



your
★ **VOTER** ★

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President's Letter

Dear Members and Friends,

It is hard to believe that the first year of my presidency is almost over. I certainly have learned a lot!

I want to thank the board and our very active members for all that we have accomplished from our stimulating discussion about "Democracy at Risk" in the fall to our program in May about the Outer Harbor. Our League has partnered with local organizations and worked alongside our counties' various communities. I am pleased with what we have done, and I am looking forward to another thought-provoking year.

News flash: Our summer field trip planning is underway. Please save the date for Wednesday, July 27, 2022. We will drive to the Chautauqua Institution during their week of "The Vote and Democracy." We will attend the morning lecture with speaker Jelani Cobb at 10:45 and afterwards have a buffet lunch at the Athenaeum Hotel. Our fellow League members from Chautauqua County and Cattaraugus/Allegany Counties will join us. The cost will be \$65 per person. Carpooling will be arranged. Watch for more information and the registration form to come.

We still have three delegate positions available to attend the **LWVUS Convention**, June 23 – 26. The Convention page with all the details is at: <https://www.lwv.org/manage-your-league/council-convention>. Delegates may attend the convention virtually. Please contact the office if you would like to attend and we will register you for the virtual conference.

In League,
Lori Robinson



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.

Great Decisions

The Great Decisions discussion group will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 2, via Zoom, to discuss Chapter 2 in the 2022 Great Decisions book: **The Renewed Climate Change Agenda**. Joan Mondul will moderate. The Foreign Policy Association, which sponsors this discussion group nationwide, says this about the topic:

“The ideological divide in the United States on the subject of climate change has impeded progress in curbing greenhouse emissions. But extreme weather events at both ends of the thermometer have focused attention on the consequences of inaction. What role will the United States play in future negotiations on climate?” *By Ron Bee*

The group will also meet at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 7, via Zoom, to discuss Chapter 1 in the 2022 Great Decisions book: **Outer Space Policy**. The Foreign Policy Association says this about the topic:

“The launch of Sputnik 1 in October 1957 marked the beginning of the space era and of the space race between the United States and the Soviet Union. In the 21st century, there are many more participants in space, including countries such as India and China, and commercial companies such as SpaceX. How will the United States fare in a crowded outer space?” *By Eric Berger*

Terri Parks will moderate this discussion, made more relevant due to Russia’s war in Ukraine and the cooperation needed on the international space station between the U.S. and Russia. Contact Fran Holmes for additional information about either program.

Fran Holmes, Great Decisions Coordinator

School Board Candidate Forums

The League had a busy schedule in May. We conducted six school board candidate forums from May 9 through 12, for the Clarence Central, East Aurora Free, Hamburg Central, Lockport City, Starpoint Central, and Williamsville Central School Districts. We received congratulations for the professional manner in which our teams worked. There were only two candidates in all six school districts who were unable to attend. Our team of experienced moderators – Ramona Gallagher, Laura McDade, Terri Parks, and Judy Weidemann – kept all forums on task and reported that there were no problems with audience members attempting to disrupt the events, as had been feared with some of the contentious issues that were addressed. With two minor exceptions, the candidates followed League rules and responded to audience questions well. Our able timekeepers were Mike Egan, Shirley Joy, JoAnn Mecca, Barbara Metiver, and Lori Robinson. Ramona Gallagher, Jennifer Hoffman, Alberta Roman, and Liz Zausmer screened the questions. In Hamburg, Barbara Snyder and Terri Parks collected questions during most of the event, and in East Aurora our experienced League volunteers Ellen Moomaw, Ellen Neumaier, and Alison Hyde provided additional assistance. Our partners were some of the districts and some of the parent-teacher organizations. Everyone who worked with me from the schools was fantastic! Residents of three of the districts expressed concerns about possible disruptions from outsiders but, to everyone’s relief, none occurred.

We do need more League volunteers for candidate events. The school district events especially need League members to collect questions from the audience in forums featuring candidates with very different viewpoints, such as this year. Please consider joining our team. It is rewarding to provide citizens with the opportunity to hear from candidates and ask questions.

Terri Parks, Candidate Forum Coordinator

2022 League Award Honorees

The Awards Committee had a lively discussion about the contributions of a number of League members and decided to present the 2022 Joan K. Bozer Leadership Award to Lynda Stephens; over many years her efforts show that she is steadfast, innovative, resourceful, ethical and respected, attributes that we all recognize in Joan Bozer. The Lee Award that represents long-time service to the League with enthusiasm and excellence will be presented to Mike Egan. Like the other League leaders – Lenore Banks, Lenore Tetkowski, and Leonore Lambert – Mike has given exemplary service to the League in many ways. Please join us at the Annual Meeting to honor this year’s recipients. We expect that Joan Bozer and Lenore Tetkowski will present the awards.

Terri Parks, League Awards Committee Chair

League of Women Voters of New York State Council Meeting

LWVNYS is now preparing for the upcoming Council Meeting, which will take place virtually on June 7, 2022. The Council Meeting is held in years when there is no state League convention. Local Leagues will choose delegates to attend Council but the meeting will be live streamed on YouTube for all members to watch. The LWVNYS 2022-23 Proposed Budget will be considered for approval and each state board member with a portfolio and state committees will present summaries of their year’s accomplishments. LWVNYS will send details via email.

Lori Robinson





LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF BUFFALO/NIAGARA

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

June and Early July 2022

Wednesday, June 1, 4:00 p.m.

Waterfront Committee

via Zoom

Thursday, June 2, 10:00 a.m.

Great Decisions

via Zoom

Tuesday, June 7, 4:00 p.m.

Program, Issues & Events Committee

via Zoom

Wednesday, June 8, 2:00 p.m.

Local Government Committee

via Zoom

Saturday, June 11, 10:00 a.m.

Annual Meeting

Sean Patrick's Restaurant

Friday, June 17, 1:00 p.m.

Money in Politics Committee

League Office

Tuesday, June 21, 7:00 p.m.

Diversity/Equity/Inclusion Committee

via Zoom

Tuesday, June 28, 4:30 p.m.

Education Committee

via Zoom

Tuesday, July 5, 4:00 p.m.

Program, Issues & Events Committee

via Zoom

Thursday, July 7, 10:00 a.m.

Great Decisions

via Zoom

Monday, July 11, 4:00 p.m.

Board Meeting

via Zoom

Wednesday, July 13, 2:00 p.m.

Local Government Committee

via Zoom