

LEAGUE LINE

A Bulletin of The League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area
Vol. 61, No. 6; March 2017

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Please follow this link to see an exciting *Washington Post* article (Feb 9th) about the recent attention across the country to our very own League of Women Voters organization:

<http://wpo.st/MgSa2>

Here is a brief excerpt:

“The nearly 100-year-old organization — which began during women’s suffrage to give new female voters a way to organize around their new civic right — has seen a massive resurgence since the election....

Across the country, the League has added thousands to its membership and inspired individuals... to start new chapters in towns from Utah to Georgia to Pennsylvania.”

Why is this happening? As one League member explained in response to seeing this article on Facebook, “[The League creates opportunities for people] to come together to factually evaluate and reasonably consider issues that affect us as citizens living together in a community, no matter our personal political leanings. We are, after all, first and foremost, neighbors.” Put even more simply: This is the League; this is what we do.

As you can read in our Membership report later in this League Line, our own local League membership is also growing. We are thrilled to welcome so many new members. Our recent activities have clearly been of interest to many of them, as demonstrated through the record attendance at our series of Election Law Update study meetings (see report below). We have also received an enthusiastic response to our plans to provide a “civics education” program to the community. You can read about how these plans are taking shape in Voter Services Chair Linda Harris’ report, also later in this issue. However, it bears repeating here: 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, we need your help! We have four educational sessions planned and we need people to sign up to help plan each one. Please read Linda’s article and contact her at lsb413@hotmail.com or 267-337-5986 for more information.

Here is another way for members old and new to learn about the League and get a boost of enthusiasm about the critical role the League of Women Voters plays at every level of our democracy -- consider serving as a delegate of our local League to the State Convention of the League of Women Voters of PA, to be held June 1st-4th at the Inn at Pocono Manor. Take it from a seasoned League convention delegate: you will come away re-energized and reassured about how much we can accomplish together on behalf of our democracy. If you are interested, please contact me at swm@dejazzd.com or 570-522-9254 and I will be happy to provide further details.

Check out
our
new website
at:

<http://lwvlewisburgarea.org>

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Please place the following events on your personal calendar.

Monday, Mar. 6th, 4:00pm

BOARD MEETING

*Iron Front Works Conference room
(3rd Fl, Chamberlin Building,
434 Market St., Lewisburg)*

Tuesday, Mar. 21st, 11:30am-1:00pm

MARCH LUNCH FORUM

*Cathy Moser, Acting Superintendent,
Lewisburg Area School District
La Primavera Restaurant (Lunch \$13)*

Monday, Apr. 3rd, 4:00pm

BOARD MEETING

*Iron Front Works Conference room
(3rd Fl, Chamberlin Building,
434 Market St., Lewisburg)*

Tuesday, April 17th

*Last day to register or change
affiliation before the primary*

Tuesday, Apr. 18th, 11:30am-1:00pm

APRIL LUNCH FORUM

*Preston Boop, John Mathias,
John Showers
Union County Commissioners
La Primavera Restaurant (Lunch \$13)*

Wednesday, May 10th, 5:30pm

LWVLA ANNUAL MEETING &
DINNER

*Lewisburg Hotel
(see Membership Report)*

Tuesday May 16th, 7am to 8pm

MUNICIPAL PRIMARY

I have never been more enthusiastic or proud of being a member of this extraordinary organization!

Susan Warner-Mills, President

MAUCH MILLENNIAL PROJECT UPDATE

Planning for this spring’s Mauch Millennial Project activities is well underway. Our high school subcommittee has started to work with Lewisburg High School Social Studies teacher Dakota Gessner on nailing down logistical details for a day-trip to Harrisburg. They hope it will include:

- Attending a PA Legislative session
- Lunch in the Capitol Cafeteria
- Meetings with State Representative Fred Keller and State Senator Gene Yaw, with whom students hope to discuss one or more bills in front of the PA legislature this session

- Meeting with LWVPA staffers and lobbyists

League member Natalie Sowers has organized a series of exciting activities for young adults living in our local communities. They include several networking events, a civic engagement fair and possibly an informational program about holding elected office. The kick-off networking event is scheduled for late February; it has been planned in conjunction with the Susquehanna Valley Young Adult Professionals group. We will look forward to reporting on these activities in next month’s League Line!

Even though I get the benefit of reporting on the exciting work being accomplished for this project, the truth is that our committee members working on the high school and young adult initiatives are doing the real leg work. Please join me in appreciating: Janice Bigelow, Liz Clement, Kat Gardner, Roberta Greene, Linda Harris, Michael James, Natalie Sowers, Pat Longley and Mary Zimmerman for their phenomenal efforts on behalf of this project!

Susan Warner-Mills, MMP Advisory Committee

MARCH LUNCH FORUM

Our March forum will be held on Tuesday March 21st, 2017 at 11:30am at La Primavera Restaurant. Our speaker will be Acting Superintendent of the Lewisburg Area School District Cathy Moser. The title of her talk will be, “Development and Challenges in the LASD.” 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

FEBRUARY FORUM REPORT

Our February forum was filled with an abundance of information about “The Water Cost of Energy Use and Exportation.” While there is not enough space to give a full report with all of the details on this topic, here is some information that should be of interest to you.

WHO was the speaker? Carol Parenzan, the Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper and Executive Director of the Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper Association, Inc. The Association operates under the guidance of its mothership, the Waterkeeper Alliance, and is steered by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. Both the Association and the Alliance are 501(c)(3) organizations. The Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper and the Association work to enforce clean water laws for a swimmable, fishable, drinkable Susquehanna River.

WHAT can you do? You can make a difference by: decreasing your water footprint and lowering your energy use; holding your local, state, and federal elected officials accountable; supporting

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environmental organizations; and being a voice for the river. Use this link to read the LWV of PA position-statement on Natural Resources:

<https://www.palwv.org/natural-resources/>
Follow this link to access the Middle Susquehanna Riverkeeper's website, where you will find ideas on more ways to help:
www.middlesusquehannariverkeeper.org/

WHERE & WHEN can you hear more from Carol? (1) Saturday April 22nd, 8am-5pm is a day-long bus tour of covered bridges and wineries. Details and registration will be available soon at the Middle Susquehanna Waterkeepers website and Facebook Page:

<https://www.evensi.us/bridges-over-troubled-water-middle-susquehanna-riverkeeper/196429751>

and

<https://www.facebook.com/middlesusquehannariverkeeper/?fref=ts>

(2) Sunday, June 4th, 1pm-4pm at Hufnagle Park, Lewisburg: "Protect, Preserve, and Play". Additional information is available at the CommunityZone website:

<http://lewisburgcz.weebly.com/current-events.html>

WHY should we be concerned about the water cost of energy use and exportation? In Carol's words, "Pennsylvania exports power at the expense of the environment."
Janice Bigelow, Forum Committee

LWVPA ELECTION LAW UPDATE STUDY COMMITTEE

The Election Law Study and Update Committee held three information sessions and concluded with a consensus meeting on February 8th. Tony Ludovico, who chaired the committee, did an outstanding job of guiding the group through over fifty consensus questions, some of which were rather complicated. Between the leadership of Tony and Marilyn Brill who acted as the scribe, the final consensus meeting concluded in just over the allotted two-hour timeframe. Attendance at the information and consensus meetings ranged from 22 to 25, with no decline in attendance over time. Issues discussed ranged from different types of primaries to various alternative voting systems.

The Lewisburg consensus results will be sent to the state to be compiled with the consensus meeting results of other Leagues around the state. Thank you to everyone who engaged in or facilitated this important work/learning opportunity.

Mary Zimmerman, Consensus Study Committee

FINANCE DRIVE

Letters will be going out in March to members and friends of LWVLA requesting financial contributions. We appreciate the time and energy our members devote to the League—that is what makes us vital. The dues we pay in the fall go toward covering costs of membership in the state and national Leagues. This leaves us dependent on donations from members, friends, and businesses to fund our local efforts. Please consider supporting us in this way.

Carole Madle, Members & Friends Finance Drive chair

LEAGUE LINE MAR. 2017

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

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MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

New Members

Since the beginning of February five new members have joined:

Barbara Baker
barbarabaker@mac.com
570-412-1686

Diane Donato
dianees@windstream.com
570-523-6327

Ellen Klarsch
eklarsch@epix.net
570-524-5526

Nancy Morgan
nmorgancmiller@gmail.com
718-233-4292

Anne Schmid
anne.schmid@gmail.com
773-720-7998

Welcome to the League!!

Annual Meeting Announcement

Mark your calendars. Our 2017 Annual Meeting will be Wednesday, May 10th at the Lewisburg Hotel. Cost of the dinner is \$25. More information will be mailed to you this spring as we get ready for this important meeting. We will elect new officers and board members, adopt a budget and program, and honor members and community leaders. It is a fun, social evening so please plan to attend.

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 dues in September with the rest of our members.

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

Thanks to all of you for what you do to keep our local League strong and active in our community.

Marilyn Brill, Membership chair

VOTER SERVICES REPORT

Facts for Voters

Priscilla Stowe has been busily finishing up the *Facts for Voters*. By the time this article is published, *Facts for Voters* should be distributed. We delayed the final publication until the Lewisburg Council position was filled at the end of February. Dawn Maneval has done the design work for the *Facts for Voters*. Thanks, Priscilla and Dawn, for all your hard work. Thanks also go to the distribution team for all their efforts.

Voters Guide

Our new editors, Diane Gottlieb and Ruth Haines, under the tutelage of Sue Travis, are in the midst of collecting and organizing candidate information for the May 16th Municipal Primary Election. Look for the *Guide* by the end of April. Whether or not a Candidates Night will be held depends on whether we have any contested municipal or school board primary races. More definitive information will be forthcoming. Check our LWVLA web site.

Voter Registration Campaign

We will continue to offer 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 lsb413@hotmail.com with questions or for further information.

LWVLA Civics Education Project - A Project to Educate, Engage and Motivate Our Community Members

Cindy Peltier brought this idea to the Board, stating that people are wondering how they can get involved in and understand the political process. The Board has decided to undertake this challenge. *The Daily Item* will partner with us in this process of educating voters. If you are interested in being involved in the initiative, please contact me.

Linda Harris, Voters Service chair