

# LEAGUE LINE

A Bulletin of The League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area  
Vol. 63, No. 4; Dec. 2018/Jan. 2019

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There is a Turkish curse: "May you live in interesting times". The League has had a very challenging election season. For a group which is non-partisan, it is sometimes surprisingly difficult to survive in a highly partisan environment. The League has had two complaints from the Democrats this election cycle. One involved our Candidates Night policy and the other *How to Run for Office*. Although all complaints are serious, the complaint which turned out to be most disruptive came from the Union County Republican Committee who challenged the long-standing policy of the Elections Office to have *Voters Guides* in the polling places and distributed to those polling places by the County. The decision of the Union County Commissioners, which was formally made at 2:40 the day before the election, was to prohibit the *Voters Guide* in the polling places.

Linda Harris and her Voters Services Committee had started planning in anticipation of that decision on Saturday prior to the election. In a magnificent effort 26 clear plastic boxes were obtained, signs were made; *Voters Guides* were collected from various sources and stocked in the boxes. Then all 26 had to be placed in front of the polls by 7:00am, checked regularly throughout the day, and collected after the polls closed. This required the largest manpower effort ever on the part of the League membership excepting the holding of the state convention in Lewisburg. That this providing of information to the voters was accomplished in a 72-hour period is extraordinary.

Often I use this space to thank various individuals or committees which have contributed to the work of the League. On this occasion Linda Harris and her committee deserve enormous credit, but so does the overall membership of the League. Every person who checked boxes, delivered guides, made phone calls, and otherwise participated in the effort to get the *Voters Guide* to the polls should be proud. It would have been easy to say it is too late and there is nothing we can do. Under Linda Harris' leadership we pulled together and every single member who participated in this effort is to be congratulated.

*Mary Zimmerman, President*

## IT TAKES A LEAGUE TO BUILD A WORKSHOP

One notebook, 2 moderators, 8 months, 10 committee members, 11 day-of-event workers, 16 panelists, 17 people registered—that mostly sums up what it takes to hold a *How to Run for Public Office* workshop. Held on Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the Union County Government Center in Lewisburg, panelists were Republicans and Democrats. They were from Snyder, Union, Northumberland, Centre, Perry, and Montour counties. They were males and females. They were from

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

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

**Monday, Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>, 4:00pm**

BOARD MEETING

*East Buffalo Township Building*

**Tuesday, Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>, 11:30am-1:00pm**

LUNCH FORUM

*Representative Fred Keller, Legislative Report*

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

federal, state, and local levels of government. We had long term public office holders, and people who participated in their first campaign.

Some of those who registered for the workshop will probably show up on a ballot in 2019. Others were there to figure out if they want to run and if so, how to get started. Three of the sessions were devoted to ideas and suggestions for getting started on a run for public office. One session, led by our Election Board officials from Union and Snyder counties, covered the legal procedures and requirements for candidates. A fifth session was on coalition building during which the registrants could talk with political party representatives. Attendees said in their evaluations that the workshop was useful, very well facilitated by the moderators, helpful, and that the food was excellent. It is our sincere hope that those who attended this workshop left with the knowledge and belief that they know what to do to start a campaign to run for public office.

At the pre-workshop session for women, panelists discussed the challenges and opportunities for women running for office. Things have not been easy for those women who were the first in their field. After our workshop we became aware of three women who were not able to attend. We were able to provide a link for them to an electronic copy of the notebook given to all who attended the workshop. The reach of our workshop has been extended beyond the actual event.

*Janice Bigelow, Committee chair*

## LWVLA STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

In mid-November, the Strategy Coordination Team met for the first time. The group includes: Mary Beth Clark, Paul Mauger, Mary Zimmerman, Sue Travis, and Becky Perez. Its role is to coordinate and monitor Board work necessary to our LWVLA strategy development. Be on the lookout for a separate email from our President about the LWVLA strategy development.

*Becky Perez, Board Member*

## JANUARY FORUM

State Representative Fred Keller will provide an overview of 2019 legislative priorities and re-cap 2018 legislative activities germane

to our region at the League's January Lunch Forum on Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Keller, a resident of Mifflinburg, has served the PA 85<sup>th</sup> District since 2011. Please note that this Forum will be held on the second Tuesday of the month, January 8<sup>th</sup>, to accommodate the PA General Assembly schedule. Lunch begins at 11:30am at a cost of \$13.00. Those with gluten allergies may order a special meal by contacting me at 570-523-0089 or by emailing me at [srichard@ptd.net](mailto:srichard@ptd.net). Our speaker begins at noon.

*Stacy Richards, Forum Committee chair*

## NOVEMBER FORUM

Take off your shoe and see where it is made. What do the tags on your clothes say about where they were made? Bucknell Professor of Economics Chris Magee, speaker at the November 20<sup>th</sup> League Forum, begins his classes addressing trade issues with these queries. Typically, 90% of the products come from outside the United States.

Importing goods is not all bad, offers Professor Magee. There are advantages to the consumer such as a wider variety of goods to select from and better quality; think Swiss watches. Blocking imports does not make us better as a country. It may help some manufacturers and save some jobs, but overall it hurts consumers, increases costs and causes jobs to be lost. The effect issue is total jobs, not types of jobs. Economists like free trade because goods should be produced by those best able to do so. This is why the U.S. Constitution prevents trade barriers between the states.

The reality is in the numbers. U.S. trade deficits are about \$750 billion, unemployment is 3.7%. Imports are not costing us jobs. Countries that have open trade tend to be richer.

Our current trading system was created in response to the Great Depression and tariffs of 50%. Other countries, in turn, retaliated against these tariffs. After World War II ended, GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) was adopted and 22 countries joined, agreeing to treat all trading partners equally. These efforts, continued through the World Trade Organization (WTO), reduced tariffs over time to approximately 3.5% in 2016.

The U.S. is moving away from the free-trade approach. President Trump is anti-globalization and his view is exports are good, imports are bad, which argues for trade barriers. Professor Magee says this view misses the point: we are not losing money but gaining needed goods. President Trump is putting up trade barriers with the goal to create more U.S. manufacturing jobs. During 2018, tariffs of 10% and 25% have been put on half of all imports from China. There have been new tariffs put on over 12% of imports this year alone; other countries have responded by slapping 8% of our exports with retaliatory tariffs. The looming threat

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by the U.S. is whether to put tariffs on auto imports.

Are we winning the trade war? Professor Magee says no one really wins. The U.S. causes more harm to other countries than to ourselves that is the only "win". For example, studies show if we put tariffs on auto imports, the net job gain will be small. However, we would be hurting other countries who are our allies like Japan, South Korea and Germany, and not our trade rivals like China.

The main concern expressed by Professor Magee is the rationale the administration is using for placing tariffs on aluminum, steel, solar panels and cars. It is the national security exception in the WTO agreement that allows member countries to block imports or impose tariffs if the action is essential to its security interest. The Trump administration is using it to get around the WTO free-trade rules. By invoking this exception, underlying trade deals are being rendered meaningless. Other nations are challenging the U.S. on the use of this exception at the WTO, but that dispute settlement process is also broken because the Trump administration is blocking the appointment of new judges to hear these disputes. These actions are placing the WTO in a precarious position. During questions, Professor Magee stated that China is also bending the rules of the WTO, particularly around trying to get technology and trade secrets from U.S. companies it is working with.

In closing, Professor Magee finds the present administration improperly blames trade for lost jobs. The reality is that more goods are being produced by the U.S. It is just taking fewer workers to do so due to advances in technology. We cannot and should not blame foreigners and trade for this reality.

Mary Beth Clark

### LWVLA BOOK CLUB

The League of Women Voters Book Club will meet on Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am at the Public Library of Union County.

The book to be discussed is: *Our Towns; A 100,000 Mile Journey into the Heart of America* by James and Deborah Fallows. The Book Club will continue on February 26<sup>th</sup> at 11 am, Public Library of Union County. The books are in keeping with the environmental theme of the February Forum: *Fishing Lessons: Artisanal Fisheries and the Future of Our Oceans*, (2018) by Kevin Bailey and *Susquehanna, River of Dreams*, (1995) by Susan Stranahan. All are welcome. If you have any questions contact Mary Beth Clark at [moffa5@comcast.net](mailto:moffa5@comcast.net).

Mary Beth Clark, Book Club chair

### VOTER SERVICES REPORT

#### Voter Services Committee

Our committee met on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. The agenda items included a possible debate for "Drive for Five" and "Keep it Three" (which did not occur), discussion of the CommUnity event at Bucknell University (where we offered voter registration to Bucknell students), and the possibility of town hall meetings and civics forums as part of our public education campaign. We welcomed Ruth McAllister as a new member of our committee who also volunteered to help out with *Facts for Voters*, along with Imanni Berg and Editor Jane Mitchell. We decided

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

to meet monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at my home. If you would like to attend, we are always looking for new membership.

#### Voters Guide

For the second year in a row, the *Voters Guide* was published, printed and distributed more than 10 days before Election Day! Congratulations go to our editor, Sheri Stayton, with the editorial assistance of Imanni Burg, Liz Clement, Carole Madle and Sue Travis, and with Dawn Maneval serving as designer. Thanks to Janice Bigelow for getting the VG posted on our website and on Facebook two weeks before Election Day.

We would like to express our gratitude to all the League members who distributed the *Voters Guide* to our delivery locations: Mary Zimmerman, Marilyn Brill, Susan Warner-Mills, Diane Meixell, Patty Johnston, Phyllis Dyer, Ann Grundstrom, Jan Field, Pam Mauger, Ann Longanbach, Priscilla Waggoner, Carol Crichley, Betsy Noyce, Susan Waggoner, Marion Brown, Kathleen Martin and Margaret Moyer. We can always use additional volunteers to help distribute the spring *Guide* in April 2019. If you can help, please contact Linda at 267-337-5986 or at [lsharris323@gmail.com](mailto:lsharris323@gmail.com).

Because of a formal complaint lodged by Union County Republican Party Chair Carolyn Conner, the Union County Commissioners decided that our *Voters Guide* could not be sent to polling places by the Union County Elections office. The Voters Services committee held an emergency meeting anticipating the decision rendered by the Commissioners, and we decided on (and then implemented) a strategy to deliver *Voters Guides* to every polling place in Union County, placed no closer than 10 feet from the entrance to each polling location. Thanks go to Susan Waggoner, Betsy Noyce, Becky Perez, Elaine

Hopkins, Imanni Burg, Ruth McAlister, Nancy Morgan, and Priscilla Stowe, who delivered the plastic boxes (each containing 10 *Voters Guides*) to all 26 polling places by 7am, who returned to the polling location within an hour to make sure that the *Voters Guides* were still there, and who ultimately retrieved the boxes and chairs, on which the boxes were placed, from every polling place at 8pm, when polls closed. Thanks as well go to Sylvia Gleason, Rebecca Foote, Barbara Baker, Lana Synder, Roberta Greene, Gale Duque, Jan Field, Lou Betz, Kathy Fornataro, Margaret Greaves, Carole Madle, Diane Gottlieb, Marge Duck, Diane Wilson, Paul Mauger, Nick Jacobson, Tom Bresenhan, Martha Donahue, Imanni Burg, Pat Longley, Susan Warner-Mills, Marilyn Brill, Priscilla Waggoner, Carole Madle, Ron Madle, Rebecca Foote, Diane Sprunt, Becky Perez, Barbara Kolmen, Cindy Nickelsen, and Margaret Greaves, who visited the various polling places throughout the day to check on the status of our *Voters Guides* and to make sure that enough copies were still available.

#### Facts for Voters

Our new editor is Jane Mitchell, and Dawn Maneval will continue as designer. Ruth McAlister and Imanni Burg will also act as editors. We wish Jane well as she begins her new duties. Happy Holidays to all!

Linda Harris, Voters Services chair

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

#### Year-End Cocktail Reception

On November 30<sup>th</sup>, about 60 members and friends enjoyed a wonderful evening at the Buffalo Valley Common Room. Thanks to Marilyn Murphy and her "elves" the room looked like a festival banquet hall. The food was delicious; our thanks to all of the wonderful cooks in our group! We honored two 50-year members, Judy Peeler and Betty Steffensen, and thanked them for their service and long-time support for the League.

#### 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**  
**2019 (September 1, 2018 – August 31, 2019)**

Membership dues: Individual \$55; Additional Household \$30 each; Student \$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