

LEAGUE LINE

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT

According to Merriam-Webster, reflection is defined as “serious thought or consideration.” Reflection to me has always been the act of “looking back.” Since this is the last *League Line* of 2021, I’ve been reflecting on this past year, and what a year it has been! We started this year in the grips of COVID-19 with no vaccine available. In the beginning days, we witnessed the worst insurrection our country has seen for centuries. The country remains divided and paralyzed at times by a great partisan breach. I could go on to mention continued violence and climate change among a few other divisive issues, but I won’t.

I’ve been reflecting on all the issues facing us and contemplating what we can do as individuals to help turn this seemingly insurmountable tide. I am comforted in the knowledge of how many really good people there are who are working every day to make a difference. These people in their daily acts of kindness and fierce passion for doing the right thing will eventually prevail.

The League is much like that, its work continuing regardless of opposition at times. We pushed through a pandemic and continued the work toward our mission without skipping a beat. What is comforting to know is that we will continue to do this!

As we reflect on the coming year, I feel that if we could handle this last 18 months, we can handle anything, so bring it on 2022!!

Kandy Duncan, President

JANUARY FORUM

PLEASE NOTE: All Forums until further notice will be held via Zoom, and will require registration.

On Tuesday, January 18th from noon to 1:00p.m., the League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area’s Educational Forum Committee presents a virtual talk entitled “Addressing Mental Health in the Federal Prison System, A USP Case Study” by Dr. Sarah Lada. The author will be the presenter.

All participants must preregister. The Zoom room opens at 11:30a.m. Immediately after the presentation, participants may join an optional small-group discussion.

To register for the January Forum, send an email with your name to:

LWVLAForum@gmail.com

The registration deadline is Sunday, January 16th. A unique Zoom meeting link, and instructions will be sent to those who preregister.

As always, the LWVLA welcomes all to register and attend via Zoom. Subsequent recordings will be posted on the League website LWVLewisburgArea.org

Teri MacBride, Forum Committee

WHAT’S HAPPENING

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

Monday, December 6th, 4:00p.m.

BOARD MEETING

Kandy’s home

Thursday, December 9th

Winter Social POSTPONED!

See Membership article for details.

Tuesday, December 14th, 10:00a.m.

BOOK CLUB

“Kill Switch: The Rise of the Modern Senate and the Crippling of American Democracy”

Via ZOOM

See Book Club article for details.

Monday, January 3rd, 4:00p.m.

BOARD MEETING

*Buffalo Township Building
589 Fairground Road, Lewisburg*

Tuesday, January 18th, 12:00-1:00p.m.

FORUM.

Dr. Sarah Lada

“Addressing Mental Health in the Federal Prison System, A USP Case Study”

Via ZOOM; participants must preregister

See January Forum article for details.

Monday, February 7th, 4:00p.m.

BOARD MEETING

*Buffalo Township Building
589 Fairground Road, Lewisburg*

Tuesday, February 8th, 10:00a.m.

BOOK CLUB

“Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together”

Via ZOOM

See Book Club article for details.

Tuesday, February 15th, 12:00-1:00p.m.

FORUM

Dr. Jennifer Polinchock-Baugh, Lewisburg Superintendent

Lewisburg Area School District Update

Via ZOOM; participants must preregister

NOVEMBER FORUM



On November 16th, Sue Ellen Henry, Professor of Education at Bucknell University, presented a talk entitled, “Critical Race Theory and The Public Schools.” A recording of this talk is available on our LWVLA Website at:

LWVLewisburgArea.org/whats-happening/what-you-missed

Professor Henry is also the author of *Children’s Bodies in Schools: Corporeal Performances of Social Class*, which explores the influence of social class position on non-verbal communication in schools.

Critical Race Theory (CRT) has been described as a legal theory — a structured explanation for racial discrimination. It provides tools to critique patterns of racial inequality and other oppressive forces in society and in students’ lives. It provides multiple points of view on events and issues in American history challenging social practices and social hierarchies. CRT has been criticized as interfering with the bonds that hold people together and being racially divisive. In response, some legislatures have banned the teaching of CRT; there have been public protests; use of “opt out” forms for parents has broadened; parent and student “Bills of Rights” had been adopted. Pennsylvania has proposed a House Bill for “Curriculum Transparency” to amend a March, 1949 act.

In response to anti-bias training on the federal level, in September 2020, a White House executive order forbid diversity training in Federal contractors and in January 2021 the White House issued the “1776 Report,” advancing a “patriotic education” as opposed to inclusion and multiple points of view. Critics of CRT have said that “Fighting racism is racism.” Professor Henry discussed what such concerns mean for teachers and anti-racism education. Her presentation was animated and interesting and was followed by a very active question and answer session.

Barbara Kolmen, Forum Committee

BOOK CLUB

For our winter Book Club meetings, we selected books that are timely and topical. They are books suggested by our members as well as being read by other League Book Clubs around the country. Both meetings will be by Zoom.

Tuesday, December 14, 2021, 10:00a.m.

Kill Switch: The Rise of the Modern Senate and the Crippling of American Democracy (Adam Jentleson, 2021)

This book will allow us to discuss the frustration many are experiencing with the dysfunction of our legislature and to become more educated on the debate over whether the answer is reforming the filibuster.

Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 10:00a.m.

Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together (Heather McGhee, 2021)

The title says it all. This book explores inequality from a different perspective: Racism has a cost for everyone, not just for people of color. McGhee finds proof of what she calls the Solidarity Dividend.

Mary Beth Clark

VOTER SERVICES REPORT

Vote411.org

Vote411 Numbers – US, PA, and Local races

Nationwide, **Vote411** educated more voters in 2021 than in any other odd-year election cycle! Over 1.7 million sessions were logged from January 1st through Election Day, and over 1.1 million of those sessions included the online voters' guides.

In Pennsylvania, **Vote411** use in 2021 was more than double what it was in 2017. State-wide, **Vote411** had over 120,000 users and more than 150,000 sessions in 2021.

In Union, Snyder and Northumberland Counties, where we covered at least some races, there were more than 750 **Vote411** users and more than 1,000 **Vote411** sessions in 2021. For the November 2021 ballots in our county, 100% of state candidates and 75% of local candidates entered information into **Vote411!** The overall candidate response rate for the Fall 2021 Union County *Voters Guide* was 77%.

Thanks go to Sheri Stayton and Liz Clement for their outstanding effort and persistence to achieve these results for Pennsylvania and the local candidates.

LEAGUE LINE

DEC. 2021/JAN. 2022

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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Voters Guide

Thanks to the following people who distributed the **printed Voters Guide** within our community for the first time since November 2019:

Janice Bigelow, Marilyn Murphy, Kathy Martin (distribution list), Mary Zimmerman, Pat Marolo, Phyllis Dyer (*Voters Guide* pickup and distribution), Patty Johnston, Karen Nicholson, Ann Longanbach, Priscilla Waggoner, Carol Crichley, Betsy Noyce, Diane Wilson, Marion Brown, and Judy Ellis

The online **Voters Guide** will continue to be available on our website (for references purposes): from any web page, just click on the blue **Download Voters Guide** button in the left margin.

Facts for Voters

The editorial staff will be starting to gather information for the upcoming 2022 *Facts for Voters* after the new year. We are looking for volunteers to help with updating the information, which includes updating offices with the results of the November 2021 election.

Information about the 2021 *Facts for Voters* can be found on the Facts for Voters page of our website at:

LWVLewisburgArea.org/voter-resources/facts-voters

If you are interested in becoming part of the editorial/writing staff for *Facts for Voters*, please contact me at:

Lsharris323@gmail.com

LWVLA Website Updates

Now that the November election has past, the **LWVLA website** has been updated to remove election-specific information. You will now find information on how to obtain election results on our **Candidate Information** web page. Candidate videos remain on this web page for reference.

Thanks go to Dawn Maneval, Designer, and Carole Madle, Editor, for all of the Voter Services updates that they have provided to the website. And it couldn't be done without the efforts of Becky Perez, Website Manager, and Bev Zorn, Website Designer, who implemented the changes that we provided.

To see these changes, visit **LWVLewisburgArea.org**, where you will also find the most up-to-date information about our voter education efforts.

Linda Harris, *Voter Services chair*

MEMBERSHIP

Winter Social

The virus rages on and, in its wake, leaves behind yet another social event! Because of rising numbers and continued concern, the Board of Directors has decided to postpone the Winter Social until after the first of the year.

Membership Renewal

Membership renewal continues as the December 31st deadline approaches. If you haven't already done so, give yourself a holiday present and renew your membership! If you find that you have lost or misplaced your renewal form, let us know by emailing lwvlewisburgarea@gmail.com or by clicking the **JOIN** button at the top of any web page on our LWVLA website (click the blue **Download Application** button at the bottom of the **Join** web page)

New Member

We'd like to welcome a new member. Sue Jamison has joined us, so if you know her or even if you don't, please give her a warm welcome!

suedjamison@gmail.com
570-550-8675

Membership