

LEAGUE LINE

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

Welcome to 2017! As usual, we have many projects on our LWVLA To Do List this spring. All seem to take on even more relevance in years following a presidential election. We are planning our usual voter registration activities, local primary-election Candidates Night (school board, local municipal and some county offices), and publication of 2017 *Facts for Voters* and Spring 2017 *Voters Guide*. We will continue to hold our monthly Lunch Forums, our Election Law Update Study will start holding meetings on Jan 18th, and our Mauch Millennial Project will focus this year on our high school and young adult initiatives. You can find more details about most of these in other reports elsewhere in this *League Line*.

In addition to these, our “bread and butter” League services to our community, we have been encouraged, as a follow-up to the fall presidential election, to provide some form of “civic education” program to the community. We have recruited several League members interested in spearheading this project. *The Daily Item* has also expressed an interest in collaborating with us and helping us provide the service to the broader region, beyond our official service area of Union County. In order to maximize success, I invite other members to help by serving on the organizing committee. If the recent election inspired in you a desire to serve the community and to create an opportunity for a higher level of civic participation among its members, perhaps this means you!

If you are interested in being part of this exciting new venture, please contact me (swm@dejazzd.com; 570-522- 9254) or LWVLA Voter Services Chair Linda Harris (lsb413@hotmail.com, 267-337- 5986). We look forward to having you join us!

Susan Warner-Mills, President

MAUCH MILLENNIAL PROJECT UPDATE

As many of you heard, if you attended our holiday dinner in December, our Mauch Millennial Project activities this past fall were resoundingly successful. Our two Bucknell Mauch Fellows presented a series of student forums. They have submitted their final report and presentation materials, to help guide Fellowship activities in future years. Our Bucknell Fellowship program will resume in the fall of 2018 with the next round of state and federal elections.

We are pleased to report that Kat Gardner will continue to serve as our committee's high school representative. As such, she will build on the school assembly she organized in the fall by helping committee members



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Please place the following events on your personal calendar.

Monday, Feb. 6th, 4:00pm
BOARD MEETING
Union County Library

Monday, Feb. 6th, 10:00am
ELECTION LAW STUDY UPDATE
Alternative Election Procedures
Red Cross Community Room
249 Farley Circle, Lewisburg
(See article on page 2.)

Wednesday, Feb. 8th, 10:00am
ELECTION LAW STUDY UPDATE
Concensus Meeting
Red Cross Community Room
249 Farley Circle, Lewisburg
(See article on page 2.)

Tuesday, Feb. 21st, 11:30am-1:00pm
FEBRUARY LUNCH FORUM
Carol Parenzan, Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper
La Primavera Restaurant (Lunch \$13)

Monday, Mar. 6th, 4:00pm
BOARD MEETING
Community Zone Conference Room

Tuesday, Mar. 21st, 11:30am-1:00pm
MARCH LUNCH FORUM
Cathy Moser, Acting Superintendent,
Lewisburg Area School District
La Primavera Restaurant (Lunch \$13)

develop and implement a series of possible spring projects. These may include a trip to Harrisburg, a mock election (in which students would duplicate the actual processes that occur in each precinct on election day), educational activities related to the upcoming school board election, a spring legislators' assembly, and even — in the longer-term future — a “civics summer camp” for high schoolers.

In addition, League member Natalie Sowers will be organizing a series of exciting activities for young adults living in our local communities. These include a series of networking events, a civic engagement fair and possibly an informational program about holding elected office.

I personally am gratified by the hard work and engagement demonstrated by the students and League members who have contributed so much to making the Mauch Millennial project so successful to this point. Together, we are taking concrete strides toward our goal of engaging young people in the civic life of our democracy.

Susan Warner-Mills, MMP Advisory Committee

FEBRUARY LUNCH FORUM

Our February forum will be held on Tuesday, February 21st, 2017 at 11:30, at La Primavera Restaurant. Our speaker will be Carol Parenzan, the Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper. The title of her talk will be “The Water Cost of Energy Use and Exportation.” 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.

Cindy Peltier, Forum Committee chair

JANUARY FORUM REPORT

Our January Forum speaker was Representative Fred Keller of the 85th District. Rep. Keller began by addressing the upcoming legislative “hot topics”, including the budget and the pension issues. He talked about the current budget and that through December, General Fund collections of \$13.45 billion are below the official estimate by \$367 million.

Rep. Keller talked about the pension deficit and the need for pension reform. The current pensions are projected to be underfunded by \$65-70 billion. He spoke of the possibility of establishing 401Ks for new hires. He stated that we must pay the bill for those who have been promised their pensions.

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He also talked about property tax but emphasized the need for a broader discussion, including looking at spending, before changes should occur. Some changes in school district funding have been implemented due to the work of the bipartisan commission on equalizing money for school districts.

During the question-and-answer period, Rep. Keller touched on many subjects. In response to a League question about environmental protection, he said that the federal government drives most of the regulations. When asked about voter access reform and redistricting, he highlighted the difference between the federal and state-level ways of going about it. When asked about the reduction in the size of the House, he said he continues to believe that it could be run more efficiently. When asked about a PA driver's license being used for ID when traveling, he said to board a flight, the current PA Driver's licenses can be used until January 22nd, 2018, assuming the federal government grants a one-year extension.

Committee assignments have not been announced, but Rep. Keller believes he will be continuing on the Appropriations and Labor and Industry Committees and hopes to serve on the Agriculture Committee. His priorities are pension reform and creating a budget that goes no further in debt. His office is paying close attention to the work of the municipalities and nonprofits in the 85th District in order to help them as much as possible.

When asked about term limits, Rep. Keller said that he personally will serve no more than 12 years and believes that there should be no pension for public officials. Meanwhile, he believes in listening to his constituents, doing the research, and voting accordingly.

Diane Meixell, Forum Committee

**LEAGUE LINE
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MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

2017 Membership Count

We reported to LWVUS that as of January 31st, 2017, we have 134 members, the largest total in our League's history. All in all, we have had 20 new members during 2016. In 2015, we added 22 new members to our membership list. 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!

Spring Dues Rate

Once again we will be 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 prorated dues of \$25.00 from February 1st, 2017 until May 31st, 2017! You will then be asked to pay full dues of \$50 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

LWVPA ELECTION LAW UPDATE STUDY COMMITTEE

Our League continues its study meetings during the month of February to review and update the Election Law positions of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania. The two meetings scheduled for January were on the topics of Voter Registration, Primary Elections, and Election Day Procedures.

The following two meetings remain:

Alternative Election Procedures:

February 6th, 10:00 am

It will be led by Tony Ludovico and John Peeler.

Consensus: February 8th, 10:00 am

Tony Ludovico will serve as the moderator of this meeting.

All meetings are held at the American Red Cross Community Room, 249 Farley Circle, Lewisburg, PA. Additional information about these meetings and a list of reading materials for each of the topics can be found at our website:

<http://lwvlewisburgarea.org>

Janice Bigelow, Consensus Study Committee

**LWVLA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL FORM
February 1, 2017 – May 30, 2017**

Mid-term membership dues: Individual \$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 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 and 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