

# LEAGUE LINE

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

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

For the first time since March 8, 2020, our 100 Year Anniversary Celebration at the Campus Theater, the League is planning an in-person event, our Annual Dinner Meeting. As we work through the details of this upcoming event, something nags at the back of my mind. I'm going to call it "pandemic memory loss." Now, this is not a clinical diagnosis nor is it related to a positive COVID test. There probably isn't a test kit to provide a positive or negative status for this malady, but there are signs of it in all walks of life.

What is it? It is the apparent loss of memory that the world has been in lock down for 2 years. It is the inability to remember that businesses have been closed (some of them permanently), children's education has been disrupted, and families have been torn apart by loss. When you start noticing this phenomenon, you will see a whole host of examples in your daily life.

I shake my head when listening to the news blaming everything and everybody except the pandemic for the problems with the economy. Without any other contributing factors, we were already bound to have problems.

Unfortunately, it isn't just in the big things. We seem to have memory loss on small but very significant issues. Just as one example, since we have been wearing masks for two years, we have forgotten to smile at people, to make eye contact, and to generally treat each other with kindness.

It will be hard for us to go back to "the way it used to be." That "way" may not even exist. Perhaps this offers a chance for all of us to re-evaluate our lives and discover a different way to deal with daily life. The challenge will be to decide what we can still accomplish and what practices should we abandon.

How does that relate to the League? The League has a very strong mission that has served us well over 102 years. With everything that is going on around us, if we stay true to our goal of defending and protecting the vote and ensuring citizens be informed about the candidates and the issues, I am confident that we will be just fine. If we focus on our core value of non-partisanship, we will escape the effects of "pandemic memory loss."

Above all else, please be kind...not only to others, but to yourselves!!

*Kandy Duncan, President*

## WOMEN SUFFRAGISTS AND LEADERS

### HISTORIC CEMETERY WALKING TOUR

On Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 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 Neuman at [neuman.nancy@gmail.com](mailto:neuman.nancy@gmail.com) or Bert Dunkerly at [bd1754@yahoo.com](mailto:bd1754@yahoo.com).

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

*The following events are current as of publication date, April 1<sup>st</sup>. Coronavirus containment measures may cause delays or cancellations. Please check our website, [LWVLewisburgArea.org](http://LWVLewisburgArea.org), frequently for the most current updates.*

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

BOARD MEETING  
East Buffalo Township Municipal Building  
589 Fairground Road, Lewisburg

### Saturday, April 16th, 11:00a.m. - 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  
Union County Government Update  
Via Zoom; participants must preregister

### Monday, May 2nd, 4:00p.m.

BOARD MEETING  
East Buffalo Township Municipal Building  
589 Fairground Road, Lewisburg

### Wednesday, May 11th, 6:00-9:00p.m.

ANNUAL MEETING  
La Primavera  
Invitation and response information will be coming soon

## WVIA EVENT

We have been asked to participate in the upcoming WVIA production, "Our Town: Lewisburg", which has a tentative air date in June 2022. The project will feature interviews from various organizations that will describe why Lewisburg is a "vibrant" place to live. With over 68 years of history in this community, the LWVLA was an important candidate for inclusion. Information will be forthcoming as we are notified of the exact viewing date and time.

## APRIL FORUM

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

On Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, from noon to 1:00p.m., the League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area's Educational Forum series will hold a final virtual panel presentation, a Union County Government Update. The guest speakers will be Commissioners Jeff Reber, Preston Boop and Stacy Richards.

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

[LWVLAForum@gmail.com](mailto:LWVLAForum@gmail.com)

The registration deadline is Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. A 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](http://LWVLewisburgArea.org)

Looking ahead, we welcome new ideas. If you'd like to help select next year's Forum agenda, offer speaker, topical or administrative support, please get in touch. Consider joining us in late summer for these discussions.

*Teri MacBride, Forum Committee Chair*

## MARCH FORUM

The March Forum presentation, *County Cash Crops: Chickens, Cows, Corn, and Hogs. Oh My!* by Shawn McLaughlin, Union County Planning and Economic Development Director, highlighted current trends and challenges to agriculture.

Our agriculture economy is more important and diverse than one might appreciate.

It includes crop and animal production; processing and manufacturing (canning food, beverages and snack foods), forestry and landscaping, including horticultural production. Some 90% of the land area in Union County is dedicated to agricultural resources. A strong agricultural heritage and culture has prevailed. But we are losing some farmland to housing and commercial development.

Many uncertainties challenge farmers: variable input costs (fuel, fertilizers, etc.), pests, intense weather, market volatility, trade and tariff pressures, regulatory environment (Chesapeake Bay and nutrient management), biosecurity concerns (flu and virus in livestock) and the vagaries of consumer preferences. Increasing energy demands have brought numerous commercial scale solar developers seeking land for their farms into the county. The farm labor force is aging and this presents concerns and issues.

Agriculture can mean big and small business. There's increasing integration by large poultry and hog processor companies which contract with many Union County family-owned farms to grow animals and crops. Notably, poultry production eclipses hog farming. Corn is the largest field crop and is increasing.

Farmers are growing more on less land. There are significant technological innovations happening but they require investments and internet connection to work properly. The Mennonite community is acquiring more land to preserve their culture and way of life. By the end of 2021 some Union County farmland was sold for \$30,000/acre. Shawn said, "These are not my great-grandfather's farms anymore."

The slides were beautiful and descriptive. If you missed this talk, go to:

[LWVLewisburgArea.org/whats-happening/what-you-missed](http://LWVLewisburgArea.org/whats-happening/what-you-missed)

*Teri MacBride, Forum Committee*

## FINANCE DRIVE

Thanks to those who have already donated to this year's Members and Friends Finance Drive! If you haven't already done so, please consider making a contribution to support the important work done by our Lewisburg League. Some supporters of the LWV Education Fund have chosen to make their contributions directly from IRA required minimum distributions because of tax advantages that may offer.

If you didn't receive a letter about the drive, please contact me at:

[cmadle@dejazzd.com](mailto:cmadle@dejazzd.com)

*Carole Madle,  
Members & Friends Finance Drive Chair*

## MAUCH MILLENNIAL PROJECT



On March 14<sup>th</sup>, Elaine Hopkins, Janice Bigelow, and Kandy Duncan met with Kahla DeSmit, Executive Director and Lindsey Walter, Education Director of the Lewisburg Children's Museum. The purpose of the meeting was two-fold. The League, through the Mauch Millennial Project, continued the ongoing discussion regarding collaboration and programming opportunities. There are some interesting activities leading into the next election cycle to encourage and engage the younger citizens of Lewisburg in the civic life of democracy. Additionally, due to the generosity of Imanni Burg, we were able to donate 3 excellent books to the Lewisburg Children's Reading Nook.

## VOTER SERVICES REPORT

### Redistricting Update - as of 2/21/22

On February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the Legislative Reapportionment Commission (LRC) approved new maps for the PA legislature, both House and Senate. The LRC was composed of PA Senate Majority Leader, Kim L. Ward;

## LEAGUE LINE

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Deadline for submission of articles is  
the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

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[LWVLewisburgArea.org](http://LWVLewisburgArea.org)

PA Senate Minority Leader, Jay Costa; PA House Majority Leader, Kerry A. Benninghoff; PA House Minority Leader, Joanna E. McClinton; and Mark A. Nordenberg, the chair of University of Pittsburgh's Institute of Politics, who was appointed LRC chair by the PA Supreme Court on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. The court heard challenges to these maps but upheld them on March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Information for Union County voters in the May 17 Primary is listed below.

### U.S. Congressional Redistricting

*Voters in Union County will now be voting for a US Representative as part of the new 15th Congressional District.*

Because the population did not grow as fast in PA as in other states, PA will now have 17 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, down from 18. The new 15<sup>th</sup> District includes the counties of Armstrong, Cameron, Centre, Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Forest, Jefferson, McKean, Potter, Snyder, Tioga, Union, and Warren, and portions of Indiana, Lycoming, and Venango counties.

### Pennsylvania Legislative Redistricting

*Voters in Union County will now vote for PA Representatives in Districts 76, 83, and 85, depending on their municipality:*

- 76<sup>th</sup> District: includes the Boroughs of Hartleton, Lewisburg, Mifflinburg, and New Berlin; the Townships of Buffalo, Hartley, Kelly, Lewis, Limestone, and West Buffalo; along with Clinton County.

- 83<sup>rd</sup> District: includes the Townships of Gregg and White Deer, along with parts of Lycoming County.
- 85<sup>th</sup> District: includes the Townships of East Buffalo and Union, along with Snyder County and parts of Mifflin and Juniata Counties.

*Union County residents remain in the 23rd Senatorial District but will not be electing a member of the PA Senate in 2022. Currently this district is represented by Gene Yaw, who is up for reelection in 2024.*

### To Learn More

- To learn more and to follow 2022 redistricting opinions and decisions in the PA courts, visit:  
[www.pacourts.us/2022-redistricting-opinions](http://www.pacourts.us/2022-redistricting-opinions)
- To learn more about the LRC in PA visit:  
[www.redistricting.state.pa.us](http://www.redistricting.state.pa.us)

### Voters Guide / Vote411

Our editorial staff, headed by Sheri Stayton, Editor along with Carole Madle and Liz Clement, is busily working on the Spring Primary *Voters Guide* 2022, which will be available both online and in print. Redistricting delayed the creation of an election schedule, and there are now later dates for candidates to be approved to get on the ballot. This delay means that our *Voters Guide* will be delayed too — we plan to distribute it 2 weeks before the election, rather than the usual 4 weeks before.

**Please note:** Vote411 will have candidate information before we will be able to distribute the printed *Voters Guide*. Those of you who are voting by mail-in ballot can get election information on [Vote 411.org](http://Vote411.org) one month before the election.

Additionally, if you are voting by mail-in ballot, you can track your application and ballot online. You can see the status of a mail-in or absentee ballot online from the time the county receives your application, to when your voted ballot is received. If you provide your email address on the application, you will receive an e-mail confirmation once your application is processed. Using this confirmation, you will be able to track your application or ballot online. Your ballot will be mailed to you by the Union County Election Office.

Check out the [LWVLA website](http://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](mailto:Lsharris323@gmail.com).

*Linda Harris, Voter Services Chair*

## MEMBERSHIP

The Board is pleased to announce the upcoming Annual Dinner Meeting, an in-person event to be held on Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> from 6 - 9p.m. at La Primavera. The fee for dinner will be \$32 per person. Invitation and response information will be coming soon.

For any new members, the Annual Meeting is very important as we will have election of officers, adoption of the program, approval of the budget, and the awarding of the various awards to recognize outstanding contributions of time and talents.

As we have had to cancel the last 2 Annual Meetings and switch them to virtual, this year is a much-anticipated time to enjoy one other's company.

## 2022 Pennsylvania Election Calendar: Important Dates to Remember

Source: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of State, Bureau of Elections and Notaries

2022 Election Milestone	Deadline
Last day for the County Boards of Elections to send all remote and non-remote military and overseas ballots	April 2
Last day to file objections to nomination petitions for Senator in the General Assembly, Representative in the General Assembly, and Member of State Committee	April 4
Last day for the Commonwealth Court to render decisions in cases involving objections that have been filed to nomination petitions for Senator in the General Assembly, Representative in the General Assembly, and Member of State Committee	April 7
Last day for the Commonwealth Court to render decisions in cases involving objections that have been filed to nomination petitions for Senator in the General Assembly, Representative in the General Assembly, and Member of State Committee	April 12
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
<b>GENERAL PRIMARY</b>	<b>May 17</b>
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