

LEAGUE LINE

A Bulletin of The League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area

LEADERSHIP TEAM MESSAGE

Democracy Needs You: Get Involved!

As summer winds down, your League is working to ensure voters have the information, confidence and access they need to participate fully in the November 3rd election and beyond. Mauch Millennial Fellows and Interns are planning voter registration and mobilization efforts, while the Observer Corps is attending Election Board and Commissioner meetings to stay informed about election administration. Work on **VOTE411** and the *Voters Guide* is also ramping up.

On October 20th, Amy Widestrom, Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania, will join us to share what the League is doing to advance election integrity. Come learn more about the work of your League, the issues we're addressing and how you can get involved.

Will you help mobilize voters, protect elections and strengthen democracy in the critical months ahead? Have you contacted your legislators about the proposed SAVE Act and other pending legislation? There are many ways to learn, engage and make a difference. Tell us what interests you, and we'll connect you with a League project.

Teri MacBride for the Leadership Team

NOTICES TO MEMBERS

League Inventory

We are compiling an inventory of League property and archived materials currently held by League members. It includes items like scrapbooks, board orientation materials and notebooks, the podium, party supplies like tablecloths and glassware, **VOTE411** signs, etc.

If you are storing any League assets, we need to add them to our master list. So please email the details to

LWVLewisburgArea@gmail.com

To be clear, we're not seeking to collect them physically (unless you're actively downsizing). We're simply trying to determine what and where League property has gone through the years.

Thank you!

WHAT'S HAPPENING

The following events are current as of publication date, September 1st. Please check our website, LWVLewisburgArea.org, frequently for the most current updates.

Tuesday, September 15th, 10:00am

FORUM

*Excursion to Lycoming Resource Center
Email your interest to:*

LWVLAForum@gmail.com

Thursday, October 1st, 4:00pm

BOARD MEETING

*Mary Zimmerman's home,
Lewisburg*

Monday, October 19th

*LAST DAY to REGISTER to VOTE in the
GENERAL ELECTION*

Tuesday, October 20th, 4:00pm

FORUM

*Amy Widestrom LWVPA Executive Director:
"League Action on Election Integrity"
Public Library for Union County
255 Reitz Boulevard, Lewisburg*

Tuesday, October 27th

*LAST DAY to submit an APPLICATION
for a mail-in or absentee BALLOT!*

Tuesday, November 3rd

GENERAL ELECTION - Vote!

Thursday, November 12th, 4:00-6:00pm

*LWVLA MEMBERSHIP SOCIAL
Location to be decided*

Thursday, December 3rd, 4:00pm

FORUM

*Scott R. Meinke, Professor of Political
Science, Bucknell University:
"Looking Back and Looking Ahead:
Understanding the 2026 Midterm Election
and the New Congress"
Public Library for Union County
255 Reitz Boulevard, Lewisburg*

Volunteers Needed! - PLEASE READ THIS!

Over the last year, the projects that our League has continued to provide only exist because they are overseen by a League committee, headed by its own chairperson. A chairperson not only directs a committee, but also provides the committee's monthly status to the Board.

Our League is currently running with a bare minimum number of officers, directors, and committee chairs.

The Leadership Team is asking you, the membership, to please step up and help with the running of our League. We need members as Board members, as well as committee chairs of Voter Services, Nominating Committee, Book Club, and the LWVLA Facebook page. In addition, the Forum Committee really needs more members! Please look over the descriptions of these areas that our League needs (provided in more detail in the sections below).

These positions all come with the guarantee from the Leadership Team that no one is expected to volunteer for a task new to them without receiving help about how to do it. For most of these positions, members exist that have held these positions in the past and can help you. After all, all of us have the same goal: to have our League continue well into the future, providing interesting events both to membership and to the community. Your current Leadership Team cannot do it all, and we really need your help to accomplish these goals.

If you would like to volunteer for any of these positions, or if you have any questions about them, please send the Board an email at:

LWVLewisburgArea@gmail.com

Board Members

We need more Board members on the LWVLA Board! With the existing Board, we are holding together the basic events and projects of our League. With our new Membership Committee, the ability to provide membership events is becoming a reality. With more Board members, we can support more events and projects for you, our membership. It doesn't matter if you are new to this League, or if you have never been a Board member. We will all work together to provide our League with interesting events while still completing the tasks required for the League to function. Please come join us!

Voter Services

A Voter Services Chairperson is needed to steer the voter education of our League. Current efforts include the **VOTE411** database, and our semi-annual *Voters Guide*. We, as the Board, promise that you won't be dumped into the

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deep end with no lifevest. Both the current interim chair and the previous chair of Voter Services (VS) are willing to work with you to help you “learn the ropes”. In addition, both of the current VS efforts listed above are currently run by experienced members who can provide help. We are hoping that someone out there is interested in expanding our League’s work in voter education and the voting process!

Nominating Committee

The Board needs to find interested individuals to join the Nominating Committee, a group that helps find the officers and directors for our League. Each of these positions has a limited term and, at the end of the term, this committee is responsible for determining if the existing officeholder is willing to continue for another term or, if not, to find a new member to take over. Work on this committee starts in December, with the goal of presenting nominations for the officers and directors of our League offices to the Board early next year. If you are interested in talking to someone who has served on this important committee, send the Board an email at:

LWVLewisburgArea@gmail.com

LWVLA Facebook Page

Our LWVLA Facebook page (at [facebook.com/lwvla](https://www.facebook.com/lwvla)) is waking up, thanks to Carole Madle, who has agreed to post material sent to her. Material sent to Carole needs to be “ready to go”, with no additional formatting required. If you have something formatted for our Facebook page, send it to Carole at carolemadle66@gmail.com.

Sooooo, are you the creative type who likes to generate online content and/or graphics? We really need to add at least a member or two to help generate the content that Carole posts. It would be great if one person would be in charge of keeping this important source of information current, with the events of our local League, as well as the state, and national Leagues. Let us know if you want to unleash your creativity on the LWVLA Facebook page!

Book Club

Our wonderful Book Club chair, Mary Beth Clarke is no longer able to lead our League Book Club. Is there some member out there who is interested in finding books about government, democracy, voting, and other related topics to share with the avid readers in this club?

Forum Committee

Our Forum Committee is that wonderful group of people who find those interesting topics for us to hear, regularly from September to April. This committee would very much like to find new folks who can help continue these well-attended League events.

The Leadership Team

LEAGUE LINE

SEPT. 2026

League Line is published by the
**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE LEWISBURG AREA.**

It is typically published from
September to April, and available
by the first of the month.

Deadline for submission of articles is
the 15th of each month.

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OBSERVER CORPS

Meeting Report

Meeting: Union County Election Board

Date: July 7th, 2026

Observer Corps members in attendance:

Susan Mathias and Phyllis Dyer

Present were Board Chair Jeff Reber, Commissioner Stacy Richards, Commissioner Preston Boop and Laura Seward, Director of Elections.

Board Minutes

The Board approved the minutes of the meeting on June 2nd, 2026. Commissioner Stacy Richards voted in opposition to approving the minutes.

Important Election Dates in Union County

Director of Elections Laura Seward reviewed the three important dates for the upcoming General Election:

October 19th, 2026: Last day to register to vote in the Primary

October 27th, 2026: Last day to submit an application for a mail-in or absentee ballot

November 3rd, 2026: General Primary Election

Vote Cast Records

Commissioner Richards asked whether the county had received guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of State regarding Vote Cast Records (VCR). She noted that during a conference call with county commissioners from across the state, it had been stated that guidance had been distributed.

Chair Jeff Reber responded that, although he had discussed Vote Cast Records (VCR) with the Department of State, Union County had not yet received the guidance. He indicated that counties will not take any action regarding VCR until official guidance is issued.

Commissioner Richards then asked whether implementation of VCRs would require changes to election procedures or

modifications to the county’s contract with Unisyn, the county’s voting system vendor. Chair Reber replied that Unisyn does not provide services related to Vote Cast Records and therefore would not be involved in that aspect of the voting process.

SEPTEMBER FORUM EVENT

On Tuesday, September 15th at 10:00 am, the Forum Committee is sponsoring a tour and excursion to Lycoming County Resource Center. Participation is limited to 25. Advance registration is required, with first priority given to members. The tour will last 90 minutes and an optional lunch at a nearby restaurant will follow. Email your interest to

LWVLAForum@gmail.com

OCTOBER FORUM

On Tuesday, October 20th, the League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area Forum series welcomes LWVPA Executive Director, Amy Widstrom, at the Public Library for Union County, 255 Reitz Boulevard, Lewisburg. She will speak on *League Action on Election Integrity*. Doors will open at 3:30pm with the presentation beginning at 4:00pm. Come early or stay late for some social networking and time with Amy. As always, the meeting is open to League members and the public. All are welcome. There is no charge to attend this talk.

Other Forum topics, speakers and dates will be confirmed in the coming months. For more information, email:

LWVLAForum@gmail.com

Teri MacBride for the Forum Committee

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Social

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the LWVLA Fall Member Social on Thursday, November 12th, 2026, from 4:00-6:00 pm. The location will be announced soon.

Our guest speaker is Katharyn Nottis, Ph.D, retired Bucknell Professor, whose presentation is titled, “To Be a Citizen Is To Be a Voter; (Susan B. Anthony, 1873): The Final Push for Suffrage.” Dr. Nottis has multiple years of teaching experience and a wealth of knowledge in her field of education. She received the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching at Bucknell University, and in 2011, she became the first woman in the Education department at Bucknell to become a Full Professor.

So, please plan to join us for an afternoon of camaraderie and to learn more about what your local League is doing. Consider bringing a friend; we would be delighted to greet new members.

MaryAnn Griffin, Membership Committee

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Welcome, New Members

We've had the following new members join our League since the beginning of the summer.

Erin DeSantis

Sandra McMakin

Geri Neese

To these newest members of the LWVLA, welcome to our League. We hope you will join us on Thursday, November 12th, 2026, from 4:00-6:00 pm at our LWVLA Fall Member Social (see previous article for more information). We look forward to seeing you!

In Memoriam

We are sad to inform you of the passing of a long-time League Member, Chris Woodruff. Though not a member since 2023, we in the League will miss her. She quietly did so much. Her obituary in the newspaper asked people to send donations to LWVLA in lieu of flowers.

[Editor's note: Information below has been excerpted from the eulogy that Teri MacBride gave at Chris' funeral]

Celebrating community activism

"When I sat down to think about Chris, one description kept coming back to me. A mutual friend said she was warm, kind, funny, and never dull... Chris was never dull.

Chris was a treasured, active, and important member of our community for a good many years. She touched many organizations and many people, not because she wanted recognition, but because she cared deeply about building a vibrant community...

What I remember most is Chris's good humor. We had countless conversations about serious subjects—politics, community issues, the state of the world—but somehow Chris always found humor. She had a quick wit that could gently deflate superciliousness, or lighten a difficult moment. You simply enjoyed talking with her...

Chris cared deeply about equality and civic life. She was an ardent feminist, joining our local chapter of NOW alongside her good friend Margaret Moyer. For many years she was an active member of the League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area. League is where I first got to know Chris, and discovered she was a night owl and I am a morning bird. You see we shared a room at State Convention which made for interesting schedule accommodations. Chris served on the board, participated in the League Observer Corps during East Buffalo Township's discussions about merging with Lewisburg Borough and the creation of the Buffalo Valley Regional Police, and took part in League consensus studies, including a thoughtful examination of rural poverty here in Union County. Chris even marched through Lewisburg as a Suffragette during community parades. She believed

democracy required participation, and she quietly – and sometimes not so quietly – did her part...

When I think of Chris, I don't think first about the many organizations she served or the countless volunteer hours she gave. I think about how she made people feel. She made people feel welcomed, included, listened to, and happier for having spent time with her. Warm, kind, funny, and never dull."

*Teri MacBride and Dawn Maneval
for the Leadership Team*

MAUCH MILLENNIAL PROJECT

In case you missed it in your local newspaper or on our Facebook page, here is a copy of the July 15th news release that described our wonderful Mauch interns.

Lewisburg Area Students Inspire Their Peers to Vote Through League Internship

LEWISBURG, Pa. — Two Lewisburg Area High School students helped scores of their classmates become informed, engaged voters through an innovative civic education project sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area (LWVLA).

Katelyn Chen and Cecilia Cuñado-James served as 2025–26 student interns for the League's Mauch Millennial Project, an initiative designed to encourage civic participation among young voters.

During the fall semester, the interns developed and presented a program for every senior homeroom explaining how to register to vote, where to find reliable information about candidates and ballot issues, how to locate polling places, and why every election—from local offices to national races—matters.

Beyond the classroom presentations, Chen and Cuñado-James staffed voter registration tables near the school cafeteria, helping eligible students register to vote. They estimate that approximately 70 percent of eligible seniors registered during the fall campaign.

Working with school administrators, the interns also secured permission for registered seniors to leave campus during a free period to vote in the fall election. They estimate that about 40 percent of the students they registered took advantage of that opportunity to cast their ballots.

Their work continued into the spring, when they again organized voter registration tables and encouraged classmates to participate in Pennsylvania's primary election, emphasizing the important role primaries play in selecting candidates and shaping future elections. "I realized that many students wanted to vote but just didn't know where to start," said Katelyn Chen. "Once we explained the process and answered their questions, registering became much less intimidating. It was rewarding to help my classmates take that first step."

Cecilia Cuñado-James said the project showed how young people can make a difference in their own communities. "Voting is one of the most important ways we can have a voice. I hope our presentations helped students see that every election matters and that their vote really can make a difference."

League members praised the interns' leadership and commitment. "The maturity, leadership, and enthusiasm Katelyn and Cecilia brought to this project were truly inspiring," said Elaine Hopkins, chair of the League's Mauch Millennial Project committee. "Each year our student interns remind us that the future of our democracy is in good hands."

The Mauch Millennial Project is one of the League's ongoing efforts to educate and empower new voters by providing accurate, nonpartisan information and encouraging informed participation in the democratic process.



Lewisburg Area High School seniors Cecilia Cuñado-James (left) and Katelyn Chen (right) presented voter education programs to every senior homeroom and staffed voter registration tables that helped approximately 70 percent of eligible seniors register to vote.

[Editor's Note: Our thanks to both the Mauch Millennial Committee for their continued and excellent work on engaging young people in our voting process, and to Teri MacBride for her newly established publicity effort with Mark Giesen!]

LWVLA ANNUAL MEETING

The 2026 Annual Meeting of LWVLA was held on Tuesday, May 12th, from 5 to 7:30 pm at the Brasserie Louis Restaurant in Lewisburg. Jenni Steiler made introductory remarks on behalf of the Membership Committee and welcomed the membership to the Brasserie Louis.

The Annual Meeting of the Lewisburg Area League of Women Voters (LWVLA) was called to order by Teri MacBride of the

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Leadership Team, who read the Nonpartisan Statement of the League. Nancy Neuman, our guest speaker who marked her 60th anniversary as a member of LWVLA, gave a stimulating and moving speech about her history with the Lewisburg League and about her tenure as the President of the League of Women Voters of the United States. Teri MacBride briefly explained the leadership structure with only one designated officer, that of Treasurer. Hood Johnston presented the Treasurer's Annual Report with a brief explanation of the budget and a discussion of the change in the structure of the membership dues. The proposed 2026-27 budget was presented and approved.

The slate of nominees to serve on the new board was presented, with no nominations from the floor. The vote to elect the following individuals to serve on the 2026-2027 Board was accepted:

Treasurer – Hood Johnston
Directors – Keri Albright, Teri MacBride,
Dawn Maneval, Pat Marolo,
Jeff Scheckter, Mary Zimmerman

Also given out at the meeting were the League awards.

- Helen Nunn presented the Nancy Neuman award to Gibson O'Mealy from Lewisburg High School (Gibson has been heavily involved in an effort to further political activity among young people).
- Betsy Noyse made the presentation of the Jill Reynolds award to Linda Harris (for her years and years of service as the chair of the Voter Services committee).
- Elaine Hopkins presented the Judy Anderson award to Janice Butler (a social-justice advocate for many years, director of the Bucknell Women's Center and then the Office of Civic Engagement, currently a co-founder and head of the policy and advocacy committee or the SUN Immigrant Community Support, which provides advocacy and short-term assistance for immigrants).

Mary Zimmerman presented final thoughts from the Board in which she mentioned the need for a League of Women Voters at the current time, and pointed out that we are going to need the members to step up and help if the LWVLA is going to continue to exist.

Finally, we commemorated the members of LWVLA who we have lost in the past year:

Mary Ellen Culbertson
Diane Gotlieb
Joan Gover

Dawn Maneval for the Leadership Team

VOTER SERVICES

Upcoming Fall General Election

The Fall General election will be on November 3rd this year. The ballot for this election will contain:

- Offices at the state level:
 - Governor
 - Lt. Governor
 - State Representatives: Districts 76, 83, and 85
- Office at the federal level:
 - U.S. Congress: 15th District

Remember to check:

- Are you are registered to vote?
Deadline is October 19th!
- Have you applied to receive your absentee or mail-in ballot (if you want one)?
Deadline is October 27th!

VOTE411

Sheri Stayton is heading up the work on **VOTE411**. Candidates for offices in the upcoming primary have just about completed entering their information into the **VOTE411** system. **VOTE411** is already online with the candidate information received so far! This [YouTube video](#) describes **VOTE411**.

Voters Guide

Work on the *Voters Guide* for the upcoming Fall General Election on November 3rd is underway. Our *Voters Guide* team continues with Liz Clement, Carole Madle, Linda Harris, Dawn Maneval, led by our Editor Sheri Stayton. Candidate invitations went out August 13th, with a response deadline of end-of-day on September 3rd. Write-in candidates have until September 4th to let us know about their race. Our goal is to have this *Voters Guide* available for distribution by October 13th!

Anyone interested in joining our mighty Distribution Team to help get the Spring issue to sites throughout Union County, please contact lwvlewisburgarea@gmail.com.

Dawn Maneval, interim chair for the Voter Services Committee

ACTIONS AND ADVOCACY

Information from State & National Leagues

Are you getting news, notices and updates from the Pennsylvania and National Leagues? Information comes electronically these days. Gone are the days of *The National Voter* magazine that arrived by postal mail.

I think you'll be impressed, like I was, when you visit the state and national websites. Check out these sites to learn what's happening at the state and local levels:

- State League website: palwv.org
- National League website: lwv.org
Follow our national League (LWVUS) on social media: Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube, and TikTok.

For a more detailed understanding of what it means to be a member of the League, you can review our Member Rights and Responsibilities Policy.

As a LWV member, you can expect to receive monthly highlights emails, legislative action alerts, and other occasional announcements, in addition to membership renewal reminders. If you need help signing up for these notices, email LWVLewisburgArea@gmail.com. We're here to help!

League in Action

Join [League in Action](#) and share these action alerts with your network. **League in Action** is a digital platform where anyone who believes in our mission can directly connect and take action on issues impacting their communities.

VOTE411.org

Check out VOTE411.org, our "one-stop shop" election information website.

*Teri MacBride and Dawn Maneval
for the Leadership Team*

POSSIBLE FOCUS AREAS FOR STUDY

Would you be interested in forming groups to study aspects of voting and elections? The League, at both National (LWVUS) and State (LWVPA) levels, provides suggested topics for study, as well as recommended materials to include as part of such a study.

LWVUS

- [Expanding Voter Access](#) - "to increase voters' access to the polls, including expanding early voting and automatic and online voter registration"
- [Money in Politics](#) - "to ensure that our government serves the people, not wealthy special interests"
- [Educating Voters](#) - "to educate voters about candidates in thousands of federal, state, and local races" with events and programs.

LWVPA

LWVPA lists the following issues as "on our radar" (<https://www.palwv.org/policy>):

- [Government Policy](#) - including Apportionment and Redistricting, Election Laws, and Judiciary
- [Environmental Policy](#) - including Natural Gas Extraction, Water Resources, and Land Use
- [Social Policy](#) - including Equal Rights Amendment, Criminal Justice, Family Issues & Laws

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Understand the process!

Gain confidence in your vote by understanding the process: from election rules to ballot counting, knowledge empowers your voice at the polls.

NationalVoterEducationWeek.org

NATIONAL VOTER EDUCATION WEEK (NVEW) *

OCTOBER 5 – 9, 2026

National Voter Education Week is a week-long nonpartisan voter education campaign. During this week of interactive education, voters have the opportunity to find their polling location, understand their ballot, make a plan to vote, and inspire others to get involved. This is the perfect week to share **VOTE411.org** with your community. **VOTE411** has everything voters need to plan their vote, from election dates to ballot information to a polling place location and more.

Engaging in the Holiday

What can Leagues do to engage in this civic holiday? Here are some options:

- Share our social media graphics to celebrate.
- Add it to your website and League in Action with a link to **VOTE411.org**.
- Write a letter to the editor about how your community can make their voting plan.

Events and Activities:

- Table at a community event.
- Host an educational event! You can educate your community on mis/disinformation, voting rights, or partnering with your local election officials to bring in voting machines.
- Host a candidate or ballot measure forum.
- Host a trivia night at your local community center or brewery with topics related to elections and civics. Hand out voting information to attendees.
- Partnering with a high school or community college on an event or table to reach student voters.
- Highlight community members and why they vote on your social media.
- Host a Civics 101 presentation.

Check out [these resources](#) from National Voter Education Week.

*This material sourced from [this link on the LWVUS website](#).

LWVLA

What does it mean for our League to be nonpartisan? How can our League usefully incorporate the LWV definition of “nonpartisan” into our projects, to make the work we do more relevant to more members of these communities?

Interested?

The only thing we need to start studying one or more of these topics is you! If you are interested in joining a group of folks to learn more about any of these, just let us know at LWVLewisburgArea@gmail.com.

Dawn Maneval for the Leadership Team

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The Leadership Team would like to hear from more of you about how you think our local League can be revitalized! As cited in the national League of Women Voters’s website, the purpose of a League is to provide its members and community with ways:

“to protect and expand voting rights and ensure everyone is represented in our democracy. We empower voters and defend democracy through advocacy, education, and litigation, at the local, state, and national levels.” (lww.org)

What interests you about the League of Women Voters? To us on the Leadership Team, it is important to find projects and activities that are both interesting to the membership and feasible to get done (with the resources we have available). We would be very interested in hearing from you about what is important to you about your League. For example:

- What services or activities that this League has been providing do you feel are important to continue, or to discontinue?
- What services or activities do you think this League could provide that we currently do not?
- What in particular would you like to work on to support the role of our League in the community?

To send us your feedback, send us an email at: LWVLewisburgArea@gmail.com

The Leadership Team