

LEAGUE LINE

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT

According to Webster, optimism, hopefulness, confidence, positiveness all boil down to about the same thing: the belief that good must ultimately prevail. That is kind of how I'm feeling these days. It has been a cold hard couple of years with the ever-present black cloud of the COVID pandemic hanging over us. I don't have to regurgitate all the issues we have faced during this period. The one consequence that has been particularly difficult is the absence of social interaction. Thank goodness for Zoom as it has enabled us to carry on the work of the League, but another big part of the League is the social interactions. Social exchange such as in-person meetings, lunch gatherings for Educational Forums, face-to-face committee meetings and work groups are all very important, not only to the health of an organization but to the health of the members. I can't even put a value on the fact that to be together is also so much more fun!!!

We need this to end, safely. Plans are now underway for our annual meeting. This is an important meeting for many reasons. It involves the election of the proposed slate of officers and the Board of Directors. It includes the approval of the next year's budget. The program for the coming months is approved. Various awards are presented to recognize some of the many individuals who have made excellent contributions to the organization. Pre-pandemic, this meeting involved a sit-down dinner and a social hour, the highlight of the year's work. We obviously have not had a dinner meeting for 2 years. This year we are planning an in-person event. I actually have no further information at this point but even that is enough for me for now. We want it to be special. We want as many members to attend as possible. We actually have members we have never met in person and we need to rectify that. So yes, I'm feeling optimistic, hopeful, confident and pretty positive.

Please stay tuned for more information. As always, I will keep you as informed as I can. While you are waiting for details, please stay optimistic. Even with all the troubles of the world, our League world is looking pretty good and I, for one, am looking forward to moving on!!

Kandy Duncan, President

AWARDS

It is time again for recognizing a few of the individuals or organizations that have gone above and beyond what is necessary. We present the Jill Reynolds Service Award and the Judy Anderson Community Service Award at the Annual Meeting. The Jill Reynolds Service Award is given to any member (non-Board) who is felt to have worked tirelessly for the organization without public recognition. The Judy Anderson Community Service Award is presented to an individual or organization in Union County in recognition of noteworthy contribution to the community.

The nominations are due to the Board by March 31st and will be voted on at the

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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

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

BOARD MEETING
Mary Zimmerman's home

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

Monday, April 4th, 4:00p.m.

BOARD MEETING
Location pending

Saturday, April 16th, 11:00am-noon

HISTORIC LEWISBURG CEMETERY
WALKING TOUR
Meet at Cemetery Chapel

Tuesday, April 19th, 12:00-1:00p.m.

FORUM
Union County Commissioners: Preston Boop,
Jeff Reber, Stacy Richards
Current Issues, Census, Union County Plan
Via Zoom; participants must preregister

ANNUAL MEETING: Date Pending

Information will be sent as it becomes available

April Board meeting. The nomination forms give additional information. To find these forms on our website, click here (on the LWVLewisburgArea.org website, under the **WHO WE ARE** menu, choose **LWVLA Difference Makers**). The forms were also sent out in an all-member email on February 11th, 2022.

WOMEN SUFFRAGISTS AND LEADERS

HISTORIC CEMETERY WALKING TOUR

On Saturday, April 16th, at 11:00a.m., all are welcome to attend a free 1-hour walking tour of the historic Lewisburg Cemetery, focusing on women suffragists and leaders in the community. Participants will gather at the cemetery chapel. Books about the history of the cemetery will be for sale. For more information, contact Nancy Newman at newman.nancy@gmail.com or Bert Dunkerly at bd1754@yahoo.com.

MARCH FORUM

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

On Tuesday, March 15th, from noon to 1:00p.m., the League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area's Educational Forum Committee welcomes Shawn McLaughlin, Director of the Union County Planning

Commission. He will discuss *Cash Crops in Union County: Chickens, Cows, and Hogs. Oh My!* Shawn is a certified planner with over 25 years of experience advising county and local governments on land use, parks and recreation, transportation, natural resource conservation, water resources, and community and economic development matters. His career has been centered on helping rural communities deal effectively with change through collaborative partnerships and multi-municipal solutions that promote sustainability.

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

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.

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

LWVLAForum@gmail.com

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

Subsequent recordings will be posted on the League website LWVLewisburgArea.org
Teri MacBride, Forum Committee

FEBRUARY FORUM

On February 15th, Jennifer Polinchock-Baugh, Ed D., Superintendent of the Lewisburg Area School District (LASD), presented a school district update and shared some of the challenges for school leaders during the pandemic.

Dr. Polinchock-Baugh joined the LASD in summer 2020. Some changes in education in recent years are related to the pandemic as well as to technology and social media. Because of limited face-to-face classroom time, it has been necessary to teach certain social skills and conflict resolution that would have been learned in the neighborhood/community or earlier in a child's educational experience. Less formal parent-teacher communication may be replaced by the prominence of social media/ the court of public opinion. Fewer teachers and administrators and a lack of substitutes, contribute to disruption and teacher fatigue when colleagues must cover, working longer hours. Covid-19 related issues were even more challenging this year than last.

Recent accomplishments in the LASD include: using newly available funding to modernize the HVAC system; new science activities; Equity Committee formed to seek needed support for all students; partners such as the Green Dragon Fund supplying restrooms and concession stand for athletic field; strategies to provide students with expected activities such as graduations and proms; School Board approval of salary increases for support staff.

Dr. Polinchock-Baugh also mentioned improvements that are being planned. They include an evaluation this summer of necessary

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

maintenance for the middle school and three elementary schools. There will be summer programming to help students keep up/catch up. She also hopes to strengthen inclusive programming, addressing the needs of all families. Although many students are well-supported by their families, others may be less visible while struggling with basic needs.

After her presentation, Dr. Polinchock-Baugh readily responded to questions and issues raised.

A recording of this talk is available on the LWVLA website:

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

Barbara Kolmen, Forum Committee

FINANCE DRIVE

In early March you will receive a letter from Kandy with information about our annual Members and Friends Finance Drive. Our Lewisburg League is dependent on contributions from members, friends, and businesses to fund our local efforts since only a small portion of our dues stay local. We hope you will consider making a donation this year.

Carole Madle,

Members & Friends Finance Drive Chair

VOTER SERVICES REPORT

Facts for Voters

The printed version of our 2022 *Facts for Voters* has been distributed! Look for it at libraries, stores, and post offices. It contains election information, including our elected officials' contact information. Thanks go to our distribution volunteers: Janice Bigelow, Theresa Bzdil, Carol Crichley, Phyllis Dyer, Judy Ellis, Diane Gottlieb, Annie Longabach, Mary Lotspeich, Pat Marolo, Kathleen Martin, Betsy Noyce, Priscilla Waggoner, Diane Wilson, and Mary Zimmerman.

The online version of this *Facts for Voters* will be available for downloading from [our website](#) by the end of February.

LEAGUE LINE

MAR. 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.

Betsy Noyce, editor

570-524-2104 / betsynoyce@gmail.com

Dawn Maneval, designer

570-523-7372 / dmaneval922@gmail.com

Key Contacts

Kandy Duncan, president

570-524-4439 / lwwlewisburgarea@gmail.com

Facebook Page

facebook.com/lwvla

Website

LWVLewisburgArea.org

Redistricting: US and PA - as of 2/21/22

There are many unknowns about the upcoming primary because of redistricting in our state.

U.S. Congressional Districts

Based on results of the 2020 census, PA lost one U.S. Representative. Therefore, U.S. Congressional districts must be redrawn. The Legislature approved a map, Governor Wolf vetoed it. Other maps have been submitted, and now it is up to the PA Supreme Court, which held hearings on Friday, February 18th, about picking a redistricting map. We expect a decision soon.

Meanwhile, new redistricting maps for PA's Senate and House have been approved by a committee, but those maps can be challenged between now and the first week in March. We expect that there will be challenges.

Pennsylvania State Districts

Meanwhile, new redistricting maps for PA's Senate and House have been approved by a committee, but those maps can be challenged between now and the first week in March. We expect that there will be challenges.

What's Next?

Until maps are finalized, those running for U.S. House of Representatives and the PA General Assembly cannot file paperwork to run because they won't know what district they are hoping to represent. There is strong resistance

to moving the date of the upcoming primary (currently May 17th) among Democrats and Republicans, even though we are already into the time candidates would usually be filing petitions to run for office. The courts have suspended the Election Calendar (shown at the bottom of this page), pending decisions on the maps. Currently, the Election Calendar will have to be compressed if the primary date is kept.

Until we know more, Sheri Stayton, PAVOTE411 editor, will continue her work. She will report issues to the PA Department of State to encourage them to make candidate information available as soon as possible after filing deadlines so she can send Vote411 invitations to candidates. If the primary is not moved and the Election Calendar is simply compressed, there will be far less time than usual to collect candidate information. It is possible that there might not be time to produce our typical *Voters Guide*. However, we still expect to be able to have candidate information on Vote411.org. Once dates are final for the primary, if we do not have time to produce the typical *Voters Guide*, we will still make sure candidate information is made available to our community.

Check out the LWVLA website, 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 are pleased to welcome 3 new members this past month:

Dee Mikita

deemusic88@gmail.com

Martha Hass and Joe Hass

mhass219@gmail.com

We ended the membership year with 143 official members, down from 147 last year.

Plans are in the works for a face-to-face Annual Meeting. More details to follow.

2022 Pennsylvania Election Calendar: 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