

LEAGUE LINE

A Bulletin of The League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area
Vol. 65, No. 5; February 2021

FROM THE PRESIDENT

What an extraordinary month we have had! It is one for the history books!!!! January 6th, 2021 will be forever burned in our collective memories along with December 7th, 1941 and September 11th, 2001.

On January 8th, 2021, the LWVUS posted a decisive statement regarding their stance on the removal of Donald Trump from office. This announcement resulted in varying responses from members and the community. Locally, reactions were mostly positive, some thoughtful, and at least one negative. I think it is worth noting that the League does not consider its position as a political statement in terms of Democratic, Republican, or Independent viewpoint.

Our job, at all levels, is to empower voters and defend Democracy. It has been that way for over 100 years. It should be no surprise that the National League would have a strong point of view surrounding attempts at overturning an election and thus disenfranchising millions of voters, and of the acts of violence targeted at obstructing the very work of the Democracy.

In the past several months, we have witnessed our democracy under attack. At times, it may have seemed that it was on life-support, with many factions fighting to see who could pull the plug first. The League must fight for democracy with our strongest and most effective weapon...information. It is incumbent upon us not only to inform the electorate but also to help our elected officials fulfill their commitments to their constituents. In short, we must do our best to be good citizens and enable our neighbors to do the same.

The League is non-partisan. We work very hard to maintain that status. This is no simple feat considering the current hyper-political environment in which we live. Each member, as a responsible citizen, has unique personal feelings and political leanings. That is each person's right and privilege. It does, however, leave the League open to criticism for being biased.

The leadership of the LWVLA is very aware of this perception. Over the next several months, we will move toward the implementation of the Strategic Plan. We will be ever committed to continuing our non-partisan work while being cognizant of the individual rights of our members.

Kandy Duncan, President

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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

Monday, February 1st, 3:00pm

BOARD MEETING

Via Zoom, video conferencing tool

Tuesday, February 16th, 12:00-1:00pm

FORUM

Nicole Peterson, Union-Snyder Community Action Agency Food Security Coordinator
"What is food security and how do we reach sustainable food security in our region?"

Via Zoom, opening at 11:30am

Please see Forum article about registering for the meeting.

Thursday, February 25th, 10:00am

LWVLA Book Club

Via Zoom, video conferencing tool

Please see Book Club article about registering for the meeting.

Monday, March 1st, 3:00pm

BOARD MEETING

Via Zoom, video conferencing tool

HOW TO RUN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE

Our democracy depends on the participation of its citizens. By serving in a public office we support our democracy. In 2021, positions for county, township, borough and school board will be on the ballot during the Municipal Election.

Are you interested in running for a local office or know someone who might be interested in running? Are you wondering how to get started? Take a look at our League's *How to Run for Public Office* notebook at: [HTRFPO Notebook](#). It is a valuable resource for information about whether or not you should run for office, and how to get started if you decide you want to run. Would you like to attend a virtual Campaign School sponsored by the LWV of Lackawanna County? Contact jrbllwv@gmail.com for more information about this event that will be held on the morning of January 30th, 2021.

Janice Bigelow

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee is beginning to meet in anticipation of creating a slate of officers, directors, and a nominating committee for 2021-2022. Because we cannot reach out to all our members individually, we are asking you to let us know if you would like to serve on the Board. There are several positions which we need to fill, and the best way to do that is to find members with the interest, enthusiasm, skills, and dedication to continue to advance the mission of our organization. We anticipate needing at least 2 officers and 4 directors, as well as the nominating committee for next year.

If you have questions, or to learn more, please email Paul Mauger (prmauger@ptd.net), Elaine Hopkins (elaine.hopkins@icloud.com) or Patty Johnston (hoodj1973@ptd.net). Please let us hear from you by February 15th, 2021. Thank you.

Nominating Committee

BOOK CLUB

The next LWVLA Book Club meeting is scheduled for February 25th, 2021. The book is *Caste: The Origins of our Discontents* by Isabel Wilkerson. This book has been longlisted for the National Book Award. Pulitzer Prize winning author, Isabel Wilkerson, examines the unspoken caste system that has shaped America and shows how our lives today are defined by a hierarchy of human divisions. We will use the book as a basis to continue our discussion of race and broaden that discussion.

Please contact me if you would like to join either discussion, at moffa5@comcast.net. A Zoom link will be sent out closer to the meeting date.

Mary Beth Clark

NEW LWVUS/LWVPA SERIES

The LWVUS has announced a new series of webinars focusing on the [Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Initiative](#). The series kickoff is Monday, January 25th, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

This series will examine the topics of race and bias and the unique mission of the League of Women Voters. Sessions will examine League work through an equity framework and the use of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion assessment tools. View the syllabus for this series [here](#).

An LWVPA Equity Team, with representatives from local Leagues, meets monthly to discuss and plan shared equity goals. Please email equity@palwv.org for more information.

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Webinars will be held on the 4th Monday of every month. The schedule is as follows:

- January 25th, 2021
- February 22nd, 2021
- March 22nd, 2021
- April 26th, 2021
- May 24th, 2021
- June 2021 - LWVPA Convention: Equity Initiative report to the convention body.

Register for the Equity Initiative webinars [here](#). You need only register once, and will be sent a Zoom link for each monthly meeting.

DECEMBER FORUM

The December 15th Forum via Zoom combined social, cocktail party, and a toast. Becky Perez summarized the extensive work of the Strategy Coordination Team. (The LWVLA Strategy Update was emailed to members on December 21st.) Nancy Newman, a past president of the National LWV, made a lively presentation, reviewing her experiences from her initial attraction to the League’s work on civil rights through her national leadership in efforts to pass the ERA.

Janice Bigelow was honored for the celebration at the Campus Theatre of the 100th year of women’s suffrage. Kandy Duncan, President, then offered a special toast at the conclusion of the 100th-year celebration. A recording of the meeting is available on our website under [What’s Happening/What You Missed](#).

Barbara Kolmen, Forum Committee

FEBRUARY FORUM

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

The February Forum will be held on Tuesday, February 16th, 2021, beginning at noon. Nicole Peterson will be speaking on, “What is food security and how do we reach sustainable food security in our region?” Nicole Peterson is the Food Security Coordinator at Union-Snyder Community Action Agency. She has been with the agency about a year and a half and has been tasked with building CAA’s capacity to address food insecurity. This includes streamlining CAA’s food pantry operations, supporting emergency food needs, and strengthening our area’s food access system.

LEAGUE LINE
FEB. 2021
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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Originally from New Jersey, Nicole graduated from Ramapo College of New Jersey with a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting. She has worked in financial and compliance auditing as well as corporate philanthropy. Her passions for helping others, and nutrition, coupled with her move to Lewisburg several years ago, drove her to apply for an AmeriCorps VISTA position, which luckily landed her at CAA as a full-time team member.

The Zoom meeting will begin at noon. All participants must register in advance. To register, send an email to:
LWVLAForum@gmail.com
Instructions and unique links will be sent to registrants. The registration deadline is Sunday, February 14th.

Mary Zimmerman, Forum Committee

VOTER SERVICES REPORT

PA-State Voter Services Meetings

Sheri Stayton, Liz Clement, and Linda Harris continue to participate in PA state Voter Services meetings in order to coordinate voter education strategies and tools, including Vote411.

Voters Guide

The *Voters Guide* staff (Sheri Stayton, Dawn Maneval, Liz Clement, Carole Madle, and Jane Mitchell) expect to begin work in March to gather information on local candidates running in the May 2021 Municipal Primary Election. The goal will be to have candidate information available on both Vote411.org and in an online, printable version of the *Voters Guide* by the time mail-in ballots are available.

Facts for Voters

The *Facts for Voters* is underway, with Jane Mitchell, Mary Lotspeich and Nancy Morgan working hard to get every office to respond with the most current information possible. Dawn Maneval is designing this publication. The online, printable version is scheduled to be uploaded to our website by February 13th, and a limited run of the printed version available around February 23rd. We won’t be distributing the printed version within our community as we normally do because of the current health environment. I hope we can go back to distributing the *Facts for Voters* next year.

Linda Harris, Voter Services chair

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Member Renewal

The time for renewing this year’s membership is almost at an end. The final list of paid members will be sent to the National data base on January 31st. There are still 29 members who have not renewed. We have lost members this year for various reasons, such as members moving, natural attrition, and unfortunately death. Decreases may be another side effect of the COVID virus. Running, attending, and recruiting to a virtual League has been challenging.

A Loss

On a very somber note, the League has lost a friend to the virus just this past month. Neal Woodruff died on December 14th, 2020. He and his wife, Chris, have been long-time League members. Neal was a retired college professor having earned his advanced degree from Yale, teaching at Carnegie Mellon and Coe College. He remained a dedicated scholar even through retirement. Should you wish to express your condolences to Chris, her contact information is:

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Membership Committee