



# VOTER

November-December 2019

## Criminal Justice Civics Workshop Nov. 2

The League of Women Voters of Central Delaware County will present the next in its regular series of public civics education workshops Saturday, Nov. 2. This event will offer attendees the opportunity to learn more about the criminal justice system in Delaware County with particular focus on current issues pertaining to sentencing, parole and probation. They will hear informed perspectives from a panel of experts and be able to participate in the discussion.

The program will be moderated by Wana Saadzoi, a criminal defense lawyer and member of the Delaware County Bar Association. Panelists include: Lee Awbrey, public defender case management chief, Appellate Unit, Montgomery County; Andrew Christy, criminal justice and poverty

attorney, ACLU Pennsylvania; Dr. Keith Reeves, professor of political science, Swarthmore College, and Tamika Hayward, field parole agent, Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole.

The workshop will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Matchbox Building of Swarthmore College, 500-504 Fieldhouse Lane Ave, Swarthmore. It is free and open to the public. Pre-registration is encouraged but not required at [www.lwvcdc.org/calendar](http://www.lwvcdc.org/calendar).



Go to [Vote411](http://Vote411) to get your slate of candidates in the Nov. 5 municipal elections — County Council, Judge of Common Pleas Court, magistrate judges, school board and municipal officers.

## Vote Nov. 5 — And Vote No on Marsy’s Law Amendment

The Pennsylvania League of Women Voters has sued the secretary of state to invalidate the vote on the ballot question to amend the state Constitution to give victims of crime equal rights to criminal suspects.

It is not that the League opposes the idea, but the amendment — two and a half pages long — is so long voters cannot even read the full amendment on the ballot. It is a mishmash of provisions that would alter eight other parts of the Constitution, would clash with crime suspects’ rights and does not allow voters to chose the provisions they would support or oppose. The Legislature needs to try again with a better-crafted amendment.



# President's Message

The 2019 Midterm elections were most interesting this year. Notably, there were two very important local races for the offices of Delaware County Council and Judge of Common Pleas. In response, LWV-CDC conducted two candidate forums which provided accurate and meaningful information to voters to assist them in making informed choices. In case you missed them, both are recorded and are available for viewing on [LWVCDC.org](http://LWVCDC.org).

The County Council Forum was most unusual in that both parties presented as a three-person slate of candidates with a primary spokesperson for each side answering the questions. Tiffany T. Griffin, a leading criminal attorney in Media served as our moderator for County Council and Jamie Mogilat, LWVPA VP of Government and Social Policy, moderated for the Judge of Common Pleas forum. Both moderators assured that a high level of non-partisan, civil discourse was maintained throughout both forums.

Over the past two years, LWV-CDC has been actively engaged in advocating for a Countywide Public Health Department. In June 2018, John Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health was hired by the County to conduct a study of the public health needs and services and provide the County with recommendations on how to enhance and strengthen these services. As part of the study, five focus groups and in-depth interviews now being scheduled to convene in November and January 2020 to discuss Delaware County's public health programs, policies, and services.

Three of the focus groups are for the general public, one will be targeted to health care professionals and one will be targeted to municipal leaders. Rosemarie Halt, RPh, MPH has been selected for an in-depth interview and other members of the LWV-CDC Public Health Committee will be participating in the health care and general public focus groups to convey results of our field research, interviews with public health officials and the benefits of forming a Public Health Department in Delaware County. We will also be responding to an on-line survey that is part of the John Hopkins study. Stay tuned for more information on our advocacy in the coming months.

Delaware County Council has voted to purchase Hart Intercivic 2.3.4 voting machines and these new machines will be used in the April 2020 Primary. County Council has asked LWV-CDC to help with community training. In December, two League members will receive training from the manufacturer of the Hart Intercivic as part of a "train the trainers" program. In January 2020, these trainers will begin training other League members who will train community groups to use the new Hart machines for the April Primary. We are recruiting trainers now and if you are interested in serving as a trainer for the new voting machines, please contact [Olivia.thorne@verizon.net](mailto:Olivia.thorne@verizon.net).

Join us for our Fall Civics Education Workshop, Examining Criminal Justice in Delaware County, Nov 2, featuring a distinguished panel – a criminal defense attorney, a civil rights advocate, a criminal justice professor and a county correctional officer. The Hot Topic Luncheon Nov. 15 features Elizabeth Koniers Brown, Audubon Director of Delaware River watershed programs. Don't miss our festive and fun Holiday Brunch on Dec. 7 at Springhaven Club, with Maria Bomersbach, speaking on the 1915 Justice Bell.

*Barbara Amstutz*

# Audubon Director to Speak on Watershed

The Pennsylvania League of Women Voters and various local Leagues around the state have been very involved in efforts to protect the Chesapeake, Susquehanna and Delaware River watersheds in recent years because of the threat of fracking and other pollution near those rivers and tributaries.

We haven't heard much about watersheds in our own League, but at our Nov. 15 Hot Topics luncheon, we will hear from Elizabeth "Beth" Brown, Director of the Delaware River Watershed Program for the Pennsylvania Audubon Society. She will speak on Protecting the Delaware River wa-



Elizabeth (Beth) Brown

tershed for Birds and People. She brings more than a decade of experience in the environmental field to her position at Audubon. Following several years in private legal practice, she joined the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, serving in legal and advocacy roles for more than five years. While at DRN, she gained a deep knowledge of local conservation issues. Most recently, she spent five years with Thomson Reuters, where she oversaw a suite of environmental-law and energy-law resources. Luncheon cost is \$20. To register online click [here](#) or contact Hank Thorne at 610-566-5474 or email [hthorne@verizon.net](mailto:hthorne@verizon.net). Mail your check to LWV-CDC, P.O. Box 131, Wallingford PA 19086, or pay at the door.

## LWV-CDC is Starting a Speaker's Bureau

This past month LWV-CDC has received numerous requests to provide educational sessions to high school students and interested Delaware County residents curious to learn more about civic engagement, women's rights activism, the importance of voting in local elections, new voting machines to be implemented in April 2020 primaries, absentee ballot process, LWV history and women's suffrage. The requests continue to come in via the internet and word of mouth. For example, we have received several requests from:

- Lansdowne Public Library
- Chester NAACP Youth Alliance for talks at Chester Upland and STEM Schools
- Brandywine Living at Haverford Estates

In response, we are currently forming a LWV-CDC Speaker's Bureau of interested members who would like to be involved with creating materials on these topics and delivering the presentations in the field to these organizations and schools. Once we have the presentations created, we will initiate outreach to libraries and schools in Delaware County who may be interested in expanding their civic education programs. If you are interested in participating in the LWV-CDC Speaker's Bureau or know of any local groups who would be interested in one of our programs, please email Olivia Thorne at [Olivia.Thorne@verizon.net](mailto:Olivia.Thorne@verizon.net) or Barbara Amstutz, [swhmdi53bwa@outlook.com](mailto:swhmdi53bwa@outlook.com).

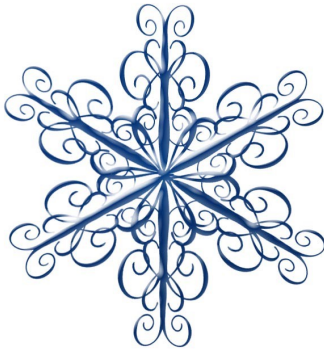
## November-December Events

**Nov. 2 (Saturday)** — Criminal Justice in Delaware County Civics Workshop, Matchbox Building, 500-504 Fieldhouse Ln., Swarthmore College. 9:30 a.m. –12:30 p.m. Free. Pre-registration would be appreciated. [www.lwvcdc.org/calendar](http://www.lwvcdc.org/calendar)

**Nov. 5 (Tuesday)** — Election Day! Don't forget to vote.

**Nov. 15 (Friday)** — Delaware River Watershed — Elizabeth Brown, director of Delaware Watershed Program, Audubon Society. Community Room, Media Borough Hall, 301 N. Jackson St., Media. Noon.

**Dec. 7 (Saturday)** — LWV-CDC Holiday Brunch. Speaker Maria Bomersbach, chairwoman Justice Bell 2020 Committee. 9 a.m. Springhaven Club, 600 S. Providence Rd. Wallingford, Pa. \$25. Reservations by Nov. 21. P. 4.



# Holiday Brunch

Springhaven Club, 600 S. Providence Rd.

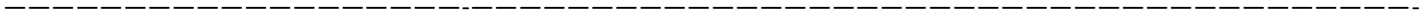
Wallingford, Pa. 19086

Dec. 7, 9 a.m., \$25



Come and hear Maria Bomersbach, president of the Washington Memorial Heritage Board of Directors and Chair of the Justice Bell 2020 Committee speak about the journey of the bell and its impact on women’s suffrage in Pennsylvania. Questions? Email Pat Cimino at [patcimino@comcast.net](mailto:patcimino@comcast.net) or call 610-328-1375.

**This event is open only to LWV-CDC members and their guests. Make your reservation no later than Nov. 21 as space is limited. Mail checks and this form to LWV-CDC, Box 131, Wallingford, PA 19086**



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

No. of People attending \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetable Frittata \_\_\_\_\_

Eggs Benedict \_\_\_\_\_