

# LEAGUE LINE

A Bulletin of The League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area  
Vol. 61, No. 3, November, 2016

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wow—what a great Membership Social many League members, prospective members and friends enjoyed on October 13<sup>th</sup>, thanks to our cracker-jack Membership Committee and its co-chairs Marilyn Brill and Marilyn Murphy! Our League sure is FUN!

Call me shallow if you like, but I have to assert my firm opinion that one of the many reasons that our local League is the third largest in the state is that we know that having fun is an essential diversion from the challenging work we do. I just took a look at our membership list and counted over 90 people who have participated in one or more events or volunteer activities in the past year. That's almost 75% of our 125 members! And over a third of our members are active volunteers, contributing to the myriad services we provide to our community.

Why are these percentages so high? Again, I believe it's because in addition to our hard work, we also know how to have fun. That combination helps us develop strong working and personal relationships, making our results that much more comprehensive and durable. And sometimes, as a consequence, the work part of the equation actually feels like something we don't mind doing...or even enjoy.

I am hoping we can share this formula with our new members, including the three or four new millennial members who have joined in recent months. It is what creates a lifetime commitment to the work we do and a lifelong passion for democratic participation.

Once we've folded up our voter registration tables, published the Fall 2016 *Voters Guide* and distributed it across the county, worked the polls, *voted*, and attended our post-election lunch forum (in collaboration with BILL; see below), it will be time to celebrate again at our annual Holiday Party. There, our Bucknell Mauch Fellows and High School Mauch Committee student representative will share their recent experiences and, with luck, their new-found passion for engaging in the work of our democracy. Here is the take-away for me: our League is benefitting enormously from having successfully engaged a broad spectrum of community members in a wide variety of civic activities. I am proud to be heading up an organization that so many different people perceive as a powerful vehicle for living out their passion for civic engagement in our community and in our democracy.

*Susan Warner-Mills, President*



## NOVEMBER LUNCH FORUM

For our November forum, we will be joining the Bucknell Institute for Lifelong Learning (BILL). The talk will be held on Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, at the Village Common of Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village, 6 Tressler Blvd. The speaker will be Chris Ellis, Associate Professor of Political Science, Bucknell University. The title for his presentation is "The 2016 Election: An Analysis." What were the major patterns of public opinion and voting behavior in one of the most unusual of election campaigns? Professor Ellis will help us sort it out and give us a sense of what to expect from the new president and Congress. The doors will open at 11:30 and the program begins at noon. Beverages and a light dessert will be provided. Bring your lunch or purchase a soup and sandwich lunch (\$6) by contacting the BILL office by noon the day before the program at 570-522-0105.

Because we are joining with BILL for this month, we suggest you get there early to be sure to get a seat.

*Cindy Peltier, Forum Committee chair*

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING

*Please place the following events on your personal calendar.*

**Monday, Nov. 7, 4:00 pm**  
BOARD MEETING  
*Union County Public Library*

**Tuesday, Nov. 8**  
GENERAL ELECTION DAY

**Tuesday, Nov. 15, 11:30 am-1:00 pm**  
BILL Lunch and Learn Program  
*Speaker: Chris Ellis, Prof. of Political Science, Bucknell Univ.*  
*NEW LOCATION: Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village, Village Common, 6 Tressler Blvd*  
*(Lunch \$6; reservations required for lunch, call 570-522-0105)*

**Friday, Dec. 2, 5:00-7:00 pm**  
HOLIDAY PARTY  
*Guests: Brady Clapp and Emily Cottle, Bucknell University Mauch Fellows; Kat Gardner, Lewisburg Area High School*  
*Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village, Common Room*

## OCTOBER FORUM REPORT

The speakers at the October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area Forum were Frank Leto, publisher of *The Daily Item* and Dennis Lyons, editor of *The Daily Item*. Both of them have been at *The Daily Item* since November 2014. Mr. Leto has served at a number of newspapers throughout the United State most recently at Las Cruces, New Mexico. Mr. Lyons was the managing editor of local news for *USA Today* before coming to *The Daily Item*.

Frank Leto began his remarks by commenting that it was a pleasure to look for ways to work with the League. He made a strong case for the importance of community newspapers, arguing that community newspapers are not dead and still represent a profitable business with strong advertising. Mr. Leto pointed out in areas such as those represented by Snyder, Union, and Northumberland counties there is no major media market. Thus, the local area is dependent on newspapers for sports, arts, and political news. Mr. Leto cited the example of a freedom of information request filed by *The Daily Item* against the city of Sunbury which cost *The Daily Item* \$40,000.00. He pointed out that if there were no local paper there would be no one who could afford that type of check on local officials. Mr. Leto also mentioned that in Pennsylvania there are many local taxing authorities and also many local officials. The local paper provides a service in helping the average citizen keep track of these multiple entities and taxing units.

Since moving to the area, Mr. Leto and Mr. Lyons have been busy meeting with local elected officials. Both men feel the paper has a responsibility to take a position in elections, although they have received some criticism for the paper's endorsement of Hilary Clinton. *The Daily Item* does not have an affiliation with any political party. The editor and publisher have started the *Voices* section in the paper so that people may express their views and opposition to the paper.

Currently, the digital issue of the paper has larger circulation than the print edition. A major challenge for newspapers is to find a way to monetize the digital edition and manage the transition from print to digital.

*The Daily Item* has three major challenges that it is trying to meet:

- (1) Support literacy
- (2) Support economic development
- (3) Support quality of life in the area, by highlighting, for example, sports and the arts

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Mr. Lyons spoke about his specific duties as the editor of *The Daily Item*. Mr. Lyons is responsible for the composition of the front page and for the news content. He always tries to have one positive story on the front page. In addition to local news, the paper covers national and world news each day. Mr. Lyons said their affiliation with *The Washington Post* facilitates the national and international coverage. As editor, Mr. Lyons also has a column. So far the columns that have received the most mail are those in which he has asked for suggestions as to where to find the best bagels and pizza in the area.

Since Mr. Lyons became editor, *The Daily Item* has done a series of stories on the hidden homeless. They have also had extensive coverage of the opioid addiction problem. Starting October 25<sup>th</sup>, *The Daily Item* will begin a series profiling each of the political races in the November election. Like the League, the editor feels educating voters is one of the newspaper's responsibilities. The paper is developing a site where voters can enter their address to see election information specific to their district, precinct, etc.

Mr. Lyons emphasized that he had many good people working for him and that subscribers are always encouraged to contact him if they have any problems. Under the leadership of Mr. Lyons and Mr. Leto, *The Daily Item* has won two awards for excellence including one from the Keystone Press Foundation.

During the question and answer period Mr. Lyons said, "My kingdom for a traffic jam," explaining that local news was extremely important to the digital edition. He also mentioned that the paper likes to use Facebook comments because there is a name attached to the comment so they are not anonymous and do not have to be checked. *Mary Zimmerman, for the Forum Committee*

### VOTER SERVICES REPORT

The Voter Services Committee remained focused on several major efforts this fall. Our able and committed volunteers have completed the *Voters Guide* and will be distributing it on October 28<sup>th</sup>, to all corners of Union County. In addition, we continue to disseminate resource information to voters seeking to educate themselves on the candidates for this fall's General Election. Please check out these resources, including the *Voters Guide*, on our *new website* at:

<http://lwvlewisburgarea.org>  
and watch for press releases in local newspapers.

We have had 8 very successful voter-registration events, providing greater visibility for our organization. Three of those events were held on National Voter Registration Day. The Union County Elections Office provided a voting machine for us to bring to these events. We have also worked on publicizing the newly created opportunity to register to vote online at [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com).

### LEAGUE LINE NOV. 2016

*League Line* is published monthly by the **League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area**. Deadline for submission of articles is the 15th of each month.

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My profound personal thanks go to all of our dedicated Voter Services Committee volunteers. If you have questions, or would be interested in being part of our efforts, please contact me at 267-337- 5986 or [Lsb413@hotmail.com](mailto:Lsb413@hotmail.com).

*Linda Harris, Voter Services chair*

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

#### Welcome to New Members

We are pleased to announce several new members who have joined since our last issue of *League Line*:

*Karen and Kat Gardner*  
[katalesegardner@gmail.com](mailto:katalesegardner@gmail.com)  
570-847-0341

*Marion Jacobsen*  
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702-580-2084

#### October Membership Social

More than 50 members and guests attended the Membership Social on Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, at Marilyn Murphy's lovely home in Lewisburg. Many thanks to all of our members for bringing so many guests to this event; almost a third of those attending were new or prospective members.

Thanks also to the many members who contributed delectable appetizers, and to Marilyn Murphy for hosting. Susan Warner-Mills, President, and Marilyn Brill, Membership Chair, presented a PowerPoint about the history of the League and what we do locally. Everyone had a wonderful time; one of the special things about our League is our parties!! Please keep in mind that a person can join the League any time of the year, so keep thinking of potential members, bring them to our upcoming meetings and share your interest and love of the League.

#### Annual Holiday Party

Our annual holiday party is coming, Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Buffalo Valley Common Room, 6 Tressler Boulevard, beginning at 6 p.m. This is a FUN social event, so please bring your spouse, significant other or friend to join us. Members are asked to bring a covered dish to share. This year our speakers will be the two Bucknell University Mauch fellows Brady Clapp and Emily Cottle, who will talk about their efforts this fall to get college-age students engaged in the political process. Kat Gardner who is spearheading a Mauch project in the Lewisburg High School will join them. We look forward to hearing these young people share their experiences and thoughts about what they have learned as our initial Mauch project leaders.

Come join us and celebrate the holiday season in good League-style.

#### LWVLA Membership Renewal

It is still membership renewal time! So far we have received renewals from more than three-fourths of our members. THANK YOU! If you have not yet responded or have misplaced your form, please don't delay; just fill out and return the form below and mail it in with your check. If we don't hear from you, we will be contacting you shortly, first by letter and then by phone. We don't want to lose you. We need to get our final membership count to LWVUS by January.

Please keep bringing your friends and neighbors to our meetings and introducing them to the League. All of you are part of the Membership Committee and you make my task so much easier!

*Marilyn Brill, Membership chair*

### LWVLA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL FORM September 1, 2016 – August 31, 2017

Membership dues: Individual \$50; Additional Household \$25 each; Student \$25. Dues include membership to the local, state, and national League, and information and notifications from all three levels (*League Line*, *Pennsylvania Voter* and *National Voter Online*).

I/We wish to join the League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area.

Name/s \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (cell, work or home) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in participating in the following League activities:

\_\_\_\_\_ Voters Service \_\_\_\_\_ Study Groups \_\_\_\_\_ Community Forums \_\_\_\_\_ Special Events

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Please make your check payable to LWVLA and mail your check and form to: LWVLA Membership, P.O. Box 206, Lewisburg, PA 17837.) For more information, phone 570-522-9254 or email [mfb@dejazzd.com](mailto:mfb@dejazzd.com). Thank you!

*Marilyn Brill, Membership chair*