



your  
★ VOTER ★

Volume 23, Number 5

January 2018

**Leadership Team**

Nancy DeTine  
Marian Deutschman  
Lori Robinson  
Terri Parks

**Office**

1272 Delaware Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14209  
716-986-4898  
Fax 882-3797  
Email [lwvbn@lwvbn.org](mailto:lwvbn@lwvbn.org)

**Mary Ann Turkla**  
Office Manager

Office hours are flexible.  
Always call before going  
to the office.

**LWVB/N website**  
[www.lwvbn.org](http://www.lwvbn.org)

**LWVNYS website**  
[www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org)

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

Voter is published 11  
times a year. The  
February Voter copy is  
due Wednesday, January  
10. Send copy to Nancy  
DeTine at  
[nancy@nancydetine.com](mailto:nancy@nancydetine.com).

**Forum and Concurrence:  
*Death with Dignity***

**DATE:** Saturday, January 13, 2018

**TIME:** 1:15 – 3:30 p.m.

**PLACE:** The Center for Hospice & Palliative Care,  
Hospice Education Building, 225 Como Park Blvd.,  
Cheektowaga, NY 14227

**Panelists:** Dr. Mary T. Williams, nationally and internationally recognized speaker; Corinne Carey, Esq., New York campaign director, Compassion & Choices; Dr. Robert A. Milch, recognized leader in palliative care; and Todd Vaarwerk, director of advocacy and public policy, Western New York Independent Living

**Moderators:** Ramona Gallagher and Ann Converso

There is no current provision in New York State law for medical assistance in dying, and no provisions against abuse of the dying or for protecting medical personnel. The panel will help us gain understanding of the issue’s pros and cons. League members will discuss and vote on concurrence for a LWV New York State position to be used in deciding whether or not to support particular legislation now and in the future following the presentation.

**RSVP:** Register by calling 986-4898 or preferably at the League of Women Voters of Buffalo Niagara website, [www.lwvbn.org](http://www.lwvbn.org).

***This program is free and open to the public. All are welcome!***

See page 5 for the revised position statement for Death with Dignity.

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**League of Women Voters Mission**

The League of Women Voters is a good government organization that encourages informed and active participation in the political process, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League never supports political parties or candidates.

## News from the Board

### **Special Thank You to a Most Valued League Member**

Since 2013, Judith Clarke, Volunteer Coordinator, has recruited the volunteers who worked with our League for naturalization ceremonies and voter registration events, as candidate event moderators and timekeepers, and as speakers for other organizations. Judy was also one of the first people to volunteer as a member of the Finance Committee when we organized it in 2012, to ensure that we manage our funds wisely and to increase the earnings from our reserve funds. She did most of the research and writing of our investment policy and has been a key committee member to monitor our investments. When Judy notified the board that she would resign in early December, colleagues were quick to respond with accolades for her warm, caring nature, positive and respectful relations with everyone, keen intellect, dedication and quick wit. Judy has enlivened every meeting with her incisive comments and keen observations.

To say you will be missed, Judy, is a profound understatement! We deeply regret that you're leaving the board and send our prayers that you continue to face life with the courage and grit we all have admired.

*The LWVBN Board of Directors*

### **League Members Continue their Generous Support for Worthy Organizations**

At our holiday party on December 2, League members again demonstrated their kindness and good will with donations to the Massachusetts Avenue Project (MAP). We learned about the many different efforts that MAP offers from Diane Picard, executive director, and a fine student representative.

### **Making Democracy Work: Honoring Local League Leaders**

This edition of the Voter includes a nomination form for the 2018 Making Democracy Work Award. Please consider nominating a community member who you feel has made memorable efforts to make democracy work. Recent honorees include attorney Michael Kuzma, Erin Heany, Bill Nowak, Sam Magavern, Bonnie Smith from WEDI, Scott Gehl from HOME and Roger Cook. We welcome your nomination for the 2018 award by February 21, 2017. The nomination form has the details.

## Great Decisions

It was so nice of Nora Mikes to notify me that WNED -TV was replacing the Charlie Rose show with the Great Decisions 2017 DVD on Sunday mornings from 11:30 till noon from November 26 through December 24. I talked with Mary from program information at the station to thank them and hope that they will also telecast the 2018 series and, if so, let us know when it might air. Hopefully it will be close to the time when we resume discussion of our topics in April. She did ask me for specifics. Keep your fingers crossed. The books are due to arrive sometime in January so if anyone wants her copy before March, call me so we can arrange how to get it to you.

*Bernice Baeumler*

## Recognizing 2017 League Volunteers



In her book, *A Nun on the Bus*, Sister Simone Campbell wrote: “But a democracy cannot survive if various groups and individuals only pull away in different directions. Such separation will not guarantee that all are allowed the opportunity for ‘life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.’ All people must be recognized for their inherent dignity and gifts regardless of the color of their skin, their religious beliefs, or their place of origin. And all these gifts need to be shared in order to build up the whole.

“So I have begun to wonder if the new task of the first half of the twenty-first century should be a commitment to civil obligation as a balance to the focus on civil rights.

“Civil obligations call each of us to participate out of a concern and commitment for the whole. Civil obligations call us to vote, to inform ourselves about the issues of the day, to engage in serious conversation about our nation’s future and learn to listen to various perspectives.”

The 102 people listed below have shown through their actions on behalf of the League in 2017 that they embrace the concept of civil obligations as Sister Campbell envisions it.

Sue Fay Allen	Pauline Dyson	Beth Kaufman	Christine Reichmuth
Kris Allen	Mike Egan	Carl Klingenschmitt	Lori Robinson
Lona Allendoerfer	Wynnie Fisher	Carolyn Koelmel	Alberta Roman
Agnes Annis	Jean Flowers	Kathie Macaluso	Alice Say
Bonnie Asch	Barbara Frackiewicz	Ann Marie Malachowski	Mary Scheeder
Harold Asch	Ramona Gallagher	Sue Marom	Judith Schiffert
Bernice Baeumler	Scott Gehl	Janet Massaro	Deborah Shiffner
Phillis Banas	Mary Gentile	Nicole Matteson	Joan Sillman
Kathleen Bassett	Ellen Gibson	Kathleen McCarthy	Lynda Stephens
Joyce Bol	Gladys Gifford	Laura McDade	Sue Stievater
Joan Broderick	Donna Gioia	JoAnn Mecca	Flora Summe
Barb Brooks	Janet Goodsell	Barbara Metivier	Dorothy Tao
Dot Brown	Marie Hanrahan	Sally Metzger	Lee Tetkowski
Margaret Brunson	Dick Hemann	Judy Metzger	Lyle Toohey
Judy Capodicasa	Mary Herbst	Nora Mikes	Mary Ann Turkla
Jim Carr	Judy Hoffman	Arlene Miles	Lynne Vallone
Judith Casassa	Betty Howell	Sally Moehlau	Sara Vernon
Sandy Chelnov	Jack Howell	Joan Mondul	Kate Wagner
Judy Clarke	Judy Huber	Ellen Moomaw	Judy Weidemann
Ann Converso	Maxine Insera	Jayne Murray	Pat Wille
Pat Costanzo	Barb Jezioro	Ellen Neumaier	Amy Witryol
Josette Cunningham	Ellie Johnson	Amelia Palka	Liz Zausmer
Nancy DeTine	Shirley Joy	Terri Parks	Paul Ziebarth
Marian Deutschman	Charles Kaars	Joan Photiadis	Joyce Zobel
Krysta Doerfler	Joanne Kahn	Natalie Photiadis	
Alan Dozoretz	Marlene Katzel	Marianne Poprosky	

## Our Nuclear Times: Article Two

What are FEPs? Where can you find them? On the internet's international database of Features, Events and Processes for the Geologic Disposal of Radioactive Waste. Let's look at WATER and match it to FEPs for Buffalo's WVDP (West Valley Demonstration Project), a nuclear waste site.

Example one: FEPs section 1.2.10 describes "effects of erosion." This is a good category for the five-inch rainfall of August 2009 that caused a 300-foot-wide slump (small landslide) of soil and mature trees far down into Buttermilk Creek, right next to WVDP. Climate change is causing rainfalls of increased frequency and intensity in the Great Lakes region. More erosion events will certainly take place at the WVDP site, a glacial plateau of soil-sand-clay.

You will find "water management" in section 1.4.07. Scoby Dam is on the Cattaraugus Creek downstream from WVDP. Layers of old river sediment, with some measurable amounts of radioactivity, have accumulated behind this dam.

Sections 2.1.07 and 2.1.08 describe "processes that affect wastes and containers." A past event at WVDP included a "bath tub effect." Covers placed over trenches filled with boxes and barrels leaked, and caused the trenches to fill with rainwater. Some radioactive contaminants from corroded containers escaped in overflows.

"Groundwater flow systems" are in section 2.2.07. There was an accidental liquid waste spill in the 1960s under the soon-to-be-demolished Main Building. This formed a water-borne plume of radioactivity containing Strontium-90, which is a calcium pretender that binds to bones. A deep, 200-foot-long engineered barrier now captures much of the Strontium-90, but not all.

FEPs sections 2.4.03 and 3.3.01 concern "intake of water by individual humans" and "presence of radioactive species in drinking water." Did you know that trace amounts of WVDP radionuclides have been found in the delta sediments of the Niagara River at Lake Ontario?

Next: Watch for information about upcoming large-scale WVDP projects called Phase II Decisions.

*Barbara Frackiewicz*

## Election Services

October was an extremely productive month for this committee, with two mailings. The first required that notices be sent to three different sites, with a total of more than 1,300 notices for which our volunteers placed mailing labels on envelopes, and then proceeded to fold, stuff, seal, and stamp all of those notices. The second mailing consisted of the same process with close to 300 notices sent. This committee also conducted one nominations meeting and one election in October. League members logged more than 40 volunteer hours to accomplish all of the tasks described above. My deepest heartfelt thanks to those who ably assisted: Judith Clarke, Joyce Bol, Lee Tetkowski, Sally Metzger, Ramona Gallagher, Shirley Joy, Janet Goodsell, Nora Mikes, Mike Egan, Ellie Johnson, Marianne Poprosky, Terri Parks, and Marlene Katzel. When I asked for volunteers for the mailings, the response was terrific. I am honored by your commitment.

*Alan Dozoretz, Chair*

## Volunteer Coordinator's Report

Our October commitments to naturalization ceremonies were fulfilled by Laura McDade, Barbara Metivier, Patricia Wille and Judy Weidemann. Barbara Brooks and Kate Wagner represented the LWVBN at a November 2 ceremony.

The 2017 calendar for naturalization ceremonies was completed by Joan Sillman, Judy Casassa, Josette Cunningham, Joyce Bol and Charles Kaars in November. Elisabeth Zausmer and Joyce Bol represented the League at the last ceremony of the year on December 21.

Two League members -- Marian Deutschman and Barbara Metivier -- served as moderator and timekeeper for a Candidates Night.

JoAnn Mecca and Ramona Gallagher served as stringers for the AP (Associated Press) wire service for both the primary election and the general election.

Patricia Wille will assume the responsibilities of coordinating League volunteers for naturalization ceremonies beginning in January 2018. I know she will appreciate your responsiveness to her requests for volunteers and looks forward to working with a great group of League members.

*Judith Clarke*

### Save the Date!

On Thursday, February 15, 2018, the League will join AAUW as a co-sponsor to present

#### ***Women in Politics: Challenges Women Face When Running for Public Office.***

Mark your calendars now for this important dinner and panel discussion moderated by Diana Cihak, founder of WEPac/Electing Women into Office. The reservation form will be in the February Voter.

### **LWV New York State Concurrence Position on Death with Dignity, Revised:**

1. The League of Women Voters of New York believes state laws should grant the option for a terminally ill person to request medical assistance from a relevant, licensed physician to end one's life.
2. The League of Women Voters believes such legislation should include safeguards against abuse of the dying and protections for medical personnel who act in good faith compliance with the law.

The position was revised to match the exact wording approved by the delegates at the June 2017 convention of the League of Women Voters of New York State.

**Reminder:** League members should take the background materials that they received with the November and December Voters with them to the program on January 13.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF BUFFALO/NIAGARA

1272 Delaware Ave, Buffalo, NY 14209

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## January 2018 Events and Meetings

**Tuesday, 1/2, 4:00 p.m.**

**Issues Committee**

Harlem Road Community Center, Amherst 14226

**Monday, 1/8, 4:00 p.m.**

**Board of Directors**

League Office

**Wednesday, 1/10, 1:30 p.m.**

**Local Government Committee**

League Office

**Saturday, 1/13, 1:15 – 3:30 p.m.**

**Forum and Concurrence:**

***Death with Dignity***

The Center for Hospice & Palliative Care,  
Hospice Education Building, 225 Como Park Blvd.,  
Cheektowaga, NY 14227

**Thursday, 1/18, 1:30 p.m.**

**Education Committee**

League Office

**Please remember to wear your League name badge to all League events.  
Make arrangements to pick it up or have someone get it from the League office.**