

LEAGUE LINE

A Bulletin of The League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

When I joined the League a couple years ago, I was told that it pretty much went “silent” through the summer. They told me that the committees did not convene and there were no Board meetings. Last year did not seem to prove that out. This year, the Year of COVID, is nowhere near being quiet or inactive. For a group that has had to work virtually and adjust all their processes to maintain the health and safety of all concerned, there is an incredible amount of business being conducted. As you will read in the other areas of the newsletter, there is exciting stuff going on with Voter Services. Decisions are being made regarding the fall Candidates Night. The Mauch Project continues to evolve; you can [read about it on our website](#).

The first Virtual Forum is scheduled for September 15th. An email will be sent to members instructing them on how to register for this event. Also, the Book Club has been incredibly active. Reportedly there were 20+ attendees at last month’s meeting. We have a new easy-to-use website (see article at bottom of page 2). Check out Janice Bigelow’s August posts, historical suffrage profiles, on our [Facebook page](#), as well as the Get Out The Vote information and videos.

The most prominent things we need to be focused on are the upcoming election and the importance of ensuring that voters are informed of their voting options. The playing field has changed due to COVID so of primary importance, besides the actual vote, is that people remain safe and healthy. Urging people to register is paramount. Monday, October 19th is the deadline for all voter registrations regardless of how you choose to vote; mail-in, absentee, or in-person.

Another important date that voters should have on their minds and on their calendars is October 27th. All applications for mail-in or absentee ballots must be received, not post marked, by 5:00pm on the 27th. Given how slow the mail has become, please get your applications in early; in most cases this means a week ahead of the deadline - by October 20th. Remember, you can request your applications now, online, or directly from the Elections Office. It is never too early to apply!!

If you choose to take advantage of the mail-in or absentee vote option, once you have mailed your ballot, you can track it online to be sure that it arrives at the appropriate place. The deadline for returning your ballot is 8:00pm on November 3rd. Please keep these important deadlines in mind and remind your friends and family to do the same. For additional information consult [Vote411.org](#) or [votespa.com](#), or visit [our website](#).

Voting is one of the most important things we do. Democracy is NOT a spectator sport.

Kandy Duncan, President

STRATEGIC VISION 2020-2025

In June’s Annual Meeting, the LWVLA membership approved a 5-year strategic vision. This will guide the Board in its planning and prioritization. As approved:

“We envision increased Union County voter registration, voter turnout, and informed participation in local democracy.

WHAT’S HAPPENING

Please place the following events on your personal calendar.

Tuesday, September 8th, 3:00pm

BOARD MEETING
Via Zoom, video conference tool

Tuesday, September 15th, 11:00am

FORUM
Scott Meinke, Bucknell Political Science Professor and Department Chair
“What Works and What Doesn’t? The Political Science of Election Reforms”
Via Zoom opening at 10:30am
Please see Forum article about registering for the meeting

Thursday, September 17th

US Constitution Day

Tuesday, September 22nd

National Voter Registration Day

Monday October 5th, 3:00pm

BOARD MEETING
Via Zoom, video conferencing tool

Monday October 19th

Last day to register before November Election

Tuesday October 27

Last day to submit completed application for mail-in or absentee ballot

Tuesday November 3rd

GENERAL ELECTION

Over the next five years, LWVLA will build on our history and strengths to:

- be a trusted local leader in voter and issues education,*
- have members and collaborations that reflect the diversity of Union County,*
- actively collaborate with political, governmental and community organizations.”*

Interested in helping us achieve this vision? Contact Becky Perez, rm86089@gmail.com.

Becky Perez, Strategic Vision coordinator

NATIONAL CONVENTION

During the week of June 22-27, the Lewisburg League “sent” 4 delegates - Linda Harris, Sheri Slayton, Mary Zimmerman, Kandy Duncan - and 2 observers - Pat Longley, Liz Clements - to the LWV National Convention. This event was to occur in Washington D.C. at an earlier date. It was an interesting convention, composed of up to 20 caucuses with the plenary sessions held over a 2-day period. All of the sessions were done virtually, with Friday and Saturday sessions attended by over 1300 members on a Zoom call. There were a couple of technical hiccoughs, but for the most part, things went well.

Norah O’Donnell, CBS anchor, was the keynote speaker. The Convention elected and welcomed the 20th National President, Deborah Turner. The customary business of the LWVUS was conducted with amendments to the By-Laws approved, the annual Program endorsed, and the budgets for the LWVUS and

the LWVEF adopted. For all the details, please visit the national website ([LWV.org](#)) and look under *League Management/LWV National Convention 2020*. Along the way, through the website, you may find other topics that interest you.

Kandy Duncan, delegate

LWVLA PARTNERS WITH WVIA

LWVLA’s Board recently approved an exciting sponsorship of WVIA’s airing of the multi-part series, “The Vote,” running in September. The series tells the dramatic story of the hard-fought campaign waged by American women for the right to vote, and further celebrates our 100th Anniversary. The timing of this television series just before the general election is wonderful! See our local website for details on specific dates and times for the airing.

As part of our sponsorship, LWVLA will be featured in WVIA emails and identified on their website. LWVLA and our voter resources, such as our *Voters Guide* and *Vote411*, will also be highlighted in a series of spot radio and TV advertisements in September and October. We are optimistic about this outreach with voter resources and will be measuring the impact of this marketing campaign.

Becky Perez, for the Board

LUNCH FORUMS

The first Forum of the year will be on September 15th, with Dr. Scott Meinke, Bucknell Professor and Chair of the Political Science Department. His talk is entitled, “What Works and What Doesn’t: The Political Science of Election Reform.”

PLEASE NOTE: There will be a number of changes to the Forum format until at least January. *All Forums will be held via Zoom, and will require registration.* You will be asked to fill out a form with your e-mail address and the name of the device under which you will be logging in to the Forum. You can register at lwvforum@gmail.com.

This September Forum begins at 11:00am, but we will admit people starting at 10:30am. Typically, Forums will still be scheduled at noon. After you have registered for this Forum, you will be sent a meeting link and suggested readings for an optional 30-minute discussion session which will be held immediately after the speaker concludes at noon.

Mary Zimmerman, Forum Committee chair

VOTER SERVICES REPORT

Get Out the Vote project

It’s the League’s 100th year and the League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area is committed to bringing voter engagement to the forefront of our work. The focus is on Get Out The Vote (GOTV).

Our projects this past month have included several efforts.

- GOTV **videos**, posted on our [Facebook page](#), have been created by local Leagues to help the Get Out The Vote campaign.
- We are currently finalizing plans for a **postcard campaign**. Newly registered voters will be the first priority. Information to them will include how to apply for

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mail-in ballots with associated deadlines, along with our well documented, non-partisan *Voters Guide*.

Voting Information

For up-to-date voting information, check out the PA Department of State sponsored website, votespa.com. Make sure you are registered to vote. Have you changed your address? Double check your polling place. If you applied for a mail-in ballot in the Primary did you click "Permanent"? If you did, and provided your email address, you will receive an email from the Department of State letting you know of your status. If you are unsure, and have not received an email from the PA Department of State, then apply for a mail-in ballot at votespa.com. The Dept. of State will let you know if this is a duplicate and advise you to contact your election office, 570-524-8681, where you can confirm your status. Voters can expect to receive requested ballots by the end of September, to beginning of October.

Important Dates

Tuesday, **October 27th**, by 5:00pm - Mail-in and absentee *applications* for ballots for the November 3rd General Election must be received by your county election office.

Tuesday, **November 3rd**, by 8:00pm - Mail-in and absentee *completed ballots* must be received by your county election office - postmarks are not enough!

VOTE411

For all your candidate information, go to Vote411.org, the website where candidates respond to questions on the topics that you want answered. Candidates will be adding their unedited responses starting in mid-September, and continuing up until the November election. LWVUS hopes to have information on the Presidential candidates available on Vote411.org by the last week of September.

Kerry Sautner, head of Voter Services for LWVPA, has started a weekly Zoom meeting with Voter Services leaders in local Leagues across PA. Our local League members Sheri Stayton, Liz Clement, and Linda Harris are

Thanks to the efforts of Becky Perez and Bev Zorn, our local League has updated our web site, using the platform shared with many other local Leagues and offering a more contemporary "look and feel"! You can access this new website using the same path that you've always used:

lwvlewisburgarea.org

LEAGUE LINE SEPT. 2020

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.

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attending these meetings in an effort to stay informed on how best to provide information to voters and to get out the vote for the November election. Sheri Stayton is managing Vote411.org for candidates in Pennsylvania with guidance from Kerry Sautner, and with the help of Liz Clement. It's the second time, after our hosting of the state convention, that our League has been put in a leadership position and it's wonderful to get the recognition.

Voters Guide

For the November 2020 General Election, LWVLA's *Voters Guide* will remain an online document, available on our website for viewing and printing. We expect to have it available in October. We will update our website when it's published. Should you not be able access the *Voters Guide* online, call us 570-524-4439 and we will get one to you.

More on Getting out the Vote

Please help us get out the vote! We have 28 Vote411 yard signs looking for good homes. We are brainstorming ways to increase registrations and get mail-in applications into the hands of those who don't have easy access. We are tweaking a great suggestion by the NJ League of Women Voters utilizing "Pop-Up"

stations: cars marked with balloons, parked in prominent locations, trunks open with the appropriate forms. Do you have other good ideas on getting out the vote? Do you need information about these projects and/or want to help? Please contact me through our League email, lwvlewisburgarea@gmail.com.

Linda Harris, Voter Services chair

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

New Members

If any of you know Bob Gatski, Susan Ball Faeder, or Dorothy Holloway, please welcome them as new members of the League. The number of members continues to increase, even in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing. This is very impressive in a League that thrives on social interaction.

Member Renewal

By now, membership renewal letters should have been received. We look forward to your renewals as a continued vote of confidence for our League's work. If you feel that for some reason your renewal form did not reach you, or you have any questions, please send us email at lwvlewisburgarea@gmail.com.

New Member Orientation

The very first event that was cancelled due to the COVID lockdown was our new member orientation. The Membership team is planning a virtual event to welcome new members featuring officers, and committee chairs describing their activities and responsibilities. Because of the busy upcoming election cycle, the event will occur soon after the first of 2021.

We continue to grow! If you or someone you know would like to join the League, please use the [online membership form](#).

Annual Meeting

As most of you know, the Annual Meeting, held virtually in June, was a huge success. The only flaw was the inability to enjoy a meal and wonderful company while attending. Obviously, there are no social events planned in the near future.

Kandy Duncan, for Membership

NEW LWVLA WEB SITE

This new website is divided into five "categories", which appear across the top black bar (see screen image below):

1. WHO WE ARE

LWV - useful information about national League

LWVLA - information about our local League, including our leadership, committees, and the Mauch Millennial Project

2. WHAT'S HAPPENING

Calendar - upcoming LWVLA events

What You Missed - past LWVLA events

3. EMPOWERING VOTERS

Register to Vote - information on how to vote as well as useful deadlines in the voting process

Voter Resources - copies of *Facts for Voters* and the *Voters Guide*

Voting Options - description of different options available for voting, such as mail-in and in-person

Young Voters - a student guide to voting

4. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY -

information about how to participate even more actively in our democracy - including information about the League's study and consensus process, and training materials for those considering running for public office

5. NEWS

League Line - current year of our *League Line* newsletters

In the News - other relevant news

Social Media - access to the LWVLA Facebook group and blog space

So check out all the wonderful features of the new web site for yourself! And thank you to all those who contributed to this update, and to Becky and Bev, who continue to maintain the web site!