

LEAGUE LINE

A Bulletin of The League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area
Vol. 64, No. 4; December 2019/January 2020

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

I find the League presents many interesting activities for educational purposes as well as interesting social connections. Do you know someone who's not a member and would be interested in what we do? Please consider inviting them to an event. Perhaps ask them to join our League. I enjoy sharing good things and connecting with people in new ways. Friends and acquaintances appreciate being invited to League activities.

My personal League calendar includes the Holiday Social and I've invited some non-members to join us. I hope to see you there, and about, during a busy month.

Best wishes for a nice end of year to you, Teri.

Teri MacBride, president

P.S. At the PA League convention, I picked up several anti-gerrymandering message signs. If you'd like a Fair Districts PA yard sign, please contact me at 570-524-1328 or pa2albania@yahoo.com.



YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE!

The Nominating Committee is beginning to meet in anticipation of creating a slate of officers, directors and a nominating committee for 2020-2021. Because we cannot reach out to all our members individually, we are asking you to let us know if you would like to serve on the Board. There are several positions which we need to fill, and the best way to do that is to find those with the interest, enthusiasm, skills and dedication to continue and advance the mission of our organization. We anticipate needing two officers and four directors, as well as the nominating committee for next year. Questions, or to learn more, please email Kandy Duncan (kduncan205@yahoo.com), Roberta Greene (rgreene@publibuc.org) or Patty Johnston (hoodj1973@ptd.net). Please let us hear from you by January 1st, 2020. Thank you!

The Nominating Committee

NOVEMBER FORUM

Kendra Aucker gave a very dense presentation at the League Forum on Tuesday, November 18th. For those of you who missed it, the whole presentation is available online and can be accessed from the League website, <http://lwvlewisburgarea.org>.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Please place the following events on your personal calendar.

Monday, Dec. 2nd, 2:00pm

BOARD MEETING

Mary Beth Clark's home

*For directions, contact Teri MacBride
(see info in P.S. of President's Message)*

Monday, Dec. 9th, 10:00am

BOOK CLUB

Pennsylvania Election Security

The Public Library for Union County

Friday, Dec. 13th, 5:30-7:30pm

WINTER SOCIAL

The Village Common, Buffalo Valley

Lutheran Village

Reply by December 10

Thursday, Dec. 19th, 7:00pm

MEMBER TOWN HALL

Feedback on Strategic Plan Proposed
Vision

*East Buffalo Township Building,
589 Fairground Road, Lewisburg*

Monday, Jan. 6th, 3:00pm

BOARD MEETING

East Buffalo Township Building

589 Fairground Road, Lewisburg

Tuesday, Jan. 28th, 11:30am-1:00pm

LUNCH FORUM

David Rowe, PA Representative for the
85th District

"Harrisburg Happenings"

La Primavera (Lunch served at 11:30; \$13)

Highlights included a discussion of the plans for the Miller Center, an explanation of how the partnership with Geisinger is beneficial to both the hospital and the community, and Evangelical's new and impressive programs for their staff.

Mary Zimmerman, Forum Committee chair

JANUARY FORUM

On January 28th, David Rowe, Pennsylvania Representative from the 85th District, will discuss "Harrisburg Happenings", at La Primavera restaurant in Lewisburg. A lunch buffet is served at 11:30am at a cost of \$13.00. The speaker will begin at noon.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

In the November 19th LWVLA Town Hall, the question was asked, "What are our values?" Part of the answer can be found in the LWV Transformation Roadmap, published in January 2018: "Our Value Statement: The League believes in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy." This belief is coupled with other values woven throughout our LWVLA bylaws: integrity, nonpartisanship, grassroots governance, education, active participation, and conviction that all people are capable of acting in good faith.

The LWV Transformation Roadmap explicitly calls for a culture change - one that acknowledges the importance of our suffrage history and declares what's required for the future League. Keys to success in "Defending Democracy. Empowering Voters" (the LWV Mission), are a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion; building greater trust across all levels of the League; adapting historic 'League Way' to current needs; engagement, membership, retention; and communications - both internal and external. As we continue envisioning our LWVLA future and recognizing what capabilities and resources we need to achieve it, these values will be critically important touchstones.

Town Hall Reminder

It's not too late! All members are invited to the final Strategy Town Hall at 7:00pm on Thursday, December 19th. We will meet at the East Buffalo Township Building. Please join us, learn and share your thoughts. Together, we will design our future!

*Becky Perez, Strategic Planning
coordinator*

MAUCH MILLENNIAL PROJECT REPORT

Grand Opening of the Lewisburg Children's Museum Voting Exhibit



On Saturday, November 2nd, the Lewisburg Children's Museum and the Mauch Millennial Project held a grand opening of the voting booth exhibit at the museum. We were very happy that Jim and Rebecca Mauch as well as Rep. David Rowe were able to attend. Marian Marchiori, the director of the museum, Kim Wheeler, the vice president of the Lewisburg Children's Museum Board of Directors, and Teri MacBride gave brief remarks and talked about the importance of civic education for children. There were two ribbon-cuttings, one for the special guests during a special-invitation hour and another for kids, once the museum opened to the public. A table was set up for kids to register to vote and to make an "I Voted" button. The official "I Voted" and "Future Voter" stickers were very popular. Cindy Peltier and Martha Donahue, from Voter Services, were present to demonstrate one of the new voting machines so that the public could take a test run before the election. We were very pleased with the turnout and the engagement of those who attended.

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Thanks to Vanessa Venios and Chris Berleth of the Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce, who helped with invitations, publicity, and the ribbon-cutting. Additional thanks go to Weis Markets for donating balloons, treats, and drinks.

Elaine Hopkins, for the Mauch Project

VOTER SERVICES REPORT

Candidates Night

Over 100 community members attended all or part of Candidates Night on Wednesday October 30th, 2019, at the East Buffalo Township Building. Three panels were presented: Union County Commissioners; Supervisors for East Buffalo, Union and Lewisburg Borough Ward 4; and School Director for Lewisburg, Milton (region 3), and Mifflinburg (region 2). The community offered so many questions for the panelists, that the evening lasted three hours. We want to thank East Buffalo Township for allowing us to host the event at their building. Additional thanks go to all the people who made this event successful:

- the 13 candidates who agreed to appear on the three panels: Preston Boop, Trey Casimir, Jeff Reber, Stacy Richards, Jim Knight, James Murphy, Elijah Farrell, Rudy Mummey, Dan Greak, Erin Jablonski, Francis Gillott, Tracy Bruno, and Andrew Frederick
- the 14 League volunteers: Janice Bigelow, Carole Madle, Susan Waggoner, Liz Clement, Sheri Stayton, Imanni Burg, Mary Lahner, Kandy Duncan, Mary Zimmerman, Ruth Burnham, Marilyn Murphy, Sue Travis, Martha Donahue, and Dan Clement
- the two high school students: Hanna Abouied and Hamzah Abouied

Update on New Voting Machine Demonstrations

In the November League Line, we identified the 43 volunteers who were trained by the Union County election office on the new machines. Starting six weeks prior to the November 5th election, these volunteers appeared at 30 sites and trained 646 community members on how to use the new equipment.

Transparency Initiative

We included new language at Candidates Night to explain how we record and publicize our video recordings. The following information was explained at the event by Janice Bigelow, moderator, and to all the candidates prior to their agreement to attend:

The League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area is a political organization, but it is also nonpartisan. Nonpartisanship toward candidates and political parties is critical to the effectiveness of the League's unique voter services work. Candidates Night is provided by the League as an opportunity for citizens to learn and to hear directly from candidates. The event will be recorded from start to finish and provided, unedited, online via YouTube and the LWVLA Facebook page and website soon after the event.

LEAGUE LINE
DEC. 2019/JAN. 2020
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lwvlewisburgarea.org

We also explained to the audience how our League questions are created and the vetting process that is used at Candidates Nights to determine which questions asked by community members are posed to the candidates.

The selection criteria for LWVLA questions are that questions:

1. Must be relevant to current issues
2. Must be relevant to the offices being considered
3. Need to be carefully phrased as to prevent bias and partisanship

Audience questions:

1. Must be relevant to all candidates for the office in question
2. Must be comprehensible
3. Must not be inflammatory
4. Must not contain any gratuitous attacks on any candidate
5. Must be relevant to the office in question
6. Must not repeat a previously submitted question

Kandy Duncan continues to facilitate the committee within Voter Services that is addressing how we can become more transparent. We have completed the Candidates Night procedures (as mentioned above), and we are now working on specifying the procedures involved in creating the *Voters Guide*.

If you are interested in getting involved in any of these initiatives, please contact me. Linda Harris, Lsharris323@gmail.com; cell phone, 267-337-5986.

Linda Harris, *Voter Services chair*

BOOK GROUP

Just a reminder that the LWVLA Book Group will meet December 9th at 10:00am at the Public Library for Union County on Reitz Blvd, and will concentrate on Pennsylvania Election Security. A list of readings can be found on the League website. The main reading will be the Blue Ribbon Report on PA Election Security, a publication found at:

<https://www.cyber.pitt.edu/commission>

The February meeting (day/time TBA) will concentrate on federal matters, reading Volume I of the Mueller Report. Please join us! Contact Mary Beth Clark at moffa5@comcast.net.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

New Member

Angel Solomon is our newest (student) member. Welcome, Angel!

Winter Social



A reminder that the Winter Social is coming up soon: Friday, December 13th, 5:30 to 7:30pm at The Village Common, 6 Tressler Boulevard, Lewisburg (Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village). We look forward to another of our warm, welcoming gatherings celebrating all that we share. Please feel free to bring a friend who might be interested in learning more about the LWVLA and/or joining us. We'd like to hear from you (mlmurphy3@gmail.com) by December 10 if you'll be able to attend, but even if that slips off your radar, you're welcome to attend. Members are encouraged to bring a sweet or savory food item to share (cocktail party format) or a bottle of wine, if you like. Entertainment will be provided by member Judy Ellis and friend Dee Mikita. We so enjoyed their mellow notes last year.

Ruth Burnham, *Membership Committee chair*

LWVLA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL FORM
September 1, 2019 – August 31, 2020

Yearly membership dues: Student \$10, Individual \$55, Household \$80; Dues include membership to the local, state, and national League, as well as 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/We have interest in participating in the following League activities:
 _____ Voter Services _____ Study Groups _____ Community Forums _____ Special Events

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (Please make your check payable to LWVLA)

Mail your check and form to: LWVLA Membership, P.O. Box 206, Lewisburg, PA 17837. For more information, phone 570-5232-8311 or email rburnham@bucknell.edu. Thank you!

Ruth Burnham, *Membership Chair*