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**LWVBN
HOLIDAY
CELEBRATION**

**Join us at beautiful Rosary Hall
on the Daemen College Campus**
for Dinner, Socializing and Musical Entertainment,
Monday, December 8, 2008, at 5:30 p.m.

**Rosary Hall is at the Center of the Campus, on the Main Drive.
If you enter the campus from Main Street, it is the third building
on the left, just after Schenk Hall.**

*Parking is available in front of MusicalFare Theater.
Use the Getzville Road entrance or the Main Street entrance.*

Cost: \$15 per person

Dinner Menu: Chicken Marsala with Green Bean Almandine and Wild Rice Pilaf, Pasta with Grilled Vegetables, Caesar Salad, Rolls and Butter and Angel Food Cake topped with Strawberries. Coffee, Assorted Sodas and Bottled Water are included.

Entertainment: The Village Singers from East Aurora will sing seasonal favorites. Ellen Moomaw, LWVB/N member, belongs to this group.

Please Note: Space is limited to 40 people, so send your check soon to insure a spot. Prospective members are also invited. Include the names of the people whose reservation is included in the total amount of your check.

Reservations must be received by December 3, 2008.

**Contact us at events@lwvbn.org to
make reservations.**



President's Message

The LWVB/N Board has approved the Legislative Priorities recommended for the coming year by the Issues Committee. The three issues selected were forwarded to the New York State League to be considered for selection as the Legislative Priorities for the LWVNYS. LWVB/N recommended Climate Change (which includes energy and environment, sprawl, alternative energy and transportation), Health care and Redistricting.

Climate Change (Global Warming) is the topic being presented at this year's UN Briefings on December 2nd. Co-president, Loretta Peszynski, and I will attend this program.

I also received a very interesting e-mail on this topic from Donna Ewing of LWVWA, who serves on the LWVUS Climate Change Task Force. I would like to share a little bit of that message with you.

“...An individual's carbon footprint is defined as the amount of carbon a person generates per year through daily activities such as driving an automobile, doing laundry, showering and maintaining a comfortable indoor temperature.

Climate change is developing into perhaps the most important crisis in human history – it will certainly impact every living thing on earth. Efforts to positively alter this life-changing phenomenon must be worldwide, and it would seem that those countries that have caused most of the problem should take initial responsibility for solving it. This is where you and I come in.

Since Americans generate from 25 to 28 percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, but we comprise less than 5 percent of the world's population, the most effective thing we can do is to lobby our elected officials to establish the laws that are essential to reduce these emissions.

These laws must require improved efficiency and conservation in the use of energy and a reduced dependence on fossil fuels (coal, oil and natural gas). Every elected official and/or candidate supported by us at every level of government must have a realistic plan to slow and, ultimately, stop climate change. We, as voting citizens, MUST demand no less! ...”

Select **Global Climate Change** on our national website: www.lwv.org to learn more and **Take Action** with your Congress members for current legislation.

There are many programs and meetings on our League calendar in the coming months. Please join us at these events and volunteer to help out on our ongoing League projects.

I hope to see you all at our LWVB/N holiday celebration on December 8th!

Margaret Brunson, Co-President LWVB/N

Board Meeting Highlights

- There will be no board meeting in December.
- The VOTER is on a new schedule this year. This issue covers December and the first half of January 2009 events. The next issue will cover the second half of January and all of February 2009. It will be mailed by 1/5/09.
- A committee has been formed to organize an event to honor Taffy Tarbell for her years of dedicated work on behalf of the League. This event is tentatively scheduled for April 30 at 5 p.m. at the new Burchfield Center on the Buffalo State campus on Elmwood Avenue.
- The LWVB/N non-member fund drive is currently underway. Members will be receiving a request for support very soon. Please be generous in your support of our local League. We need your help to continue our work in the community.

Great Decisions Special Notice I received an email from Janet Massaro October 28, letting me know the heat was off at 1272 Delaware and noisy renovations were still underway, so the November 6th meeting was cancelled. I contacted Marlene Katzel who is the leader for the last 2008 topic, *Foreign Aid: New Players, New Goals*, and she said she would be available to lead the discussion on January 15, 2009 at 10 AM-noon at our next scheduled meeting. At that time I hope to be able to hand out the 2009 briefing book (price \$15.84) and obtain leaders for the 2009 topics.

Bernice Baeumler

Voter Services

After the registration deadline of October 10th, things have settled down for Voter Services. Some people need to be recognized for their efforts at the Candidates' Meetings. At the Amherst Candidates' Meeting held at the Amherst Senior Center: Norma Stevenson, moderator; Judy Metzger, timekeeper; Joan Sillman and Marian Faye, greeters; and Gladys Gifford and MaryAnn Ellis, who collected questions from the audience. At the Candidates' Meeting in Clarence Town Hall: Marian Deutschman, who opened the meeting; Laura McDade, moderator; Maxine Johnson and Lynn McConnell, question screeners; Ruth Sehl and Alice Mason timekeepers; Jim and Eveline Hartz, Sally Moehlau, Jane Sweet, Karen Willyoung, ushers; Rosemarie Cardoso and Barbara Kautz, refreshments; and Chairpersons for the event, Diane Showalter and Allene Falk. At the Hamburg Candidates' Meeting the following were our volunteers: Laura McDade, Beverly Nenko, Nancy Bakaty, Keanne Flowers and Alison Hyde. Thanks to you all for making the Candidates' Meetings a huge success.

Joyce H. Bolz, Voter Services Chair

Here are thanks to the people who helped with the East Aurora Candidate Forum on October 23. In addition to Laura McDade, moderator, and Lynn Wilkins and Sue Marom, timekeepers, Judy Weidemann, Lee Lambert and Lynn Wilkins performed many essential jobs. Joe Logan's tape of the forum was seen on local cable three times daily through election day. Thanks also to the other Leaguers who attended; I saw many of you in the audience. We had a front page, full-color article in the East Aurora Advertiser with a photo of six Leaguers to advertise the forum. I heard comments that this was the best one they had attended. I couldn't have done it without everyone's help.

Ellen Neumaier

Thank You, Ellen Neumaier, for the program on Climate Change and Energy Conservation on October 25 at the Annual Presidents' Roundtable Meeting of the Western New York Federation of Women's Clubs. The members also appreciated the Voter Guides that were distributed after your presentation.

Congratulations to Ellen Moomaw, League member, who was awarded the Altima Volunteer Award at the November first Annual Meeting of the WNY Peace Center. Ellen contributed greatly to the Peace Center's Conflict Resolution program this summer for children 8-12 in the Karen Klimczak Center for Non Violence. Her skills as an elementary school teacher and also her dedication are greatly appreciated.

LWV 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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Charter School/ Education News

The opening in August of the Aloma Johnson Fruit Belt Community Charter School on Michigan Avenue in Buffalo brings the local total number of charter schools to 16. This newest one partners with Daemen College and with the St. John Fruit Belt Community Development Corporation. It features a longer school day of 8 hours and school year of 205 days. The Charter Schools/Education Committee is arranging a visit.

Two charter schools, Stepping Stones Academy Charter School and the Sankofa Charter School (formerly KIPP), have been closed as unsatisfactory. In October Shawn Fagan gave a presentation to the committee about her first hand experiences as a mother of a child enrolled at the KIPP School in Buffalo. We were given an articulate insight into the serious problems, which gradually led to the school's losing its KIPP name, and soon afterward being closed by the Board of Regents. Ms. Fagan has been employed in the legal profession for many years, and presently works in Buffalo City Court.

The Tapestry Charter School has purchased the 47,000 square foot building at 65 Great Arrow Drive. When it opens in the 2009-2010 school year, it will include the lower grades and the high school. Their goal is to have kindergarten through 12th grade in one location.

Teachers' unions have been cropping up in charter schools around the United States. At last summer's National Charter Schools Conference in New Orleans about 30 union-represented charter school teachers attended. Here in New York state about 12 charter schools are unionized.

The Washington Post has reported that efforts to expand charter schools may face difficulty securing credit to meet their regular business expenses because of the national financial crisis.

More than 100,000 students from over 100 local elementary, middle and high schools in 20 local school districts participated in KIDS VOTING in November. This important mock election, now held within the schools, introduces students to the importance of voting and civic involvement.

The next meeting of the Charter Schools Committee will be January 15, 2009 at 1:30 p.m.

The Erie County Association of School Boards will sponsor a Legislative Breakfast on February 7, 2009, at the Millennium Hotel, 2040 Walden Avenue, Cheektowaga. Contact me for details at events@lwvbn.org.

Lee Tetkowski, Chair Charter Schools/Education Committee

Natural Resources News

A New Year! Resolutions? A new diet? We have the best! And we can eat too! No matter how skinny we are, we can all profit from joining the Low Carbon Diet: How to lose 3,000 lbs in 30 Days.

To be most effective we need several of you from each of the communities in the Buffalo/Niagara area. Join us in this most worthwhile project! Come to our cafe in late January! Call nearby League members and invite your friends! Let's have some fun! Is your interest piqued? Call Sandy Chelnov, Janet Massaro, Joan Photiadis or me!

Our health-care companies are beginning to publicize the facts that organic foods are really better for us—without actually making that statement. But they do say that certain conventionally raised products absorb or retain more pesticides than others. The USDA identifies 12 foods as the most likely to contain pesticide residue: Apples, Pears, Lettuce, Frozen Green Beans, Strawberries, Wheat, Green Beans, Plums, Oranges, Grapes, Cauliflower, Grapefruit. It's best to buy organic!

Please remember to take reusable bags with you when you go shopping!

The Natural Resources Committee meets the second Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m., at St. Matthias Church, corner of Main and Maple in East Aurora. Our meetings of the minds are always dynamic, but if you're interested and don't want to come that far, give me a call!

Ellen Neumaier, Natural Resources Chair

Regional Waters Issues Update

New York and eight other states are suing the Bush administration over federal rules on water dumped from ships, claiming there is an illegal loophole that could hurt fisheries and contaminate drinking water. The states contend that a June administrative ruling could allow the transfer of polluted or contaminated water by ship from one body of water to another, where it would do harm. For example, they claim salt water from the ocean could be dumped in the Great Lakes. At issue in the lawsuit against the Environmental Protection Agency is regulation of water discharges from ballast and other sources on vessels large and small. The lawsuit also targets invasive species contained in ballast that could destroy lakes and rivers. Source: *Buffalo News*, 10/3/08

Ann Ingleman

News from the Transportation Group

The Transportation Group urges LWVBN members to learn about the proposed NFTA fare increases. Questions raised at the Transportation Group meeting on October 22nd included: Why does the NFTA need a fare increase when the bus system in Rochester reduced fares? Could the monthly pass fare be kept low, while the other fares are raised? The public hearing on fare increases will be held by the NFTA at ECC City Campus, 7:00 PM, December 3, 2008. Since there isn't time to prepare a LWVBN position, League members are urged to attend and speak up as individuals.

The next meeting of the Transportation Group is planned for January 22, 10:00 AM, 68 Richmond Avenue, Buffalo.

Gladys Gifford, Transportation Group Chair

Something Old is New Again

In the Fall issue of the New York State League VOTER, there is an article under the heading "Something Old is New Again" concerning the operation of the State League. As implied in the title, the concept of state regions is an old idea. In fact, in the 1920s and 1930s, the Erie County and Niagara County Leagues were in the Eighth Region, which included Alleghany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Genesee, Erie, Niagara, Orleans and Wyoming counties.

In this time period, of course, there were no Conference Calls so keeping in touch meant traveling throughout the state, and the various regions seemed to be set up to make it easier for local groups to meet in their areas.

In June 1927, a regional meeting was held in Geneva for the fifteen counties in Western New York. In 1929, a regional conference was held in Perry and was attended by about 200 women. This conference was covered extensively in the *Buffalo Times* newspaper.

During the 1930s, the Eighth Region's conferences moved closer to the Buffalo area and in 1931 and 1938, the conferences were held in East Aurora at the Roycroft. The 1938 conference was of special note to local League members as the chair of the Eighth Region was Mrs. Glenney, a former president of the Erie County League and the New York State League president, Mrs. Charles Poletti, the former Jean Knox of East Aurora, was in attendance. The 1932 conference of the Eighth Region was held in Lockport and was chaired by Mrs. Charles W. Moss, president of the Niagara County League.

The primary reason for these meetings was to communicate and share ideas on issues and programs and to learn about what works and what does not work in meeting the goals of the League of Women Voters locally, state wide and nationally.

Marie Hanrahan, Historian

Lunch & Issues

Friday, December 19, at 11:30 A.M.

Scotch and Sirloin Restaurant
Corner of Bailey and Maple Road, Amherst, NY

Speaker: Deborah Bucki,
Member of the Amherst Town Board

At this time of year we remember Haven House with gifts, such as toiletries, clocks, underwear, socks, pajamas.

Please bring gifts unwrapped in a plain wrapper.

Everyone is welcome.

Cost: \$14.00 payable to LWVBN

Please reserve by Dec. 15
at events@lwvbn.org

Save the date for Lunch & Issues
on January 16, 2009.

Jim Allen, IDA Regional Director, will speak.

Clarence Unit News

Thank goodness, the sleazy TV spots and robo-calls have ended! We did our best to get sound, issue -based information out to the public. Virtually every Clarence member who was in town helped to distribute Election Guides and to pull off the standing room only Candidates' Forum. Particular thanks are due to Hamburg's Laura McDade, who as moderator, kept the boisterous partisan supporters in line. Special honors go to Karen Willyoung, Jane Sweet, Rosemarie Cardoso and Maxine Johnson, who endured rain and cold to display the facsimile ballot and hand out Election Guides at the Farmers' Market.

The Clarence community has contributed \$595 to this year's LWV fund drive. If you know someone who has expressed appreciation for our efforts, please pass the name to me for next fall's drive. We need new prospective donors to replace those who have died or moved away.

We also have two new unit members - Kristin Kozlowski and Jane Corwin. Welcome!

Allene Falk, Clarence Unit Co-coordinator

Buffalo Unit Meeting

The Buffalo Unit will meet on January 15, 2009, at the Karpeles Museum North Hall, 220 North Street (corner of Elmwood and North) at 5 p.m.

The Gantt-Robach (A.6399-C) Childhood Lead Poisoning Primary Prevention and Safe Housing Act supported by LWVNY passed in the NYS Assembly and Senate only to be vetoed by Governor Paterson. This legislation targets the solution to the problem and provides limited tax credits to give property owners the help they need to make their housing safe. When fully implemented this legislation will prevent tens of thousands of New York's most vulnerable children from the life-long damage caused by lead poisoning.

Speakers will address the dilemma facing our State's most precious, yet vulnerable assets--the children of New York State.

Joan Photiadis

Buffalo Unit

HOLIDAY PARTY

Thursday, December 18

5:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

34 Anderson Place, Buffalo



All are Welcome!

Bring your favorite finger food and a gift of scarves, hats or gloves for chilly children.

For further information contact
us at events@lwvbn.org