

LEAGUE LINE

A Bulletin of The League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area
Vol. 65, No. 2; October 2020

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people and the only way they could do this is by not voting. -- Franklin D. Roosevelt

How true!! Actually, voting used to be fairly easy. All you had to do was decide who/what you wished to vote for and then head off to the polls on election day to cast your ballot. You even could make it a social event by seeing friends and neighbors and catching up on the news/gossip of the day. Yet, as easy and pleasant as that could be, there were still those among us who didn't feel the need to exercise that very important right.

As the election draws nearer, we find that this year, voting has become a bit more complicated. This time you have options. You may choose to mail in your ballot, or go to the polls on election day and cast your vote in the traditional method. That seems simple until you factor in a very dangerous and unseen enemy, the COVID-19 virus. You must now think carefully about the safety of each of these options. If you follow the science, mail-in voting is the safest. Masks are not required and social distancing is a snap.

The most important thing about mail-in voting are the deadlines. The deadline for applying for your mail-in ballot is October 27th. Please bear in mind that this is only 7 days prior to the election. Your application will need to be processed and a ballot sent to you. You must then complete that ballot and it must physically arrive at the Election Office by 8:00pm. This is a terribly tight timeframe!!

Our advice is to apply for your mail-in ballot NOW! As soon as the ballot arrives (they have not yet been released), fill it out and send it in the enclosed self-address stamped envelope as soon as possible!! This gives plenty of time for processing and assures your vote is counted.

The second option for voting is the traditional in-person method. Again, we are encouraging you do this as safely as possible. By now it is a familiar strain; wear masks, social distance, increase hand hygiene, and go to the polls during low volume periods.

As always, the LWVLA wants you and everyone, to vote. To be redundant: please vote promptly and by all means, please vote safely.

People fought for our right to do this; let's not disappoint them!

Kandy Duncan, President



WHAT'S HAPPENING

Please place the following events on your personal calendar.

Monday October 5th, 3:00pm

BOARD MEETING

Via Zoom, video conferencing tool

Monday October 19th

Last day to register before November Election

Tuesday, October 15th, 12:00-1:00pm

FORUM

Dr. Jessica Defenderfer, Assoc. Professor of Political Science, Bloomsburg University
"The Politics of Political Polarization: How Did We Get Here?"

Via Zoom opening at 11:30am

Please see Forum article about registering for the meeting

Tuesday October 27

Last day to submit **completed application** for mail-in or absentee ballot

Monday, November 2nd, 3:00pm

BOARD MEETING

Via Zoom, video conferencing tool

Tuesday November 3rd

GENERAL ELECTION

Tuesday, November 17, 12:00-1:00pm

FORUM

Dr. Amy Wolaver, Assoc. Professor of Economics, Bucknell University
"COVID-19 and US Public Health and Governmental Response"

Via Zoom opening at 11:30am

Please see Forum article about registering for the meeting

LWVLA PARTNERS WITH WVIA



Are you a public media fan? If so, you've likely seen or heard our efforts to empower voters during this important election season. WVIA Channel 44 is

broadcasting LWVLA video clips and showing logo tags on their website. Have you heard the WVIA radio spots on their local WBVU station in the eastern part of Union County at 90.5 FM radio? Our messages are about making a plan to vote and directing listeners to our fabulously informative LWVLewisburgArea.org website. And there's more. Subscribers of WVIA V-Notes weekly e-newsletter are reading about us. Lastly, check out LWVLA's underwriting of the 4-part "The American Experience" show "The Vote" here:

www.wvia.org/tv/the-vote

And don't forget to watch the show, it's terrific!

Teri MacBride for the Board

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC INTEREST

PUBLIC FORUM



Buffalo Regional Police Commission
6:00-7:30pm Wednesday, October 7th

Online via Zoom. Register at:
forms.gle/JeaG64c1SSB6bcw8

to join an online presentation by Chief Paul Yost, and learn about police policies and practices in Lewisburg. Question and answer period and small group discussion will follow.

There is a Facebook event at:

www.facebook.com/events/353384485803984

SEPTEMBER FORUM

Dr. Scott Meinke gave the September 15th Forum, on assorted electoral reforms in theory and practice. His thesis was that electoral reforms often have unintended consequences hence do not necessarily improve the democratic process. Among the reforms he discussed were: early voting, campaign financing, redistricting, and term limits. Interestingly among all those reforms Dr. Meinke stated that political scientists unanimously oppose term limits reform. For the others, he discussed several pros and cons.

The presentation was followed by a first for our local League: a Zoom discussion of the issues raised in the forum talk. Two break-out rooms met for thirty minutes in lively discussion of the unintended consequences of electoral reform. In one of the groups we were fortunate to have a former mayor of Bloomsburg who was able to discuss, based on her experience, the likely implications of term limits. The League will continue to experiment with break out rooms this fall, so plan to join us to discuss polarization in October and the pandemic in November.

Mary Zimmerman & Pat Longley, Forum Committee

OCTOBER FORUM

The October Forum will be presented by Dr. Jessica Defenderfer, Bloomsburg University Associate Political Science Professor who has a special interest in gender politics. She will be speaking at noon, October 20th, on "The Politics of Political Polarization: How Did We Get Here?"

PLEASE NOTE: *All Forums until at least January will be held via Zoom, and will require registration. You will be asked to fill out a form with your email address and the name of the device under which you will be logging in to the Forum. An email will be sent out with registration information.*

Dr. Defenderfer will be providing several readings for those who are interested in staying after the speech for further discussion on the topic.

Mary Zimmerman, Forum Committee

MAUCH MILLENNIAL PROJECT

Cosponsored by the LWVLA and the Bucknell University Political Science Department, Mauch Fellowships are typically awarded to two Bucknell students in election years. The students are charged with holding forums for their fellow students on issues relating to that year’s election.

Last spring, the subcommittee was so impressed with the quality of the applicants that we selected three winners: Jerra Holdip ’23, Annie Maley ’21, and Maya McKeever ’21. When they began planning for the fall forums, they didn’t know whether in-person meetings would be feasible or not, but the students’ creativity and flexibility paid off.

The first forum took place on September 15th via Zoom. The topic was “The Impact of Covid-19 on the 2020 Election and Mail-in Voting.” The Fellows’ list of discussion questions for the group, included:

- To what extent will Covid-19 influence voter preferences this election?
- Will incumbency have a stronger or weaker effect this year because of the current global uncertainty?
- How do you think mail-in voting will impact voter turnout?

The PowerPoint presentation included information on how to register in PA, how to request an absentee ballot, and a list of polling sites in Union County, as well as information about how to register and vote in a student’s hometown. Jerra reports that the conversation among the approximately 20 students who attended was especially lively around the topic of voting accessibility and the ways in which some groups have easier access to voting than others.

For more information about the Bucknell Mauch Fellowships or about the Mauch Millennial Project more broadly, please visit our web page at:
LWVLewisburgArea.org/mauch-millennial-project

Elaine Hopkins for the Mauch Millennial Project

VOTER SERVICES REPORT

Get Out the Vote project

ATTENTION!! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
Please help us Get Out the Vote!

- Publicize our efforts by sharing our

LEAGUE LINE
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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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Facebook Page

facebook.com/lwvla

Website

LWVLewisburgArea.org

- Facebook information.
- Encourage your friends to visit our website for voting information at:
LWVLewisburgArea.org
- Put up a VOTE411 sign in your yard. Please contact Linda Harris if you need a sign.
- Help us with our post card campaign!
We will be sending postcards to 1,000 newly registered Union County voters to explain how to apply for mail-in ballots, how to find out information about candidates running for office (using our *Voters Guide*, and the websites VotesPA.com and Vote411.org), and how to submit those ballots in advance of the relevant deadlines when complete. We need volunteers to put address labels and stamps on the postcards and mail them.

If interested in helping, please contact me at Lsharris323@gmail.com, or call me at 267-337-5986.

Voters Guide and Vote411

Sheri Stayton, Liz Clement, Carole Madle, Jane Mitchell, and Dawn Maneval are working on our Fall 2020 *Voters Guide*. Sheri and Liz are also helping with Pennsylvania’s part of Vote411.org (the National League Website), diligently urging candidates to review and update their information. **Vote411** is available NOW. It provides candidates’ information and their responses to questions, it allows you to create your own customized, completed ballot, and it provides links to websites where you can review your voter registration, apply for a mail-

in ballot, and track your application and ballot.

LWVLA’s *Voters Guide* will remain as an online and printable document on our website for the November 2020 General Election. You can now access it from the [Voter Resources](#) page of our website: look under the Voters Guide heading.

Should readers not be able access the *Voters Guide* online, call us at 570-524-4439, and we will get a printed copy to you.

Candidates Night

Our League will **not** be presenting Candidates Nights for this November election. We hold non-partisan Candidates Nights for contested races, allowing both candidates for the particular race to attend and to answer questions from community members in attendance. We have contacted those running for office to respond to questions for our *Voters Guide* and for **Vote411**, but we received responses only from one of our three current incumbents. Without cooperation from all candidates running for office, we cannot successfully schedule a Candidates Night. Our League hopes to present Candidate Nights in the Spring with all contested races. We as a League are committed to educating our community in a non-partisan way through our publications, candidate events, and cooperative participation with other organizations to sponsor voter events.

Linda Harris, *Voter Services chair*

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

New Way to Contact New Members

Kate Sheaffer and Diane Donato have been hard at work developing a Mailchimp communication that will go out to any individuals who express interest regarding possible membership to the League. We had several non-member registrants at the recent Forum who asked for information. This will give us a tool to reach out to inquiries received by word of mouth, the website or other means.

Member Renewal

The membership renewal campaign is in full swing. To date we have had 62 members renew. If you have not already done so, please get your renewal in.

Membership Team

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS*
OF THE LEWISBURG AREA
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL
September 2020 — August 31, 2021

Mid-term membership dues: Individual, \$55; Additional household members, \$25 each. Under 35, \$35; Student, \$10. 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 the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE LEWISBURG AREA.
Name/s _____
Address _____
Phone (cell, work or home) _____ Email _____
I/We have interest 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 570-522-4439 or email lwvlewisburg@gmail.com. Thank you!