



your
★ **VOTER** ★

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President

Lori Robinson

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LWVBN website

www.lwvbn.org

LWVNYS website

www.lwvny.org

LWVUS website

www.lwv.org

Voter is published 11 times a year. Send copy by the second Monday of the month to Terri Parks at lwvoter@verizon.net.

League Advocacy Training: How to Become a Citizen Lobbyist

Saturday, February 19, 2022

10:30 – Noon via Zoom

Goal: provide the skills to lobby state legislators for the League priorities this spring or for any lobby efforts

Topics to be covered include:

- A short background of the New York State Legislature and how an idea becomes law in this state
- How to find out about current state legislation
- Making your voice heard – how you can influence government decisions
- Tips on how to lobby legislators
- Samples from the 2022 League Legislative Agenda

Register by February 12 for this workshop.

[Zoom Registration Link](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

If you will need to attend by phone, register by calling the League office at 716-986-4898 to obtain the call-in number.

Save the Date: March 12, 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

Elizabeth Lowes will present information about the nuclear clean-up at the West Valley Demonstration Project and environmental and health concerns related to the nuclear waste stored there.

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.

Letter from Our President

Dear Members and Friends,

Even in the current turmoil, our local League is busy focusing on our mission. Plans are underway for educational and community programs with topics including the environment, American history and mental health. See the information in this issue and check our website, www.lwvbn.org. There are several links to pertinent videos and online conversations that may be of interest to you. We have been linking to programs offered by other Leagues to help spread the information.

I am delighted to report that our local League has received a grant of \$500 from LWVUS for Voter Services. Barbara Gunderson, Voter Service chair, will use this funding to help with youth registration and education in high schools this spring.

We are planning a members' meeting to talk about our planning and priorities for the next year. Learn how you as a member can be involved. We will explain our 2021-22 Program: Local Issues & Priorities, our roadmap for League advocacy activities. We will discuss how we use [national](#) and [state](#) League positions to develop our local plans and identify our member concerns. Watch your email for more details regarding this March 2022 meeting.

THANK YOU, Ramona Gallagher, for organizing the League Advocacy Workshop once again.

If you do not have email or computer access and are interested in attending any of our Zoom meetings, please call the office at 716-986-4898. We will provide you with the phone-in number.

Your LWVBN board news: We are pleased to have Kat Cejka join us to help with our communications and social media. Kat has worked with PUSH and WEDI. She has also been involved with Free The People WNY and ECO Justice; she is not new to the mission. We are happy to have her on our team.

The board has notified the New York State League of our top three legislative priorities for state advocacy: election law, healthcare, and judicial issues. If you would like a copy of LWVNY 2022 Legislative Agenda, it is available on our website, or call the office and we will mail you one.

Do you know that our local League works with the Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority? We are their provider to hold elections for their tenant councils and the tenant commissioners. This is a very important project for us. The funds allow us to have our small office and part-time office manager. Please think about volunteering to help. If you know someone who might be interested in insuring representation at a very local level for the residents of these communities, please let me know. Let's talk!

In League,

Lori Robinson, President

A Free Program About a Most Timely Topic: Voter Suppression

The League of Women Voters of the Rochester Metropolitan Area and The Lawyers' Coalition for Racial and Social Justice of the Monroe County Bar Association will present a timely program, **Voter Suppression Then and Now: Protecting our Democracy**, on February 10, 2022, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.

The program is described as "A presentation and Q&A with voting rights experts from the Brennan Center for Justice and the League of Women Voters about voter suppression trends seen across the country and in our own community, and the ways that we can challenge and defend against existing and emerging tactics that interfere with this fundamental right." Use the link below to register for the program.

<https://mcba.org/?pg=events&evAction=showDetail&eid=245662&evSubAction=listAll>

Radiation and Health: Implications for West Valley Cleanup

Our best protection from the danger of radiation from West Valley is a workforce that is dedicated to protecting their own health and that of their families! That said, accidents do happen, so we need to educate ourselves about the dangers of radiation. This is my *Radiation for Dummies* column, quoting largely from the League's own *Nuclear Waste Primer*.

Radionuclides found in nature and in nuclear waste emit three forms of *ionizing* radiation – that is, radiation that dislodges electrons from an atom. All three may be harmful, but they differ in their penetrating power and the way they affect human tissue.

Alpha radiation is not very penetrating; a sheet of paper or human skin can stop it. But if it is breathed or ingested it causes highly concentrated, localized damage as it decays. For example, if West Valley plutonium were inhaled it could cause lung cancer. It has a half-life much longer than a human life so it would have a long time to do its damage.

Beta radiation is somewhat more penetrating, but the fission products still cause most of their damage by being inhaled or ingested. They tend to seek out certain organs in the human body that resemble naturally occurring elements in the body; for example, strontium resembles calcium, so it tends to seek out the bones. The strontium-90 in the groundwater plume at the West Valley site comes from a leak under the basement of the building. If that were to get into drinking water, it would concentrate in our bones.

Gamma radiation has the greatest penetrating power. It usually accompanies beta radiation and can damage critical organs in the body, striking many molecules along its path through the body.

High doses of radiation cause cell death. That is why well-targeted radiation is useful for treating cancer. Lower doses cause cell damage. These damaged cells multiply, in time, causing cancer, or if they are reproductive cells, causing mutations, most of which are harmful when transmitted to a future generation. The latency period for cancer can be 25 years or more, so it is very difficult to determine what caused the damage – an exposure to radiation (perhaps from naturally occurring radon in a basement) or some chemical carcinogen.

Pat Townsend

Call for Nominations for the Board of Directors

“Opportunities for Leadership” is the slogan for this year’s LWVBN Nominating Committee. Board and Nominating Committee service provides an experience to remember and enjoy – rewarding, challenging, and satisfying! You are invited to be a part of the LWVB/N Board of Directors. You will be able to develop, enhance or share your leadership skills to continue to make exciting things happen for the League and our community.

The 2022 LWVBN Nominating Committee is in the process of recruiting candidates for its 2022-2024 slate of nominees for our board of directors, plus the Nominating Committee chair and two committee members. If you are willing to share your time, talents and vision, we want to hear from you. In-depth knowledge of the League is not required; you’ll have an opportunity to learn that. Currently our League is seeking folks with financial expertise, fund development experience, communications/public relations/marketing abilities, social media/technology aptitude or previous board experience. Board terms are one or two years; Nominating Committee members serve a one-year term. **If this sounds like an opportunity you or someone you know might want to pursue, please contact any Nominating Committee member for more details by Monday, February 28, 2022:** Ramona Gallagher, Janet Goodsell, Liz Zausmer, Barbara Gunderson, or Amy Moritz.

Thank you!

Ramona Gallagher, Nominating Committee Chair



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF BUFFALO/NIAGARA

1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

February 2022

Note: Due to social distancing and stay-at-home practices, meetings are subject to change and may take place via phone or computer. Please contact the committee chair for the latest information.

Tuesday, February 1, 4:00 p.m.
Program, Issues & Events Committee
via Zoom

Monday, February 14, 4:00 p.m.
Board Meeting
via Zoom

Tuesday, February 14, 7:30 p.m.
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee
via Zoom

Wednesday, February 16, 2:00 p.m.
Local Government Committee
via Zoom

Friday, February 18, 1:00 p.m.
Money in Politics Committee
League Office

Saturday, February 19, 10:30 a.m.
League Advocacy Training
via Zoom

Thursday, February 24, 1:30 p.m.
Education Committee
via Zoom

Friday, February 25, 11:00 a.m.
Healthcare Committee
via Zoom