

LEAGUE LINE

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Here we are at the beginning of the last month of 2024. It's hard to believe that it has been just one month since the election. It is also hard to believe that we, half of the US, are struggling to see a clear path forward to help strengthen our democracy.

The National League is gearing up for some legal battles. They have promised to send on information as soon as it is available. The entire League, at all levels, is preparing to embark on a new membership system. We are receiving our education on the process, then will be rolling it out sometime near the end of February so stay tuned.

Please mark your calendars for two upcoming events. Even though it is not our usual practice to have a December Forum, we will be hosting a special one on Dec. 17th at 10:30a.m. at the Public Library on Reitz Road in Lewisburg. Dr. Nick Clark, professor of Political Science at Susquehanna University, will be addressing "Understanding the Election Results." This should be a much needed and interesting topic for discussion.

Please reserve Thursday, January 25th, from 4:30 to 7:00. This is the date for our winter holiday celebration for whichever holiday you celebrate! You will be receiving much more information on this event as the time approaches.

Lastly, to keep on your radar, will be a special all-member meeting sometime after the first of the year. No date has been set but as soon as I know, I will communicate the details!

Until then and throughout the next busy month, keep the important things in mind. Take care of yourselves! Hold your loved ones near!

Enjoy the spirit of the season.

Love and best wishes to you all!!!

Kandy Duncan, President

WHAT'S HAPPENING

The following events are current as of publication date, December 15th. Please check our website, LWVLewisburgArea.org, frequently for the most current updates.

Tuesday, December 17th, 10:30-11:30a.m.

FORUM : Understanding the Election Results

Dr. Nick Clark, Professor of Political Science,
Susquehanna University
Public Library for Union County Community
Room
255 Reitz Boulevard, Lewisburg

Monday, January 6th, 4:30p.m.

BOARD MEETING

Public Library for Union County Community
Room
255 Reitz Boulevard, Lewisburg

Tuesday, January 21st, 10:30-11:30a.m.

FORUM : AI, Shaping Our World and Our Lives

Dr. Bernadette Boerckel, Chief Information
Officer, Central Susquehanna Intermediate
Unit
Public Library for Union County Community
Room
255 Reitz Boulevard, Lewisburg

Monday, February 3rd, 4:30p.m.

BOARD MEETING

Public Library for Union County Community
Room
255 Reitz Boulevard, Lewisburg

Tuesday, February 18th, 10:30-11:30a.m.

**FORUM : Between Open Borders and Walls:
Rethinking Immigration Policy**

Dr. Michael James, Professor of Political
Science, Bucknell University
Public Library for Union County Community
Room
255 Reitz Boulevard, Lewisburg

MAUCH MILLENNIAL PROJECT

The votes are in! The Mauch Millennial Project's recent collaboration with the Lewisburg Children's Museum involved the children voting from late September through election day for the newest addition to the LCM's collection, using the voting machine we had installed in 2018. The winner was sensory wall boards that are filled with brightly colored sequins. Kids can draw pictures or make designs on them using their fingers; we are sure they will get lots of use.

Our high school interns, Lucie Gosson-Roy and Mariah Drexler, attended a meeting November 10th, to report on their efforts to register their peers and educate them on the issues prior to the election. They created a QR code that took students to the PA.gov website to make it easy for them to register. Lucie and Mariah also visited all the 12th-grade English classes to do a presentation. They encouraged students to take selfies of themselves registering and submit them to their teachers for extra credit. They will continue their efforts as more of their classmates turn 18 and by the time of the May primary election, that should include most of them. They are doing a great job and it's good to know that the future is in such capable hands.

Elaine Hopkins

DECEMBER FORUM

The League of Women Voters of Lewisburg Area Forum series will continue on Tuesday, December 17th, 2024, with a talk by Dr. Nick Clark, Professor of Political Science, Susquehanna University, on *Understanding the Election Results*. League members and the public are invited to attend the presentation.

League Forums are held from 10:30-11:30a.m. at the Public Library for Union County Community Room, 255 Reitz Boulevard, Lewisburg, PA 17837. Doors open at 10a.m. All are welcome and encouraged to bring a friend.

Teri MacBride, Forum Committee Co-chair

NOVEMBER FORUM

The League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area held the November 19th Forum at the Union County Public Library. Dr. Kyle Kopko from the Center for Rural Pennsylvania spoke about population shifts and trends in Pennsylvania.

Dr. Kopko is the chair of the Rural Revitalization Commission. Their mission is to revitalize the rural population in Pennsylvania. The Commission was created in 2024 by bi-partisan consensus. Dr. Kopko described the organization and the composition of the board. During their preliminary work, they have talked to a number of other countries who have faced rural depopulation problems, fifteen to twenty years earlier than Pennsylvania.

Dr. Kopko spent most of his talk discussing the various demographic factors that illustrate the depopulation problem faced by all areas of Pennsylvania, with the exception of the southeastern corner of the state. He placed particular emphasis on the declining birthrate and people migrating out of the state. The presentation was well attended.

*Mary Zimmerman, Forum Committee
Co-chair*

WINTER/SPRING FORUMS

Winter and spring forum plans are in place with upcoming speakers. We hope you'll make an effort to attend these presentations at the Public Library for Union County, on the Tuesdays listed below.

For your planning purposes, please note:

January 21: *AI, Shaping Our World and Our Lives*; Dr. Bernadette Boerckel, Chief Information Officer for the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU)

February 18: *Between Open Borders and Walls: Rethinking Immigration Policy*; Dr. Michael James, Bucknell University Professor of Political Science

March 18: *NATO and the USA: What's in it for US?*; Dr. Alan Stolberg, U.S. Coordinator for the Department of Defense (DoD)/NATO Defense Education Enhancement Program (DEEP)

Doors open at 10a.m. with the speaker's presentation from 10:30- 11:30 a.m.

*Teri MacBride, Mary Zimmerman,
Forum Committee Co-Chairs*

MEMBERSHIP

We continue to be in the middle of membership renewal season. All renewed members must have dues in by January 20th. The National League will be rolling out a new membership process after the first of the year that will

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be passed on to Lewisburg members when available.

VOTER SERVICES

Our Voter Services Committee successfully completed our voter education activities thanks to so many of you.

VOTE411.org

VOTE411.org, the National League's website with candidate and voter information, continues to educate more voters every year.

Our local League has been a member of **VOTE411** since 2019. We use it to provide content for our local *Voters Guide*. The *Voters Guide* Editor, Sheri Stayton, became the PA statewide **VOTE411** manager in 2020. She works along with *Voters Guide* staff member, Liz Clement, who has tracked down non-responding candidates and encouraged them to respond to **VOTE411**.

Here are the statistics for **VOTE411**:

- **National Statistics:** 9.19 million used **VOTE411** (a 50% increase over 2020). More than 55,000 candidates in almost 29,000 races were covered.
- **Pennsylvania Statistics:**
2020 – 139,527 users
2022 – 189,831 users
2024 – 313,475 users

(The numbers may not be directly comparable because the way it is measured keeps changing, but there's a definite trend here.)

OUR PUBLICATIONS

[Voters Guide](#)

The Fall 2024 *Voters Guide* was distributed in October and remains [online](#) on our website (my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/votersguide-fall2024.pdf).

[Facts for Voters](#)

The editorial staff, including editor, Lisa Tranquillo, and her staff will be starting to gather information for the upcoming 2025 *Facts for Voters* after the new year. If you want a printed copy of the 2024 *Facts for Voters* or know of a site that could use more, let me know. You can view the *Facts for Voters* online on our website, by clicking [here](#) (<http://bit.ly/3CxI8sc>).

If you are interested in becoming part of the editorial/writing staff, please contact me. Lsharris323@gmail.com.

Linda Harris, Voter Services Chair