

LWV VOTER

League of Women Voters of Central Delaware

February 2023

County Council Luncheon — In Person Feb. 21

Join the League of Women Voters of Delaware County, which consists of LWV of Radnor Township and LWV of Central Delaware County, for our in-person lunch and discussion with Delaware County Council plus other members of Delco government on **Tuesday, Feb. 21 at Noon** at the [Springfield Country Club](#), 440 W Sproul Rd., Springfield. This LWV special member event is a chance to meet with members of Delaware County Council in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere and talk about issues that affect the county.

Our League traditionally hosts this luncheon with the County Council each February to celebrate our birthday

and to learn more about what the County will be doing in the coming year. On February 14th the

League of Women Voters will mark its 103rd birthday which is a time to rededicate ourselves to our mission to Empower Voters and Defend Democracy. The luncheon begins at noon.

Choose from one of these entrees: chicken marsala, tilapia with lemon butter, penne with grilled vegetables.

Cost: \$40.00 per meal. Make your reservations by Tuesday, Feb. 14.

Payment Options:

Check (Payable to LWV of Delaware County & Mailed to PO Box 131, Wallingford, PA 19086 or brought on the day of the event)

Cash or check at the event venue registration table.



Council members Richard R. Womack Jr., Christine Reuther, President Dr. Monica Taylor, Elaine Paul Schaeffer and Kevin Madden

Getting the Lead Out, Keeping Our Children Safe

Join us for the Hot Topic Getting the Lead Out: Keeping Our Kids Safe on **Friday, Feb. 10 at Noon via Zoom** to hear Rosemarie Halt, MPH, and president of the Delaware County Health Department describe the health risks associated with lead and its impact on Delaware County children. Delaware County has the fifth highest number of children poisoned by lead of all Pennsylvania counties, with an average of 250 children harmed each year.

This is part of the LWV-CDC's and County LWV's series on health issues to be presented throughout the spring.

Register [HERE](#) and learn:

- How lead toxicity is being prevented and mitigated.
- The value of lead certification programs.
- How lay advocates such as LWV members can support the efforts of the Delaware County Health Department and community organizations such as Children First in these efforts.
- About the Action Plan: [Preventing Childhood Lead Poisoning in Delaware County by 2027](#).

LWV-CDC Officers 2022-2023

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NEW MEMBERS:

LWV-CDC has gained two new members since November: Andrea Simpson of Lansdowne and Karen Shapiro of Media. Welcome. Visit our website, lwvcdc.org, to learn about the League.



President's Message

February is a special month for the League of Women Voters. On February 14, 1920 (Valentine's Day) the League was officially founded in Chicago just six months before the 19th amendment was ratified and women won the vote. Formed by the suffragists of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, the League began as a "mighty political experiment" designed to help 20 million women carry out their new responsibilities as voters.

League of Women Voters History Timeline (LWVUS) - [CLICK HERE](#)

Picture Yourself as Part of the League History (Video LWVUS) - [CLICK HERE](#)

Women Suffrage & 19th Amendment Resources (National Archive) - [CLICK HERE](#)

Women's Suffrage Movement (National Geographic) - [CLICK HERE](#)

Black Women Who Define(d) the Voting Rights Movement (LWVUS) - [CLICK HERE](#)

Our League Roots

The [League of Women Voters of Central Delaware County](#) began in 1920 as the League of Women Voters (LWV) Media. Its early history is on file at the Philadelphia Historical society and its first Annual Meeting [Report in November 1921](#) gives one a perspective on how active and driven the founding mothers of our League were.

Several Leagues flourished in Delaware County throughout the 20th century but eventually they became amalgamated into LWV-CDC. The League serves the City of Chester and all of the towns and boroughs of the county except [Radnor](#), which maintains its own League. In 2019, the Haverford League of Women Voters merged with LWV-CDC. Together the Radnor and Central Delaware County leagues form the [Delaware County League of Women Voters](#), an interleague organization that focuses on countywide issues. Our About Pages - [CLICK HERE](#).

Celebrate the LWV 103rd Birthday

On Feb. 14 join the Virtual People Powered Pep Rally at 11 a.m. to commemorate the birthday of the League of Women Voters with collective action, advocacy, and storytelling. Women have powered democracy for over 100 years, and for our birthday, we are coming together across the country to build and flex our power for advocacy in 2023. RSVP [here](#) to hear LWVUS CEO Virginia Kase Solomón; President Dr. Deborah Turner and League stories from states.

Anne Mosakowski

Spotlight on LWV-CDC Committee: International Relations

The International Relations Study Group has been active for years studying different countries. We meet monthly on the second Tuesday, at 12:30 pm at Joan Hazbun's home and virtually at 1 p.m. Recently, we have decided to subscribe to the briefing book "Great Decisions" put out by the Foreign Policy Association. Each of the short but very informative eight chapters deals with a world issue and how America should handle it. The chapter has a short accompanying video lecture. We discuss the topics and answer a couple of questions.

Each group member is encouraged to supplement the topics with their own research or experience. The topics for 2023 are Energy Geopolitics, War Crimes, China and the US, Economic Warfare, Politics in Latin America, Global Famine, Iran at a Crossroads. In February we are covering Energy Geopolitics and in March Iran at the Crossroads. The link for the briefing book which costs \$35 is: https://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/?act=gd_materials

The group's next meeting will be Feb. 14. We welcome new members so come join us! If you are interested in joining the group, please register [here](#). You will still need to call Joan Hazbun, 610-353-2177 or email her at jchazbun6@gmail.com for her address or for a Zoom link to the next meeting.



Voter Services Chair Marita Green (left in red)

We Had the Best Time!

Forty-one LWV-CDC members had a great time at the annual holiday party in December. We made it a priority to thank our very hard-working Voter Services committee members for their efforts registering voters, staging candidates' forums, helping with Vote411, and educating voters, the core work of LWV.

We also got to play LWV bingo, with players finding specific items in our 2022 Year in Review video put together by Vice President Cathy Yungmann. Everybody won. Here's the [video](#).

February—March Events

Feb. 10 (Friday): Hot Topic — LWV Member and President Delaware County Board of Health, Rosemarie Halt will present a program on advocating for lead mitigation on behalf of Children First. Noon on Zoom. Register [here](#).

Feb. 14 (Tuesday): LWVUS, our national organization, will hold a virtual pep rally Tuesday, Feb. 14 to celebrate the League's 103rd birthday, featuring President Dr. Deborah Turner and CEO Virginia Kase Solomon. 11 a.m. You can register [here](#).

Feb. 14 (Tuesday): International Relations Study Group monthly meeting, 1-2 p.m. Register [here](#). Email Joan Hazbun for Zoom link or address. This month's program is on energy geopolitics.

Feb. 21 (Tuesday): Delaware County League of Women Voters County Council Luncheon – Noon, Springfield Country Club. \$40 per person. Register [here](#).

March 10 (Friday): Hot Topic — Brennan Center for Justice speaker will present a program on dis- and misinformation. Noon, Zoom. Save the date. Details and registration will be posted closer to event.

March 23 (Thursday): Jeanette Ross Lecture — Environmental Health Priorities in Delaware County, Speaker Ruth McDermott-Levy, Zoom, 7:30 p.m. Save the date. Details and registration will be posted closer to the event.

How Our Leagues Work Together to Promote and Defend Democracy

By Jodine Mayberry, Voter Editor

When you join the League of Women Voters of Central Delaware County, you are also joining both the state league, [LWVPA](#), and the national league, [LWVUS](#), and all three work in concert to defend and increase voting rights.

Here's a recent example: LWVUS and all 50 state LWVs filed an amicus (friend of the court) [brief](#) with the U.S. Supreme Court last October in *Moore v. Harper*, to oppose the so-called "independent state legislature theory" (ISLT), which, if adopted, would have far-reaching implications for the future of American democracy. The Supreme Court has heard the case and will issue an opinion by the end of June.

"Giving states unchecked power to set rules for federal elections is an assault on the American voter," said **Virginia Kase Solomón**, CEO of LWVUS. "Historically, state legislatures have enacted the most harmful and suppressive anti-voter laws, and pro-voter groups like the League have relied on the ability to fight them in state courts. The Independent State Legislature Theory is a dangerous, fringe ideology that leaves voters effectively defenseless from harmful election laws."

A ruling adopting ISLT would give state legislatures nearly unrestricted authority to set the rules for federal elections, and state courts would not be able to review those rules. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court did just that in 2017 when it reapportioned congressional districts.

Each of the state leagues were invited to make a statement to accompany the brief and **Samantha Apgar**, president of LWVPA made the following statement:

"The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania has fought for years to ensure that redistricting is independent, impartial, and reflective of all voters. In *League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania v. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court struck down Pennsylvania's 2011 congressional map as an unconstitutional partisan gerrymander under the state Constitution.

"The ISLT doctrine would undo decades of progress and remove the governmental checks and balances in our state. We will continue to fight for a redistricting process that protects our democratic process and institutions — a balanced and fair system that voters deserve," she said.

The PA Legislature

LWVPA has taken a strong stand on the Republican-controlled Pennsylvania Senate's attempt to marry a widely supported bipartisan amendment granting sexual abuse victims a two-year window to sue their abusers with two unrelated and politically controversial amendments on

voter IDs and election audits.

LWV argued that the amendments should have been considered individually and that there was no notice, no public hearings and no opportunity for the public to participate in the process.

"This is an abuse of power which threatens to erode our democratic and legislative structure," LWVPA said.

The League could also have objected on the basis of its position that putting constitutional amendments on the primary election ballot enables a small minority of partisan voters to decide matters of great consequence for our state's 12 million citizens.

It appears that danger has passed. New House Speaker Mark Rozzi (D. Berks) has ensured that the amendments will not be on the 2023 primary ballot by recessing the House until Feb. 27. That will be after three special elections in the Pittsburgh area that likely will be won by Democrats. It is unlikely that the three-amendment package will be adopted, but even if it is, it will be too late to put the amendments on the May 16 primary election. One or more likely will be on the Nov. 7 general election ballot.

Speaker Rozzi is currently conducting a listening tour to hear from the public how they want the House to be organized this session. In the meantime, there are no committees and no legislation can be introduced. LWV-CDC submitted testimony for the tour that can be read [here](#).

The state and national leagues take positions on various issues that form the basis of their actions. You can look up the LWVPA's position [here](#) and LWVUS positions [here](#).

LWVPA Convention Coming In June

The state LWV biennial convention will be held June 16-18 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Harrisburg. LWV-CDC will be reviewing the state League's programs for 2023-2024 and will be sending delegates to the conference.

If you are interested in being a voting delegate submit your name to Anne Mosakowski at amosakowski@gmail.com. Over the last three years, the state and national conventions were held by Zoom at minimal cost, but LWV is now returning to in person conventions, providing worthwhile opportunities to get to know leaders from other leagues and find out what they have been doing to defend democracy throughout our state.