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[www.lwvbn.org](http://www.lwvbn.org)

**LWVNYS Home Page**  
[www.lwvnys.org](http://www.lwvnys.org)

**LWVUS Home Page**  
[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

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

**Some views from the  
LWVBN Special Event at  
the Burchfield-Penney  
Center, which honored  
Taffy Tarbell on April 30.**



Anne Hubermann, co- chair  
of the event with Judy  
Metzger, introduced the  
panel.



Lenore Rapalski of the Syracuse  
League, LWVUS President, Mary  
Wilson and LWVNYS President,  
Martha Kennedy, smile for the  
camera.



David Kowalski and other climate change experts presented an outstanding panel  
discussion of "The Heat is On...Climate Change and Emerging Policies."



Co-Presidents Loretta Peszynski and  
Margaret Brunson accept an award for  
increase in membership on behalf of our  
membership chair, Judy Weidemann.

**Marcia Merrins presented  
two awards to LWVBN at  
the May convention for the  
LWVNYS.**



Ellen Neumaier accepts the Out of the Box  
award for the Climate Change Café and Low  
Carbon Diet on behalf of Sandy Chelnov.

## President's Message

At our annual meeting on June 6, we elected a new slate of officers, adopted local program items, adopted a pared down budget for 2009-2010 and passed revisions to our bylaws.

On June 29 the incoming and outgoing LWVB/N board members met to exchange portfolios, update board handbooks and to set up our board calendar for the coming year.

We have a new treasurer! The board has approved the appointment of Deborah Billoni as treasurer for 2009-2010. Deborah enjoys working with numbers and has financial management experience, so this should be a perfect job for her.

We need a board director who'll focus on development and launch a large-scale fund-raising initiative. We really need funds; we cannot continue to spend our reserves. Please contact me if you are interested in this exciting opportunity or if you know someone who has the interest and ability to head our development efforts.

We look forward to our formal board training session with Georgia DeGregorio on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Details will be sent to board members.

The Local Government committee is preparing the program for our Kick-off Meeting in September. October's General Meeting will be about the Cleanup of Hazardous Waste Sites in Niagara County and we plan a holiday social in December.

The Transportation Committee hosted a well attended and informative luncheon and tour of the Erie Canal Terminus on July 8<sup>th</sup>. Thank you Kristin Allen and your committee members for an outstanding program and weather to match.

To all our LWVB/N members, please come out to our programs in the next few months or get involved with one of our committees and/or study groups. We look forward to seeing you.

Remember to checkout our LWVB/N web site for all the current and future League events and information.

*Margaret Brunson*, Co-president, Administration

### Board Meeting Schedule – 2009-2010

Board Meetings are held the League office at 4:30 p.m. usually on the first Monday of each month.

August 3	September 14	October 5	November 2	December 7	January 4
February 1	March 1	April 5	May 3	June 7	

The Issues Committee meets the Tuesday prior to each board meeting at the Harlem Road Community Center at 4:30 p.m.

#### Great Decisions

I guess everyone in our Great Decisions group knows we do not meet in July or August, but we resume on Thursday, September 3 at 10 a.-noon at 1272 Delaware, when Joan Sillman will lead the discussion about Global Food Crisis. "Global prices for food staples have risen dramatically, resulting in protests and unrest around the world. What factors are driving prices up, and can they be tamed? What will the political fallout be for governments that fail to act, and what role can global institutions play?" Food is fundamental.

Note: I personally want to thank the Buffalo Unit of 2009-10 for continuing to support the Great Decisions Committee and host their meetings. Although I know "all politics is local" and the League emphasizes this, I joined because I wanted to know more about all parts of our world and your sponsorship has enabled me to visit every corner of it. Thank you.

*Bernice Baeumler* events@lwvbn.org

## League of Women Voters State Convention



In May, LWVB/N sent eight delegates to the 2009 New York State League convention, Margaret Brunson, Lee Lambert, Ellen Neumaier, Galdys Gifford, Lynne Vallone, Amy Wytriol, Janet Massaro and me. Lyle Toohey served as Parliamentarian for the convention.

LWVB/N member, JoAnn Ross, was re-elected to her position as citizen Education-Youth Program Director for LWVNY. Betsy Swann was elected state president. LWVB/N was honored with the two awards described on Page One of this VOTER.

All of our delegates attended workshops that were offered. Margaret and I received information for our League from the Health Workshop. We also learned about the dangers of drilling for gas through shale rock. This drilling frequently contaminates all water in nearby areas. Ellen Neumaier's workshop about our Climate Café was well attended and many people showed interest in the Low Carbon Diet program for use in their local leagues. It was most fitting that the program was recognized with the LWVNY Out of the Box Award.

The state program remains the same as in 2007-2009 with one addition. The state League will begin a local government study. LWVB/N volunteered our expertise and the materials developed by our Local Government Committee. Committee Co-chair, Anne Huberman, will be a member of the state study group.

The featured speaker at the convention was Jay Gallagher, who has reported on state government issues for 35 years. He discussed our dysfunctional state legislature. (Even he could not have imagined just how dysfunctional the State Senate would become.)

The state League faces serious financial problems. The new officers are working to correct these problems. All the delegates learned much and enjoyed the convention.

*Loretta Peszynski*, Co-president, Program

### 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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## Voter Services

### Calendar for Fall Elections, 2009 for Erie and Niagara Counties

#### Primary Election

- Aug. 21 - Last day to register for Primary Election at the Board of Elections - Registrations that are mailed must be postmarked by this date and received by the Board of Elections by August 26.
- Aug. 26 - Last day to notify Board of Elections of change of address
- Sept. 8 - Last day to postmark an application for an Absentee Ballot
- Sept. 14 - Last day to apply in person for an Absentee Ballot
- Sept. 14 - Last day to postmark an Absentee Ballot, which must be received by the Board of Elections no later than September 22
- Sept. 15 - Last day to deliver Absentee Ballot in person to the Board of Elections
- **Primary Election Day - Tuesday, September 15, 2009**  
 Erie County: polls open at 6:00 a.m., close at 9:00 p.m.  
 Niagara County: polls open at noon, close at 9:00 p.m.



#### General Election

- Oct. 9 - Last day to register for the General Election - Registrations that are mailed must be postmarked by this date and received by the Board of Elections by October 14. Exceptions: if you have been honorably discharged from the military or have become a naturalized citizen after October 9, you must register in person at the Board of Elections by October 23.
- Oct. 14 - Last day to notify Board of Elections of change of address
- Oct. 27 - Last day to postmark application or letter of application for Absentee Ballot for the 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.

#### LWVBN Candidate Forums for the 2009 Elections

- East Aurora:** Tuesday, October 20, 2009, Candidate Forum at 7 p.m. at the East Aurora Senior Center  
**Hamburg:** Wednesday, October 21, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Union-Pleasant School Auditorium  
**Amherst:** Thursday, October 22, 2009, Candidates Breakfast at 9 a.m. at the Amherst Senior Center  
**Clarence:** Monday, October 26, 2009, Candidate Forum 7 p.m. at the Clarence Town Hall

*Joyce Bol, Voter Services Chair*

#### LWVB/N September General Meeting

Wednesday, September 23, 2009, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.  
 Harlem Road Community Center Auditorium

#### Government Change: More than Dollars and Cents

is the topic for a timely panel discussion featuring local experts in government change and including the LWVB/N Local Government criteria for considering change in government. We welcome all League members and the general public.

## Update on the National Popular Vote Compact (NPV) Study Consensus

On May 21, 2009 the NPV Compact Committee and the Program Planning Committee recommended that the LWVUS position statement read as follows:

“The LWVUS affirms its support for the direct election of the president and the abolition of the Electoral College, but the LWVUS has no position on the National Popular Vote Compact as currently proposed.”

In their recommendations the Committees acknowledged problems with the NPV Compact study, from the content of the study material to the wording of the consensus questions. They reported that of those Leagues participating, more than 25% were unable to reach consensus. 50% of Leagues registered serious complaints about the consensus questions. Many Leagues felt the consensus questions were biased either for or against the Compact. Others pointed to the misconception that a choice had to be made between advocating for the abolition of the Electoral College and supporting the NPV Compact. Barbara Klein, a member of the NPV Study Committee wrote, “Such a high rate of dissatisfaction with the consensus questions indicates a quality issue of this consensus process.”

As a result, the NPV Compact Study Committee further recommended that:

1. If we do a “quick” study again, we carefully consider the process to achieve maximum member understanding of the issue(s);
2. Any consensus questions for any study be tested, before approval by the Board, for understandability, suitability and non-bias by League members who are not part of the study committee, the staff, or the Board;
3. A task force be formed to examine the study and consensus process.

To this end, the Saratoga LWV (which together with Leagues in CA and AZ spearheaded the call for a National NPV Study) proposed new consensus guidelines, which were approved at the LWVNYS Convention this past May.

An addendum: ***LWVBN members reached consensus in support of the NPV Compact.*** *In our Committee’s consensus report to National we also objected to the confusing and contradictory consensus questions. Meetings here were lively and provocative, our members informed and eager to share viewpoints. We thank everyone again for participating in discussions about a fundamental aspect of our democracy – how we elect the president*

*Janet Massaro, NPV Study Chair*

### LWVBN Officers and Directors 2009-2010

Co-president, Administration, Margaret Brunson  
 Co-president, Program, Loretta Peszynski  
 2nd Vice President, National Program, Therese Warden  
 3rd Vice President, Action, Janet Goodsell  
 Recording Secretary, Judith Clarke  
 Treasurer, Deborah Billoni  
 Corresponding Secretary, Ramona Gallagher  
 Membership, Judy Weidemann  
 Bulletin Editor, Terri Parks  
 Voter Service, Joyce Bol  
 Issues, Loretta Peszynski  
 Local Government, Lynne Vallone  
 State Program, Lenore Banks  
 Volunteer Coordinator, Jo Ann Mecca

### Unit Coordinators

Amherst: Judy Metzger/Arlene Miles/  
 Sally Metzger  
 Buffalo: Jo Ann Mecca, Nuala Drescher  
 Clarence: Allene Falk/Diane Showalter/Janet Hay

### Committee and Study Group Chairs

Local Government co-chair, Anne Huberman  
 Charter Schools, Lee Tetkowski  
 Election Services (BMHA), Kathleen McCarthy  
 Election Guide Advisors, Laura McDade and Joan Mondul (We need new editors!)  
 Regional Water Issues, Ann Ingleman  
 Grass Roots Lobby Coordinator, Elsa Bondar  
 Webmaster, Kristin Allen  
 Natural Resources, Ellen Neumaier  
 Reentry (ATI) Study, Therese Warden  
 Transportation, Kristin Allen  
 Waterfront Development, Jim Metzger  
 Communications, Allene Falk  
 Nominating Committee Chair, Cathleen Getty

## Amherst Unit News

Please mark your calendars now for fall League events already scheduled. Amherst and Clarence Leagues will be sharing programs of mutual interest. The October 16<sup>th</sup> Lunch and Issues at the Scotch and Sirloin, 6999 Maple Road, at Noon features Denise Herkey, coordinator of the American Red Cross Disaster Preparedness program.

Amherst Unit members attend our Town Board Meetings at 3:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Monday of each month. Please call Joyce Zobel, 688-8768, if you can help.

Thank you Sally Metzger for hosting Amherst Unit and friends at the picnic on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. We look forward to our unit members' participation in all and any ways you are able.

*Judy Metzger, Arlene Miles & Sally Metzger, Amherst Unit Coordinators*

## Natural Resource News

"Summertime and the living is easy"—but we can't give up on our quest to reduce our carbon footprints! Thanks to Sandy Chelnov, the Eco-teams of Leaguers have been working to reduce ours and we will be hosting more Climate Change Cafes this fall. If you weren't part of the first round, gather a few Leaguers and friends and plan to join the fun and us. There are so many things we all can do to reduce our energy use. Congratulations to Sandy Chelnov for her award-winning Climate Change Cafe program that was recognized at the LWVNY convention!

*Ellen Neumaier, Natural Resource Chair*

## Remember LWVB/N in your Estate Plans

To add a bequest through your will to LWVB/N, you need to inform your attorney. Often the change does not necessitate a new will but simply the addition of a "codicil" to your existing will.

**If you wish to include LWVB/N in your will, our Board of Directors suggests the following language: "I give \_\_\_\_\_ (percentage, residue, or specific amount) to LWVB/N, having its principal offices at 1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209, for its general purposes."**

## Our League History

We continue to highlight past leaders of the Erie County League of Voters with Miss Elizabeth R. Olmstead, president in 1922-1923. She was born in 1865 in Le Roy, New York and later attended Ingham University, the first women's university in the United States founded in Le Roy in 1837 and chartered by New York State later that year.

Miss Olmstead's interests and talents are examples of the variety of interests and backgrounds of many members of the LWV. She exhibited an unusual talent for music while in college and also wrote plays and was an early supporter of the suffrage movement.

Elizabeth Olmstead died at her home on Summer Street in 1930. Her obituary in the Buffalo News states, "Development of the League of Women Voters in this section of the State was generally attributed chiefly to the activity displayed by Miss Olmstead as one of the pioneers in the movement".

*Marie Hanrahan, Historian*

## Benefit Shopping Day for LWVB/N

Join us to do some holiday shopping at

**Ten Thousand Villages  
5596 Main Street, Williamsville  
October 22, 2009  
10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.**

Our League will receive 15% of the net proceeds for items purchased that day.

*Terri Parks, Ten Thousand Villages volunteer*

## Climate Change Tips

Do you always want to have a drink of water with you? The healthiest way for you and the planet is to carry a washable stainless steel or covered glass bottle. A recent article in Sierra Club's magazine states that all the plastic we have ever created is still with us—and much of this is miles of debris polluting our oceans.

Purchase a reusable, washable dry cleaning bag. Return your plastic dry cleaning bags to the cleaners and ask them to reuse the bags.

*Ellen Neumaier, Natural Resources Chair*

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)**

- \$62 Individual (Basic Membership)
- \$75 Carrie Chapman Catt Membership
- \$90 Elizabeth Cady Stanton Membership
- \$100 Susan B. Anthony Membership
- Enclosed is my additional contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_
- \$95 Household  
*(2 members living at the same address)*
- \$30 Student membership

**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**

If you still need to renew, please complete the coupon above and return it with your payment. We are able to retain only \$14 of the dues locally to meet our expenses. Buffalo/Niagara stretches those dollars, but additional contributions help us to perform valuable services to voters in our area.

*Judy Weidemann, Membership Chair*

**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](mailto:lwvbn@lwvbn.org), and to me at [embondar@gmail.org](mailto: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 send an e-mail to me at [lwvoter@verizon.net](mailto: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.

*Terrí Parks, VOTER Editor*

**Welcome to New Member, Deborah Billoni of Grand Island.**

Thank you to Janet Goodsell and Judy Huber, who represented the League at the July 16th New Citizens Ceremony at which 56 people became United States citizens.



*We offer our condolences to JoAnn Ross, whose mother died recently. JoAnn gave her mother much love and support.*



<b>SUMMER 2009</b>
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<b>SUN</b>	<b>MON</b>	<b>TUE</b>	<b>WED</b>	<b>THU</b>	<b>FRI</b>	<b>SAT</b>
7/26	7/27	7/28 <b>Local Gov't 1:15 p.m. at League Office</b> <b>Issues Comm. Page 2</b>	7/29	7/30	7/31	8/1
8/2	8/3 <b>Board Training Page 2</b>	8/4	8/	8/6	8/7 <b>Copy due for September Voter</b>	8/8
8/9	8/10	8/11	8/12	8/13	8/14	8/15
8/16	8/17	8/18	8/19	8/20	8/21 <b>Registration deadline for Sept. Primary Page 4</b>	8/22
8/23	8/24	8/25	8/26 <b>Address Change Deadline/Primary Page 4</b>	8/27	8/28	8/29