

LEAGUE LINE

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

Does anyone else out there feel at sea in these strange times in our country? Citizens of all political persuasions are experiencing one of the most tumultuous, unorthodox, enigmatic presidential election seasons in living memory; a period in which accepted assumptions and norms are upended and cast aside. I listen to the news, but still often find myself more confused and unsettled than ever.

And in the process, issues, the reason so many of us join and volunteer with the League, are being left in the dust. Even more than in previous election cycles, the policy choices facing Americans today, though so much is at stake in their outcomes, are rarely raised, much less rationally discussed by voters, political pundits or the media as a basis for decisions about how to cast their ballots in November.

As I worry more than ever about the future of our democracy, I think about our League of Women Voters and about all our members across this country who are so committed to making our democracy work the way the Founders intended. Perhaps it is times like these when we are particularly reminded of our calling, when we realize the true value of our efforts to educate voters, and how critical it is that we persevere whatever the outcome of this historic election.

This is a moment in the history of our democracy to pause and take stock, and then to get back to work, harder than ever. Please join us: volunteer, contribute, participate!

Susan Warner-Mills, President

SEPTEMBER LUNCH FORUM

The September Forum will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 11:30 am at La Primavera. Scott Meinke, Associate Professor of Political Science at Bucknell University, where he has taught since 2002, will speak in response to the Atlantic article entitled, "How American Politics Went Insane". 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 email me at peltier@bucknell.edu.

Cindy Peltier, Forum Committee Chair

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK: Mauch Millennial Project Ready to Roll

Susan Warner-Mills, Chair of the Mauch Project Planning Committee—along with members Roberta Greene, Janice Bigelow, Liz Clement, Kat Gardner, Michael James, Linda Harris, Natalie Liston, Pat Longley and Mary Zimmerman—have been spearheading an effort to involve Union County young people, 16-35 years old, in the civic life of our democracy. Funding has been generously provided by League members James and

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Please place the following events on your personal calendar.

Monday, Sept. 12, 4:00 pm
BOARD MEETING
Union County Public Library

Saturday, Sept. 17
CONSTITUTION DAY

Tuesday, Sept. 20, 11:30 am-1:00 pm
SEPTEMBER LUNCH FORUM
Speaker: Scott Meinke, Prof. of Political Science, Bucknell Univ.
"How American Politics Went Insane"
La Primavera (Lunch \$13)

Tuesday, Sept. 27
NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

Tuesday, Oct. 11
LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE

Thursday, Oct. 13, 5:00-7:00 pm
MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL
389 Old Schoolhouse Rd., Lewisburg
(Marilyn Murphy's home)

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 11:30 am-1:00 pm
OCTOBER LUNCH FORUM
Speakers: Frank Leto, Publisher & Dennis Lyons, Editor, Daily Item
La Primavera (Lunch \$13)

Tuesday, Nov. 15, 11:30 am-1:00 pm
BILL Lunch and Learn Program
Speaker: Chris Ellis, Prof. of Political Science, Bucknell Univ.
NEW LOCATION: Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village, 6 Tressler Blvd
(Lunch \$6; reservations required for lunch, call 570-522-0105)

Friday, Dec. 2
HOLIDAY PARTY
Buffalo Valley Common Room

Rebecca Mauch. Initiatives include voter education, civil discourse on political issues, and engagement in the electoral, legislative and judicial process.

Mauch Fellows, Bucknell students Emily Cottle '17 and Brady Clapp '17, were selected in May. After summer planning, they are prepared to initiate four election related forums on the Bucknell campus. According to Fellow Emily Cottle, the first will be "an introduction to the political process and this election, in particular, while the next two will focus on topics students are interested in such as college debt." The fourth session will deal with "what happened, why it happened and important trends." Bucknell Political Science professor Chris Ellis will mentor the students and devise assessment tools. Discussion is expected to be civil; the explicit challenge will be to reach out to the less politically involved students to encourage discussion and involvement in the Presidential and down

ballot races.

Simultaneously, Kat Gardner, senior at Lewisburg Area High School, has been working to initiate a project at her school under the supervision of civics teacher Susan Rapp. Though details are yet to be determined, Kat is hoping the high school project will entail a forum with PA legislators Fred Keller and Gene Yaw, as well as a trip to the state capital, Harrisburg.

Kudos to all involved!

Pat Longley, MMP Advisory Committee

VOTER SERVICES REPORT

The Voter Services Committee met in August to plan this year's activities. Areas of discussion are noted below.

Candidates Night, Spring 2017

We hope Mary Zimmerman and Susan Warner-Mills will be creating this event, if there are contested races. No proxies for absent candidates are allowed, so if one candidate cannot attend then there will be no Candidates Night. Candidates Night occurs when there are Municipal elections.

Voters Guide

Sue Travis is editing the Fall *Guide* with additional editorial assistance of Marge Duck, Keay Hathaway and Carole Madle. Bridgette Thompson is serving as Designer. Ruth Haines and Diane Gottlieb are training to become editors of the *Guide* under Sue Travis's tutelage.

Voter Registration

The League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area says, "Make Democracy Work By Registering Now!" September 27 is National Voter Registration Day. We are working to find sites where we can register potential voters and offer training on using the computerized voting machines so people can feel more comfortable voting.

The 2016 presidential election is approaching soon, and the League of Women Voters urges would-be voters to register now to make sure they are effectively registered and ready to vote well before the upcoming registration deadline, October 11. In addition, the League and our committee are publicizing via <http://www.vote411.org> the new opportunity to register online. We are encouraging those who have a PennDOT driver's license or Pennsylvania Photo ID to register online at:

<http://www.register.votespa.com>

Those who don't have a driver's license or photo ID can go online to:

<http://www.register.votespa.com>

to print and fill out a form in order to register to vote. Clear instructions are provided. Those without access to the Internet may pick up a voter registration form at their county elections office or local post office.

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Here are a few crucial dates:

- **October 11:** the deadline for online or in-person registration for the fall election
- **October 5:** mailed-in forms must be postmarked
- **November 1:** the last day to apply for an Absentee Ballot
- **November 4:** the last day for the County Board of Elections to receive an Absentee Ballot
- **November 8:** Election Day!

Our committee is also planning a series of voter registration activities in preparation for the fall Presidential election. Look for more information in future issues of the League Line and in local newspapers. Voters can use our Web site:

<http://lewisburg.palwv.org>

to learn about candidates running for office and to make an informed choice in this fall's election.

Facts for Voters

Priscilla Stowe will again serve as Editor; Dawn Maneval will be the Designer.

I would like to extend hearty thanks to the extraordinarily skilled and committed members of our League's Voter Services Committee. I am particularly grateful for how they've welcomed me as their new Chairperson. I am inspired by their long history of commitment and their creativity in developing innovative ways to educate and engage our fellow Lewisburg area residents. We also extend our most sincere gratitude to the Union County Elections Office, whose

LEAGUE LINE SEPT. 2016

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enthusiastic support is essential to all of our voter service activities.

Linda Harris, Voters Services Chair

MEMBERSHIP

LWVLA Membership Renewal

2017 membership renewal letters were mailed at the end of August to all members. If you have not responded or have misplaced your form, please fill out the form below. LWVLA is vibrant in our community due to our members' support, which enables us to provide non-partisan forums and Voters Guides for the region. Your local membership also makes you part of the state and national organizations.

New Member

We were pleased to welcome a new member over the summer:

Natalie Liston
701 Moore Ave, C3974
Bucknell University
nrl1004@bucknell.edu

Natalie will be serving on the Mauch committee. She will provide logistical support to the Bucknell Mauch fellows and help engage young professionals in the political process.

New and Prospective Member Reception

A reception for current and prospective members will be held October 13 at Marilyn Murphy's home, 389 Old Schoolhouse Rd, Lewisburg, from 5 to 7 pm. There is limited parking so carpooling is encouraged. If you know any people who may be interested in membership in the League or in learning more about our organization, please invite them to attend. If you give me their contact information, I will send them an invitation to the event as well. Contact Marilyn Brill at 570-522- 9254 or email mfb@dejazzd.com.

Important Dates

Mark your calendars for the Holiday Party, December 2 at the Buffalo Valley Common Room and the Annual Meeting, May 10, 2017 at the Lewisburg Hotel.

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 September 1, 2016 – August 31, 2017

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 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

VOTE411.org

Launched by the League of Women Voters Education Fund (LWVEF) in October of 2006, **VOTE411.org** is a "one-stop-shop" for election related information. It provides nonpartisan information to the public with both general and state-specific information.

