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April 2010

Loretta Peszynski, Co-President 631-3717

Margaret Brunson, Co-President 652-5836

Judy Weidemann, Membership Chair 655-3649

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 873-3243 E-Mail:

lwvoter@verizon.net

VOTER is published ten times each year. Copy for the May Voter is due Friday, April 9, 2010.

Government Consolidation/Shared Services

League of Women Voters of New York State Study Consensus Meetings

April 14, 2010

11:30 AM, 1272 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo (bring a lunch)

or

7:00 PM, Harlem Road Community Center, 4255 Harlem Road, Amherst

The consensus questions are inserted in this VOTER.

A two-page insert accompanied the February 2010 VOTER.

There is more detailed information about the study at the LWVNYS website at http://lwvny.org/consolidation_sss.html.

The LWVBN Local Government Committee inserted additional information into the state discussion.

You may obtain it at http://www.lwvbn.org/lwvbnorg/Consolidation.pdf.



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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Table with 3 columns: Article Title, Page Number, and Article Title. Includes items like President's Message, Coming Events, Great Decisions, etc.

President's Message

The board of directors of LWVBN has approved the budget proposed by the budget committee for 2010-2011. We thank Lyle Toohey, Terri Parks, Judy Weidemann, Deb Billoni, Joyce Bol and Judy Clarke for their work in preparing the proposed budget.

The nominating committee will submit its candidates to the board at its April meeting and to the membership in the Annual Meeting Packet that will be mailed to all LWVBN members at the same time as the May VOTER is mailed.

The Natural Resources committee visited the Waste Management facility in Chaffee, NY on March 8. The details for the ECO Tour at Daemen College for LWVBN on May 15 will be printed in the May VOTER.

We will conduct the Buffalo Municipal Housing Elections this spring. Volunteers are needed for many tasks including sorting and counting the ballots in early June.

The issues Committee appointed Lenore Banks, Anne Huberman and Therese Warden as a subcommittee to review our 2009-2010 Local Program and new proposals for our 2010-2011 Local Program. They will present their recommendations to the Issues Committee at its March meeting. The Issues Committee will present its recommendations for additions and revisions to local program for board action at its April meeting. The board's recommendations will be mailed in the Annual Meeting Packet for adoption at our annual meeting in June.

At the March board meeting, the board approved the League's support of a Women Leader's Statement requested by Voice Buffalo in response to cuts in services to women and children of Erie County, such as neighborhood health clinics and day care subsidies.

Janet Goodsell and other League volunteers are currently conducting interviews with local State Legislators. We all miss Loretta Peszynski's presence at our meetings and wish her a speedy recovery from her surgery at the end of January.

One of the highlights of spring 2010 will be the League's 90th Birthday Celebration. We are planning a gala birthday event to be held in conjunction with our annual meeting on June 5th.

I hope to see many of you at some or all of the upcoming events.

Margaret Brunson, Co-President LWVBN

Coming Events

LWVNY "Spring Fling in New York City" will be May 14th & 15th. Cocktail party fundraiser Friday evening, Visit the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island and see the King Tut Exhibit or see the Broadway Revival of "South Pacific" at the Lincoln Center. Complete details available on the LWVNY website. (www.lwvny.org)

Reservations must be made by March 26.

The LWVUS National Convention will be June 11 – 15, 2010 in Atlanta, Georgia at the Marriott Atlanta Marquis. Room Rate is \$179+tax (\$205.85). You may make your hotel reservation online – www.lwvus.org. More information about the convention program and activities has been posted on the LWVUS web site and is updated as new information becomes available. If you would like to attend this convention please call Janet Massaro at the League office (884-3550).

Great Decisions

Marie Hanrahan will lead our topic, Transnational Crime globalization's shadowy stepchild, on Thursday, April 1, 2010, from 10 AM-noon at 1272 Delaware. "From the booming sex trade in Eastern Europe, to online fraud syndicates in Africa and the drug cartels of Asia and Central America, crime is becoming increasingly organized and globalized. How can countries better protect citizens seeking a globalized world from being exploited? What international actors can effectively fight global organized crime?" Do you wonder what root causes of criminality are? Please join us to explore these issues.

Bernice Baeumler 876 0672

ETHICS...IN ALBANY?

Reforming our State Government: A Forum for Our Times

Sunday, April 25th, 2010, 1-4 P.M.

Unitarian Universalist Church of Buffalo, Parish Hall

Elmwood Avenue at West Ferry Street, Buffalo, New York 14222

Keynote Speaker: **Blair Horner**, Legislative Director, NYPIRG,
Advisor on Policy and Public Integrity to NYS Attorney General

Moderator: **Barbara Kloberdanz**, member, LWVBN

Panel Participants:

Rev. Dr. Richard Gilbert, Social Justice Coordinator, St. Lawrence District,
Unitarian Universalist Association

Bob McCarthy, award winning journalist and Buffalo News political correspondent

Senator Eric Schneiderman, Chair Senate Codes Committee, sponsor S6457 on
legislative ethics reform

LWVBN is partnering with the Interfaith Impact of NY and the Social Justice task Force UUCB to present an up close view of one of New York State Government's most intractable problems, the perspective from Western New York, and steps all of us can take to reform the system. The AAUW is a co-sponsor of this event.

For more information about the forum call the League Office 884-3550

Ethics reform is a 2010 legislative priority for the League.

Ethics reform legislation (S6457) was passed by the State Legislature this past January and sent to Governor Paterson, who vetoed the bill. As of this writing the State Senate has tabled the motion to reconsider the Governor's veto, having failed to over ride.

Voicing support for S6457, the State League stated that the proposed changes would improve both ethics and campaign finance enforcement and create greater transparency. Specifically it would:

1. Strengthen the enforcement unit with in the State Board of Elections and increase transparency of filings and enforcement.
2. Create three new oversight agencies for ethics and lobbying.
3. Require more extensive disclosure from legislators and lobbyists.

While the proposed legislation does not include everything that the League sought, we believe these changes represent a substantial and necessary step forward on ethics and campaign finance enforcement reform. New York cannot afford the continuation of a flawed ethics oversight system.

Detailed information on the proposed legislation, the full text of the League's Memo of Support and Letter to Governor Paterson are on the state League website, www.LWVNY.org.

If you are interested in participating in lobbying visits to legislators to promote the League's positions, contact *Janet Goodsell* at janetmg@verizon.net.

The Alternative Sentencing /Reentry study committee is about to reconvene.

If you are interested in participating or want further information call Therese Warden at 833-7124 or contact her by e-mail: Theresewarden@verizon.net.



Voter Services



Nuala Drescher visited with clients of Action for Mental Health to encourage active citizenship and to especially stress the importance of voting. In February she did a similar presentation for People Helping People.



Naturalization:

Joyce Bol and Jennie Wylegala welcomed new citizens on March 4th at the Naturalization Ceremony.

Joyce H. Bol, Voter Services Chair

Candidates' Forum:

On February 24, 2010, members of the Natural Resources Committee hosted a Candidates' Forum for the village election in East Aurora. We appreciate the help of Laura McDade for her expertise in moderating; Sue Marom and Joan Herold for keeping time; Ellen Moomaw and Trudy Kelly for sorting questions; Judy Weidemann for sending letters to candidates and Lynn Wilkins for phone calls, publicity posters and name cards. Joe Logan videotaped the program that was aired on the local cable channel three times daily until the March 16 election.

Ellen Neumaier

Spring Shoreline Sweep

Help the Waterfront Committee pick up trash on scenic north Squaw Island in the Niagara River Saturday, April 17, from 9 a.m. to noon. We will again be working under the auspices of the Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper. All Leaguers and friends are welcome.

Bring a warm jacket, gloves, hat or sunglasses, sunscreen, water and maybe a camera. There are no restrooms.

We drive into the Squaw Island Park from Niagara Street in Buffalo on the ramp-like entrance next to 1726 Niagara Street. It's a short block north of the Niagara Street/Scajaguada intersection. The entrance has a large billboard and a small park sign. From the park entrance, cross the bridge spanning the Black Rock Canal. (Make sure that no one is already on the bridge as it has only one lane.) Then drive straight ahead (west) to the river. Turn right under the International Railroad Bridge and drive to the end of the road where we will start our work.



Please e-mail Sally Metzger semetz@roadrunner.com to say you can come so we can plan supplies and arrange rides. You may also call Sally at 636-0957.

If you live in Amherst or the Southtowns you may prefer to work at a site closer to home. Contact Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper, 852-7483, <http://bnriverkeeper.org/get-involved/cleanups/> for other sites.

Sally Metzger

Donations for Basket and Quilt Raffle

The Annual Meeting and 90th Birthday Celebration on June 5, 2010 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.

We'll also raffle the beautiful quilt that Ann Marie Malachowski pieced and contributed earlier this year.

Please call Terri Parks at 873-3243 or e-mail her at lwvoter@verizon.net 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.

JOIN

CUT OUT AND MAIL TODAY

Make check payable to **LWVBN** and send to **LWVBN**, 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 LWVBN VOTER via email.

This includes local, state and national League dues.

Please check your information in the LWVBN Membership Directory. If your contact information has changed or is listed incorrectly please let me know and I will make the change in our records.
Margaret Brunson (margbrunson@yahoo.com).

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, LWVBN Grassroots Coordinator

If you're willing to receive your VOTER by e-mail, please contact 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

You are invited to attend the
LWVBN 2010 Annual Meeting and Celebration of the League's 90th Birthday
Saturday, June 5, 2010 at Michael's Banquet Facility
Route 20, Hamburg, NY

The Annual Meeting will be from 10:00, a.m. until Noon.


**It will be followed by a Luncheon and Celebration that honors
90 years of LWWUS and**

Our Office Administrator, Janet Massaro, who will retire at the end of June.

We will also recognize LWVBN and community members who have made outstanding contributions to democracy and be entertained by prominent local actress, Christina Rausa, who will portray the first president of the League, Carrie Chapman Catt, in the program that will end at 2:00 p.m.

The total cost per person will be \$25.

The May Voter will provide luncheon choices and details for making your reservations. Please mark your calendar for June 5 and join us to celebrate the efforts of the League and especially to thank Janet Massaro for her fine work and dedication to the League. Her service as office administrator began in 1995. She certainly has earned a happy retirement!



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