
LWV Chautauqua County
PO Box 42
Fredonia, New York 14063

Inside This Issue

About Our Program	2
Reservation Form	2
From the President	3
More program information	4
Review of 2018 Election	5
Campaign Finance Reform	6
Calendar	7
Membership Form	8



The Leaguer

Volume 23, Issue 4
Dec. 2018 – Jan. 2019

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY
lww@lwwchautauqua.org, 672-4275

Refugees, Immigration and Asylum Seekers...Is there a difference?

REFUGEE

- **Forced to** leave their country
- Fleeing **armed conflict** or **persecution**
- Do not know where they'll end up

MIGRANT

- **Choose to** move
- **No direct threat** of persecution or death
- Mainly to improve their lives
- **Finding work**

ENVIRONMENTAL MIGRANT

- Fleeing from **natural disaster**
- Still enjoys its government's protection

ASYLUM SEEKER

- Person who left country
- Applied for refugee status
- **Awaiting decision** on their application
- Not to be confused with refugee

January 16 at Noon at the Clarion Hotel

With so much in the news these days about refugees, immigrants and those seeking asylum we need to understand the difference between the terms and what each means to the legal status of those seeking refuge in our country. Emma Buckthal from the Erie County Volunteer Law Project will present a basic Immigration 101 in which she will discuss the common misconceptions about immigrants, immigration law and the work that her agency does to help those in need.

Emma Buckthal received her JD summa cum laude from the University at Buffalo Law School, and her BA magna cum laude from Alfred University. She joined the Volunteer Lawyers Project full time in fall 2010. Since then, she has focused her legal work on representing immigrant survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking before USCIS, EOIR, and ICE. She also serves as the NGO attorney representative on the Western District of New York Human Trafficking Taskforce. Before joining VLP full time, she volunteered at VLP for three years as a student intern, and spent summers at Kalikova & Associates in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, and Chadbourne and Parke LLP in New York, New York. She taught English in Taiwan before attending law school.



Join us on January 16 at the Clarion for this topic of upmost importance in today's world.

RESERVATION FORM
Clarion Hotel at Noon

Eggplant Parmesan

Reuben Sandwich

Mediterranean Hummus Plate

(Fresh basil pesto and roasted red pepper hummus topped with extra virgin olive oil, served with celery, carrots, cucumber, toasted pita wedges and tortilla chips)

\$15 Includes coffee, tea, soda, and dessert

Name _____

Contact info _____

RSVP to Mary Croxton, 22 Gillis Street, Fredonia, NY 14063, 679-1774
mcroxton51@gmail.com

From the President

I have been reflecting on the life of our 41st President, George Herbert Walker Bush, and been thinking about his legacy as President. For me the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA (1990) stands out. Public servants live and die, candidates win and lose, but legislation that passes under their watch continues on. No matter what one thinks of our presidents, I look to the legislation they have passed such as the Civil Rights Act (1964), the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Clean Air (1970) and Water Acts (1972). The League has advocated for many of these laws. The legacy of the League of Women Voters is to inform and empower. We work for legislation we believe is fundamental to democracy and the rights of all people along with improving voters' rights. This is our work and mission.

News from the Board

Thanks to all the people on the Program Committee. They have worked hard on programs to inform. Debates and getting the vote out are important to us. Please contact Minda Rae Amiran if you would like to serve on Voter Services. This is crucial.

We are sending a student to Albany this year in May. If you know of a junior in any of the Chautauqua County Schools that would be a good candidate please let me know soon. The N.Y.S. League and our local league pay for the experience of learning about the legislative process in Albany.

The board voted on our 2019 Legislative Priorities. The top three priorities were:
 Election Law Reform
 Campaign Finance and Ethics Reforms
 Environmental: Climate Change legislation.

Membership

The membership committee is sending a letter to all our members who have not renewed. Ask a friend or give us the name of a person who might want to join the LWV. Support H.R. 5308. This bill proposes a series of quarters, beginning in 2021, that would feature a 19th Amendment icon on one side. On the other side, a noteworthy woman, now deceased, would be highlighted. Each state and all of the territories would select one of their outstanding women to be honored in this series. Think about all the women from New York. It would be hard to choose. Again, write your congressperson. Also think about the fact that only the United States and Saudi Arabia do not have a woman on a bill. Write to Congress.

Lastly, I echo the words of Dare Thompson. "Our New York foremothers were voting for the first time in a national election in 1918." Don't forget the struggles of our grandmothers so *Get Out The Vote and seek to engage our youth.*

Mary Croxton

**ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF
MEMBERSHIP**



Migrants, asylum seekers, refugees and immigrants: What's the difference?

- Every day, people around the world make the difficult decision to leave their countries in search of safety and better lives.
- Currently, there are 68.5 million men, women and children escaping war, persecution and political turbulence. These are refugees and asylum seekers.
- There are others who are looking for jobs or an education—they are usually called migrants—and people who want to live permanently in another country—immigrants.
- There's been confusion and debate over the use of these terms to describe the plight of those on the move. Here's a closer look at the distinct differences between a refugee, asylum seeker, immigrant, and migrant.

Who is a refugee?

- A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her home because of war, violence or persecution, often without warning. They are unable to return home unless and until conditions in their native lands are safe for them again.
- An official entity such as a government or the United Nations Refugee Agency determines whether a person seeking international protection meets the definition of a refugee, based on well-founded fear.
- There are more than 1.5 million Syrian refugees who have fled to neighboring Lebanon due to a brutal civil war.
- Those who obtain refugee status are given protections under international laws and conventions and lifesaving support from aid agencies, including the International Rescue Committee. Refugees in the U.S. also have the opportunity to become lawful permanent residents and eventually citizens.

Who is an asylum seeker?

- An asylum seeker is someone who is also seeking international protection from dangers in his or her home country, but whose claim for refugee status hasn't been determined legally. Asylum seekers must apply for protection in the country of destination—meaning they must arrive at or cross a border in order to apply.
- Then, they must be able to prove to authorities there that they meet the criteria to be covered by refugee protections. Not every asylum seeker will be recognized as a refugee.
- Tens of thousands of children and families from Central America have fled extreme danger—murder, kidnapping, violence against women and forced recruitment by gangs. Those arriving at the U.S. border are being depicted as “illegal immigrants,” but in reality, crossing an international border for asylum is not illegal and an asylum seeker's case must be heard, according to U.S. and international law.

Who is an immigrant?

- An immigrant is someone who makes a conscious decision to leave his or her home and move to a foreign country with the intention of settling there. Immigrants often go through a lengthy vetting process to immigrate to a new country. Many become lawful permanent residents and eventually citizens.
- Immigrants research their destinations, explore employment opportunities, and study the language of the country where they plan to live. Most importantly, they are free to return home whenever they choose.

Who is a migrant?

- A migrant is someone who is moving from place to place (within his or her country or across borders), usually for economic reasons such as seasonal work. Similar to immigrants, they were not forced to leave their native countries because of persecution or violence, but rather are seeking better opportunities.
- Many of those crossing the U.S. border from Central American countries—El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras—are in fact asylum seekers, not migrants. They have a well-founded fear of persecution if they were to return home.

#MeToo to Midterms: Election 2018 Results A Review of the Political Landscape

On November 19, interpretations of the November 2018 election results and the political climate that produced them were shared by:

Timothy Kneeland, Ph.D, Professor & Chairperson Political Science & History, Nazareth College





Adrian Hale, Strategic Initiatives Manager, Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce.

Among their comments were the following:

- The campaign for the 2018 midterm elections began immediately after the election of Donald Trump, with women's marches and the #MeToo movement.
- Women used tactics employed by the Tea Party Movement, and worked with existing political groups to register voters and to gain supporters.
- Currently, 40% of voters identify themselves as Independent, 31% as Democrats, and 23% as Republicans.
- Women and younger voters are more likely to identify themselves as Democrats. Republicans are more likely to be older and male and white— and in 10 years are likely to be far fewer in number. Rural and small town voters are more likely to vote Republican; cities and suburbs are more likely to vote for Democrats. Republican voters are likely to be less educated and are more likely white.
- Women candidates and voters have organized and are spending their own money. Much of the money used by female candidates came via small donations from individuals.
- The 2018 midterms made history with the highest turnout of voters for midterms— 49.27%—this century.
- Shifting campaign contributions at state and national levels were evident in the 2018 elections. Big money donors switched party support or held back on donations.
- At the national level, more women were elected to Congress in 2018 than ever, and most of them are Democrats. In addition, Congress will now be more multi-cultural than ever, and the average age of the House of Representatives just dropped by a decade. Since the size of the Republican majority rose in the U.S. Senate, Congress will likely see gridlock on many issues.
- The House of Representatives is likely to investigate the White House. Divisions exist between new, younger House of Representatives members and older, better established Members of Congress (moderates vs. progressives). Republicans are also divided between Trump supporters and non-supporters.
- Instances of voter suppression were evident in Florida, Georgia, Texas, and elsewhere.
- In New York State, now that the Senate and Assembly are both controlled by Democrats, legislation is more likely in support of bail elimination, labor protections, the Child Victims Act, gender expression, immigrant rights, and voting rights.



Campaign Finance and Ethics Reforms

<p>Ban “Pay to Play</p> 	<p>Ban “Pay to Play.” Strict “pay to play” restrictions on state vendors. The U.S. Attorney’s charges that \$800 million in state contracts were rigged to benefit campaign contributors to the governor underscores the need to strictly limit contributions from those seeking state contracts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A.6808 (Galef)/ S.6306 (Avella) An act to amend the public officers law, in relation to prohibiting members of the legislature from allocating state-funding through grants or member items to organization or businesses entities where their relatives serve in an official or legal position. • A.9924 (Buchwald)/ S.8039 (Crocì) An act to amend the election law, in relation to government vendor contributions.
<p>Close “LLC Loophole.”</p> 	<p>Close “LLC Loophole.” Ban unlimited campaign contributions via Limited Liability Companies. LLCs have been at the heart of some of Albany’s largest scandals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A.9758A (Simon) / S.27149 (Kavanagh) An act to amend the election law, in relation to political contributions
<p>Strict Limits on Outside Income</p> 	<p>Strict Limits on Outside Income. Real limits on the outside income for legislators and the executive branch. Moonlighting by top legislative leaders and top members of the executive branch has triggered indictments by the federal prosecutors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (A.5831) Santabarbara Relates to prohibiting outside income for members of the legislature in excess of fifteen percent of gross annual salary.
<p>Create a Database of Deals</p> 	<p>Create a Database of Deals. A “Database of Deals” will list all state economic development benefits, including grants, loans or tax abatements awarded to a particular business or organization. The “Database of Deals” will also include the cost to taxpayers of each job created, and create a uniform definition of what a “job” is across subsidy programs including full-time, part-time, permanent, and contract jobs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A.8175(Schimminger) Relates to the creation of a searchable database; requires the Urban Development Corporation to create or modify an existing searchable database including information on qualified participants receiving state economic development benefits.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

January 7	1:30 p.m.	Board Meeting at Minda Rae Amiran’s, 12 Lowell Place, Fredonia. 679-4636
January 16	Noon	Hot Topic Luncheon, “Immigrants, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers” at the Clarion
February	Noon	Hot Topic Luncheon, “Prison Reform”
March 20	6:30 p.m.	Hot Topic Meeting, “Medical Cannabis” at JCC North
April 17	Noon	Hot Topic Luncheon, “The Erosion of Democracy” Harbor Hotel in Celeron
May		Annual Meeting

THANK YOU TO OUR ADVERTISERS



Kniti Griti Works
Whimsical Pottery

Marcia Merrins

Home 716-672-4275
Cell 716-665-1221

Fairmount House
ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES, GIFTS
12 E. Fairmount Ave. Lakewood
708-8549

DARWIN’S
Health Club, Inc.
43-57 Water Street, Fredonia
679-1591

679-1981 www.fredopera.org



The 1891
**Fredonia
Opera House**

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY

lww@lwwchautauqa.org, 672-4275



The League of Women Voters of Chautauqua County is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

League of Women Voters of Chautauqua County

- Mary Croxton, President
Minda Rae Amiran
Priscilla Bernatz
Gen Ludemann
Marcia Merrins
Lisa Mertz
Judy Reynolds
Linda Warner

Invite a Friend to Join or Give the Gift Of League Membership!!

Make Your Voice Heard! Join Us Today!

Membership Form

Mail to: LWV Chautauqua P.O. Box 42 Fredonia, NY 14063

Membership Dues: through December 31, 2019 Individual: \$60; Family: \$90; Student: \$25 (Check payable to LWV Chautauqua County)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

I would like to get involved with:

Local Issues Voter Service State/National Issues

Local Newsletter

Assisting with minor tasks occasionally

Other: _____