November 6, 2019

11:30 pm Meet and Greet
12:00 pm Lunch
12:30 pm presentation

Clarion Hotel
30 Lake Shore Drive East
Dunkirk, New York 14048

Possibilities of off-shore wind farms in the Great Lakes
Ellen Cardone Banks lives in Amherst, New York. She moved from Schenectady to Buffalo to go to UB in the 1960s and has lived in the Buffalo area for most of the years since then. Her first environmental project was a high school paper on the pollution of the Mohawk River by General Electric.

Ellen has a doctoral degree in developmental psychology from Harvard University, and taught Psychological Science at Daemen College for 41 years, in a program that emphasized scientific method, critical thinking and student research. Among her research topics and publications were an analysis of lead exposure on children’s development, and a four-year study of how college students move from simplistic thinking to being able to weigh evidence and understand problems with many variables (like climate change.) She also lived in Malaysia for about two years, teaching and doing research on cultural aspects of childhood.

Summary:
This presentation will start with a segment of the Sierra Club-sponsored film Reinventing Power, on the offshore wind project near Block Island, RI, where the island’s dirty fossil fuel generator has been replaced with clean wind energy that powers the entire island and more, while improving the island and surrounding ocean’s environmental quality. Next, we will look at the process that is leading to the first of several offshore wind farms to power New York City and Long Island. This project is almost ready for construction after years of environmental studies, wildlife protection plans, and successful negotiations to support organized labor, career training, and inclusive environmental justice. The Sierra Club has been a leader in insisting on these economic and environmental provisions. Then we will look at the concerns that have been raised about possible offshore wind off the New York shore of Lake Erie. A pilot project in Lake Erie, miles offshore from Cleveland, successfully passed many environmental reviews, which can put these fears to rest.

Any wind project in Lake Erie would require thorough, local environmental and economic reviews. Offshore wind in Europe has been productive and safe for wildlife in Europe for more than 20 years. The New York State 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act requires 70% of our electricity to come from renewable sources by 2030 and 85% by 2050 in order to help curb the most severe consequences of the Climate Crisis. There are no evidence-based alternatives at present to greatly increasing wind and solar power and ending the use of fossil fuels, to prevent drastic and irreversible climate catastrophes.

Meet & Greet at 11:30, Optional Lunch at Noon, Presentation at 12:30. All questions will be submitted in writing.

Optional lunch, $15.
Choose from the following menu:
- Pan fried fish with slaw & potato salad
- Harvest stuffed chicken breast, mashed, veg, cranberry sauce
- Martha’s Vineyard salad (vegetarian) each includes coffee, tea, and dessert

RSVP by October 30th to: Nicki Schoenl
(716) 679-1258
schoenl@daemen.edu

Our League is pushing to Get Out The Vote.

We will go door-to-door distributing info on Early Voting.

If you would like to participate, or for more info, contact Gail Crowe at 672-4882
gailcrowe14063@yahoo.com
From the President

It is a busy time for us. We have had some great programs. One of our programs this year was about the Census and since then we have been working with the Complete Count Committee. You may have gotten this announcement from the NYLWV but should you get a misleading Census mailer please contact jason.t.eastman@2020census.gov. Jason was our presenter on the census and a 2020 census partnership specialist. The only official census form comes directly from the U.S. Census Bureau. Anything solicited prior to April 2020 is not part of the U.S. census. If you get a false mailer please take a picture if you can and send it to Jason Eastman.

There has been some concern about the recent debate. First I want to thank Pat Kirell, Tina Rausa, Marcia Merrins and Judy Reynolds. Putting the “Meet the Candidates” forums together is hours of work. We would appreciate it if some of you could help us out if you have the time. You may have seen some of the commentary in the Observer about the last debate. It is important to note that we lay the ground rules out at the beginning and Marcia does an excellent job of keeping order and the discussion civil. We had to remind people that the debate is not a rally and that people are here to be informed about the candidates. There are always going to be people at these debates who have made up their minds about a candidate. Marcia informed them that they need to let all the candidates be heard and distractions take away time from the candidates. I think that the “Meet the Candidates” is an important part of our mission. I had my mind changed once by one of these debates.

It is the first time New York State has early voting. The goal is to increase voting turnout in this state. I encourage all of you to take part. Vote, it counts. Help us to get out the vote and inform the electorate about the issues.

We are having our membership drive. We work on a local level to get the vote out and inform, and the State and National organizations do an astonishing amount of work on behalf of our democracy. Please help support these efforts through your membership.

Thank you.

RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE: REALITY, ACTION, AND HOPE

A SUNY Fredonia Convocation Series Event

Tuesday, October 22 at 7 pm
in the Kelly Auditorium (Room 105, Science Center)

"Where We Are"
The verifiable facts of anthropogenic climate change, including recent data and trends

"What to Do"
Actions that may be most effective in addressing anthropogenic climate change

"Reason for Hope"
Encouraging developments, both technological and political, that suggest that solutions are within our reach

You can use the form on the last page!
**Wind Power: Facts and Fiction — Sierra Club Niagara Group**
*by Ellen C. Banks, Conservation Chair of the Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter*

**Why wind power?**
Wind power is important because it is an important part of the solution for holding back the worst effects of the climate crisis. To maintain life on Earth as we know it and prevent catastrophes for humans around the planet and prevent mass extinctions of other species, we must replace fossil fuels with clean renewable energy. Wind energy is one of the safest and cleanest renewable energy sources. (1)

**Why can’t rooftop solar solve the problem?**
Scientific calculations on future energy needs show that utility-scale wind and solar are essential to reaching clean energy goals. All electricity, transportation, and heating needs can be supplied by renewable energy, but small measures while important, will not be enough. “Industrial” is a term used by opponents but virtually all power on the grid is “industrial.” (2)

**What’s wrong with burning fossil fuels, besides climate change?**
Seven million premature deaths worldwide and 200,000 in the USA can be attributed to air pollution, which is primarily from burning fossil fuels. Countless numbers of birds and other wildlife die from pollution in the atmosphere, including from mining sites and fracking waste sites. People are harmed by leakage and explosions from fossil fuel pipelines. (3)

**Do wind turbines kill large numbers of birds and threaten extinction of endangered species?**
This is one of the biggest exaggerations of anti-wind communications. Siting (layout) of wind farms follows US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) rules including studies of wildlife — migration and nesting of birds and bats — before construction, and monitoring when wind turbines are in operation. Turbines are shut down during peak migration. Wind turbines are a minimal source of harm compared to building collisions, cats (outdoor pet and feral cats kill an average of 14 birds a year each, more than 5 turbines do at typical capacity, vehicle collisions, and toxic substances, such as pesticides, herbicides, mercury from coal, and lead hunting shot. The National Audubon Society supports wind power and its research shows that climate change is by far the greatest threat for extinction of birds and other wildlife species. Wind farms on the Lake Michigan shore and the Texas Gulf Coast have been in operation for years with minimal harm to birds. (4)

**Do Wind Turbines Make People Sick?**
Alleged health effects of wind projects have been analyzed in peer-reviewed medical journals that use scientifically valid measures to compare symptoms of people living near and far from wind projects who are otherwise similar in social circumstances. Their conclusion is that there is no such thing as “wind turbine syndrome.” Symptoms are caused by “annoyance” when people do not like the looks of wind turbines or are influenced by opposition fears. “Infrasound” is a natural and common feature of sounds from waves, machinery, music, even wind in trees, and is not harmful at wind turbine distances. (5)

**Noise?**
At required setback distances from homes, wind turbine sounds are about 40-45 decibels. No more than the central air conditioning in a public building. That is the sound level recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) report in Europe. The WHO does NOT advise against wind farms. (6)

**Do wind farms interfere with military aviation and radar?**
The US Department of Defense (DOD) supports wind energy, as it understands the climate crisis is a security threat. Aviation and radar signals are not hampered by wind turbines. DOD approval is required for wind projects to go forward; any potential harm to military aviation or radar would demand a redesign. (7)

**Do wind farms reduce real estate values?**
Many studies across the USA agree that there is no effect on real estate values of homes in sight of a wind farm. Many other studies show that the vast majority of people living near wind farms either like them or are neutral. Very few neighbors object once they get used to them. Wind farm construction and operation brings jobs and revenue to farmers and rural towns. (8)

**What if I just don’t like new things in the countryside and don’t want to look at tall, unfamiliar structures?**
Our grandchildren will ask what we did to protect them from climate catastrophes. We only have a few years to hold back the worst effects. Some people hated cars and electric power lines once. We have to adapt to necessity and save the earth as a livable planet. Wind farms are compatible with agriculture and rural living in many parts of the United States.

**More corrections of false statements about wind development:**
They are not full of oil that leaks into land and water. They do not use harmful amounts of concrete. Energy costs to construct them are compensated by 6 months or less of operation. They produce large quantities of power and are the largest power source for several states and countries. All wind farm companies must put money aside to deconstruct/replace them if necessary.
VOTER REGISTRATION DAY- SUCCESS!
LWV Chautauqua County registered dozens of new voters at the State University at Fredonia, the Friendly Kitchen and Save A Lot grocery store. Many thank to Gail Crowe and her army of volunteers

Karen Mills-Courts and Margaret Davison
Marcia Merrins and Susan Forrester Mackay
Nancy Boynton and Sharon Weiler
Mary Croxt and Linda Warner

CELEBRATE!!!

What will YOU and your League be doing on November 19, 2019? We encourage Leagues across the state to raise a glass, cut the cake or celebrate together 100 years of activism of the League of Women Voters of the state of New York.

Local Leagues are the heart of our grassroots tradition and we celebrate our Leagues across the state and all they have accomplished in the last 100 years. On this day 100 years ago the LWVNYS began its tenure as a leading advocate for universal suffrage and building a community in New York state of an informed and engaged population in their government.

RENEWAL REMINDER

If you’d like to meet people in your community, and get involved in voter service work, local programming or advocacy, then we invite you to become a member of the League of Women Voters of Chautauqua County!

All who join the League gain access to in-depth resources, communications and action alerts, and become part of an organization with national, state and local connections and interests in a wide variety of public policy initiatives.

Women in Healthcare Leadership

This event will feature a panel of outstanding women in Chautauqua County's medical field, including Mary LeRowe, CEO, Brooks Memorial Hospital and Dr. Betsy Kidder. The event will be hosted by Shannon Rozner, Chief of Staff, Chautauqua Institution.

When: Wednesday, October 23rd, 4-6pm
Location: Athenaeum Hotel, Chautauqua Institution
Tickets: $10/person at the door
- Complimentary Refreshments
- Cash Bar

You hope you will join us and take advantage of this opportunity to speak with local healthcare leaders!
Other good things: Wind power creates good jobs both in construction and operations. Wind farms bring payments that help farmers stay in business and reduce community taxes. A wind turbine takes up about ¼ of an acre; crops and grazing can continue around them. Rapid advances in battery storage and combining wind and solar will solve the issue of what happens when the wind doesn’t blow.

Sources are listed by the numbers on each bullet point:
[With links and notes added by Lisa Mertz.]


Other environmental organizations supporting utility-scale, properly sited wind energy development besides the Sierra Club, include The Audubon Society: “314 Species on the Brink” report at http://climate.audubon.org shows the devastating effects of climate change on species loss and endangerment. Also The Nature Conservancy https://www.nature.org/en-us/ and The Environmental Defense Fund www.edf.org/climate/energy


(6) http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/environment-and-health/noise

(7) archive.defense.gov/pubs/pdfs/WindFarmReport.pdf


Abstract: Thirty years of North American research on public acceptance of wind energy has produced important insights, yet knowledge gaps remain. This review synthesizes the literature, revealing the following lessons learned:

10. North American support for wind has been consistently high.

11. The NIMBY explanation for resistance to wind development is invalid.
October 15th will be the Mayoral candidates in Jamestown. JCC Campus. Science Building. Sarita Weeks Room at 7p.m. followed by NYS Senate Candidates.

October 22nd, at 7 p.m. CCWAG-sponsored climate education initiative at SUNY Fredonia. Presenter: Jim D’Aloisio. LWVCC is assisting with promotion of the event.

October 23rd will be the Fredonia Mayoral and Trustees candidates Debate at the Fredonia Opera House at 7 pm.

November 6, 2019, 5:30 pm Meet and Greet, 6:00 pm Dinner, Panel, Clarion Hotel, Dk.
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY
lwv@lwvchautauqa.org, 672-4275

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

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

Make Your Voice Heard!
Join Us Today!

League of Women Voters of Chautauqua County

Mary Croxton, President
Nancy Boynton
Gail Crowe
Marcia Johnson
Pat Kirell
Gen Ludemann
Marcia Merrins
Lisa Mertz
Karen Mills-Court

Membership Form

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

Membership Dues: through December 31, 2020 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: ________________________________