

LEAGUE LINE

A Bulletin of The League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

This year it's different!

Maybe it feels different because this election is one of the most contentious elections in recent memory.

This year it's different!

It is different due to the global pandemic we are facing and learning to navigate safely in a world probably forever changed. Even with the virus raging, people are standing in lines that reach around city blocks all over the nation to drop off their ballots to be sure that they are counted.

This year it's different!

It seems like there is more at stake while we not only battle a pandemic, but deal with other multiple crises such as global warming, extreme weather patterns, and racial unrest.

This year it's different!

The political mail is almost unmanageable. I'm a registered Independent so I'm used to being barraged prior to the Presidential elections but I've never gotten this much! Additionally, the TV ads are more prevalent and are certainly nastier!

I've voted in every Presidential election since I was old enough to vote, which at the time was 21. In every one of those elections voting was special to me. It always felt good to "do my duty as a citizen." This year I was very anxious to receive my ballot. When it finally arrived, I opened it immediately and sat down to fill it out. I read the instructions carefully in spite of the fact that I have been talking for weeks about how to vote so the ballot does not get rejected. I checked twice to be sure that I had the correct candidates. I filled in the bubbles with a blue pen then decided that the ink was too blue so went to find a black pen. I marked over the blue ink, taking care that every spot within that bubble was filled. I then carefully placed the ballot into the secrecy envelope and sealed it. I checked the seal twice! I put the secrecy envelope in the mailing envelope. I filled in the required information on the outside of the mailing envelope being especially careful that my signature was legible. None of these things were particularly difficult for me but all of them were essential to ease my mind that my vote was counted, my voice was heard.

A friend told me the other day, "Democracy requires participation." Voting is one of the ways to participate. It is, however, not the end of the process; it is the beginning! I hope everyone's voting experience, whichever method you choose, is as satisfying as mine because, *this year is different!!*

Kandy Duncan, President

LWVLA PARTNERS WITH WVIA



Did you see the TV spots? FM Radio spots for listeners of WVIA's Bucknell translator continue to run and highlight our League. We hope you and

WHAT'S HAPPENING

The following events are current as of publication date, November 1st. Coronavirus containment measures may cause delays or cancellations. Please check our website, LWVLewisburgArea.org, frequently for the most current updates.

Monday, November 2nd, 3:00pm

BOARD MEETING

Via Zoom, video conferencing tool

Tuesday November 3rd

GENERAL ELECTION

Tuesday, November 17th, 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

Monday, December 7th, 3:00pm

BOARD MEETING

Via Zoom, video conferencing tool

Tuesday, December 8th, 10:00am

LWVLA Book Club

Via Zoom, video conferencing tool

Wednesday, December 15th, 5:00-6:00pm

SAVE THE DATE

EVENING SOCIAL FORUM

Nancy Neuman, speaking on "The Fight to Ratify the ERA"

Via Zoom, video conferencing tool

others have enjoyed hearing this message: *Support comes from the League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area, celebrating our right to vote, and encouraging everyone to a make plan for this election. More information at LWVLewisburgArea.org.*

Post-election messages will be emailed by WVIA to more than 600 Union County station supporters in three messages. The messages will focus on the calming theme, "What does it take to be a good citizen in a democratic society?" Stay tuned!

Teri MacBride for the Board

BOOK CLUB

The LWVLA December Book Club meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 8th, at 10:00am via Zoom. We will read *How Democracies Die* by Steven Levitsky and Daniel Ziblatt. Nationally, this book is a selection in many other LWV Book Clubs, and follows along with our October Forum theme of political polarization in the U.S. and how extreme polarization can kill democracies. Please contact me if you would like to join the discussion, at moffa5@comcast.net. A Zoom link will be sent out closer to the date.

Mary Beth Clark

OCTOBER FORUM



Dr. Jessica Defenderfer, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Bloomsburg University, spoke at the October Forum on the subject of U.S. political polarization. She presented a number of graphs showing how polarization has increased with every four-year election cycle in the United States since 1974 and has become an increasingly more divisive force in American political life.

Mary Zimmerman, Forum Committee

NOVEMBER FORUM

PLEASE NOTE: *All Forums until at least January will be held via Zoom, and will require registration.*

The November Forum will be held virtually at 12:00pm on November 17th, 2020. Amy Wolaver, Associate Professor of Economics at Bucknell, will be speaking on "US Public Health and Government Response" from noon to 1 pm. The Zoom Meeting Room will open at 11:30am. An optional 30-minute participant discussion session will immediately follow. All participants must register in advance.

Instructions and unique links will be sent to registrants. To initiate registration, click on the link from the email you will receive announcing the November forum, or send an email to LWVLAForum@gmail.com. The registration deadline is November 15th.

Mary Zimmerman, Forum Committee

DECEMBER SOCIAL FORUM

A celebratory evening forum will be held Tuesday December 15th from 5:00-6:00 pm. We will hear from our own, well-known Nancy Neuman, local leader, and former national president of the League of Women Voters from 1986-1990. Nancy will speak about her personal experience on "The Fight to Ratify the ERA", as we celebrate the end of the Centennial year of the founding of the LWV and ratification of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution, winning women's right to vote.

The meeting is open to members, prospective members, and recent attendees of other fall Forums. The Zoom Meeting Room will open at 4:40pm. There will be breakout conversations as well as general discussion.

All participants must register in advance. To register, send an email to:

LWVLAForum@gmail.com

Registration deadline is Sunday, December 13th. Instructions and unique links will be sent to registrants.

MAUCH MILLENNIAL PROJECT

The Mauch Millennial Project's high school intern for this year, Paige Kaszuba, carried out a voter registration drive at the Lewisburg Area High School on October 19th. She consulted with several members of the committee, but due to Covid-19 restrictions we were not allowed to be on-site, so one of the social studies teachers stepped in to assist. In addition to helping students register, Paige showed the students how to:

- Find out exactly what would be on their ballot using Vote411.org.
- Use the Union County voting machines at www.votespa.com/readytovote/Pages/Union-County-Voting-System.aspx
- Apply for and send in a mail-in ballot.

The Bucknell Mauch Fellows have also been busy. They held their second forum on October 13th via Zoom. The topic covered the overall impact of the Supreme Court vacancy, the nomination of Amy Coney Barrett, and how this decision might influence the upcoming election. There were approximately 20 attendees, and the Fellows were pleased that there was a greater diversity of voices and that everyone felt comfortable enough to share their views. The committee is very impressed that Paige, Jerra, Annie, and Maya have devised creative ways to work within the restrictions imposed by Covid-19 to continue the work of educating young people about the importance of civic engagement. Brava!

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

To all our volunteers who have helped get out the vote(GOTV), WE THANK YOU! Many of our members not only work on League projects but also lend their talents to other organizations' GOTV events, such as phone or text banking, writing, and mailing postcards and letters. We applaud their efforts.

LEAGUE LINE NOV. 2020

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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Our work isn't done; we can still contact our friends and neighbors, use social media or any means to encourage people to exercise the right to VOTE. Please help us get out the vote:

- Publicize our efforts by sharing our 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.

In other news, the following volunteers sent over 1000 post cards to newly registered Union County voters: Betsy Noyce, Ann Longanbach, Janice Butler, Margaret Greaves, Priscilla Waggoner, Ann Grundstrum, Quica Ostrander, Jeff Scheckter, Liz Clement, and Joan Gover. The postcards explained how to apply for mail-in ballots, find out information about candidates running for office using our *Voters Guide*, VotesPA.com and Vote411, and how to submit completed ballots in advance of the relevant deadlines.

Fall Voters Guide

Editor Sheri Stayton with her staff, Liz Clement, Carole Madle, Jane Mitchell, and Dawn Maneval, completed the Fall 2020 *Voters Guide*. LWVLA's *Voters Guide* will remain as an online and printable document on our website for the November 3rd 2020 General Election. You can access it from the [Voter Resources](#) page of our website:

- Find the **Voters Guide** heading on this webpage.
- Under this heading, click the large red button that says: **VOTERS GUIDE FOR NOVEMBER 2020 GENERAL ELECTION**

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.

Vote411

Sheri Stayton completed the work on Pennsylvania's part of Vote411.org, the National League website, and it is available now. It provides candidates' information, their responses to questions, and allows you to create your own customized, completed ballot. It also provides links to websites where you can review your voter registration, apply for a mail-in ballot, and track your application and ballot.

Helping Voter Registration of Students

LWVLA was asked to be a resource with Bucknell University's Bison Votes events. We trained student voting ambassadors to register students. Then at a seminar with Dr. Fourshey who spoke on the history of today's protests' reach in securing your right to vote, our members Liz Clement and Sheri Stayton facilitated break out rooms on voter education and answered questions about the ballot. At the third event, planned for Bucknell Resident Assistants, Linda Harris talked about registration, voting options, and where to obtain candidates' information, using the LWVLA *Voters Guide* and national information for out-of-state students using **Vote411**.

Linda Harris, Voter Services chair

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Member Renewal

We extend a warm welcome new member, Sally Kobus!

The membership renewal campaign is in full swing. To date we have had 109 members either renew or join. Last year we had a total of 157 active members. Our typical renewal time runs until January, 2021, and we do accept new members throughout the year.

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!