



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF BUFFALO/NIAGARA

your
★ **VOTER** ★

Volume 25 Number 3

November 2019

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LWVNYS website

www.lwvny.org

LWVUS website

www.lwv.org

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100 Years and Beyond!

Join us as we celebrate the Centennial of the League of Women Voters of New York State!

Date: *Saturday, November 16, 2019*

Time: *6:00 – 9:00 p.m*

Place: *The Buffalo History Museum
One Museum Court, Buffalo, NY 14216*

We are thrilled to honor these influential leaders:

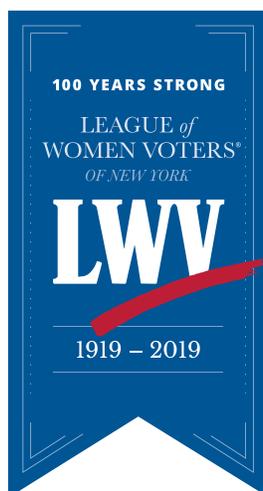
Kathy Hochul, Lieutenant Governor of New York State

William J. Hochul, Jr., Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary, Delaware North Companies

Dr. Katherine Conway-Turner, President, SUNY Buffalo State

Alice Jacobs, President, Albright-Knox Art Gallery

Ariel Palitz, Senior Executive Director of Nightlife for New York City



Tickets: \$100 Centennial; \$150 Silver (your name in program); \$200 Gold (your name in program and on website)

RSVP by November 1. To purchase tickets, click on the link on our website, www.lwvbn.org.

Presented by the Education Foundation of the League of Women Voters of New York State

Co-sponsors: League of Women Voters of Buffalo Niagara and The Buffalo History Museum

Special Exhibit:

Emblem of Equality: Woman Suffrage in Western New York

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 Business

My copy of the 2019 Voters Guide arrived in the mail on October 15. Thank you, Mary Ann Turkla and Nora Mikes, for preparing the mailing. Postal carriers have up to three weeks to deliver bulk mail. Usually, we receive ours quickly. Of course, we offer more information and responses online at Vote411.org. We appreciate Laura McDade who once again recruited and directed the volunteers to deliver the Voters Guides.

In January 2012, we welcomed a new office manager to the League. Mary Ann Turkla has done an outstanding job for the League for almost seven years. She responds to phone calls and email messages quickly, keeps our membership records up to date in the national and local databases, manages our email communications with members, and is accurate and efficient in all the other tasks she undertakes. In short, we will be very sorry to see her go when she retires effective December 13. At the October board meeting, we appointed a transition team and approved an employment notice that appears in this Voter and has been emailed to our members. We have begun a wider search as well. If you know of anyone who might be interested in a part-time position and has the skills we need, please share the information with her or him.

Early voting continues until November 3. Please consider taking advantage of this first-ever opportunity to vote in person before Election Day. Of course, voting throughout New York State will be at your usual polling place on November 5, 2019, from 6:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. Make sure to exercise your voice through your vote!

The board approved the Charge to the Nominating Committee and appointed Ramona Gallagher, Christine Prygon and Liz Zausmer to be the board members on the 2019-2020 Nominating Committee.

Terri Parks

Great Decisions

Joan Mondul has agreed to lead our seventh Great Decisions topic, The United States and Mexico: Partnership Tested, on Thursday, November 7, from 10 a.m. until 12 noon at 1272 Delaware. "The United States and Mexico have a long intertwined history, with both countries prominently featured in each other's politics and agendas. The war on drugs, immigration and trade issues have taxed the relationship over the years. What impact will new leadership in both countries have on this crucial partnership?" Just reading this history was very informative. In addition, I am grateful to announce that Fran Holmes and Karen Keaton have volunteered to continue the Great Decisions program. Karen was able to supply me with the eight 2020 Great Decisions topics: Climate Change and Global Order, India and Pakistan, Red Sea Security, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, U.S. Relations with the Northern Triangle, China's Road into Latin America, The Philippines and the U.S., and Artificial Intelligence and Data. Now it's time to make your own decisions.

Bernice Baeumler

Waterfront Committee



The Waterfront Committee continues to monitor the status of Buffalo's Outer Harbor. We attended the press conference on September 23 at the Outer Harbor, when a proposed plan for a state park at that location was announced by Sam Magavern of the Partnership for the Public Good. We support the plan and will devise strategies to pressure New York State to implement it. Another important milestone was announced on October 3 when the Niagara River Corridor entire waterfront was designated a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance, joining 40 other U.S. Ramsar sites as prestigious as the Everglades, the Chesapeake Bay Estuary and San Francisco Bay. We aim to make the voice of the public heard and to ensure that whole waterfront remains unblemished by human greed.

Thank You!

Early Voting Brochure

This is the first year for early voting in New York State. The state League obtained a grant from LWVUS, created a special website, produced a brochure with general explanations about early voting and prepared inserts with the details from each county. When we were offered the brochures free, we ordered more than 18,000 to distribute along with our printed Voters Guide and put out a call for volunteers. As usual, League members proved to be fine workers and stuffed, counted and packaged the brochures for all the delivery routes. Carting them up to the League office from the main meeting room was a back-breaking task even with the elevator and a rolling cart, but everyone worked diligently and enjoyed some of Ruth Dombrowski's delicious chocolate chip cookies as a reward. Thank you, Melissa Boltz, Judy Capodicasa, Judy Casassa, Ruth and Susan Dombrowski, Janet Goodsell, Sally Metzger, Alice Rosenthal, Joan Simon and Liz Zausmer. Your able assistance made the afternoon pass quickly and helped the League promote early voting in Erie and Niagara Counties in a big way!

Terri Parks

Thanks to our Voters Guide Delivery Team

We are so grateful to the tremendous volunteers who worked to deliver Voters Guides and early voting brochures. THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! It cannot be said enough! Wynnie Fisher, Judy Weidemann, Kate Wagner, Judy Capodicasa, Sally Metzger, Lona Allendorfer, Deb Shiffner, Pat Egan, Marlene Katzel, Ramona Gallagher, Rebecca LaCivita, JoAnn Mecca, Lynda Stephens, Liz Zausmer, Joan Eschner, Betty Krist, Sue Fay Allen, Karl Klingenschmitt, Peg Mergenhagen, Mary Scheeder, Marian Deutschman, Karen Willyoung, Sally Moelhau, Mary (Mike) Egan, Janet Goodsell, Lee Tetkowski, Laura McDade, Alice Say, Beth Kauffman, Joyce Bol, Shirley Joy, Amy Wityrol, Christine Reichsmuth, Alberta Roma, Phyllis Banas, Tina Prygon, Jennifer Hoffman, Ann Converso, Agnes Annis, Bill Black, Nora Mikes, Mary Ann Turkla and Terri Parks.

Laura McDade

Thank You, Voter Registration Volunteers!

As the November election date approaches, we would like to thank the volunteers who generously offered their time and energy this year to register new voters throughout Western New York: Joyce Bol, Margie Boyce, Judy Capodicasa, Kristin Chilcott, Ann Converso, Sharon Cramer, Josette Cunningham, Sharon Dobkin and her friend, Kathy Elias, Ramona Gallagher, Michele Greco Faught and her husband, Shonnie Finnegan, Barbara Gunderson, Kathleen Heffern, Judy Hoffman, Holly Hutchinson, Linda Koenigsberg, Kathie Macaluso, Ellie McConnell, Helen Mayo, JoAnn Mecca, Peg Mergenhagen, Sally Metzger, Patti Meyer-Lee, Patty McClain, Terri Parks, Tina Prygon, Dianne Riordan, Deborah Shiffner and her friend, Barbara Weitzner, Joan Sillman, Phyllis Walling, Judy Weidemann, Pat Wille, Ann Zawicki, and Liz Zausmer.

Through their service, these League members and community friends facilitated the purest form of citizenship – exercising the right to vote. Whether one shift or ten, your efforts are much appreciated!

Mike Egan

SAVE THIS DATE: Saturday, December 14!

Our annual holiday party will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at My Tomato Pie, 3035 Niagara Falls Blvd., Amherst, NY 14228. Watch for complete details coming soon, then join us as we welcome a special guest from Stitch Buffalo.

League Volunteers Recall a Special Naturalization Ceremony



The naturalization ceremony hosted by Independent Health YMCA on September 19, 2019, was part of a nationwide week to honor immigrants' contributions to communities and bring all residents together in a spirit of unity. League volunteers and potential new citizens were greeted by YMCA volunteers who were especially warm and welcoming. When the ceremony was called to order, the YMCA provided an audio-visual of patriotic songs as preschool children marched around the room waving flags and singing "America, My Country 'Tis of Thee."

Chief Judge Carl L. Bucki told a moving story about his grandmother, who took the bus from South Buffalo to the U.S. Courthouse for her ceremony, and then took her sponsors to lunch downtown, a big celebration at the time. While his grandmother never forgot her traditions, her recipes or her background, she became part of America. Judge Bucki advised new citizens to remember and celebrate their past. America is made up of people from many, many

backgrounds, he said, emphasizing that all in attendance were now welcome members of the United States.

League volunteers Helen Mayo and Deborah Shiffner, along with Bob Hellwitz from the Erie County Board of Elections, registered all 29 new citizens, as well as two additional guests from the audience. The YMCA provided beverages and goodies for all guests following the ceremony.

Note: Since the start of the year, 1,805 new citizens have been sworn in in Buffalo. Of these, 1,755 registered to vote, for a total return rate of 98% as of October 10, 2019.

Deborah Shiffner and Helen Mayo

Countdown to Election Day: What You Need to Know Before You Vote – our 2019-2020 kick-off program on Thursday, September 26 – featured an excellent presentation by UB Professor Jim Gardner. Although they had other events to attend, panelists Sean Ryan, New York State Assemblyman, and Jeremy Zellner, Erie County Board of Elections Commissioner, were so impressed with the appreciative audience that they stayed for the entire evening. Barbara Gunderson, our Voter Service Chair, completed the panel.



Rewarding Part-time Job Opportunity

Office manager for the League of Women Voters of Buffalo Niagara

Here's a chance for you (or someone you know) to help advance the important local efforts of America's premier nonpartisan grass-roots political organization. The League is seeking a self-starter with good interpersonal and communication skills, plus the ability to multitask and work independently. Responsibilities include clerical tasks, light bookkeeping, and working with our board of directors, volunteers and the public. Proficiency in Microsoft Office is required; familiarity with QuickBooks would be ideal. Approximately 12 hours per week, plus occasional evening and weekend hours. Applicants should submit their resumé with a cover letter and three references by Monday, November 4, via email to lwvbn@lwvbn.org or by mail to LWVBN, 1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209.

Our Nuclear Times: Article 21

An Underground Tale: Chapter 8

“I is for iodine.” Ms. Rad, for Lecture II, researched a distant branch of her family. All were of the non-stop “I did this and I did that” variety. She found 36 radioactive iodine atoms and one nonradioactive iodine atom.

The one stable nonradioactive iodine stands on the 53rd square of the Periodic Table of Elements. It has 53 protons plus 74 neutrons to make it an I-127. Iodine is a mineral that does not form into rocks. It is found mostly in seawater and it concentrates in the vegetation of seacoast soils, seaweed, ocean mollusks, ocean fish, etc. This iodine is an essential mineral for the human body, like calcium, iron, sodium, zinc, potassium, magnesium, etc. Ninety percent of the human body’s iodine is in the thyroid, a small bow-tie shaped gland that wraps gently around the front of the neck. This gland is the body’s internal thermostat, a fixer of energy levels, and a growth regulator. To run properly, the thyroid needs iodine to make hormones to do these jobs. So, iodine is essential for normal physical and mental development, and general well-being.

Each of the 36 unstable iodine atoms (radioisotopes) has 53 protons, but varying numbers of neutrons. Focus on the I-131: I-131 is very high energy. It has a half-life of 8 days. After 10 half-lives, or 80 days, its radiation is mostly gone. Focus on the I-129: I-129 has a half-life of 15.7 million years. Elevated amounts of I-129 in a region’s soils are a marker of nuclear fuel reprocessing activities by way of stack emissions. The I-129 in Western New York is from West Valley’s reprocessing years of 1966 to 1972. The small amounts are not considered a health concern. But, I-129 is a key determinant in release regulation. For example, any future trench breach by erosion at West Valley would become a concern.

The human body thinks that all iodine is the same. Problems begin when radioactive iodine, especially I-131, is released into the atmosphere in nuclear events. Particles rain down from the sky, then plants, animals and humans absorb them. People must avoid eating contaminated foods, especially leafy greens and animal products such as milk from grass-eating cows, goats, etc., for at least 80 days after an incident. A few examples of I-131 releases: the 1945 U.S. atomic bomb explosions over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan; the 1950s and 1960s U.S. atomic bomb tests in the Southwest and South Pacific; and the 1986 Chernobyl and 2011 Fukushima nuclear power plant super disasters. In big events, people are evacuated.

The radiation from radioactive iodine destroys healthy thyroid gland tissue. But, the thyroid can be protected fairly well. If the human body is saturated with the stable I-127, then radioactive I-131 tends to be excreted. It is like pouring water into a container until it is full, so any additional water just spills out. Who needs the most protection from radioactive iodine? Babies, young people, and pregnant women, to avoid thyroid cancers, etc. Many countries stockpile “anti-radiation” pills. These come in two forms: KI03 (potassium iodate) and KI (potassium iodide). These are very powerful pills, only for an emergency. Instructions: take one pill every day for 3 to 14 days. This is most effective when taken 8 to 12 hours before, or even 8 to 12 hours after, exposure to I-131. These pills do not protect against other radioactive substances. Iodized salt is not helpful.

Ms. Rad’s researches were almost complete, thank goodness. She just needed to compose a “medical disclaimer” sentence.

Barbara Frackiewicz

“Gifts” for our League Archives

It seems that some League members have been doing some cleaning and organizing recently. We’ve found in our cupboard several “gifts” of items related to the League that must have been taking up space in people’s homes. It’s fine that these items have been taken to the League office, but we request the courtesy of a phone call or email that lets us know to expect them. We have begun archiving League materials, but we are interested only in items that come from any of the local Leagues with proper identification. Please recycle everything else you may come across. Thank you!

Mary Ann Turkla and Terri Parks



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

November 2019

Tuesday, November 5, 2019, 4:00 p.m.

Issues/Program Committee

Harlem Road Community Center

Friday, November 15, 2019, 1:00 p.m.

Money In Politics Committee

League office

Thursday, November 7, 2019, 10:00 a.m. – noon

Great Decisions

League office

Saturday, November 16, 2019, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

State League Centennial Celebration

The Buffalo History Museum

Monday, November 11, 2019, 4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Board of Directors

League office

Thursday, November 21, 2019, 1:30 p.m.

Education Committee

League office

Wednesday, November 13, 2019, 2:00 p.m.

Local Government Committee

League office

**Check the calendar on our website for updates.
And please remember to wear your League badge to all League events.**