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LWVB/N website www.lwvbn.org

LWVNYSHome Page www.lwvny.org

LWVUS Home Page www.lwv.org

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VOTER is published eleven times this year. The Summer Voter copy is due Friday, July 8, 2011.

LWVBN 2011 Annual Meeting

Harry's Harbour Place Grille
2192 Niagara Street, Buffalo

Saturday, June 11, 2011

The Annual Meeting will begin with coffee at 10:00, a.m. The annual business meeting will be called to order at 10:30 a.m.

Luncheon will be served at noon, followed by our Honored Speakers,

Joan Bozer and Amy Witryol, distinguished League members with experience in the political arenas of Erie and Niagara Counties

Keira Grant, from Hutchinson Technical High School, who was the LWVBN Student Inside Albany this year will speak about that experience.

Cost: \$25 per person: Make your reservation by June 3, by sending the reservation form in the blue Annual Meeting Packet to Judy Huber.

League of Women Voters 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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President's Report

The 2010-2011 LWVB/N year has been very productive. We sponsored a series of programs on topics of interest to our community. We started with "Ethics In Government" in September. October was reserved for election related activities including our "Voter Guide, paper and Online Editions."

In November we held a forum on "Redistricting". This program featured a Power Point presentation which is still available on our website. (www.lwvbn.org). December was fund-raising month – our League members were at the Eastern Hills Mall to wrap gifts throughout the holiday season. In January we had our forum on "The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education." This forum was also broadcast on the radio and the slide show is still available on our website. In March our Natural Resources Committee sponsored a showing of "Gasland", the Academy Award nominated documentary on drilling for natural gas and "fracking" shown at the Palace Theatre in Hamburg.

We continue to welcome new citizens each month at the naturalization ceremonies in Buffalo and sponsor and moderate candidate forums for the school board elections for many local school board elections. We are already planning candidate forums for the general election next fall and organizing our "Voter Guide" 2011 edition.

Our delegates attended the recent LWWNYS Convention in Albany. We will report what we learned and work to implement new programs and projects.

Co-president Loretta Peszynski was unable to attend the convention due to complications from the surgery she had last month. We wish her a speedy recovery.

We hope to see you all at our LWVB/N annual meeting at Harry's Harbour Place Grille on June 11.

Margaret Brunson, Co-president LWVB/N

Great Decisions

Ann Marie Malachowski will lead our third discussion for 2011, ***The Horn of Africa***, on Thursday, June 2, 2011, from 10 a.m. - noon at 1272 Delaware. "Since the early 1990's the U. S. has monitored the Horn of Africa due to security concerns. Internal instability, weak governments in some countries, regional rivalries and a lack of development have resulted in an environment conducive to terrorism. Can the U. S. protect its national interests while mitigating the dangerous conditions in the region?" Can we even name the countries of the Horn? Come and be informed.

ACHTUNG! Please read very carefully so you can be correctly prepared for our July and August Great Decisions meetings.

Marie Hanrahan and Joan Photiadis are trading months so our topic for Thursday July 7, 2011, led by Marie will be ***Germany's Ascendancy*** and as usual held from 10:00 a.m.-noon at 1272 Delaware. "Germany has emerged from both the financial crisis and the eurozone crisis as the dominant economic political power in Europe, in particular setting the tone for dealings with Russia, Eastern Europe and Iran. How important is it for U. S. interests to enhance relations with Germany, and how should the U. S. react when German and U. S. interests fail to align?"

On Thursday, August 4, 2011, Joan will lead the discussion on ***Banks***, governments and debt crisis at our same time, same place. "As an immediate response to the financial crisis of 2007-08 governments around the world stepped in to bail out troubled private banks deemed "too big to fail" underscoring the interdependence between private and public finances. With the recent eurozone crisis, what have we learned so far and is it possible to ensure that future crises will not occur?" If you have questions about these changes, please call me.

Bernice Baeumler events@lwvbn.org

Voter Services

Naturalization:



On April 29, Judy Huber and Joyce Bol participated in a special naturalization event at WNED-TV studios. Twenty-four people became new citizens. During the ceremony, Gerda Weissman Klein, 86, formerly of Buffalo, gave a moving address about her life as a holocaust survivor. The following league members will participate in the new citizen ceremonies: June 16 - Richard Hemann and Jean Flowers; June 30 - Terri Parks and Susan Witt.

School Board Candidates' Meetings:

The League participated in seven school board candidates meetins in early May: Grand Island, moderator Lee Tetkowski; Hamburg, moderator Laura McDade; Clarence, moderator Kathleen McCormick; Amherst, moderator Joyce Bol; East Aurora, moderator Lyle Toohey; Williamsville, moderator Ann Marie Malakowski, Lockport - moderator Marian Deutschman

Election Day Reporting on May 24th for the 26th Congressional District:

Joann Mecca reported for Erie County and Janet Goodsell reported for Niagara County.

Joyce Bol, Voter Services Chair

Join the members of the LWVBN Waterfront-Transportation Committee

For a League Outing,
Saturday, June 18, 2011.

"How will the proposed Buffalo Harbor Bridge Impact our Waterfront's Future?"

Meet us at 10:00 a.m. at the Hatch on the Waterfront.



We'll stroll the promenade to Canal Side and end at the foot of Main Street in Buffalo, noting the alternative sites for the proposed Buffalo Harbor Bridge.

Our purpose is to see first-hand the possible sites for the Buffalo Harbor Bridge, as a basis for making informed assessments about the proposed Buffalo Harbor Bridge and evaluating its impact on Buffalo's waterfront.

Those who wish may meet for lunch afterward at the Hatch.

Note that the walking distance from the Hatch to the Main Street site is about a half mile.

Redistricting Update

Redistricting - the redrawing of legislative district boundaries - occurs on all levels of government. Local redistricting has moved forward quickly this spring to be completed in time for the 2011 elections. At this mid-May writing, the Buffalo Commission has approved a plan to be submitted to the public for comment. The Niagara County's plan, that also includes downsizing from 19 to 15 legislators, has been approved by its legislature. The Erie County Commissioners struggle to come to consensus on a plan to present to the public for comment.

League members have attended all local Citizen Advisory Commission work sessions, meetings and hearings. Our comments at the first public hearing in Erie County have been posted on the league website, www.lwvbn.org for members and the public to read.

New York State redistricting reform has not yet been achieved. We continue to lobby for important reforms that will lessen the influence of partisan politics in redistricting. Janet Goodsell is working with League members to ask our state legislators to support and commit to the reform measures we endorse.

There is a place for every League member to be active on redistricting. Give us a call. If you have an email address let us know. You will be able to respond quickly by having the most up to date information.

Special thanks to Jo Ann Mecca, Kathleen McCarthy and Ramona Gallagher for attending the many Buffalo meetings, Mary Ann Rolland in Youngstown for covering Niagara County, Barbara Kloberdanz for recording the difficulties in Erie County, Anne Huberman for reworking our Power Point Presentation (which we will happily show to any group that is interested), and Kris Allen for keeping the LWVBN website current with meeting schedules and League redistricting activities.

Janet Massaro and redistricting committee members, Anne Huberman, Kathleen McCarthy, Barbara Kloberdanz, Betty Howell, Janet Goodsell, JoAnn Smith, Judy Clarke, Mary Ann Rolland, Ramona Gallagher, Laura McDade, Lyle Toohey, Judy Metzger

Annual Amherst Unit Potluck Picnic

Tuesday, June 28, 2011 at noon

Chelsea Community Room,
Downing Road, Canterbury Woods Retirement Community
Please bring a dish to pass; beverages will be provided.



Also, please bring ideas for Luncheon Issues. We welcome your sharing and ideas. We also welcome Clarence Unit members and all other League members at the picnic.

We especially encourage new League members to attend.
Please contact *Judy Metzger*, events@lwvbn.org, if you'll join us.

Note: There is one issue of the LWVBN Voter published during the summer. It will be published in late July. If you have a contribution to that edition, please submit it by Friday, July 8, 2011.

Membership News

Dear League Members,

I hope to see you at our Annual Meeting at Harry's Harbour Place on June 11th. As is the custom, your renewal membership information will be given to you as you check in. The League's Membership year begins July 1st, 2011 and we strongly urge you to pay your dues at the Annual Meeting or early in July. This year, those who pay their dues at the Annual Meeting will receive a gift as a token of our appreciation.



Renewals will be mailed to members who do not attend the Annual Meeting. We will appreciate your prompt payment of your renewal to the League of Women Voters. Every member is important to our work to fulfill our mission.

Judy Huber, Membership Chair.

Welcome to the League

New Member: David Slive, Amherst, NY

Member Who Has Rejoined: Susan M. Stievater, Amherst, NY

Reminder: Please notify the League Office, lwvbn@lwvbn.org if you change your e-mail address, Grassroots Lobby Coordinator, Elsa Bondar, embondar@gmail.com and also Terri Parks, lwvoter@verizon.net if you receive your VOTER electronically.

Meeting Notices

The Education Committee will meet at 1:30 on Thursday, June 16, 2011, at the League office. We'll be making plans for summer study.

Lee Tetkowski, Education Committee Chair



The next meeting for the Transportation/Waterfront Committee will be on Wednesday, June 8, 2011, at 10 a.m. at the League Office.

Kristin Allen, Transportation /Waterfront Committee

Free Lectures from the Erie County Department of Senior Services

Everyone is welcome to this program sponsored by the Erie County Department of Senior Services Program University Express on Monday, June 27, 2011, at 8 p.m., but you must register by calling the host center, Canterbury Woods, 705 Renaissance Drive, Williamsville, 929-5823.

Invasive Species in the Great Lakes: What are the factors behind the ever-increasing invasive animal and plant species, and what can/should we do to control this infiltration? What are the implications for the health of the Great Lakes? See preserved samples of Gobies, Sea Lamprey, Quagga Mussels, Orange Roughy, Spiny Water Fleas and more. Instructor: Ray Markiewicz

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| JUNE 2011 |
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| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|------------|--|--|--|---|------------|--|
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| 5 | 6 BOARD MEETING 4:30 p.m. | 7 | 8 TRANSPORTATION/ WATERFRONT 10:00 a.m. LOCAL GOVERNMENT 1:15 p.m. | 9 NATURAL RESOURCES 9:30 a.m. | 10 | 11 ANNUAL MEETING 2page 1 |
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