

LEAGUE LINE

A Bulletin of The League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area
Vol. 62, No. 5; February 2018

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

One of the traditional functions of the League of Women Voters was to provide a core of observers to attend school board and municipal meetings and report on those meetings. At present, this practice has been dropped in Lewisburg. However, there is currently a controversy between East Buffalo Township and the Lewisburg Borough over funding arrangements for the police and recreation facilities. The League Board feels it might be useful to the community to reinstate the observer corps, on a trial basis, for the aforementioned meetings. Observers would not be able to speak, or participate at meetings, but would focus on non-partisan report writing for the League to post on the website and Facebook. The summaries would augment coverage the local newspapers are able to provide. To accomplish this project, volunteers are needed. Lewisburg Borough Council meetings are scheduled on the Third Tuesday; East Buffalo Township Supervisors meet on the Second Monday. Please contact Mary Zimmerman or Tony Ludovico if you are interested in helping.

Mary Zimmerman, President

FEBRUARY FORUM

The next forum will be held Tuesday, February 20th at 11:30am at La Primavera Restaurant. Our speaker is Barb Jarmoska, from the Responsible Drilling Alliance. Her presentation is titled, "Natural Gas, UNnatural Consequences." Lunch will be served at a cost of \$13. Those with gluten allergies may order a special meal by contacting me at 570-523-7961 or emailing me at peltier@bucknell.edu. Doors open at 11:30. Our speaker begins at noon.

Cynthia Peltier, Forum Committee chair

JANUARY FORUM

Our January Forum speaker was Representative Fred Keller of the 85th District. Rep. Keller began by talking about the state budget. He feels it is an issue that touches every Pennsylvanian's life. Spending is increasing by 10 ¼ % with only 3% growth in the Commonwealth's economy. To obtain more revenue, the legislature plans to borrow \$1.5 billion paid for over 30 years. This gets Pennsylvania through 2018.

Rep. Keller recommends a change in the budgeting process including looking at revenue before determining spending. He talked about the pension reform that was passed, a hybrid plan that does not provide short term relief but limits exposure for the future. He stated that in the upcoming year he does not see much in the way of tax increases. He expects that the issue of State Police funding will also include the use of radar for local police, and the opioid crisis.

During the question and answer period Rep. Keller was asked about a graduated state income tax. This would take a constitutional change. He was asked about the Marcellus Shale extraction tax. Rep. Keller talked about the effectiveness of the impact fee and referred to the independent fiscal office report. He said that the impact fee was dispersed to 67 counties throughout the commonwealth.

In response to a question about early voting, Rep. Keller said he would be happy to look at options. He was asked about gerrymandering and due to the current court case felt it appropriate to only talk about the recorded votes.

He clarified issues around the Voter Registration card, REAL ID card and the difference in driver's licenses. He referred to the PA State Treasurer's website for information about state finances.

When asked about his passion in governing he said it is cleaning up the budget and having a government that is responsible and transparent.

Diane Meixell, Forum Committee member

VOTER SERVICES REPORT

Below is the culmination of the Civics Education (CE) committee meetings' discussions after the very successful 4-part Town Hall meetings. Contact me if any of the below committee ideas interest you. We will be reconvening in the next few months to continue our educational process.

The Civics Education committee includes *The Daily Item* Publisher, Frank Leto, and LWVLA members: Janice Bigelow, Marilyn Brill, Mary Beth Clark, Linda Harris, Teri MacBride, Cindy Peltier, Stacy Richards,

Mary Margret Rostan, Susan Travis, Susan Warner Mills. The Committee met to discuss whether to continue this effort as it stands or change its format to continue to educate citizens. After much discussion, the following ideas were suggested:

1. Coordinate a program that includes voter registration/ voting machine and local government and the Media with the new Children's Museum for kids- *Janice and Frank*
2. For High School students- a Model Congress – partner with the organization already doing this and the suggestion to work with WVIA- *Mary Beth*
3. Contact the CSIU (Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit) to explore what's out there in civics education and whether they'd be interested in partnering with us – *Frank, Teri, Stacy*
4. For the Community and targeting millennials -develop a list of topics, come up with exciting speakers to come to Union County to speak- *Frank*
5. Survey the attendees that emailed their registration for the 4 CE Town Hall meetings and ask them what they liked and didn't like. Also, offer them suggested topics to rate and ask them to offer topics they'd like to learn about - *Frank*
6. We will not be bringing our CE program, at this point, to Snyder and Northumberland counties, as we of the League do not have a presence there or partners to collaborate with.

Linda Harris, Voters Services chair

LWVLA BOOK CLUB

The League of Women Voters Book Club will meet on Wednesday, February 21st at 11am, at the Public Library of Union County, in the large conference room. The book we will be discussing is *White Working Class: Overcoming Class Cluelessness in America*, by Joan C. Williams. All are welcome to join the discussion whether you have read the book or not. If you have any questions contact Mary Beth Clark at moffa5@comcast.net.

Mary Beth Clark, Book Club chair

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Welcome to New Members

Since our last issue of *League Line* these members have joined:

Nancy Kimball
nkimball@ptd.net

Jane Mead
hjmead45@gmail.com

Susan Waggoner
susan_wagon@yahoo.com

We welcome these new members and look forward to seeing them at upcoming meetings.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

Please place the following events on your personal calendar.

Monday, February 5th, 4:00pm

BOARD MEETING

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

Tuesday, February 20th, 11:30am-1:00pm

LUNCH FORUM

*Barb Jarmoska, Responsible Drilling
Alliance
La Primavera (Lunch \$13)*

Monday, March 5th, 4:00pm

BOARD MEETING

Iron Front Co-work Space

Tuesday, March 20th, 11:30am-1:00pm

LUNCH FORUM

*Rolfe Peterson, Assistant Professor
Susquehanna University
La Primavera (Lunch \$13)*

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Rides to League Meetings

Martha Donahue has offered to organize rides to League meetings. She wrote the following for *League Line*. Please let her know if you are interested in being a driver or needing a ride.

The League wants all members to be able to attend programs, meetings, and social functions. The Board has become aware of the problem some members are having in attendance because of no longer being able to drive. I have volunteered to co-ordinate a program to setup ride-sharing to get all members to the various events. First, I need to know which members need to be driven. Then I need to know which members will volunteer to do the driving. I hope to operate basically by email, but I will use the phone also for those who don't email. At least to start, I would like each person needing a ride to an event to notify me in an advance of three days of the need for a ride. I will then try to match up with a driver who will be asked to notify the rider of details for pick-up. If no match, I will let the rider know. Prospective riders and drivers should send me the relevant information as outlined below:

Martha Donahue
mdonahue@windstream.net
570.522.9604

Prospective Riders: Name(s), address, phone number(s), email address and need for ride at all times or evening only

Prospective Drivers: Name, address, phone number(s), email address, area will cover (i.e. only Lewisburg, only Lewisburg east of US15, up to x number of miles out of Lewisburg), and entire day or only daylight hours.

Thank you, Martha!

**LEAGUE LINE
FEB. 2018**

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lwvlewisburgarea.org

Holiday Party Left-Over

We have a large plastic salad bowl and tongs left over after the December Holiday Party. If this belongs to you, please call me at 570-522-9254.

Spring Dues Rate

Once again we will be offering a special rate this spring for new members to LWVLA. If you are new to LWV, you are eligible to join the League for the prorated dues of \$25.00 from February 1st, 2018 until May 31st, 2018! You will then be asked to pay full dues of \$50, due in September with the rest of our members.

Thanks to all of you for what you do to keep our local League strong and active in our community.

LWVLA Membership Renewal

We have only a few more members to renew. I will be contacting them again before the end of the year to make sure we don't lose them in the League. Thank you all for getting your membership dues paid in a timely manner. You make my task so much easier. 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!!

Thanks to all of you for what you do to keep our local League strong and active in our community.

Marilyn Brill, Membership chair

**LWVLA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL FORM
February 1, 2018 – May 30, 2018**

Mid-term membership dues: Individual \$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 or renew my/our membership 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)

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. Thank you!

Marilyn Brill, Membership chair