

# LEAGUE LINE

A Bulletin of The League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area  
Vol. 63, No. 7; April 2019

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Strategic Planning Committee is very busy. Many of you have probably been contacted to participate in focus groups. The membership has been very co-operative, and the Strategic Planning Committee is very grateful. In addition to contacting much of the membership, the League has also been interviewing government officials and other members of the community who are not members of the League (External Stakeholders). We are interested in how the League is regarded by the broader community. We are compiling statistical data both on our membership (from the surveys you submitted) and on the community as a whole. Now with all this information strategic planning is ready to start moving forward. On March 30<sup>th</sup>, the Strategic Planning Committee is holding an all-day retreat with former board members, new board members, and a few additional people to report on all these efforts and assess the information which has been collected so far. There will be an update at the annual meeting on the progress. Contrary to the usual custom of the League to largely take the summer off, there is a plan for some small group meetings over the summer. There are tentative plans to hold a meeting of the entire membership in the fall, subject to the approval of the new League board which will be elected at the annual meeting.

*Mary Zimmerman, President*

## APRIL FORUM

The April 16<sup>th</sup> Forum will be a presentation by Adrienne Gemberling, the Susquehanna Technical Coordinator of the Chesapeake Conservancy. She will be speaking on the health of the Chesapeake Bay. Lunch begins at 11:30am at a cost of \$13.00. The program begins at noon.

*Mary Zimmerman for the Forum Committee*

## MARCH FORUM

On March 19<sup>th</sup>, the LWVLA hosted the Union County Commissioners to learn the state of activities at the county level. More than fifty persons heard each commissioner describe specific programs in the areas of their interest and expertise.

Preston Boop, Chair, introduced the presentation by noting that each commissioner had taken responsibility over time for acquiring expertise in areas where they have special talents and interests. Preston noted that in 2008 the county faced the possibility of building a thirty-million-dollar new prison. Rather than proceed to do that, the commissioners investigated how they might act to reduce the population of those being incarcerated. After careful study, they initiated a drug and alcohol court and educational program in 2008. In 2012 with the Assistance of the Community Action Agency, they initiated a county resource center to counsel, educate and retrain people convicted of lesser crimes at the Union County Resource Center. That plan saved

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

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

### **Monday, Apr. 1<sup>st</sup>, 4:00pm**

BOARD MEETING  
East Buffalo Township Building  
589 Fairground Road, Lewisburg

### **Monday, Apr. 1<sup>st</sup>**

First day to request absentee ballots

### **Tuesday, Apr. 16<sup>th</sup>, 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. 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Last day to register before Special/  
Primary Election on May 21st

### **Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 4:00pm**

BOARD MEETING  
East Buffalo Township Building  
589 Fairground Road, Lewisburg

### **Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm**

ANNUAL BOARD MEETING AND  
DINNER  
*Lewisburg Hotel*  
*See the Membership Report for more  
information.*

### **Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>**

SPECIAL/MUNICIPAL PRIMARY  
ELECTION

the county the \$26,000 a year per prisoner to house them in neighboring counties. Preston closed by noting the importance of supporting agriculture and small business. He outlined how the county is working with SEDA-COG to investigate how the county might support the movement of natural gas to local users not on a pipeline.

John Mathias began by educating the audience about county finances with basic pie charts and data summaries. He noted that county expenditures have been relatively flat for the past five years. The budget process involves the commissioners meeting with each department head to justify that department's annual budget before incorporating the request into the budget. John explained that the 911 system is being shared with Snyder County and will shortly be housed in one location in Selinsgrove. He described how an investigation of rural broadband started two years ago at the request of the Union County Librarian and has continued today with an agreement to study broadband using microwave jointly with Snyder County.

John Showers noted that in his forty-five years of public service he has seen many things come and go. He then described how the Board of Elections is in the process of selecting a new voting machine to provide a paper trail to meet a state mandate. Machines

may be available by the fall election. John also noted that Great Streams has a railhead and is a prime county site available for business. The Rail to Trail facility connecting Lewisburg with Mifflinburg is a major recreational attraction whose operation soon will be taken over by an authority supported by the county. John closed his remarks by thanking the LWVLA for all its support over the years noting that while there is some give and take with the county, the League and the county have usually worked together to make our county a good place in which to live.

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

*Paul Mauger, Forum Committee*

## MAUCH PROJECT REPORT

The Mauch Millennial Project has several exciting projects in the works. Imanni Burg has been working with the Children's Museum in Lewisburg to create a voting booth exhibit which we hope will be operational before the May election. Kids will receive a token they can use to actually cast a vote for something geared to their interests. The plans include wall displays relating to government and elections, and other programming that will bring our electoral system to life for children. Through the efforts of Diane Sprunt, we have purchased a subscription to an on-line news literacy program called Checkology for a teacher in the Lewisburg Middle School and have offered it to Mifflinburg's middle school. Linda Harris is working with Rep. Fred Keller's office to arrange for him to come to Lewisburg's high school this spring to work with students in a civics course as they debate an issue and then to judge the winners. Every year we have a Lewisburg high school student intern. This past year we were fortunate to work with Nick Jacobson, who wrote a series of excellent blogs on issues of importance in the midterm elections. We wish Nick well as he goes off to college at Yale next year! We also co-sponsor a fellowship program with the Bucknell Political Science Department. In election years, two students, chosen by the department and several Mauch committee members, design and run forums for students on issues relating to the election. We are very grateful to Jim and Rebecca Mauch who have made all these wonderful projects possible!

*Elaine Hopkins, chair*

## FINANCE DRIVE

Thanks go to those members and friends who have already donated to this year's Finance Drive. If you haven't already done so, please consider making a contribution to support our many local projects! If you have not received a letter about the drive, please contact me at 570-551-6825.

*Carole Madle, Members & Friends  
Finance Drive chair*

## VOTER SERVICES REPORT

Our committee met on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The agenda items included updates on *Facts for Voters*, *Voters Guide*, Strategic Planning, and Spring Candidates Nights. Our next meeting is scheduled for March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 where we will be firming up plans for Candidates Night in April/May 2019, and hearing updates on our work with the VOTE411 website and with the *Voters Guide*.

With this Primary election's *Voters Guide*, we will be coordinating more closely with the VOTE411 website, and we will be creating an interactive web-based version of the *Voters Guide*, which will allow candidates to enter information and make it possible for voters to compare positions side-by-side based on a customized candidate list.

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**

Should anyone need extra copies, feel free to contact me.

### **Voters Guide**

Editor Sheri Stayton and her staff, including Liz Clement, Carole Madle, Sue Travis and Imanni Burg, have started the process of creating our Spring *Voters Guide*. May 21<sup>st</sup> is the date of the Special and municipal Primary Election. Look for the *Guide* by the beginning of May.

### **Candidates Night**

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

### **Voter Registration Campaign**

We will start 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](mailto:lsharris323@gmail.com) with questions or for further information.

### **Important Election Dates**

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

Linda Harris, Voter Services chair

## LEAGUE LINE APR. 2019

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

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### Facebook Page

[facebook.com/lwvla](https://www.facebook.com/lwvla)

### Website

[lwvlewisburgarea.org](http://lwvlewisburgarea.org)

## LWVLA BOOK CLUB

The LWVLA Book Club's first summer book is *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover. Summer book club meetings will be held monthly each third Tuesday, at 10:00am, at the Public Library for Union County on Reitz Boulevard. Tuesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> we will discuss *Educated*. On Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, we will discuss *The Women's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote* by Elaine Weiss. The August 20<sup>th</sup> book has yet to be chosen.

All are always welcome. If you have any questions contact Mary Beth Clark at [moffa5@comcast.net](mailto:moffa5@comcast.net).

Mary Beth Clark, Book Club chair

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

### **New Member**

We are pleased to welcome a new member this month:

Sandy Davis  
[mssbdavis@gmail.com](mailto:mssbdavis@gmail.com)

Welcome to the League!!

### **Annual Meeting Announcement**

**Mark your calendars!!** Our 2019 Annual Meeting will be **Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>**, starting at 5:30pm at the Lewisburg Hotel. Please plan to attend this fun, social evening. Spouses, partners and significant others are most welcome to attend. Cost of the dinner is \$30 per person. An invitation and information about the meeting will be mailed to you in early April.

This is a very important meeting when we elect new officers and board members, adopt a budget and program, and honor

members and community leaders. Many thanks go to Pam Mauger and the Ridgecrest "Stuffragists" for their help in getting this mailing out to you. The mailing will include the proposed budget, student dues increase proposal, and nominating committee report, all items to be voted on by members at the meeting. **Please RSVP by April 26<sup>th</sup>**. When you receive the mailing please send your meal choice and check to the League's PO Box as soon as possible. We look forward to seeing you there!

### **Student Dues Proposal**

The LWVLA Board of Directors is recommending membership approval at the Annual Meeting of a motion submitted by the LWVLA Membership Committee that **student dues be lowered from \$25 to \$10**. Neither LWVPA nor LWVUS charge any Per Member Payments for students. Anyone 16 and over may join the League. Our League has three student members, two in high school, one in college. Currently our student dues are \$25. The committee and board discussed various options, including no dues at all for students. We decided that a small payment for dues would be most appropriate. This will be a motion for members to vote on at the Annual Dinner on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Members Relocating**

Long-time members Marilyn Brill and Susan Warner-Mills will be relocating to the Burlington VT area in mid-May after the Annual Dinner. Please note their new contact information and please stay in touch and come visit!

Marilyn Brill and Susan Warner-Mills  
60 Winooski Falls Way, #1308  
Winooski, VT 05404  
Marilyn: 570-556-6100,  
[mfb4350@gmail.com](mailto:mfb4350@gmail.com)  
Susan: 570-716-0870,  
[swm7431@gmail.com](mailto:swm7431@gmail.com)

### **Spring Dues Rate**

Once again we are 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 pro-rated dues of \$25.00 from February 1, 2019 until May 31, 2019. You will then be asked to pay dues for 2020 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.

The Membership Committee

## 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](mailto:mfb@dejazzd.com). Thank you!

Marilyn Brill, Membership chair