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November 2009

Loretta Peszynski,
Co-President

Margaret Brunson,
Co-President

Judy Weidemann,
Membership Chair

Office:
1272 Delaware Ave
Buffalo, NY 14209
884-3550
Fax 882-3797
E-Mail:
lwvbn@lwvbn.org

Janet Massaro,
Administrator

Office Open:
Mon-Thurs
Office closed
Fridays

LWVB/N website
www.lwvbn.org

LWVNYS Home
Page
www.lwvny.org

LWVUS Home
Page
www.lwv.org

Terri Parks,
Voter Editor

VOTER is published
ten times each year.
Copy is due the
Friday following the
monthly board
meeting.

General Meeting

Thursday, November 12, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

Harlem Road Community Center
4255 Harlem Road, Amherst, NY

for LWVB/N members and the General Public

"Environmental Justice and Hazardous Waste Facility Siting"

Presented by
Dr. Nils Olsen of the Univ. at Buffalo Law Clinic
and
Amy Witryol of Lewiston

Join us to learn about this important topic that affects all of us, not just
the population near hazardous waste facilities.

This presentation will be held in a Meeting Room.
Signs will be posted at entrances to direct you to the correct room.

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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

President's Message

September and October have been very busy months for our League. Thanks to the Local Government committee we had a very successful Kick-off meeting featuring a panel discussion about consolidation of local government services. The speakers were excellent and I think all those in attendance learned much.

I participated in a conference call with LWVNY Regional Director Georgia DeGregorio and several other Local League presidents from central New York State. We discussed local government/consolidation, Students Inside Albany and membership.

I received announcements and invitations to a wide variety of community events, programs and lectures. This information was forwarded to members with e-mail addresses to provide opportunities for them to attend events of interest.

The Waterfront and the Transportation Committees presented a terrific program titled "Buffalo's Waterfronts – Key to the Region's Economic Future."

Therese Warden's Re-entry Study group co-sponsored the Re-entry Support Conference on October 24th at ECC City Campus. Therese was also interviewed by Buffalo News reporter, Matthew Spina regarding the League's support of the pending lawsuits over conditions at the Erie County Holding Center. In his October 4th article, she was quoted as follows, "The purpose of the suit is to compel the county to operate its jails in a safe, stable and humane manner, as required by law. We agree with the commission that this lawsuit is an unfortunate but necessary action."

On February 14, 2010 the League will celebrate its 90th birthday. I received much information from LWVUS and we're planning a gala birthday celebration to mark this important milestone.

We have entered the busy election season with candidate forums in many local communities and the preparation of our all new "VOTER GUIDE" online.



Our Local League Finance Drive will be held in November.

We will continue to work hard to bring you interesting, educational and entertaining programs throughout the year. We are also planning to have a Holiday Social in December. Please join us and get involved with our local League.

Margaret Brunson, Co-President LWVBN

On Saturday, November 7, League member, Joan Bozer, will receive the Zonta Club's Marian de Forest Community Service Award at a luncheon at the Saturn Club. This is the Zonta Club's highest honor. Details will be available online or by calling the League office, 884-3550. Leaguers are welcome to attend to show their support for Joan. Reservations are due by October 26.

Great Decisions

Our last Great Decisions topic for 2009, Human Rights in a New Era: Wars for Peace? will be led by Joan Photiadis on Thursday, November 5, from 10 AM - noon at 1272 Delaware. "As the Universal Declaration of Human Rights celebrates its 60th anniversary, events in the Balkans, Sudan and Myanmar continue its idealism, while raising new questions about the prospects for humanitarian interventions. Do human rights transcend national borders and customs? Is the definition of human rights changing?" How well have we done in these sixty years? It will also be the time for those interested, to sign up for the 2010 edition of the Foreign Policy Association briefing book. (Usually we can get a discount if we order in November.) To help you make your personal decision, these are the topics for next year: Special Envoys, Preventing Genocide, Global Crime, U.S.-China Security Relations, Global Financial Crisis, Russia and its Neighbors, The Persian Gulf, Peacekeeping. If you can't attend the November meeting, but wish to order a book, please call me by November 15. Thank you.

Bernice Baeumler: events@lwvbn.org

Voter Service

General Election

- Nov. 2 - Last day to apply in person for Absentee Ballot for General Election
- Nov. 2 - Last day to postmark Absentee Ballot It must be received by the Board of Elections no later than November 10.
- Nov. 3 - Last day to deliver Absentee Ballot in person to your Board of Elections



General Election Day - Tuesday, November 3, 2009

Polls open at 6 a.m. and close at 9:00 p.m. in both Erie and Niagara Counties.

For questions and ballots requests, call the Erie County Board of Elections, 858-8891 or the Niagara County Board of Elections, 438-4040.

New Citizens Ceremonies

On November 5, Helen Morrison and Marilee Keller will represent the League at the New Citizens Ceremony. We want to give special thanks to Judy Casassa for joining Judy Clarke at the September 24th ceremony.

Joyce Bol, Voter Service Chair

An Opportunity to Help



Last March, many of you attended our legislative breakfast where we met with New York State legislators or their representatives. Our purpose was to present the League's legislative priorities to the senators and assemblymen, and to hear their responses. The heroes of the event were Ellen Neumaier, Gladys Gifford, Joan Photiadis, and JoAnn Ross, who were willing to share their extensive knowledge of LWVNY positions to the crowd in the WNED conference room. The support of the many League members in attendance was impressive, and we all learned much about the issues.

Although we appreciated the contributions of the very busy legislators who attended, there were many more who were not there. In the Spring of 2010, we want to reach more state legislators by visiting them in their local offices. We'll need some well-informed League members to go with me in groups of two or three, to call on legislators or their staff to continue communicating our message. My hope is that we'll have enough volunteers so we won't have to repeatedly call on our same in-house experts. We may not be successful in arranging many visits, but with your help we can make them meaningful.

The three areas of the LWVNY's 2009 - 2010 agenda are Reforming State Government, Energy and the Environment, and, Cost Effective and Accessible Health Care. You may already know much about them, but here's how you can find out more. Go to the LWVNY website and click on "Advocacy Areas" in the blue strip on the left side of the screen. That will bring up a page entitled "Areas of Advocacy". Select "2009 Legislative Agenda" and click on "2009 Legislative Packet". That will bring up a document that contains all we need to know to become well-enough informed to meet with our legislators. Don't panic. When we visit our legislators, we can only give a brief summary of each topic, and ask a few of the recommended questions on the yellow pages.

If you are willing to help, please contact me at events@lwvbn.org. This can be your contribution to the League's outreach, and you may even have the opportunity to influence an Albany vote or two. I look forward to hearing from you.

Janet Goodsell, Action Chair

We send wishes for a speedy recovery to Allene Falk, who had surgery earlier this fall.
We hope to see her back on her feet soon.

Testimony Before the New York State Senate Committee on Environmental Conservation

Senator Antoine Thompson, Chairman
September 29, 2009, Buffalo, New York

Good Afternoon, my name is JoAnn Ross, Director of Citizen Education of the League of Women Voters of New York State and New York representative on the LWV Lake Erie Basin Committee, an inter-state committee that addresses Water and Watershed concerns. I would like to begin by thanking Senator Thompson and the members of the New York Senate Standing Committee on Environmental Conservation for conducting this hearing on the issue of Clean Water in New York State.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political membership organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League has over fifty local Leagues statewide. In New York State, League members have had a continuing interest in water issues since 1965, which lead to the development of our 1997 state position on Watershed Protection.

The League position includes the development and implementation of stringent controls to protect the quality of current and potential drinking water supplies; including protection of watersheds for surface supplies and recharge areas for ground water.

New York State should continue to set standards, determine classifications, and issue permits; in addition, *localities should be able to impose more stringent permit limits* that the state standard.

The League supports state enforcement compliance with a strong role for county and local government.

In New York State the quantity of water is not an issue, however, there is a need for comprehensive ecosystem management within each watershed. This should include a regional approach to water regulations. We recognize that management of water supplies will entail higher costs and restrictions.

The water quality in New York State is threatened by sources of non-point pollution. The League supports strong regulations to reduce non-point source pollution. There is a need for education and technical assistance to address issues of best management practices to control non-point source pollution. Best management practices should be applied to all sources of non-point pollution.

Specifically, the League supports:

- A regional watershed approach requiring regulations that cross municipal boundaries;
- Requiring communities to keep their water and sewage infrastructure in good working condition;
- Limiting the use of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers; and
- Improving coordination between the various agencies charged to protect our drinking water supplies.

The League is opposed to any proposal prepared by the state for self-monitoring and/or self-determined compliance for water regulation.

All New York residents have the right to clean water. The League of Women Voters of New York State encourages you to move into the forefront on this important issue and thanks you for the opportunity to present our position.

JoAnn Ross

Donations for Basket Raffle

The League will have a holiday party in December that will include a Basket Raffle to benefit LWVBN. We welcome donations from League members. Some "basket" items you might want to donate include gift certificates for restaurants, businesses, special events, books or games for children, coffee, tea, snacks, your creations- such as hand crafted items or food items, and books and games for League members. Please call or e-mail Terri Parks at events@lwvbn.org to let us know what you'll contribute.

Membership dues and contributions to the LWV are not deductible as a personal or business expense for tax purposes.

RENEW

CUT OUT AND MAIL TODAY

Make check payable to **LWVB/N** and send to **LWVB/N**, 1272 Delaware Ave., Buffalo, NY 14209-2401 (Attn: Membership Chair, Judy Weidemann)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$62 Individual (Basic Membership) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$95 Household
<i>(2 members living at the same address)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 Carrie Chapman Catt Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Student membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$90 Elizabeth Cady Stanton Membership | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Susan B. Anthony Membership | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed is my additional contribution of \$ _____ | |

Unit Affiliation *(optional)*

- Amherst
 Buffalo Metro
 Clarence

Name (s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

- Please send me the LWVB/N VOTER via email.

This includes local, state and national League dues.

Dear League Members,

Membership

The membership committee is working hard to attract new members. We are offering a special introduction to the League to prospective members. We will send (e-mail or regular mail) 3 months of **The Voter** and information on the League to potential members. Please send the names and addresses to me at the address below. We need your help to make this effort successful.

At each meeting there will be a sign-in sheet for both members and guests. We will be sending a letter explaining the work of the League, a membership form, and a copy of **The Voter** to guests at our meetings. We hope that this effort too, will help attract new members.

Judy Weidemann, Membership Chair
events@lwvbn.org

If you change your e-mail address, please send an e-mail notifying us of the change from your new e-mail address to: lwvbn@lwvbn.org, and to me at embondar@gmail.org. We need this notification to reach you by e-mail with the latest news, advocacy requests, and information.

Elsa Bondar, LWVB/N Grassroots Coordinator

If you're willing to receive your VOTER by e-mail, please e-mail me at lwvoter@verizon.net. You will help the environment, save printing and postage costs, and learn about upcoming events at least a week earlier than folks who receive the printed copy. We currently are sending VOTER by e-mail to 53 members who requested it. Their comments about the electronic delivery have been positive.

Terri Parks, VOTER Editor

Lunch & Issues

Friday, November 20, 2009 at 11:30 a.m.

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

Senator Michael Ranzonhofer is our guest speaker.

Please come and bring a friend.

The cost of full service meal is **\$15.00**. Make checks payable to **LWVBN**.

Please E-mail Sally Metzger at events@lwvbn.org

by **November 18**, to make reservations.

NOVEMBER 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 LWVBN BOARD MEETS 4:30 p.m	3 GENERAL ELECTION	4	5 GREAT DECISIONS Page 2	6 VOTER COPY DUE	7
8	9	10	11	12 NATURAL RESOURCES 9:30 a.m. GENERAL MEETING Page 1	13	14
15	16	17	18 LOCAL GOVERNMENT 1:15 p.m.	19 CHARTER SCHOOLS 1:30 p.m.	20 LUNCH & ISSUES Page 5	21
22	23	24	25	26 THANKSGIVING DAY	27	28
29	30					