

LEAGUE LINE

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are doing a bit of spring housecleaning at our place. It has been pointed out to me that it is not spring, however spring will come and maybe we will be ahead of the game. As a part of this MAJOR task we have inflicted on ourselves, we cleaned out our freezers. Among the many packages of frozen meat, enough to feed a couple of third-world countries, and because it was either on sale or who knows when one might need one, there was a 12 lb. frozen turkey. All of that just to explain why I find myself reading Pinterest and preparing to fix my first turkey. Now you may ask, how does one make it to 74 years of age without fixing a turkey, but that is for another discussion!

Since the great “freezer evacuation” I am impressed every time I open the freezer door, with all the space I have. It also gives me a fresh feeling, like starting over. Maybe that is why they call it “spring cleaning”. Among other thoughts that came to mind were, wouldn’t it be wonderful if we could do the same thing with our minds...not clear them out but re-organize and discard the old, outdated assumptions and perspectives that cause us so much angst at times. Changing is a hard thing, and not always a good thing, but it is an inevitable thing. Sometimes changing people’s minds on an issue takes forever and other times it seems instantaneous.

We have been through several very rough years politically. The vote, especially, has had a rough time. It has been doubted, counted and recounted, battered around and almost ignored. I hope that it has also been strengthened because I am sure the assault is not over. It needs all the resources and support that we can provide it. We can do this, maybe better than most, as we have been doing for over 102 years. We are committed to increasing our efforts as we prepare for the upcoming mid-term election and the 2024 general election. We can only hope it will be enough to weather this storm.

Kandy Duncan, President

2022 LWV NATIONAL CONVENTION

The 2022 LWV National Convention was held in Colorado (and online) from June 22 - June 26. Kandy Duncan was the sole participant (virtually) representing the LWVLA.

Program

It was approved to retain all current LWVUS Positions in the areas of Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources and Social Policy. Special emphasis is to be placed on the ratification of the ERA and Reproductive Rights. This part of the program was in session as the Supreme Court’s overturn of Roe vs Wade was announced. Also approved was a “moon shot” goal for the next 100 years, of abolishing the Electoral College.

WHAT’S HAPPENING

The following events are current as of publication date, September 1st. Coronavirus containment measures may cause delays or cancellations. Please check our website, LWVLewisburgArea.org, frequently for the most current updates.

Tuesday, September 6th, 4:00p.m.

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

Tuesday, September 20th, 12:00-1:00p.m.

FORUM
Marc Steir, director of the Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center, Keystone Research Center
“The Key Issue Dividing America: Threats to Democracy, Real or Perceived?”
La Primavera, 2593 Old Turnpike Road, Lewisburg, live; or preregister for virtual Zoom simulcast

Monday, October 3rd, 4:00p.m.

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

Tuesday, October 18th, 12:00-1:00p.m.

FORUM
Eric Scicchitano, CNHI reporter
“What’s Happening in Harrisburg on Abortion, Election Security and Gun Culture”
La Primavera, 2593 Old Turnpike Road, of Lewisburg, live; or preregister for virtual Zoom simulcast

Tuesday, October 18th

Last day to REGISTER to vote or to CHANGE PARTY AFFILIATION before the November election

Note: If you register to vote by mail, the signed voter registration form must be received by your county election office 15 days before an election; that is, by October 24th, 2022 for the November election.

A complete daily briefing can be found on the LWV website at:

lwv.org/league-management/events/council-convention

Kandy Duncan, representative

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER FORUMS

PLEASE NOTE: *All Forums can now be attended live or via Zoom. The Zoom option still requires registration.*

On Tuesday, September 20th, from noon to 1:00p.m., the League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area’s Educational Forum series presents Marc Stier, director of the Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center, Keystone Research Center. His talk is titled *The Key Issue Dividing America: Threats to Democracy, Real or Perceived?*. Mr. Stier will focus on strategies for a more prosperous and equitable Pennsylvania economy and the future of democracy in Pennsylvania.

The following month, on Tuesday, October 18th, the Forum speaker will be Eric Scicchitano CNHI state reporter. His talk, *What’s Happening in Harrisburg on Abortion, Election Security and Gun Culture*, will focus on backroom discussions and upcoming legislative initiatives on these topics.

The forums will now be offered in two formats:

- **Live:** Participants may attend live at La Primavera, 2593 Old Turnpike Road, Lewisburg, where the doors open at 11:30am, and an optional buffet lunch will be available for \$15.50. The presentation begins at noon. No preregistration is required.
- **Virtual:** For people unable to attend in person, the forums will be available for viewing in live time, via Zoom with preregistration. To PREREGISTER, please email LWVLAForum@gmail.com no later than Sunday, September 18 for September’s forum, and Sunday, October 16 for October’s forum. Registrants will receive a unique link for the presentation. When attending virtually, participants will be viewing the presenters, and can post questions in the chat. They will not be able to interact with other participants. Virtual attendees should log in by 11:45am to assure connection.

As always, the LWVLA Educational Forums are open to everyone. You do not need to be a member of the League to participate.

Subsequent recordings will be posted on the League website LWVLewisburgArea.org
Teri MacBride, Forum Committee Chair

AUGUST FORUM

The rescheduled April Forum was held on August 16th, 2022 to a good audience, with more than 60 pre-registered. The Union County Update talk featured the three Union County Commissioners, Jeff Reber, Stacy Richards and Preston Boop. A recording of this presentation is available on our LWVLA website at:

LWVLewisburgArea.org/whats-happening/what-you-missed

Commission Chair Jeff Reber emphasized the importance of expanding broadband coverage, particularly in the lesser-served west end. Approximately \$620,000 has been invested throughout the county to expand broadband access and improve affordability in rural communities. He said broadband will eventually become like electricity, a commonly available utility that meets a modern need.

Redistricting has brought change to Union County representation in state and federal government bodies. There are to be three State Representatives, but the county will not be split for representation in the State Senate. Union County has been assigned to a larger and far different 15th Congressional District. Commissioner Reber added that no Union County polling places are expected to change in the coming General Election.

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Stacy Richards reported that Union County has already received more than \$4 million in CARES Act Funding and nearly \$5.5 million in Emergency Rental Assistance Program (EARP) dollars. The commissioners are presently reviewing applications and allocating more than \$8.7 million in American Rescue Plan (ARPA) money for nonprofits, municipalities and public authorities. More than \$20 million in funding requests were received, making this a competitive process.

Commissioner Richards said utility-scale commercial solar energy is a real concern, with many new projects under discussion. It is currently unregulated, which could affect the use of productive farmland. The Commissioners are concerned about the need for property owners and attorneys in the area to be more knowledgeable about the issues involved with land leases for this purpose. The most effective way to avoid commercial solar farms is for everyone to save energy, decrease usage and use small-scale solar panels for projects.

Preston Boop reported on Farmland Preservation. More than 10,000 acres have been preserved since 1989, but Union County still does not have enough available farm land to meet county-wide food and feed needs. Second, he explained since state mental health facilities had closed and county jails do not have facilities or expertise to deal with patients with mental health needs, a Union County Drug Treatment Court was started in 2008. In 2012, it also became an option for those facing DUI charges. Last, he gave a history of the Great Streams Commons Industrial Park. County bonds were authorized in 1998 and because of recent land sales, the county debt service tax will be eliminated.

Barbara Kolmen, Forum Committee Member

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome two new members to the League since our last publication:

Wayne and Sonia Reich

Just a BOLO (be on the lookout): you will receive your membership renewal notices by the end of September.

We are still in conversation regarding a new member event in early fall. Stay tuned for additional information.

VOTER SERVICES REPORT

Volunteer Wanted

Distribution List Manager

Qualifications: Because we already have an established list of volunteers, the main job is to maintain the distributors' lists, which we use to distribute the bi-annual *Voters Guide* and the yearly *Facts for Voters*. The distribution manager will contact volunteers via email and phone calls to remind and coordinate distribution, and have a willingness to contact members to fill vacancies. This position offers a chance to get to know and talk with members. The distribution manager will communicate with all distributors to ascertain their availability 3 times per year: at least 8 weeks before the two election cycles, and before the disbursement of the *Facts for Voters*. Very basic knowledge of Excel would be helpful. Training is available.

LEAGUE LINE

SEPT. 2022

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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Who's Running in the Upcoming Elections?

Here are two ways to learn about who's running in the upcoming elections:

1. Voters Guide

In Print: The LWVLA will be printing the Fall 2022 *Voters Guide* and distributing it to 124 sites around Union County. When you go to a store/library/post office that doesn't have one, ask if it is available. If not, but the proprietor is willing to provide them, contact me and I'll drop some off. We currently provide the *Voters Guide* to the Union County libraries and post offices.
Online: By mid-October, the *Voters Guide* will be available on our local League's website at:

LWVLewisburgArea.org/voter-resources/voters-guide

2. VOTE411.org



This website is owned by the LWVUS (National League). It is an innovative "one-stop-shop" for non-partisan election related information, both general and state specific. Compare candidates' information side-by-side, and create your own custom ballot based on your address. One advantage to this website: candidates who don't answer the questions by the *Voters Guide* printing cut-off date can do so on the VOTE411 website, right up to the election. VOTE411 also provides links to register to vote, check your voter registration, find your polling place, discover upcoming debates in your area, and much more!

Voters Guide

Our editorial staff, headed by Sheri Stayton, Editor along with Carole Madle and Liz Clement, is busily working on the Fall *Voters Guide* 2022, which will be available both online and in print. We are back to the plan of distributing it 1 month before the election.

Check out the 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.

Linda Harris, Voter Services Chair

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 to REGISTER to vote or to change party affiliation before the November election Note: If you register to vote by mail, the signed voter-registration form must be RECEIVED by your county election office <u>15 days before an election</u> ; that is, by October 24 th , 2022 for the November election.	Oct 18
Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot for the November election Note: If you apply for a mail-in ballot by mail, the mail-in ballot application must be RECEIVED by your county election office <u>by 5:00pm on this date</u> .	Nov 1
Last day for County Board of Elections to receive voted mail-in and civilian absentee ballots for the general election (must be RECEIVED <u>by 8:00pm</u> .) Note: If you vote a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot, the ballot must be RECEIVED by your county election office <u>by 8:00pm on this date</u> (in person or by mail).	Nov 8
GENERAL ELECTION In-Person voting: Polls open from 7:00am to 8:00pm.	Nov 8
First day to REGISTER after the election	Nov 9
Last day for County Board of Elections to receive voted military and overseas absentee ballots for the November election (SUBMITTED for delivery <u>no later than 11:59pm on Nov 7th</u>)	Nov 15