

LEAGUE LINE

A Bulletin of The League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In the process of gathering information for the strategic planning process, Liz Clement discovered that the National League has embarked on a new initiative which appears to be heading to a much more structured and less decentralized league. There is some concern that this new emphasis on a unified approach will impact the activities of the LWVLA. The main lobbying effort from the National League is to be on issues of voting and ensuring a fair electoral system for all voters. It is too soon to tell how much of this is simply a drive by the National League for their agenda, and how much of it will directly affect local Leagues. There have been no changes in the by-laws so the structure of the League is still the same. The Board is currently trying to gain information about exactly what is going on, and will keep you informed.

Mary Zimmerman, President

LWVLA STRATEGY PLANNING UPDATE

Many of you have probably heard from one or another of the Strategic Planning Committee groups, and, if you have not, you probably will. Surveys are being done, focus groups are starting and the Board is having a retreat the end of March. All of this activity will hopefully lead to a League which is more efficient, and, more importantly, responsive to the members. The strategic planning groups are currently gathering information about what the League does right, what it does wrong and what it ought to be doing. Attempts are being made to determine the demographic profile of the League and the demographic profile of the Lewisburg area. People who are not members of the League are being asked about their views of the League. At the moment, Strategic Planning is engaged in gathering information. The next phase will involve conveying that information to the membership and deciding how we want to move forward. Stay tuned.

Mary Zimmerman, for Strategic Planning

MARCH FORUM

The March 19th Forum will be a presentation by Union County Commissioners, Preston Boop, John Mathias and John Showers. They will give an update on Union County. Lunch begins at 11:30 AM at a cost of \$13.00 and the program begins at noon.

Mary Zimmerman, for the Forum Committee

FEBRUARY FORUM

Dr. Karen Murphy, Geisinger's Chief of Innovation and the former Secretary of Health for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, spoke at the February Forum on the Opioid Crisis. She gave staggering statistics: 15 people die each day in Pennsylvania from

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Please place the following events on your personal calendar.

Monday, Mar. 4th, 4:00pm

BOARD MEETING
East Buffalo Township Building
589 Fairground Road, Lewisburg

Tuesday, Mar. 19th, 11:30am-1:00pm

LUNCH FORUM
Union County Commissioners,
State of Union County
La Primavera (Lunch served at 11:30;
\$13)

Monday, Apr. 1st, 4:00pm

BOARD MEETING
East Buffalo Township Building
589 Fairground Road, Lewisburg

Monday, Apr. 1st

First day to request absentee ballots

Tuesday, Apr. 16th, 11:30am-1:00pm

LUNCH FORUM
Adrienne Gemberling, Susquehanna
Technical Coordinator, Chesapeake
Conservancy
The Health of the Chesapeake Bay
La Primavera (Lunch served at 11:30;
\$13)

Monday, Apr. 22nd

Last day to register before Primary
Election on May 21st

Tuesday, May 21st

Primary Election

opioid overdoses (down from 30/day) and drug overdose is the leading cause of death for Americans under 50. However, she said this crisis does not discriminate by age, social status or race; it affects all of us. Indeed, until we remove the stigma associated with drug abuse, we will not be able to fully deal with this national crisis. Dr. Murphy spoke about what was being done in the state and at Geisinger with monitoring doctors and how this has been effective in substantially reducing the number of prescriptions written and the amount of opioids given in a prescription. We heard about a program to treat new mothers and their babies born addicted to opioids. Dr. Murphy advised if you are prescribed opioids to deal with pain, talk to your physician about how much you need and what is right for you. It is essential to carefully dispose of unused opioids, with disposal locations at the Weis Pharmacy and at the Union County Courthouse.

The presentation is available in its entirety by accessing a link that will be posted on the League's Facebook page and its website:

<http://lwvlewisburgarea.org>

Mary Beth Clark, Forum Committee

FINANCE DRIVE

At the beginning of March you will receive information about our annual Members and Friends Finance Drive. Please read Mary's letter and consider making a donation. Our Lewisburg League is dependent on contributions from members, friends and businesses to fund our many local efforts.

Carole Madle, Members & Friends
Finance Drive chair

VOTER SERVICES REPORT

Our committee met on January 23rd, 2019. The agenda items included updates on *Facts for Voters*, *Voters Guide*, Strategic Planning, and spring Candidates Nights. **Our next meeting** is scheduled for February 27th, 2019, when we will be firming up plans for Candidates Night in April/May 2019, and hearing updates on our work with the PAVOTE411 website and the *Voters Guide*. With this Primary election's *Voters Guide*, we will be coordinating more closely with the PAVOTE411 Web site and we will be creating an interactive Web-based version of the *Voters Guide* that will allow candidates to enter information making it possible for voters to compare positions side-by-side based on a customized candidate list.

The national LWVUS created a new logo for all the local Leagues, including the LWVLA. We purchased three table covers with the new logo to be used at the upcoming Candidates Night. We would like to express our thanks to the generosity of the Bea Spielman Fund for making this purchase possible.

The Voter Services Committee meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday of the month at my home. If you would like to attend, we are always looking for new committee members.

Facts for Voters

By the time this *League Line* is published, the *Facts for Voters* will be distributed in and around Lewisburg. An online version is also available on our LWVLA website. Special thanks go to Jane Mitchell and her editorial staff, Imanni Burg and Ruth MacAlister, for all their hard work.

Voters Guide

May 21st is the date of the U.S./State Primary Election. Editor Sheri Stayton and her staff, including Liz Clement, Carole Madle and Sue Travis, have already started the process of creating our spring *Voters Guide*. Look for the *Guide* by the beginning of May.

Candidates Night

Candidates Night will be held in April/May 2019. More definitive information will be forthcoming. Check our LWVLA website.

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Voter Registration Campaign

We will start-up voter registration sites at local libraries, social service agencies, and retirement communities. We enthusiastically welcome any and all members interested in being part of our efforts. Contact me at 267-337-5986 or lsharris323@gmail.com with questions or for further information.

Important Election Dates

- March 27th Last day for withdrawal by candidates who filed nomination petitions:
- April 1st First day to apply for a civilian absentee ballot
- April 22nd Last day to REGISTER before the primary
- May 14th Last day to apply for a civilian absentee ballot
- May 17th Last day for the County Board of Elections to receive voted civilian absentee ballots
- May 21st GENERAL PRIMARY

Linda Harris, Voter Services chair

LWVLA BOOK CLUB

The League of Women Voters Book Club's first summer book is *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover. The meeting will be in June. Look for more specifics in the next edition of the *League Line*. Meantime, members can start reading. All are always welcome. If you have any questions, contact Mary Beth Clark at moffa5@comcast.net.

Mary Beth Clark, Book Club chair

**LEAGUE LINE
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MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

2019 Membership Count

We reported to LWVUS that as of January 31st, 2019, we have 159 members, the largest total in our League's history! It is wonderful that we are continuing to grow, thanks to all of you who are sharing the League with your friends and inviting them to join us. It is working!

Annual Dinner

Mark your Calendars! This year's Annual Dinner is May 8th at the Lewisburg Hotel. The cost per person will be \$30 for the dinner. More information will be mailed to you this spring as we get ready for this important meeting, when we elect new officers and board members, adopt a budget and program, and honor members and community leaders. This is a fun, social evening so please plan on attending.

Spring Dues Rate

Once again we will be offering a special rate this spring for new members to LWVLA. If you are interested in joining the League, you are eligible to join for the pro-rated dues of \$25.00 from February 1st, 2019 until May 31st, 2019! You will then be asked to pay full dues of \$55 dues 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.

Marilyn Brill, Membership chair

**LWVLA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL FORM
Mid-Term 2019 (February 1 – May 31, 2019)**

Mid-term membership dues: Individual \$25; 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 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:
 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 570-522-9254 or email mfb@dejazzd.com. Thank you!

Marilyn Brill, Membership chair