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November 2008

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.lwvnys.org

LWVUS Home Page
www.lwv.org

Terri Parks,
Voter Editor

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You may contact us to
register for any event
in this edition of
VOTER at
events@lwvbn.org

League of Women Voters of Buffalo /Niagara

General Meeting

Wednesday, November 19, 2008
7:00 p.m.

Daemen College Business Building
Rooms 107-109

Daemen College
4380 Main Street, Amherst, NY 14226

Georgia DeGregorio, off board specialist for Domestic Violence
for our New York State League

Dr. Laura Warkentin, Executive Director of Cornerstone Manor,
a local facility that houses and helps victims of
domestic violence

will share their information and insights about an important issue
which impacts many families and communities,

Domestic Violence.

The Business Building is the first building beyond the parking lot located at the Getzville Road entrance to the campus. The parking lot is visible from the entrance.

It may also be reached by driving into the Main Street entrance, following the drive all the way back, to the left, and turning left at the Musical Fare Theater. The Business Building is several hundred yards beyond that building on the right, and its parking lot is beyond the building.

The college is approximately one mile West on NY Route 5 (Main Street)
from Exit 50 of Interstate 90,

This facility is handicapped accessible.

President's Message

We had a very productive board meeting in October. We finally completed and adopted the League calendar for the rest of 2008-2009. We have planned many interesting meetings for you, our members. We approved the letters to be sent out to our members and supporters for our annual fund drive. We approved a newly revised communications policy for VOTER, the LWVB/N Web Site and for all other messages released to the public. Our main objective was to have clear and concise guidelines for the preparation and dissemination of information under the LWVB/N name. We want to protect the security and privacy of our members by restricting the publication of personal information.

I want to thank **Joyce Bol** for all her hard work on election related activities this fall, **Laura McDade** for her efforts in coordinating the TV Debate, and **Laura McDade, Joan Mondul** and everyone who worked on the *Voter Guide*. Thank you to **Judy Weidemann** and **Kathleen McCarthy** for organizing the Constitution Day program.

In addition, the board discussed our Election activities and Legislative priorities. We can choose three issues from our current program items (*see Impact on Issues*) and rank them in order of importance for submission to LWVNY. You may submit your choices to Lenore Banks before November first for consideration by the Issues Committee and final decision by the LWVB/N board.

LWVB/N is still registering voters at the Naturalizations Ceremonies held in Buffalo on the first Thursday of each month and you are welcome to volunteer to work at one of these events. There are many opportunities for each of you to get involved by helping out on some LWVB/N projects. Watch the VOTER for more information.

Margaret Brunson, Co-president,
Administration

Board Meeting Highlights

October 2008

- Kathleen McCarthy was appointed to fill the position recently vacated by Marge Gardner, Election Services Chair.
- The board discussed League Day at the UN – Briefings of the Impact of Global Warming on Women and Children Around the World.
- The LWVB/N *Voter Guide* will be distributed on October 15, 16 & 17.
- The LWVB/N Fund Drive is underway.
- The November board meeting will be held on November 3 at 4:30 p.m. at the **Harlem Road Community Center** due to remodeling at 1272 Delaware.

Marlene Katzel will be facilitator for our closing topic for 2008, Foreign Aid: New Players, New goals?, on Thursday, November 6 from 10 AM to noon at 1272 Delaware. "Billionaire Warren Buffet's June 2007 pledge to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation prompted headlines about the size of the gift and the impact it could have on global education and health initiatives. Can private donors be more effective than governments in tackling world problems?" Once again the time has come for interested people to make another "great decision" whether to order the 2009 briefing book. In order to help you with that, here are the eight topics for next year: U.S. & Rising Global Powers, Afghanistan/Pakistan, Energy & the Global Economy, The Arctic, U.S. and Egypt, Global Food Supply, Cuba after Castro, Human Rights. If you want to order a book, please contact us at events@lwvbn.org by November 20. Also, please note: Because the 2009 books will not be sent out until January 7, we will need to meet the 3rd Thursday in January, the 15th, so books can be distributed and leaders set up for each topic.

Bernice Baeumler

Voter Services

Naturalization Ceremonies:

Jean Flowers and Richard Hemann represented the League on October 21. Laura McDade and Claire Stahl will represent us at the Courts on November 6. Thanks for your participation.

Voter Registration Drives

September and October were extremely busy. Joyce Bol gave presentations on the history of American voter rights and the importance of voting in the following high schools: Akron, Depew, Lackawanna and Amherst. She visited a total of 13 Senior classes. Rosemary Cardoso and Pauline Dyson helped out in three classes. In addition, Joyce Bol spoke about voting to folks at Amberleigh Senior Center, a class at Daemen College, two classes at Bryant & Stratton and a "learn and lunch" group at Northrop Grumman Electronic Systems' African-American Task Group. Judy Metzger spoke about the League and voting at the Jewish Center on September 18. St. Christopher's Church had a registration drive on October 4 where Joan Photiadis and Judy Huber registered about 20 voters. On October 8, Allene Falk spoke on Responsible Citizenship at the Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Clarence. Joan Photiadis represented the League at UB on October 1. JoAnn Mecca registered new voters in the library of Bryant & Stratton one afternoon and evening. The LeaderSpark students registered a total of 200 students at their LeaderSpark Voter Registration project September 23 to 26 at the Erie County Community College downtown campus. On October 19, Lee Tetkowski spoke at Kenmore Methodist church on citizenship and Marian Deutschman spoke at Temple Beth Am on October 26. Loretta Peszynki also informed us that voter registration drives were held in all the Buffalo School system high schools. We have registered approximately 650 voters in the League's registration drive this year. Many thanks to all of you!

WNED debate between Alice Kryzan and Chris Lee

The WNED debate live on television on October 9 between Chris Lee (R) and Alice Kryzan (D) for the 26th Congressional Seat was a very well organized event thanks to Laura McDade and the staff at WNED.

Joyce H. Bol, Voter Services Chair

A big thank-you to Laura McDade for moderating and to Lynn Wilkins and Sue Marom for keeping time at the East Aurora Candidates' Forum on October 23. Thanks also to all the Leaguers who did all the preparations, attended and participated in making the Forum a success!

Ellen Neumaier

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.

Inside this Issue

November General Meeting	1	Waterfront Committee News	5
President's Message	2	The First Biennial Seneca Falls Dialogues	5
Board Meeting Highlights	2	League Day at the United Nations	5
Great Decisions	2	Lunch & Issues/Lunch 'n Learn	6
Voter Services	3	Clarence, Buffalo, Amherst Unit News	6
Voter Guide	4	Local Government Committee Event	6
Natural Resources News	4	Membership News	7

Thank You for helping with the 2008 VOTER GUIDE

We want to thank the many members who aided in it's production and delivery. Typists: Mike Egan, Janet Goodsell. Proofers: Terri Parks, Catherine Barthel, Janet Massaro, Teresa Pope, Ann Marie Malachowski, Marcella Fugle, Barbara Kautz. Deliverers: Judy Metzger, Sally Metzger, Ginny Ziebarth, Arlene Miles, Kathleen McCormick, Judy Danforth, Marlene Katzel, Lynn Vallone, Dot Brown, Delight and Chet Dann, Mary Davis, Marilyn Reeves, JoAnn Mecca, Lynda Stephens, Team Clarence, Judy Weideman, Lee Tetkowski, Janet Goodsell, Bev Nenno, Laura McDade, Joan Photiadis, Judy Clarke, Betty and John Howell, Bonnie Asche and her husband, Phyl Banas, Bob Williams, Agnes and Bob Annis, Dorothy Westhafer, Donna Gioia, Mike Egan, Joan Broderick. Mail Room: Abbey Bernardis, Allene Falk, Beverly Nenno, Joan Photiadis, Norma Stevenson, Sally Metzger, Maxine Johnson and Janet Massaro.

We ordered 55,000 copies of the guide, which includes the 22,000 overrun for Kids Voting schools. 53,800 copies are delivered directly to the office, the take off point for the 26 routes which our members deliver, the Erie County Library system, Niagara County Library system, BOCES I, BOCES II and Niagara BOCES. Indispensable to the delivery date operation is the Medaille BOCES class of Dr. Fisher. They unload the truck, tag all the bundles that have specific destinations, deliver big bundles to the Erie County Library and many downtown locations and take the large order of big bundles to BOCES I and place them on the appropriate routing shelves. Thank goodness for their youth and muscle.

If any helper was missed, we'll try to get your names in the next VOTER. Without all the help and support this vital service to the community would not be possible. Don't feel left out. Tell us now if you want to join this merry band, in any capacity, next year (Editors included).

THANK YOU****THANK YOU****THANK YOU****THANK YOU****THANK YOU

Laura McDade and Joan Mondul, Editors, 2008 VOTER GUIDE

Natural Resources News

Global Climate Change is on everyone's mind! What can we do about it? It is the focus of our Natural Resources Committee this year. It is also a major concentration of the LWVUS (<http://www.lwvus>) and LWVNY (<http://www.lwvny>) and the subject of League Day at the United Nations this December. Learn more about our state and national League efforts at their web sites. We can each determine our own carbon footprints at the one carbon footprint website: <http://www.earthlab.com>

Natural Resources meetings will be held the second Thursday of the month at 9:30am at St. Matthias Episcopal Church, corner of Main and Maple Streets in East Aurora. I know there are many members interested in getting involved in Natural Resource issues that, rightly, do not want to drive so far. We want to set up concurrent or alternate times. Please call or email me of your interest in our committee; we would love to have you! Contact me at events@lwvbn.org.

- Watch for and plan to attend our fun and thought-provoking program based on the Low Carbon Diet: How to lose 3000 pounds in 30 days!
- Watch for and respond to our State and National Legislative Action Alerts!
- Contact Joan Herold if you have old bicycles that you would like to donate to be repaired and recycled. Buffalo Blue Bike teaches young people how to repair them and gives them jobs.
- Germany and now France have banned a common systemic pesticide used to kill fleas in pets because of its connection to colony collapse disorder where entire colonies of bees die. This chemical, imidacloprid, is still sold here in products such as Advantage and others. Bring this to the attention of your vet.
- A bit of information akin to our NR work to get the Pesticide Neighbor Notification in Erie County: The Province of Ontario has joined the Province of Quebec in banning the sale and use of lawn and garden pesticides because of the potential harmful effects on human health. Ontario's ban begins January 2009.

Ellen Neumaier, National Resources Chair

Waterfront Committee News

I continue to attend Waterfront coalition meetings, a picnic this summer and a recent update at Riverkeeper office on Niagara St. To date, a membership framework has not been developed so issues include reports from various people representing the Peace Bridge and the ongoing status of the lawsuit regarding Route 5 and Fuhrman Blvd. I attend meetings as a concerned citizen representing LWVBN and also a member of Citizens Against Casino Gambling in Erie County. The Waterfront Committee will consider an information meeting in the next few months to inform the League regarding these complex issues.

"Clean Sweep" was a big success. Squaw Island looks much better after the League and friends worked hard to pick up debris. Many thanks to Joyce Bol, Eric Gallioni, Delight Dann, Joan Dosch, Walter Dannhauser, Janet Goodsell, Ruth Korn, Ellen Pine, Agnes and Bob Annis, Kathy O'Conner- Mullen, Grace Martorana, Pat Harrity, Kathy and Donn Geyer, Debra Hurley, Nathan Newman, Barbara Riso. See you in the spring.

Jim Metzger, Waterfront Committee Chair

The First Biennial Seneca Falls Dialogues

On October 11 & 12, I attended this initial conference in Seneca Falls celebrating the 160th anniversary of the first Women's Rights Convention and the 60th anniversary of the passage of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the United Nations.

Joan Bozer, one of our League members, has co-chaired this effort for the past two years along with Judy Weidemann, another Leaguer. Our LWVBN was a co-sponsor of the weekend.

Carolyn Hannon, the Director for the Division for the Advancement of Women at the UN, and Carolyn Maloney, Congresswoman from New York, addressed the conference. We also heard from Drs. Peggy Brooks-Bertram and Barbara Seals Nevergold, co-founders of the Uncrowned Queens Institute for Research and Education on Women, Inc. The remainder of the conference was a series of dialogues about women's issues. The majority of participants were college students. The conference was an inspiration to all who attended, and I look forward eagerly to the 2010 Dialogues.

Congratulations to Joan Bozer and Judy Weidemann and their committee for a terrific accomplishment

Loretta Peszynski, Co-president

League member and past president of LWVB/N, Marian Deutschman, has been appointed to a new commission studying the future structure and functions of the Erie County Legislature. Congratulations Marian!

League Day at the United Nations

Tuesday, December 2, 2008 – 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
First Avenue at 46th Street, New York City

Briefings On the Effects of Global Warming on Women and Children Around the World

Details were published on Page One of the October 2008 VOTER.

Contact Margaret Brunson at events@lwvbn.org if you're interested in attending.

Lunch & Issues

Lunch 'n Learn

Friday, November 21 at 11:30 A.M.

Scotch and Sirloin Restaurant
3999 Maple Road, Amherst, NY

Speaker: Dr. Iian Hay,

Past Chair of Microbiology and Immunology
Depart. of the University of Buffalo Medical
School

**Topic: The Politics of Infectious
Disease**

"Bio weapons are a reality and are becoming politicized," states Dr. Hay. In addition to his research and teaching duties, he travels the world, meeting with other scientists, for the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, the National Institutes of Health and other national and international agencies.

Everyone is welcome.

Cost: \$14.00 payable to LWVBN

Please reserve by Nov. 17
at events@lwvbn.org

Clarence Unit News

October was a busy month! Many thanks to all who helped with mailing and distributing the Election Guide, passing out copies at the Clarence Farmers' Market and filling all the roles that make our candidates' forum so successful.

Marian Deutchman and Allene Falk spoke to an adult group at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on the history and purpose of the League and how we carry out our mission.

Allene Falk, Clarence Unit

Buffalo Unit Meeting

November 20, 2008:

"Buffalo Museum of Science:
A Historical Perspective"

Nuala Drescher, Buffalo Unit Co-Chair

Amherst Unit News

Thank you to Ann Shub and Norma Stevenson for moderating the Candidates' Breakfast at the Amherst Senior Center, Joan Sillman and Gladys Gifford for work at the registration desk. A number of Leaguers attended and audience participation included many thoughtful questions.

Anyone interested in attending work sessions for the Amherst Town Board meetings, contact Joyce Zobel, observer coordinator at events@lwvbn.org. The conservation and energy committees meet on the 1st. Wed. and Thurs. of each month in the small boardroom in the Amherst Town Hall at 7PM; the public is invited. As natural resources and energy policy are some of the key League programs, we need to be involved at the local level.

*Judy Metzger, Arlene Miles
and Clarine Radt, Amherst co-coordinators*

Local Government Committee

Wednesday, November 12 at 7:00 PM

**Harlem Road Community Center
4255 Harlem Road
Amherst, NY**

Speaker: Craig Bucki, Esq.,
Attorney at the law firm, Phillips Lytle LLP

Mr. Bucki will speak and lead a discussion
on his article,

**"Regionalism Revisited:
The Effort to Streamline Governance
in Buffalo and Erie County,
New York",**

which was published in the Albany Law Review,
Volume 71-2008.

All League members are invited.

Lynda Stephens, Co-chair