**LWVBN Natural Resources and Local Government Committees present:**

**Climate Smart Communities**

—Energy Saved is Money Earned

*Climate Smart Communities not only save money, they improve our environment and make our towns better places to live.*

Friday, April 20
Sign-in at 11:30 a.m.
Ecology and Environment, Inc.
368 Pleasantview Drive, Lancaster

**Climate Smart Communities Campaign**
Sandy Chelnov and Anne Huberman
League of Women Voters Buffalo-Niagara

**Sustainability**
Elizabeth Santacrose
Ecology and Environment, Inc.

**Determining Carbon Footprints**
Laurie Kutina
Ecology and Environment, Inc.

A buffet lunch will be provided courtesy of Ecology and Environment, Inc. A demonstration of ProjectEarth.net and a tour of the LEED platinum Ecology and Environment building will follow the program. The no-cost program is open to League members and their guests, but reservations are required. Call Ellen Moomaw to reserve your spot. Please Carpool. Parking is limited—and it is Earth Week!

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**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.

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President’s Message and Board Actions

It can't possibly be almost April! Our League year is flying quickly by! I offer many thanks for the fine work of the Local Government Committee to organize and present the program on March 22nd. The panelists provided much information for reflection.

The highlight of our program year will be our Annual Meeting Luncheon at the Protocol Restaurant on Transit Road, just north of Exit 49 of the New York State Thruway (US 90). We are honored that our luncheon speaker will be William L. Hochul, Jr., United States Attorney for the Western District of New York. Please mark June 2, 2012 on your calendar and join us for this special event.

In response to member interest, Kristin Allen and Kathleen McCormick have developed an exciting new way for League members to converse about topics of interest through a secure discussion group (listserv). Their proposal, which the board approved at its March meeting, provides clearly stated guidelines for participation. I look forward to participating with you in discussion of important issues and events of interest to League members and thank Kris and Kathleen for their thoughtful work.

The League was one of 175 not-for-profit organizations that submitted Letters of Intent for competitive grants to the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo. We were one of 38 organizations invited to submit a full grant request. The League seeks support for a citizen-led campaign that advocates for municipalities to join Climate Smart Communities, a program co-sponsored by five state government agencies. The goals of this state program are to reduce greenhouse gases and save taxpayer dollars through climate smart actions. Sandy Chelnov, Anne Huberman, and Kathleen McCormick are leading the grant preparation effort. The April 20th League program at Ecology and Environment will help League members understand the benefits, both to the environment and to the economy, derived from adopting energy saving measures.

The Issues & Action Committee will make recommendations for the proposed 2012–2013 Local Program at their meeting on March 27 at 4:30 p.m. in the Harlem Road Community Center. League members are welcome at the meeting and may submit issues for study by our local League for consideration. If you plan to present a program idea, please contact Janet Goodsell, lwvbn@lwvbn.org.

Terri Parks

Great Decisions

“The popular revolts and upheaval of the Arab Spring have radically changed the face of the Middle East. What lies ahead for the Middle East’s transition to democracy? With many longtime U.S. allies ousted, how will the U.S. recalibrate its relations with the new regimes?” Come ponder the kick-off topic for Great Decisions 2012, “Middle East Realignment: The Arab Upheaval.” Judy Huber volunteered to facilitate the discussion. She has a long-term connection to the topic through family. We meet the first Thursday of the month, April 5 from 10 a.m.–noon at 1272 Delaware.

Bernice Baeumler

The League of Women Voters:
Where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.
Work with the LWV to help shape the issues that keep our community fair, vibrant and strong.
WOMAN ACTIVIST HISTORY
Quick. Who was the first woman to run for president of the United States? Which political party did she represent? The answer is Belva Lockwood (nee Bennett). Mrs. Lockwood ran for president in 1884 on the National Equal Rights Party ticket. She is mentioned in a 1930 Courier Express article about the National League of Women Voters’ efforts to memorialize outstanding American women at their tenth anniversary celebration.

What makes Belva Lockwood of particular interest to our local League is the fact that she was born in the Niagara County town of Royalton on October 24, 1830. In addition to being the first woman to run for president, her many accomplishments include being the first woman to practice law before the Supreme Court, representing the United States at a Congress of Charities and Corrections in Geneva, Switzerland, and helping write the legislation that secured woman suffrage in Arizona, Oklahoma, and New Mexico in 1903. She was inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame in 1983 and the United State Postal Service issued a Belva Lockwood stamp in 1986.

For more information on Belva Lockwood’s law career, see this article from the National Archives (http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2005/spring/belva-lockwood-1.html)

MODERATOR TRAINING A SUCCESS
On February 18, a group of LWVBN members, both new and experienced moderators, spent an informative two hours with Laura McDade, former League president and veteran moderator of many candidates’ events. Many thanks to Laura and all who attended the training: Marian Bass, Joyce Bol, Dot Brown, Judy Clarke, Marian Deutchman, Ramona Gallagher, Janet Goodsell, Judy Huber, Terri Parks, Dorothy Tao.

Our local League is more active than any other league in New York State when it comes to moderating. We soon will be called upon again as the spring and fall election seasons begin. I encourage other league members to consider assisting the moderator at future candidates’ events. We need timekeepers and people who can screen questions. If you are interested in knowing more, please call me.

Mike Eagan, Volunteer Coordinator

EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING TIME CHANGED FOR APRIL
The Education Committee will NOT meet on the third Thursday in April. Instead we will meet on April 26 at the usual time of 1:30 p.m. in the League office.

Lee Tetkowski, Education Committee Chair

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY IN NEW YORK STATE
The New York State presidential primary is is April 24, 2012. The last day to register to vote in the primary is March 30, 2012.

Joyce Bol, Voter Services Chair

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE
Please welcome our newest League members—Kate Wagner from Amherst, Donna Nichter from Hamburg and Beverly VanDeusen from Youngstown.

Judy Huber, Membership Chair

NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES
Representing the League and congratulating new citizens at the two March naturalization ceremonies were Judy Clarke and Richard Hermann on March 1 and Judy Cassassa and Pauline Dyson on March 23. If you would like to represent the League at one of these inspiring events, please call Mike Egan.

Mike Egan, Volunteer Coordinator
**Substantive Redistricting Reform Achieved**
The State Legislature passed a constitutional amendment and accompanying statute Reforming the redistricting process in New York Early early in the morning on March 15th. As the statement issued by the League and Citizens Union makes clear, the process for achieving this reform left much to be desired. It would have also been the easier path for us to reject a less than perfect reform and lines that can still be justifiably criticized as overtly partisan. However, we believe that this constitutional amendment is a substantial improvement over the status quo and that this is a unique opportunity to reform a process at the center of political power in Albany. The League and Citizens Union also produced a set of Frequently Asked Questions to educate the public about the amendment.

**State League Calls for Single Primary Date**
The League, New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG), Common Cause, Election Commissioners’ Association, and the New York State Association of Counties announced their joint support for a single combined congressional and state primary date.

“The League believes that a single primary is the only and best way to ensure voter turnout does not suffer and that our military men and women are not disenfranchised,” said Barbara Bartoletti, Legislative Director of the League of Women Voters of New York State. “Now is the time for the Legislature to act on what is best to maximize voter participation and eliminate the unnecessary costs of an additional primary election.”

To learn more, read the complete press release, a resolution from Erie County calling for a single primary date, and a New York State Association of Counties survey on the cost of additional primaries.

If you have any questions about redistricting, contact Sally Robinson at robintwins@gmail.com or call the state League office at 518-465-4162.

*Sally Robinson, LWVNYS VP Issues and AdvocacyLeague of Women Voters of New York State*

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**Natural Resources**
The Natural Resources Committee invites League members and friends interested in the League’s new Climate Smart Communities campaign to “Climate Smart Communities — Energy Saved is Money Earned”, on Friday, April 20 at Ecology and Environment, Inc (E&E). Anne Huberman, Local Government Chair, will give an overview of the Climate Smart Communities program. Sandy Chelnov, director of the League’s Climate Smart Communities Campaign, will introduce the campaign. Elizabeth Santacrose, a legal and regulatory analyst, will discuss sustainability. She is currently serving as Ecology and Environment’s project manager to assist the 5-county WNY region in the development of a region-wide sustainability plan under New York State’s Cleaner, Greener Communities initiative. Laurie Kutina, Certified Energy Manager at Ecology and Environment, will talk about how to determine a community’s carbon footprint. She has a Masters of Architecture and an MBA with a sustainable business focus. She is currently working with three of the New York State Economic Regional Development Councils (including Western NY) to develop Regional GHG Inventories. We hope you can join us for this exciting program!

*Ellen Neumaier, Natural Resources Committee Chair*
Candidate Meetings and Forums
We are beginning to plan fall political candidate forums for Hamburg, East Aurora and Amherst. Although our Clarence League Unit is no longer operating, we have contacted the Clarence Chamber of Commerce to request their sponsorship of the Clarence political candidates’ forum. Hamburg has already scheduled a forum for October 24th. We have already been asked to moderate the Williamsville School Board Candidates’ meeting on May 3rd.

Voter Registration Drives
We have received a number of requests for assistance registering new voters: Frontier High School, Buffalo State College, and Niagara Organizing Alliance for Hope. Mike Egan and I are working on fulfilling all of these requests.

Joyce Bol, Voter Services Chair

Join the Conversation
Is there an article, book, TV program, or web site you’d like to recommend? Did you go to a public hearing or event that sheds light on an issue that you want to share? Would you like to solicit the opinions of other members on news or current events? Tell other League members about it by subscribing to LWVBN’s new on-line discussion group, lwvbn-discuss.

The League of Women Voters of Buffalo Niagara inaugurated an on-line discussion group (listserv) to give members a way to exchange ideas, information, opinions, resources, and experience relating to LWV issues and activities. The discussion group is private. Only LWVBN members will be invited to join and only they will be able to read the messages. Since this is a private discussion, subscribers don’t need to “speak with one voice.” Opinions may be freely expressed, but all messages must be signed with the first and last name of the author.

Here is how it works:

1. Send an email to Kris Allen (lwvbn@lwvbn) to let her know you wish to join. Or go to the lwvbn-discuss web site and ask to join (http://groups.google.com/group/lwvbn-discuss?hl=en). You will receive an e-mail invitation to which you must respond.

2. Once you have joined, you will receive an e-mail whenever someone posts to the discussion group. You can choose how you will receive e-mails from the discussion group by going to the web site. You can elect to:
   • Receive a digest once a day with all messages for one day included.
   • Receive one e-mail a day that gives an abstract of the day’s messages.
   • Receive no e-mail. You can go to the web site to view the messages at your own discretion.

3. You can withdraw from the discussion group whenever you want by going to the lwvbn-discuss web site or by clicking the unsubscribe link that is at the bottom of every message you receive.

4. Guidelines for the on-line discussion group can be found on the “For Members” page of the LWVBN web site (http://lwvbn.org/lwvbnorg/members.html).

LWVBN Webmaster Kris Allen will show League members how the discussion group works on Tuesday, April 17 at 10:00 a.m. at the League Office. Please come!
They were called the “triumvirate of the movement”, Matilda Joslyn Gage, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Susan B. Anthony yet Matilda has been all but written out of history. Dr. Sally Roesch Wagner, the foremost authority on Gage, enlightens about this amazing woman “lost from history.”

Thursday, April 12th, 2012
at Karpeles Manuscript Museum
453 Porter Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14202
7:00 dessert and coffee Come and meet our special guests: Sally Roesch Wagner, Tammy Duchesne, Superintendent of Women’s Rights National Historical Park and Marilyn Tedeschi, President of Rochester AAUW and former President of Friends of Women’s Rights National Park
7:30 Talk by Sally Roesch Wagner
This program is made possible through the support of the New York Council for the Humanities’ ”Speakers in the Humanities Program”. This event is free and open to the public.
Association for a Buffalo Presidential Center
and
Co-sponsor, League of Women Voters Buffalo Niagara
present

“THE ROLE OF PRIMARIES IN SHAPING THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE”

A Panel Discussion featuring
Michael Haselswerdt, Professor of Political Science, Canisius College
Brad Koplinski, author of HATS IN THE RING
Terri Parks, President, League of Women Voters of Buffalo/Niagara

Wednesday, April 18, 2012
7:00 p.m.

Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society
25 Nottingham Court
Buffalo, New York 14216

$15.00 per person includes dessert and coffee. Please make checks payable to:
The Association for a Buffalo Presidential Center
P.O. Box 524
Buffalo, NY 14213

For further information please call (716) 881-3010

Proceeds to benefit The Association for a Buffalo Presidential Center
—Exploring the legacies of Presidents Millard Fillmore and Grover Cleveland
and other Western New Yorkers prominent in national affairs.
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Copy for May VOTER due April 6, 2012.