



VOTER

League of Women Voters of Central Delaware County

September 2021

Election Security in Delaware County — Sept. 17

The League of Women Voters of Central Delaware County and the League of Women Voters of Delaware County present a Hot Topics gathering with James P. Allen, director of Elections Operations for Delaware County, on Sept. 18 at noon on Zoom.

Mr. Allen will be discussing the county's Election Department (the Election Bureau, Voter Registration and Voting Machines), the recruiting and training of poll workers, the process of printing ballots for the new voting machines, the mail-in ballot process and any changes in the state's election laws ahead of the next election.

He is new to Delaware County, after having been



James P. Allen

recruited from Chicago, but he is not new to working with the League of Women Voters and we hope to work with him to help ensure free, fair and secure elections in Delco.

Much as the League would like to restart in-person luncheons as we launch our new program year, that is not feasible with the Delta Variant ravaging much of the country and spiking here in Delaware County.

This Zoom gathering is free but you must register ahead of time to get the meeting link. You can pose any questions you have for Mr. Allen on the registration form. Register [here](#). Contact [Olivia Thorne](#) or [Jane Brennan](#) for more information.

Civics Ed Program Sept. 30 Focuses on Reentry

LWV-CDC's Civics Education Committee is holding a panel discussion Sept. 30 from noon to 1:30 p.m. on Zoom on the obstacles that the formerly incarcerated face when they return to their communities after serving their time or on parole and on the programs available to help them.

The webinar – Post-Incarceration Reentry: Problems, Policies, Programs and Opportunities – will feature Moderator Maurice Q. Jones, general manager of PAR (People Advancing Reintegration) – Recycle Works, which helps returning ithe for-

merly incarcerated find jobs in recycling.

Panelists include Executive Deputy Pennsylvania Attorney General Robert Reed, who heads the state's PA Reentry Council, Jean-Pierre Brice of the Chester Partnership for Safe Neighborhoods and Jamila Harris, who works with the Incarcerated Women's Working Group .

The webinar is free but you register [here](#) to receive the Zoom link and pose questions. Contact Committee Chair [Ralf Graves](#) for more information or to join the committee.

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Visit our website(s)

Like us on Facebook

You can find us online at <http://www.LWV-CDC.org/> or on Facebook by clicking [here](#). Or go on Facebook and search League of Women Voters of Central Delaware County. Then click "like," post a comment, send us pictures.

By the way, our umbrella organization, the Delaware County League of Women Voters, has a new website too. Check it out [here](#).



President's Message

As the newly elected president of the League of Women Voters of Central Delaware County I want to thank you all for your support and dedication to our League. For me this opportunity of serving as president will be one of those life "learning experiences."

Through my life experiences as an educator, I was involved in teaching a wide range of students from those in preschool to graduate school. My last full-time work in education was for the Delaware County Intermediate Unit (DCIU) as an Instructional Technology Coordinator. In this role I was responsible for the coordination of many training opportunities focusing on the integration of the use of technology within the K-12 curriculum. I also was a 21st Century Teaching and Learning Mentor for the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Other curriculum areas that I coordinated for the DCIU included Economic Education, School to Work and Business Education Partnerships. I have a Bachelor's in Elementary Education from West Chester University and Master's and specialist certification in Instructional Technology from Saint Joseph's University plus several instructional technology application certifications.

Since retirement from DCIU I have become active with the Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees - Delaware County Chapter; American Association of University Women - Eastern Delaware County Branch; and the League of Women Voters of Central Delaware County.

In my role as President of our League I plan to build on the work and dedication of past presidents, League boards of directors, League mentors and our members to advance the League mission of "empowering voters and defending democracy". At times this mission can be overwhelming but as the League of Women Voters this mission is as important today as it was back in 1920.

One of the ways Leagues help to fulfill the mission is to work together to meet goals outlined in our local program which includes initiatives focused on Government, Education, Natural Resources, Criminal Justice and Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI). I encourage you to visit the following pages on [our website](#) for more information [2020-2021 Local Program](#) our [Issues pages](#) and to get more involved in the work of our League check out [Our Committees](#) with the intent to become more active and involved in all the communities we serve. See Page 4 for a description of the community observer corps we are starting.

I look forward to your input and as a group of volunteers, we will continue to move forward together as a nonpartisan team to improve our government and engage our communities in promoting positive solutions through the democratic process. Thank you!

Anne Mosakowski

Conspiratorial Thinking and Beliefs in Voter Fraud

LWV-CDC has had the great good fortune to recruit Dr. Adam Enders, assistant professor of political science at the University of Louisville, to talk to us Friday, Oct. 8 at 7 p.m. about “Conspiratorial Thinking and Beliefs in Voter Fraud.”

Dr. Enders will discuss his research into QAnon and share his polling and insights on voter fraud beliefs.

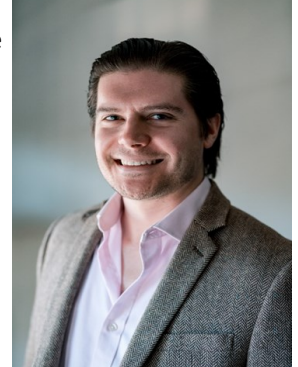
The timing could not be better with state legislatures and political parties roiling with 2020 election fraud conspiracies and seeking to enact new voting restrictions based on the “big lie” that the 2020 election was stolen.

His research focuses on the role of suspicion and conspiratorial thinking in American mass politics, the influence of core values on political identities and attitudes,

and the evolving nature of mass polarization. He earned a Ph.D. in Political Science from Michigan State University in 2016. Adam Enders is an assistant professor of political science at the University of Louisville, where he conducts research on the psychology of conspiracy beliefs and misinformation, political extremism, and mass polarization.

His research focuses on the role of suspicion and conspiratorial thinking in American mass politics, the influence of core values on political identities and attitudes, and the evolving nature of mass polarization.

The program is free but you must register beforehand. Register [here](#).



Dr. Adam Enders

Eye on LWV committees: The Development Committee

Each month the Voter is going to focus on a different LWV-CDC committee. This month, we are looking at the Development Committee, cochaired by [Gloria Rabinowitz](#) and [Rose Marie Lord](#). It is their job to reach out to donors and plan fund-raising opportunities so LWV-CDC can have the resources to do all of the things we do. They have persevered even during the pandemic, raising \$1,365 for the general fund and \$890 for the education fund in the last few months. Many of those donations came from people remembering LWV members who have recently passed away.

In one case, a \$100 donation came to us out of the blue from a Washington, D.C., non-member who does not want to be identified but urges us to carry on our important work. The committee also plans and carries out excursions and trips, which we will get back to once the pandemic is over. Contact them if you want to help and donate [here](#).

Statewide Appellate Judges Forum — Sept. 20

Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts and the Free Library of Philadelphia will host a virtual forum with the candidates for all of Pennsylvania's appellate courts, including the Supreme Court, Superior Court and Commonwealth Court on Monday, Sept. 20, at 7 p.m.

This event will include all of the statewide judicial candidates on the Nov. 2 ballot and will provide viewers with an opportunity to get to know the candidates through a moderated forum. Attendees will have the opportunity to submit questions for the candidates. The forum is free. Register [here](#).

September-October Events Calendar

September 17 (Friday) — Election Security in Delaware County: James Allen, new Delaware County elections operations director, Noon on Zoom.

September 20 (Monday) — Statewide appellate judges candidates forum. 7 p.m. on Zoom.

September 30 (Thursday) — Civics Education Symposium — Reentry: Problems, Policies, Programs and Opportunities . A panel discussion of the obstacles prisoners returning to society face and the programs to help them. Noon on Zoom.

October 8 (Friday) — Conspiratorial Thinking and Beliefs in Voter Fraud: Dr. Adam Enders. 7 p.m. on Zoom.

We Celebrate Those We Lost

June and July were not kind to our membership. On June 12 we lost longtime member Eileen Belanger, 74, of Media, who retired as a manager for the regional office of the Environmental Protection Administration. Eileen was



Rev. Dorothy Field

also a longtime member of the Women's Democratic Club of Delaware county and the Pennsylvania Federation of Democratic Women.

On June 22, we lost Priscilla Hopkirk, 98. A trailblazer for women, she was the first woman hired in the Political Science Department of Villanova University in 1967 and chaired the department from 1978 to 1988.

Priscilla was a fixture at LWV-CDC events long into her

90s even as her health began to fail. According to her obituary, she was ballroom dancing in her 80s.

Dorothy Field died July 15 at the age of 96. A retired Methodist minister, she also held a masters degree in elementary education and taught at schools in Springfield and Swarthmore for many years.



Dr. Priscilla Hopkirk

Dot was a longtime member both of LWV and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, as well as many other civic, church and senior citizens organizations. Her last ministry was at Crozerville UMC where she served until she was 85.

Our condolences to all their families.



Eileen Belanger

LWVPA 54th Biennial Convention Brought Us New Ideas

[The LWVPA 54th Biennial Convention](#) was held via Zoom on June 18 & June 19, 2021. Our LWV CDC voting delegates were Anne Mosakowski, Cathy Yungmann, Rose Marie Lord, Jodine Mayberry and Lora Lavin. Delegates voted on the 2021-2022 budget, bylaw changes, Officers & Board of Director nominations, and the 2021-2023 Program.

Presentations included: The League: A History of Change. A Future of Hope by Dr. Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins; DEI and the Future of the League by LWVUS President Dr. Deborah Turner; Recasting the Vote: How Women of Color Transformed the Suffrage Movement

by Dr. Cathleen D. Cahill, associate professor of History at Penn State, and Maintaining Nonpartisanship in a Hyper-Partisan Time by Alma Couverthie, LWVUS national organizing director.

Acting Secretary of State Veronica Degraffenreid gave the Keynote Address. We also heard from League members throughout Pennsylvania speaking on topics such as engaging youth, and women in public leadership, attracting members & increasing civic engagement, and voter services in Pennsylvania.

Terrie Griffin, LWV Of Greater Pittsburgh, was reelected president for a second term.

Census Data is Here

The LWV-CDC website now features a census page. To review and/or share our US Census issue page [CLICK HERE](#). On the page is the **What Can You Do** section, offered as a way to engage our members.

What you can do:

- Help our League educate communities on sharing the census data through locally based, targeted outreach efforts.
- Watch the video How to Visualize the 2020 Redistricting Data for Your Area [CLICK HERE](#) Check out the [2020 Census Demographic Data Map Viewer](#)
- To get 2020 Census results sign up [here](#).
- To get America Counts: Stories Behind the Numbers sign up [here](#)

Watch Data GEM Videos [CLICK HERE](#)

Welcome New Members

Welcome to our new members who have signed since last spring: Jennifer and Vince DiPillo, Carol and Bruno Franconi, Elizabeth Golden, Pamela Magidson, Laura McLaughlin, Stephen Platt, Roseline Sesay and Dina Smith. Also Barbara Gogel, Susan Bianco, Patricia Hagan, Laura Calfayan, Jacqueline Guy and Annalee Drumm.

We now have 194 members, including 29 household members, seven student members and six life members. Student and life members pay no dues.

If you have not paid your annual dues yet, please do so either [online](#) or by check, payable to LWV Central Delaware County and mailed to PO Box 131, Wallingford, PA 19086.

Volunteers Needed

Voter Registration Starting Up

LWV-CDC's **Voter Services Committee** has set the following dates, places and times for voter registration ahead of the Nov. 2 municipal election. Volunteers are always needed to help with registration.

Pick one or two places and dates you'd like to help with, put on your LWV button and head on over. Contact any one of the team members [Marilyn Gilroy](#), [Kathy Knight](#) and [Kathleen Peterson](#) for an easy online training guide. They may also schedule a Zoom training session. You may also have suggestions for other sites for voter registration.

Fall 2021 Voter Registration Events:

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Wednesday - 9/15 | 1-2 p.m. Delaware County Community College - Marple |
| Thursday - 9/16 | 10:30 a.m.-12:30pm Delaware County Community College - Marple |
| Monday - 9/20 | 2-3 p. m. Riddle Village |
| Saturday - 9/25 | 8:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Swarthmore Farmers Market |
| Sunday - 9/26 | 12:30 pm - 2:30 p.m. Media Food Bank |
| Tuesday - 9/28 | 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m Delaware County Community College Southeast Center |
| Wednesday - 9/29 | 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Delaware County Community College Upper Darby Center |
| Wednesday 10/6 | 3-5 p.m. Plush Mills |

Be a Community Observer for LWV

In this day and age, when local news outlets are disappearing or being decimated, it has become more important than ever that the League of Women Voters learn about our local communities and observe local school boards, township councils and county council and its agencies, especially when major issues are being raised and important decisions are being made.

The job of an LWV observer is not hard. It is similar to being a news reporter. You go to public meetings, introduce yourself to the elected representatives and simply observe the body's official actions to report back to the League.

LWV of Delaware County is looking for observers of County Council, the County Election Board, the Jail Operations Board and the newly launched Board of Health.

Some members are already observing several of

these agencies and boards but LWV wants to organize an observer corps on a more formal basis.

Once the county LWV organizes its corps, LWV-CDC

will be looking for members to go to key municipal and school board meetings as well. And we will put together a handbook for you telling you what to do before, during and after meetings.

You don't have to wait though to get started observing your own community. You can do that as citizens and residents of your town or school district. Just Google your township, borough or

school board and find out when they are meeting.

Please contact [Olivia Thorne](#), president of LWV of Delaware County, to let her know you are interested. You can call her at (610) 566-5474.

Two quick rules: wear your LWV buttons and do not make any public comments at the meeting.



You won't need the binoculars

Election Law Bills and Redistricting in Pa. Legislature

By Jodine Mayberry

Legislative Advocacy Committee

Delco League of Women Voters and the League of Women Voters of Central Delaware County are very proud that on Aug. 6 with less than four days' notice we rallied our members and hosted a voting rights rally at the courthouse in Media to urge congressional support for H.R. 1 (S. 1) and H.R. 4 (the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act).

Of about 100 people there, at least a dozen were LWV members. In addition, Delco LWV President Olivia Thorne took on hosting duties, making opening remarks, explaining LWV's role in advancing voting rights and introducing the first speaker. Roberta Winters and Gillian Norris-Szanto, the new president of the Radnor league, helped organize the event.

Speakers included Congresswoman Mary Gay Scanlon; Dr. Joan Duvall Flynn, Media NAACP; Malcolm Yates; Delaware County Black Caucus, and Kandida Kenner, New Pennsylvania Project, an offshoot of Stacy Abrams' New Georgia Project.

In the meantime, the state Legislature passed the Republican-sponsored omnibus election law bill, H.R. 1300, which Democratic Governor Tom Wolf promptly vetoed, largely due to its call for a new voter photo ID component and for its restrictions on mail-in ballots and drop boxes. The Senate State Government Committee Chairman David Argall, R.-Schuylkill, and ranking Democrat Sharif Street are working on formulating a bipartisan omnibus bill that would amend Act 77 in a number of ways.

It would allow for pre-canvassing starting three days before Election Day, require voters to reapply for mail-in ballots every year and require drop boxes to be anchored to the ground and monitored on camera 24/7 (as they were for the 2020 election.)

The new bill is expected to omit the voter ID requirement, which Republicans are counting on approving as a constitutional amendment. That proposed amendment, SB735, requires voters to submit a valid photo ID each time they vote in person and also include photocopies with mail-in ballots. The bill must be passed in two legislative sessions before it can be placed on the ballot. LWVPA opposed HB 1300 and opposes this bill.

The Republican effort to conduct a "forensic au-

dit" of the 2020 presidential election is ongoing but hit a snag when the three counties that were asked to submit their ballots and machines for audit by unnamed third-party auditors refused after the Secretary of State said the machines would have to be decommissioned if they were turned over.

Reapportionment

The once every 10 years reapportionment battle is in full swing and our sister organization, Fair Districts PA, is working hard to recruit voters to testify at public hearings being held by the House and Senate State Government Committees and to submit testimony and their own ideas for maps to the Legislative Apportionment Commission, which is made up of two Republic



Our LWV-CDC Executive Board at the Aug. 6 rally

and Two Democratic legislators and chaired by a non-partisan chairman, Mark Nordenberg. That commission on Aug. 24 voted 3-2 to end prison gerrymandering, the counting of prison inmates as residents of the municipality where they are incarcerated, with chairman Nordenberg supplying the majority vote.

The House State Government Committee will hold its only scheduled hearing on congressional redistricting for southeastern Pennsylvania Sept. 21 at 1 p.m. in Quakertown. You can attend the hearing or submit written testimony by Oct. 13 to the state's redistricting website, redistricting.state.pa.us.

If you are interested in testifying or participating in Fair Districts PA's efforts to submit fairly drawn maps of state Senate and House legislative districts for Delaware County, please contact Fair Districts' Delco coordinator Deirdre Gibson at deirdreg84@gmail.com.