

LEAGUE LINE

A Bulletin of The League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area
Vol. 62, No. 4; December 2017/January 2018

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

It is an enormous tribute to the Lewisburg League that we have been able in a period of a little under three months to hold a new member social, a candidate's night, three forums and four civic engagement programs. All of these events required a large number of volunteer hours. An impressive number of members pitched in, in a variety of ways to make every one of these activities a resounding success. As an organization we should be very proud of ourselves.

The Daily Item was our partner in the Civic Engagement Series. In addition to congratulating ourselves for an outstanding fall, we must also acknowledge the contribution of *The Daily Item*. Their provision of the speakers for the first Civic Engagement series, and their support with publicity enabled us to reach a wider audience than we would have with our own resources. We are very appreciative of the efforts of *The Daily Item*.

Mary Zimmerman, President

HELP WANTED - 2nd Request

In order to plan a program that would encourage women to run for public office, we need 4 co-chairs to begin planning in January/February 2018 for an event in September 2018. I am willing to serve as an overall chair of this committee, but will need to have 4 co-chairs for the following duties:

1. Program Planning
2. Site procurement and Set-up
3. Take-Away materials (organize and prepare a notebook or zip drive with material presented at this event for the attendees to take home)
4. Hospitality (includes reservations, greeting on day of event, and any drinks/eats)

In addition to the co-chairs there is also a need for members to serve on each of these 4 committees.

If you are interested in being a part of this project, please contact me at frednjanice@gmail.com or 570-522-0944. I will be happy to answer your questions. This project will not happen unless we have co-chairs and committee members signed up by January/February of 2018 to begin the planning.

Janice Bigelow

ENGAGEMENT

Civic engagement, that is. Are you concerned about the public's low turnout for elections or its lack of understanding of government? The Annenberg Public Policy Center recently reported that only 26% of Americans could name all 3 branches of government. If you have the ability or desire to speak (for 20 to 30 minutes, one time this spring) to a group of 10-15 adults about voting, election

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Please place the following events on your personal calendar.

Monday, January 8th, 4:00pm

BOARD MEETING

East Buffalo Township Building,
589 Fairground Road, Lewisburg

Tuesday, January 9th

CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT'S
BIRTHDAY

Founder, League of Women Voters

Tuesday, January 9th, 11:30am-1:00pm

LUNCH FORUM

Representative Fred Keller
La Primavera (Lunch \$13)

procedures, participation in politics, or any of the many other aspects of civics, please let us know. The League and Bucknell's Institute of Lifelong Learning are offering us an opportunity to improve the public's understanding of and participation in government. Won't you help?

For further details contact Tony Ludovico at ablesquire@gmail.com.

Tony Ludovico

JANUARY FORUM

The next forum will be held Tuesday, January 9th at 11:30am at La Primavera Restaurant.

Our speaker is Representative Fred Keller, of the 85th District, who will give a legislative update. 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

NOVEMBER FORUM

Bruce Quigley, Executive Director of the Union County Housing Authority (UCHA), spoke at our LWV November 21st Forum. He began his talk with some Union County housing facts which included:

- 22% of households are living on \$24,000 or less.
- 43% of renter households are paying at least 30% of their income on rent.
- 15 % of Union County's population is 65 or older.
- Many homeowners struggle to keep aging homes in good repair where 47% of the structures were built before 1970.

Mr. Quigley read the following statement, which he made in January of 2016:

"The Housing Authority's sometimes uncomfortable move over the last six months into the public spotlight has somehow failed to illuminate the important work that has been, and continues to be at the center of the Authority's approach to meeting its mission

to provide safe, decent, sanitary, affordable housing to income eligible residents. Ironically, the quiet effectiveness of the authority to these many years, allowed some in the community to fail to understand the acute and growing need that exists among their neighbors. Unchecked, this ignorance is a threat to our mission."

He went on to say that the Housing Authority was established on August 8th, 1972 by the Union County Commissioners. It provides tenant-based rental assistance, owner-occupied rehabilitation, and management and development of properties.

Mr. Quigley spoke about the Justice Bridge Housing Program which is tenant-based rental assistance for those Union County residents who come through the judicial system. This program provides supervision with supportive services, and offers potential cost savings for the county.

The UCHA has facilitated the renovation of more than 900 of the 12,000 homes located throughout the county. Renter-occupied rehabilitation is unfunded, but Mr. Quigley thinks this type of program could be good for Union County.

Mr. Quigley addressed Penn Commons and the allocation plan for which it qualified. He spoke about the Lo-Income Housing Tax Credit and its importance as a resource for creating affordable housing. He outlined opportunities for the future and issues that the UCHA faces. Learning from past experience, he said we must better tell our story.

A question and answer period followed and thanks from League President Mary Zimmerman.

Diane Meixell, Forum Committee member

VOTER SERVICES REPORT

Candidates Night (Fall 2017)

Candidates Night, October 30th, was well-attended, informative, and a great value to the community. Attendees got to hear the positions of all the candidates running for contested offices. This important, helpful event allowed those who attended to make informed decisions at the polls in November.

Voters Guide

The *Voters Guide* was published and distributed 14 days prior to the election, notably earlier than our typical completion date. We distributed the Guide early so the public could read the text of the constitutional amendment. Congratulations go to our editor, Sheri Stayton, with editorial assistance of Liz Clement, Marge Duck, Carole Madle and Sue Travis, and to our Designer, Bridgette Thompson. Thanks to Janice Bigelow for posting the *Voters Guide* on our website and on Facebook. You can share it with others by searching for the *Voters Guide* on Facebook and clicking "Like" and "Share".

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Thanks also go to Phyllis Dyer and the Stuffragettes who distributed the *Voters Guide* and then returned to their sites to count those that weren't picked up, in an effort to help determine appropriate distribution numbers for each site. As always, we can use additional volunteers to help distribute the next Guide to a variety of locations in the region. If you can help with this distribution, please contact Linda at 267-337-5986 or at lsb413@hotmail.com.

Facts for Voters

Thank you, Priscilla Stowe who will again serve as Editor, and Dawn Maneval, who will be the Designer.

UPDATE: Civics Education Town Hall Meetings: Hallmark of Democracy

We have successfully completed all four parts of the Town Hall meetings, co-sponsored with *The Daily Item*. Sessions were well-attended, with audiences ranging from 70-125 people. Panels and speakers provided important information about highly relevant current political issues. Numerous LWVLA volunteers and expert panelists gave their time to make these Town Hall meetings highly informative and successful. We received a great deal of publicity through *The Daily Item*, *Standard Journal* and WKOK.

I'd like to acknowledge the following people who developed, produced, publicized, ushered, set up, and participated in these events:

Committee: Susan Warner Mills, Ann Grundstrom, Janice Bigelow, Patti Johnston, Teri MacBride, Cindy Peltier, Linda Harris, Mary Margret Rostan, Mary Beth Clark, Stacy Richards, Sue Travis, Pat Longley and Frank Leto.

Part I - Panelists: Dennis Lyons, Teri MacBride, Linda Beck; **Moderator:** Lisa Hurm

Part II - Panelists: Judith Wagner, Preston Boop, Margaret Metzger, Hank Baylor, Larry Maynard; **Moderator:** Teri MacBride

Part III - Panelists: Rolfe Peterson, Amy Ershler, Michele DeMary, Stacy Richards; **Moderator:** Stacy Richards

Part IV - Panelists: Louise Knight, Fred Martin, Mary Beth Clark; **Moderator:** Marilyn Brill

Facilitators (for each part): Frank Leto, Mary Margret Rostan, Stacy Richards, Mary Beth Clark

Publicity: Janice Bigelow, Carol Madle

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Betsy Noyce, *editor*
570-524-2104 / schecktr@bucknell.edu
Dawn Maneval, *designer*
570-523-7372 / dmaneval922@gmail.com

Key Contacts
Mary Zimmerman, *president*
570-205-1035, nvzimm@gmail.com
Marilyn Brill, *membership*
570-522-9254 / mfb@dejazzd.com
LWVLA: 570-524-4439

Website
lvwlewisburgarea.org

LWVLA Onsite Volunteers: Susan Warner Mills, Pat Longley, Sue Travis, Sheri Stayton, Liz Clement, Live Manner, Diane Gottlieb, Cindy Peltier, Marilyn Murphy, Marilyn Brill, Ann Schmidt, Mary Zimmerman, Ann Grundstrom, Barbara Baker, Mary Beth Clark, Teri MacBride, Linda Harris

Special Thanks to Lewisburg Area High School teacher Dakota Gessner, who promoted this event and provided students as ushers.

Our committee will meet after the New Year to decide future plans, because our original goals included sharing this educational experience with our neighboring counties, Snyder and Northumberland.

Happy Holidays to all.

Linda Harris, Voters Services chair

LWVLA BOOK CLUB

The League of Women Voters Book Club will meet on Tuesday, December 12th at 11am at the Public Library of Union County, in the large conference room. The book to be discussed is *Dreamland*, by Sam Quinones. The book is described as "the true tale of America's Opiate Epidemic." All are welcome. If you have any questions contact Mary Beth Clark at moffa5@comcast.net.

Mary Beth Clark, Book Club chair

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Annual Holiday Party

On December 3rd, 75+ members and friends enjoyed a wonderful dinner at the Buffalo Valley Common Room. Thanks to Marilyn Murphy and her "elves" the room looked like a festival banquet hall. The potluck supper

was spectacular given all the wonderful cooks in our organization. Our speaker was Jessica Paquin, Outreach Director for the Lewisburg Campus Theatre. She was very entertaining and informative about the theater, which is a magnificent resource for our region. Thanks to everyone who made this wonderful evening possible!

Welcome to New Members

Since our last issue of *League Line*, we have six new members:

- Jan Field*
jf5624@hotmail.com
- Richard Fogaley*
raf1950@hotmail.com
- Mary Howe*
mhzrygan@mac.com
- Bev Neidert*
bneidert@yahoo.com
- Becky Perez*
rm86089@gmail.com
- Diane Sprunt*
sprunt@dejazzd.com

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

Please note: There was a typo in last month's Membership Report. Jordi Comas' email should be: jordi@jordicomas.org

All in all, 26 new members have joined during 2017. Thanks to all of you who are sharing the League with your friends and inviting them to join us. It is working!

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
2018 (September 1, 2017 – August 31, 2018)

Membership dues: Individual \$50; Additional Household \$25 each; Student \$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