

LEAGUE LINE

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Who wouldn't love to have a big party with a glass of wine (or beverage of your choice), wonderful appetizers, a nice meal, and very fattening desserts? Who would turn down a chance to meet with friends and acquaintances that we haven't socialized with for what seems like forever? Well, not me! I don't think I ever really realized how important to the health of an organization social events are, until we experienced having none.

It has been a rough couple of years, to say the least. The business of the League has carried on, for the most part. Thank goodness for Zoom. I have thought often that I wish I had invented it; I could throw a REALLY big party!

While the business has continued as well as we could manage it, I'm afraid the organizational mental health is starting to suffer. We need to be "in-person". We need to socialize. We need to interact with others of the League with like purposes.

There are two things that seem to be affected the most. The Board is in the process of appointing members to the Board and formulating the slate of officers for the coming year. That is not an easy task during normal times, but it is especially challenging during this pandemic. Secondly, maybe the biggest function that is suffering from the absence of social events, is membership recruitment. We have gained a couple of new members and we will be losing a couple due to people moving, etc. We rely on our social interactions and events to bring in interested new members. Zoom just doesn't quite have the draw that a lunch has.

Meanwhile, the Forums have provided interesting topics, the Book Club remains very active, and of course, preparations for the upcoming election are well underway through Voter Services. We are hoping that life will return to some semblance of normal before too long.

I was noticing, on a Zoom call the other day, that I was looking older than a couple of years ago. That's another of the negatives of Zoom: you are forced to look at yourself for extended periods of time! But sometimes that self-examination can be beneficial, too. What do we want the League to look like? I imagine we want it to continue to be an engaged, informed resource for our community and the common good. How can you best help?

Kandy Duncan, President

FEBRUARY FORUM

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

On Tuesday, February 15th, from noon to 1:00p.m. the League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area's Educational Forum Committee welcomes the Lewisburg Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Jennifer Polinchock-Baugh. She will give a school district update and share some of the challenges for school leaders during the pandemic. Her

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 7th, 4:00p.m.

BOARD MEETING
Via Zoom

Tuesday, February 8th, 10:00a.m. AND 7:00p.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
Update on Lewisburg Area School District
Via Zoom; participants must preregister
See February Forum article for details.

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

BOARD MEETING
Via Zoom

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

FORUM
Shawn McLaughlin, Planning Commission Director for Union County
"Cash Crops in Union County: Chickens, Cows, Hogs. Oh My!"
Via Zoom; participants must preregister

Wednesday, May 11th

ANNUAL MEETING
Save the Date!

Tuesday, May 17th

GENERAL PRIMARY

focus will be broad enough to allow discussion of her priorities and encourage participants to inquire about topics that interest them. Jennifer Polinchock-Baugh, Doctor of Education, joined the LASD in the summer of 2020.

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 February Forum, send an email with your name to:

LWVLAForum@gmail.com

The registration deadline is Sunday, February 13th. A unique Zoom meeting link, and instructions will be sent to those who preregister.

As always, the LWVLA Educational Forum is open to everyone who registers. You do not need to be a member of the League to participate.

Subsequent recordings will be posted on the League website LWVLewisburgArea.org

Teri MacBride, Forum Committee

JANUARY FORUM

On January 18th, Sarah Lada, Doctor of Psychology and Specialty Program Coordinator at Federal Corrections Camp (FCC) Allenwood, described mental health services available to inmates of the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) including the unique Secure Mental Health Program offered at FCC Allenwood. A recording of this talk is available on the LWVLA website:

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

Needs of new inmates are identified from presentencing reports, screening of all incoming inmates, and self or staff referrals. Based on needs, inmates are then assigned to a range of care levels:

1. Stable, not requiring regular contact.
2. Stay in touch.
3. More severe, such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depressive disorder, borderline personality disorder, appropriate for the Secure Mental Health Program.
4. Requires hospitalization.

Services offered by psychologists include diagnostic assessments, individual therapy, and group therapy. Psychotropic medications are offered through a psychiatrist on staff via telemedicine. Suicide risk assessments are available as are suicide watches. Special programs, some voluntary and some required, address sex offenders' management and treatment, drug education, and drug abuse.

Programs may be introduced in one location and later implemented in others. That occurred with the Secure Mental Health Program offered at Allenwood. A Transitional Care Unit, initiated in Atlanta, addresses needs of mentally ill inmates who have spent time in secure treatment programs to transition to less restrictive environments and to the community. SKILLS, a residential program designed for inmates with intellectual and social impairments is just now being introduced at Allenwood because of delays caused by Covid. Dr. Lada described responses at Allenwood to the COVID-19 Pandemic, including increased use of closed-circuit TV, social distancing, masking, testing, availability of vaccine to inmates and staff since December 2020, and a significant increase in the number of potential inmates on home confinement.

The presentation was greatly enhanced by photographs and Dr. Lada's candid responses during the question period.

Barbara Kolmen, Forum Committee

BOOK CLUB

Our next Book Club will have a morning and evening session to increase accessibility to all. Choose to attend either or both. They are scheduled for Tuesday, February 8th, 2022, at both 10a.m. and 7p.m. To receive a Zoom link, send an email to Mary Beth at:

moffa5@comcast.net.

Our book is:

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

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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: the benefits we gain when people come together across race to accomplish what we simply can't do on our own.

Mary Beth Clark

MAUCH MILLENNIAL PROJECT

The pandemic has definitely slowed down the work of the Mauch Millennial Project, but it has not stopped us!

We are currently developing a new program in collaboration with Prof. Sue Ellen Henry (Education Dept., Bucknell University) and Mrs. Paula Reber, Principal of Lewisburg Area High School.

Prof. Henry is teaching an upper-level course this spring entitled Democracy and Education, and each of her students is required to do a service-learning project in the community. One of the projects will involve several of her students receiving training on campus and then working with 9th-grade students on practicing the skills they need to have for respectful conversations with people who disagree with them.

The high school students will select topics that are of interest to them. We are still working out the details, but the plan is that once the Bucknell students are trained, they will work with the LAHS students once per week for about 45 minutes. Discussions are ongoing about how to make the program sustainable, if the pilot is as successful as we anticipate.

We are also looking into an interesting online program through the Penn State Extension that Janice Bigelow discovered:

“Getting Involved in your Pennsylvania Local Government”

Participants take a four-hour course and must pass a quiz after each section. If they are successful, they receive a certificate of completion. The committee will offer to pay the registration fee for a certain number of

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participants once we have finalized our plan. We hope that the program will encourage participants to be active in their local government and even to run for office.

*Elaine Hopkins for
the Mauch Millennial Project*

VOTER SERVICES REPORT

Facts for Voters

The 2022 *Facts for Voters* will be available in mid-February.

The editorial staff, which includes Editor Lisa Tranquillo, researchers Mary Lotspeich and Nancy Morgan, and designer Dawn Maneval, are gathering information for the upcoming Facts for Voters. We are looking for volunteers to distribute them in February. If you can help with distribution, please contact me at:

Lsharris323@gmail.com

Your Vote Matters!

Do you know why?

Some of the results from the Fall 2021 election reveal how close local races can be and how crucial each individual vote is in determining

the final outcome. According to the Union County Elections Office report on the Fall 2021 election results, the New Berlin Borough Council, Lewisburg Borough Council Ward 4, and Lewisburg School Board elections were determined by fewer than 25 votes each. Also, in the Mifflinburg School Board election, the president who ran unopposed, received only 6 more votes than write-in candidates.

Based on the above information, Voters Services has formed a sub-committee to find ways to communicate with our community the importance and power of each individual's vote. It is especially apparent in local elections where margins are so small that each vote has a more significant effect on the outcome. We hope increasing awareness will increase voting. Our League's website and Facebook page will be advertising this information.

Upcoming Election Calendar

The 2022 *Pennsylvania Elections: Important Dates to Remember* table (at the bottom of this page) provides the current election milestones for 2022. However, keep in mind that the dates associated with the upcoming Primary Election (scheduled for May 17th) are uncertain at this time. As you probably know, Pennsylvania's election districts are up-in-the-air right now, which makes it hard for everyone (candidates as well as the League) to go forward with planning for the upcoming election. So these primary dates might change.

Check out LWVLA website for updates, where you will also find the most up-to-date information about our voter education efforts. Ideas? Assistance? Questions? Contact me at:

Lsharris323@gmail.com

Linda Harris, Voter Services Chair

MEMBERSHIP

We have a new member! Please welcome Louise Knight.

We are still on track for having the Annual Meeting on May 11th. The COVID numbers will dictate how we present it.

2022 Pennsylvania Elections: Important Dates to Remember

Source: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of State, Bureau of Elections and Notaries
(NOTE: All dates in this calendar are subject to change without notice.)

2022 Election Milestone	Deadline
First day to circulate and file nomination petitions	February 15
Last day to circulate and file nomination petitions	March 8
First day to circulate and file nomination papers	March 9
Last day for withdrawal by candidates who filed nomination petitions	March 23
Last day to REGISTER before the primary	May 2
Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot	May 10
Last day for County Board of Elections to receive voted mail-in and civilian absentee ballots (must be received by 8:00p.m.)	May 17
GENERAL PRIMARY	May 17
First day to REGISTER after primary	May 18
Last day for County Board of Elections to receive voted military and overseas absentee ballots (submitted for delivery no later than 11:59p.m. on May 16th)	May 24
Last day to circulate and file nomination papers	August 1
Last day for withdrawal by candidates nominated by nomination papers	August 8
Last day for withdrawal by candidates nominated at the primary	August 15
Last day to REGISTER before the November election	October 24
Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot	November 1
Last day for County Boards of Elections to receive voted mail-in and civilian absentee ballots (must be received by 8:00p.m.)	November 8
GENERAL ELECTION	November 8
First day to REGISTER after November election	November 9
Last day for County Board of Elections to receive voted military and overseas absentee ballots (submitted for delivery no later than 11:59p.m. on November 7th)	November 15