

LEAGUE LINE

A Bulletin of The League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area
Vol. 64, No. 5; February 2020

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Friends,

In honor of the 100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters, LWVLA has been challenged by a generous, visionary and anonymous donor to get more women actively engaged our democracy. This exciting challenge was enthusiastically accepted by the Board at our January meeting. The Board wishes to undertake efforts to register Union County voters without regard to the gender, but to be successful in meeting the donor's challenge, we will need all hands, in many places, especially where we can connect with women voters. Will you help meet the challenge to get 1000 new women residents of Union County registered to vote in 2020? Will you join us? As you'll see in the Voters Services report, Linda Harris is leading this initiative. It's an all out effort, and we need you!

Are you interested in the National League Campaign for Making Democracy Work and the 2020-22 Recommended Program? More than 1000 members will gather for the 54th LWV National Convention in Washington, DC, June 25-28. Would you like to be one of our delegates? Please check LWVUS.org and get in touch with me for more information.

It promises to be an exciting 2020. I hope to see many of you at upcoming events.
Teri MacBride, president

100TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

In 1853, suffragist and abolitionist Lucretia Coffin Mott said, "Any great change must expect opposition." Lucretia died in 1880. She did not live to see the ratification of the 19th amendment, but her words are reflected in the history books when "fight," "battle," and "struggle" are used to describe the long and complicated route to achieving women's suffrage. Now we are in the year of the 100th anniversary for women gaining that right to vote. We should not let this time pass without celebrating and commemorating the women and men who sacrificed their well-being and, sometimes, their health and wealth in this battle.

Please take some time to learn about the story of the suffragists, and to celebrate their bravery and tenacity at the events we have planned for 2020. Attend our Lunch Forum on January 28th, and hear Mary Zimmerman talk about the people who fought the battle for women's suffrage. This is not the romanticized version of that battle; it is the historical version.

On March 8th, come to the Campus Theatre to celebrate with a program of songs by KJ, a presentation by the Union County Historical Society. Join in this salute to women who serve in elected offices in Union County, and toast the tenacity of those who persisted in the struggle, while you enjoy some refreshments. Additionally, visit the suffrage exhibit in the lobby of the Library for Union County, on display from March 3-30.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Please place the following events on your personal calendar.

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

LUNCH FORUM

Mary Zimmerman, immediate past President of the LWVLA

"The Hundred-Year Struggle: Women's Fight to Gain the Vote"

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

Monday, Feb. 3rd, 3:00pm

BOARD MEETING

*East Buffalo Township Building
589 Fairground Road, Lewisburg*

Friday, Feb. 14th, 12:00-2:00pm

LWVPA 100th ANNIV. CELEBRATION

Fun, Fellowship and Cake

*State Capitol Complex Main Rotunda,
Harrisburg*

Tuesday, Feb. 18th, 11:30am-1:00pm

LUNCH FORUM

Daniel Lichtel, Steven Skalka, School Superintendents Mifflinburg and Lewisburg

"One County, Two Districts"

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

Friday, Feb. 21st, 10:00am

BOOK CLUB

"Volume I of The Mueller Report"

*Public Library for Union County
Reitz Blvd., Lewisburg*

Monday, Mar. 2nd, 3:00pm

BOARD MEETING

*East Buffalo Township Building
589 Fairground Road, Lewisburg*

Sunday, Mar. 8th, 1:00-3:30pm

LWVLA 100th ANNIV. CELEBRATION

Campus Theater, Lewisburg

Tuesday, Mar. 17th, 11:30am-1:00pm

LUNCH FORUM

Scott Meinke, Bucknell Professor of Political Science

"What Works and What Doesn't; The Political Science of Political Reforms"

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

Saturday, Apr. 11th, 11:00am

HISTORIC CEMETERY WALKING

TOUR: Women Suffragists and Leaders Cemetery Chapel, Lewisburg
(See ad on p.2 for more information.)

Wednesday, May 13th – Save the date!

LWVLA ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER

The Cellars, Brookpark Farm

Everyone can expect a mailed invitation by early April.

On Saturday April 11th, attend a free one-hour walking tour of the historic Lewisburg Cemetery highlighting women leaders in the community. Meet at 11am at the Cemetery Chapel. For more information contact Bert Dunkerly: bd1754@yahoo.com or Nancy Neuman: neuman.nancy@gmail.com.

The women and men who fought this fight deserve to be celebrated and commemorated, even now, 100 years later.

Janice Bigelow

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

On February 3rd, the Board will vote on a 2025 vision for LWVLA, subject to member ratification at the annual meeting in May. The proposed vision is the result of more than a year's work in various strategy workshops, member 'town halls,' informal discussions, Board reviews and refinement. Please read the vision as written below. We envision increased Union County voter registration, voter turnout and informed participation in local democracy. Over the next five years, LWVLA will build on our history and strengths to:

- be a trusted local leader in voter and issues education
- have members and collaborations that reflect the diversity of Union County
- actively collaborate with political, governmental and community organizations

The priorities for the next five years (not in order of importance or urgency):

- Increase voter registration and voter turnout
- Collaborate to increase League reach and impact
- Use technology to increase access to civics information and participation
- Design/implement civics education
- Design/implement voter education on issues
- Provide a venue for issue consensus, advocacy and activism
- Increase number of candidates running for office

Members are encouraged to contact any Board member and share their feedback in advance of the February Board meeting. Between now and the May meeting, we will convene opportunities for all members to explore and design how we bring our future vision into reality.

Becky Perez,

Strategic Planning coordinator

JANUARY FORUM

Mary Zimmerman, immediate past president of the LWVLA and a teacher of women's history for 30 years, is the speaker at the January 28th Forum. 2020 marks the 100th Anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote. Mary's talk will explain the forces and the people who worked tirelessly to achieve this basic right to vote for women.

This struggle was a long, and hard-fought battle. It fell into three periods. First was a short period of simply raising the slightly bizarre idea that women should have the right to vote. Second came a period of almost forty years of repeatedly attempting

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to acquire the right to vote, state by state with defeat after defeat and a few successes. Finally, came a new push to amend the Constitution led by Carrie Chapman Catt's steady organizing work and brilliantly publicized by Alice Paul.

Lunch is available beginning at 11:30; the presentation begins at noon.

Mary Zimmerman, Forum Committee chair

FEBRUARY FORUM

The featured speakers of the February 18th Forum are the Superintendents of the two school districts serving the majority of Union County: Mifflinburg and Lewisburg. They are Daniel Lichtel and Steven Skalka, respectively. Their talk is titled "Two Superintendents, One County". Lunch is available at a cost of \$13.00. Doors open at 11:30 and the speakers begin at noon.

Mary Zimmerman, Forum Committee

VOTER SERVICES REPORT

We are starting 2020 with a wonderful announcement to members: LWVLA was issued a challenge to register 1000 new Union County women voters in 2020, to highlight and celebrate the 19th amendment. Achievement of the goal comes with a \$1000.00 anonymous donation to our Education Fund. If you want to help register voters contact me.

In other news, we have started the process of creating the 2020 *Facts for Voters* with Jane Mitchell, again, at the editorial helm, with research support from Imanni Burg, Nancy Morgan, Mary Lotspeich and designer, Dawn Maneval. Kathleen Martin has been in touch with our distribution volunteers, Phyllis Dyer is ready to pick up the *Facts for Voters* and have the bundles ready for the volunteers to distribute.

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

Dear fellow League Members;

Happy New Year!

Our next Book Club Meeting will be on Friday, February 21st, 2020 at 10am at the Public Library for Union County on Reitz Blvd. in Lewisburg. We will be reading *Volume I of The Mueller Report*, which deals with election security and Russian interference with the prior Presidential election. This will be a follow-up to the December session on state election security issues.

In the next several weeks if I come across any articles or podcasts on election security, I may circulate them. If you are aware of any interesting readings or podcasts, please feel free to share them with me and I will share with the group. Thanks to Barbara Baker, a podcast on Russian interference has been identified. Listen to The Russian Hacking Plan for 2020 from The Daily on ApplePodcasts:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/thedaily/id1200361736?i=1000462566485>

At the end of the February session, I will ask for your input on our summer reading selections. I have been sent some suggestions but no decisions have been made. Please

LEAGUE LINE FEB. 2020

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and her friend Dee Mikita, for providing lovely dulcimer and guitar music for us. We were fortunate to share an abundance of hors d'oeuvres, sweets, and beverages from many members. Marilyn's beautiful floral arrangements were left for BVLV residents to enjoy. Marilyn also provided the spectacular seasonal arrangements outdoors that greeted all as they arrived.

New Members

We have several new members to welcome:

Lynne Asmuth
Walter Bruce
Mary Anne Fleisher
Genie and John Gerdes
Linda Granath
Lana Gulden
Susan B. Mathias
Mary Margret Rostan
Art Schaeffer
David and Joanne Troutman

Membership Renewal

If you still need to renew your membership, here's a reminder: Individual membership is \$55; Household membership is \$80; Student membership \$10. Make check payable to LWVLA, and send to P.O. Box 206, Lewisburg PA 17837.

Ruth Burnham, Membership Committee chair

keep your suggestions coming: moffa5@comcast.net.

Happy reading!

Mary Beth Clark

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Winter Social

Kudos to Marilyn Murphy, Kathy Fornataro and Kate Schaeffer for putting together a lovely Winter Social on December 13th at The Village Common, Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village. Thanks, too, to member Judy Ellis

Historic Cemetery Tour

"Women Suffragists and Leaders"

Saturday, April 11, 2020



Free one-hour walking tour of the historic Lewisburg Cemetery highlighting women leaders in the community.

In 1920, the XIX Amendment was ratified, guaranteeing the right to vote for women.

Meet at 11 a.m. at the Cemetery Chapel

Information: Bert Dunkerly: bd1754@yahoo.com OR Nancy Neuman: neuman.nancy@gmail.com

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