unit News + Lunch & Issues, Daemen College Tour Photos, Gift-Wrap Information and Sign-Up, Renewal Coupon, News from the State League, November Calendar.

## President's Message

25,000 copies of our **2010 Voter Guide** were distributed to the public libraries and town halls in Erie and Niagara Counties on October 12 and 13. We owe a big round of applause to Kristin Allen, Joyce Bol, Laura McDade and all the other dedicated Leaguers who worked hard to produce and distribute the Guide. We especially applaud Eugene Abrahamson and his volunteer crew without whom we wouldn't have been able to publish the Voter Guide in a timely manner. **Thank you, thank you, thank you.**

In addition to producing the Voter Guide our Voter Services committee held candidates' forums in Amherst, Clarence, East Aurora and Hamburg. We appreciate everyone who helped to make these forums possible. Voter Services Chair, Joyce Bol, and other League members have spoken to students and other community groups about the election process including the importance of voter registration and voting.

### **Congratulations on a job well done!**

We kicked off our League fund-raising in October with the "Shop For A Cause" Event at Macy's on October 16. LWVB/N keeps the \$5.00 "Shopping Pass" purchase price and each purchaser saved 20% on that day's purchases and a chance to win \$500 in a drawing. Thank you to Debbie Billoni, Eugene and everyone who purchased a coupon. We will staff the gift wrapping table at Eastern Hills Mall from November 26 through December 24. Please sign up for a few shifts using the form in this Voter (pages 5+6).

We will mail a fund-raising request to our members and also to non-members shortly after the general election. Thank you, Laura McDade, who already completed the Southtowns Fund Drive in the days leading up to the election.

The Education committee is planning a super program on issues related to education today. They have decided to postpone the program until February in order to put together a fabulous panel.

Thank you to all of our hard working committee chairmen and committee members and volunteers for all your efforts. I look forward to seeing you at some or all of our League events.

*Margaret Brunson, Co-president*

## 2010 Voter Guide

The *2010 Voter Guide* information is available on our Web Site: [www.lwvbn.org](http://www.lwvbn.org) for this important election with responses from candidates for statewide, Erie and Niagara County positions and Erie County Proposition No. 1. There is also a downloadable PFD version of the Voter Guide on the Web Site. We provide the PDF version to make it easy for people to print information about individual races. Both the Web and PDF guides include biographical information about candidates for judgeships that were not able to be included in the print version due to space limitations. Thanks to Kristin Allen and Terri Parks for providing these additional resources.

The printed Voter Guide is available at the League office.  
Remember to phone the office before going there.

## Great Decisions

Joan Sillman will lead our last discussion for 2010, *Enhancing Security Through Peace Building*, possibly the most positive article you'll ever read from Great Decisions. We'll meet Thursday, November 4 from 10 AM-noon at 1272 Delaware. "U.S. campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan have shown that military force alone cannot ensure peace in all conflicts. How can the U. S. successfully integrate the tools of peace building into its statecraft? At what point do poverty, disease and climate change threaten national security? What role can non-governmental actors play in supporting government led efforts?" I am also pleased to report we had 13 requests for the 2011 edition of Great Decisions so I was able to place an order on line by 10/14 so we were able to get the 20% discount. Remember we do not meet in December, but hopefully the books will arrive for distribution on January 6, 2011. The price, including shipping will be \$17.38.

If you have any questions, call *Bernice Baeumler*, [events@lwvbn.org](mailto:events@lwvbn.org).

## Voter Services

### Naturalization:

Joyce Bol and Judy Capodicasa participated in the new citizenship ceremony on October 7 and Agnes Tufariella will represent the League on November 4.

### Election Night Reporting for Associated Press:

On September 14 JoAnn Mecca and Allan Dozoretz reporting to the AP for Erie County and Janet Goodsell was on duty for Niagara County. Thanks.

### Voter Registration Drives:

We sent 24 letters to Buffalo area non-profit organizations offering the League's help in Voter Registration drives in their respective companies.

We conducted several voter registration drives with an approximate total of 50 new registrations. Agnes and Bob Annis registered voters on September 15 in the afternoon and Joan Mondul and Jenny Wylegala in the evening at the National Treasury Employees Union (IRS) Chapter 58. Bryant and Stratton in Amherst had a two morning registration drive for their students conducted by Joyce Bol and Mike Eagan. Finally, JoAnn Mecca registered new voters on September 29 at the Lofts, a college student housing residence in Buffalo. Thank you all for your assistance.

### 2010 Voter Guide:

Kris Allen reported that 25,000 copies of the *2010 Voter Guide* were distributed October 12 and 13. Thank you Laura McDade for organizing the distribution. The web version and downloadable PDF of the guide are available at [www.lwvbn.org](http://www.lwvbn.org).

### Election Day:

Tuesday, November 2nd is our General Election - persuade everyone you know to vote. The polls are open from 6:00 a.m. until 9:00 pm.

For questions, call the Erie County Board of Elections at 716-858-8891 or Niagara County Board of Elections at 716-438-4040.

*Joyce Bol*, Voter Services Chair

## Grass Roots Lobby Coordinator Needed

Elsa Bondar our Grass Roots Lobby Coordinator is unable to continue keeping you informed about important happenings in our government – state, local, national and in our League due to her health.

We need a computer literate volunteer to step up and become the Grassroots Lobby Coordinator. This job involves maintaining an e-mail list of LWVBN members who are online and would like to keep up to date on events of interest to concerned citizens in our community by forwarding information from LWVUS, LWVNYS and LWVBN to these Leaguers. Please call the League office to volunteer: 884-3550.

Elsa has done a fine service to us all as the coordinator. We appreciate her work to keep us informed of the issues that we address as members of the League of Women Voters.

## Do you recognize the woman in the photo?



In an article in the June 2010 NYS Conservationist celebrating 40 years of the Department of Environmental Conservation is this photo of a woman shaking hands with the first DEC commissioner, Henry Diamond. He and a large entourage of citizens bicycled 350 miles across the state in support of a successful Environmental Quality Bond

The photo could have been taken in any community where the bikers stopped on their journey, but with her Lake Erie Basin Committee sign, the woman in the photo may have been from our area. If you recognize her, please send me her name.

*Ellen Neumaier*

## Amherst Unit News

Thank you Sally Metzger, Marion Fay, Anne Ingleman and other Leaguers who helped with the Candidates event at the Amherst Senior Center on October 21. A big thank you to Joan Photiadis who moderated the event.

### Lunch & Issues

**November 19, 2010 at noon**  
**Scotch and Sirloin Restaurant**  
**Corner of Bailey and Maple Road,**  
**Amherst, NY**

**Mary Burke**, Amherst Town Board Conservation Committee board member will be our guest speaker. She will share the committee's history, update us on where Amherst is regarding improving energy efficiency, and give updates on Amherst Stimulus money received and expected and how it will be used. She will also discuss the Amherst Town Energy Policy

Luncheon Cost: \$15.00 Checks need to be payable to LWVBN.

For reservations for this timely event contact Sally [events@lwvbn.org](mailto:events@lwvbn.org) by November 17.

All are invited.

*Judy Metzger, Arlene Miles, Sally Metzger, Co-chairs LWVBN Amherst Unit*

**Reminder:** Please notify the League Office, [lwvbn@lwvbn.org](mailto:lwvbn@lwvbn.org) if you change your e-mail address, and also notify Terri Parks, [events@lwvbn.org](mailto:events@lwvbn.org), if you receive your VOTER electronically.

## LWVBN Tour of the Daemen College Ecotrail & "Green" Information and Technology Building, May 15, 2010



The tour group posed with our host, Dr. Brenda Young (second from the left in the front row) in the Information and Technology Building. It is designed to conserve energy, water and other resources, maximize the use of recycled materials and minimize the use of toxic materials.



This bench, made from a drainage pipe, is a pretty comfortable resting place on the Ecotrail.

It was peaceful walking along the student designed Ecotrail, just yards from Main Street in Amherst.



**The League of Women Voters of Buffalo/Niagara**  
1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14209  
716-884-3550

Dear League Member,

Holiday shopping time is coming soon, and the League of Women Voters of Buffalo/Niagara will host a holiday gift-wrapping fund-raiser. This year presents an especially big challenge for us as it is first year for this effort and we want to succeed. **The Eastern Hills Mall** has asked us to wrap gifts for their Mall customers and we are very happy to make this the first of many annual gift-wrap seasons. It begins Friday, November 26, 2010, and entails 300 volunteer shifts through December 24, 2010.

This is a sign up sheet. All you need to do is **detach this page from the VOTER, select the shifts that you can work for the gift-wrap program by writing your name in the appropriate blanks.** We want to make this a huge success so we can do it again next year! *You will receive full details of your assignment after I receive your completed sign up sheet.*

We appreciate your help with this fund-raiser. We see this as an excellent opportunity to make a worthwhile contribution in the spirit of the holidays, earn money to support our League projects and have fun at the same time.

Please return your completed form(s) to as soon as possible to the League of Women Voters, 1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14209 or by e-mail to [lwvbn@lwvbn.org](mailto:lwvbn@lwvbn.org). *Respond today! **Please note that whatever date(s) you sign up for are confirmed and you should write them down on your calendar.*** If for some reason this doesn't work for us, I will contact you by telephone.

Once again thank you for your commitment to the League of Women Voters and our fund raising initiatives. We welcome participation by non-members as well as members, so please sign up a friend to join you. Each person's help will make a difference.

Sincerely,

*Eugene Abrahamson*



**EASTERN HILLS MALL SCHEDULE**

| <b>DATE (no .of wrappers)</b> | <b>11:00 am – 2:00pm</b> | <b>2:00 pm - 6:00 pm</b> | <b>6:00 pm – 9:00 pm</b> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Friday, 11/26 (2)             |                          |                          |                          |
| Saturday, 11/27 (2)           |                          |                          |                          |
| Sunday, 11/28 (2)             |                          |                          |                          |
| Monday, 11/29 (2)             |                          |                          |                          |
| Tuesday, 11/30 (2)            |                          |                          |                          |
| Wednesday, 12/01 (2)          |                          |                          |                          |
| Thursday, 12/02 (2)           |                          |                          |                          |
| Friday, 12/03 (2)             |                          |                          |                          |
| Saturday, 12/04 (4)           |                          |                          |                          |

| <b>DATE (no .of wrappers)</b> | <b>11:00 am – 2:00pm</b> | <b>2:00 pm - 6:00 pm</b> | <b>6:00 pm – 9:00 pm</b> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sunday, 12/05 (2)             |                          |                          |                          |
| Monday, 12/06 (2)             |                          |                          |                          |
| Tuesday, 12/07 (2)            |                          |                          |                          |
| Wednesday, 12/08 (2)          |                          |                          |                          |
| Thursday, 12/09 (2)           |                          |                          |                          |
| <b>*New Hours -----&gt;</b>   | <b>10:00 – 2:30 p.m.</b> | <b>2:00 – 6:30 p.m.</b>  | <b>6:00 – 10:00 p.m.</b> |
| *Friday, 12/10 (4)            |                          |                          |                          |
| *Saturday 12/11 (4)           |                          |                          |                          |
| *Sunday, 12/12 (4)            |                          |                          |                          |
| *Monday, 12/13 (6)            |                          |                          |                          |
| *Tuesday, 12/14 (6)           |                          |                          |                          |
| *Wednesday, 12/15 (6)         |                          |                          |                          |
| *Thursday, 12/16 (6)          |                          |                          |                          |
| *Friday, 12/17 (8)            |                          |                          |                          |
| *Saturday, 12/18 (8)          |                          |                          |                          |
| *Sunday, 12/19 (8)            |                          |                          |                          |
| *Monday, 12/20 (8)            |                          |                          |                          |
| *Tuesday, 12/21 (8)           |                          |                          |                          |
| *Wednesday, 12/22 (8)         |                          |                          |                          |
| *Thursday, 12/23 (8)          |                          |                          |                          |
| *Friday, 12/24 (8)            |                          |                          | <b>**WE ARE DONE!!</b>   |

***You will receive your confirmation on or about November 21<sup>st</sup>. You will also receive information on mall procedures with your confirmation packet. Please mark your calendar now, as what you sign up for will be your assigned days and times. Transportation and parking are your responsibilities. Thank you again for your commitment to the League of Women Voters!***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

RENEW

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

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$65 Individual (Basic Membership)<br><input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Carrie Chapman Catt Membership<br><input type="checkbox"/> \$90 Elizabeth Cady Stanton Membership<br><input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Susan B. Anthony Membership<br><input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed is my additional contribution of \$_____ | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Household<br><i>(2 members living at the same address)</i><br><input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Student membership |
|--|---|

**Unit Affiliation**  
*(optional)*

Amherst  
 Buffalo Metro  
 Clarence

Please send me the LWVB/N VOTER via email.

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

## News from the League of Women Voters of New York State

### United Nations Event – November 9

Join League members and friends from around the state for the annual United Nations briefing on Tuesday, November 9 from 2:00 - 4:30 p.m. in New York City. This year's topic will be *Microfinance: From Struggle for Survival to Planning for the Future*. Because the UN building is under renovations, the briefing will be held across the street in the Church Center of the United Nations, 777 United Nations Plaza; the United Nations Department of Public Information will arrange speakers. An optional tour of the UN and reservations for lunch at area restaurants are also available. The registration form is available at [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org)

### State Convention: May 20-22, 2011

The State Convention will be held at the Desmond Inn in Albany from May 20-22, 2011. We will again host a series of pre-convention workshops on Friday, May 20, which are open to any League member – even if you are not attending Convention. We are once again organizing a Silent Auction which will be available online and at Convention so everyone, not just attendees, can participate. Start thinking of donations; be creative and think of some new items or services that can help raise funds for the League. Donations forms are available by calling the state office.



### Call for Board Nominations for the League of Women Voters of New York State

Every two years, members of the LWVNY elect their leaders for the next board term at the State Convention. The nominating committee invites, welcomes, and depends on nominations by League members and local League boards. Send your recommendations by November 15 to Janalyn Travis-Messer, Nominating Committee Chair, P.O. Box 919, Shelter Island, NY 11964.

### 2011 Legislative Agenda

Last year the State Issues Committee and the Issues Specialists decided to focus the 2010 Legislative Agenda on making the State Legislature cleaner and more competitive through emphasizing campaign finance, redistricting and other good government legislative and election reforms. Some election reforms were passed last year, in particular simplifying the absentee ballot, but no progress was made on the other areas. Therefore, we are recommending that the 2011 Legislative Agenda be very similar to last year's. We ask for your comments on this recommendation (see SBR at [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org)). We will also continue to take action on issues covered by the League's additional positions included in Impact on Issues as they arise.

## November 2010

| <b>SUN</b> | <b>MON</b>                             | <b>TUE</b>                                    | <b>WED</b>                                 | <b>THU</b>  | <b>FRI</b>                                | <b>SAT</b> |
|------------|--|---|--|---|---|------------|
| 10/31      | 1<br><b>BOARD MEETING</b><br>4:30 p.m. | 2<br><b>GENERAL ELECTION</b><br>6 a.m.-9 p.m. | 3  | 4<br><b>GREAT DECISIONS</b><br>Page 2   | 5   | 6          |
| 7          | 8                                      | 9<br><b>U.N. BRIEFING NYC</b><br>Page 7       | 10<br><b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT</b><br>1:15 p.m. | 11<br><b>NATURAL RESOURCES</b><br>9:30 a.m.   | 12  | 13         |
| 14         | 15                                     | 16  | 17<br><b>GENERAL MEETING</b><br>Page 1     | 18<br><b>TRANSPORTATION</b><br>10:00 a.m.<br><b>EDUCATION COMMITTEE</b><br>1:0 p.m. | 19<br><b>LUNCH &amp; ISSUES</b><br>Page 4 | 20         |
| 21         | 22                                     | 23  | 24   | 25  | 26  | 27         |
| 28         | 29                                     | 30<br><b>ISSUES COMMITTEE</b><br>4:30 p.m.    |  |   |   |            |