

LEAGUE LINE

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT

“Now is the winter of our discontent”

When William Shakespeare wrote this statement in 1592 as part of Richard III (spoken by Gloucester), I’m fairly certain that he could not have predicted the state of American politics in 2023 all these 491 years later. It is widely quoted to tag political and social unrest. The reference to “winter” is a powerful metaphor for a bleak, discouraging period of time and “discontent” suggests restlessness and a looming threat. If this statement is not applicable to present times, I’m not sure what is!

The upcoming year promises to be as impassioned and hectic as the past several have proven to be. Your League is gearing up in preparation for the May local election and yet another contentious general election in 2024. As I write, the members of the Voters Services committee are gathering information, checking facts, and assembling the publications such as the *Voters Guide*, *Facts for Voters*, and **VOTE411.com**.

There are other groups committed to helping the voting public be more confident in the integrity of the ballot. There also will be much activity in the near future assisting citizens in understanding the proposed State constitutional amendments. We never lack for something worthwhile to do.

As sure as summer follows spring, spring will follow this “winter of discontent”. The sun will shine and the flowers will return, blossoms blooming from the superior work of the many League volunteers.

Kandy Duncan, President

FEBRUARY FORUM

PLEASE NOTE: *February Forum is via Zoom and requires REGISTRATION.*

On Tuesday, February 21st, from noon to 1p.m., the League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area’s Educational Forum series will continue with an on-line presentation by Amelia J. Uelmen, Esquire. Professor Uelmen is a lecturer at Georgetown Law School and Senior Research Fellow at the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs. Professor Uelmen’s talk, “Three Healthy Habits for Good Citizenship in Polarized Times” will focus on learning communication skills that can help us reshape how we live and connect with those from a different background, perspective and/or understanding of issues. The talk will offer ways to foster understanding across deep divides that will help to heal polarization and allow for positive political dialogue.

Professor Uelmen will be joining us remotely. As always, the LWVLA Educational Forums are open to everyone. You do not need to be a member of the League to participate.

WHAT’S HAPPENING

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

Monday, February 6th, 4:00p.m.

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

Tuesday, February 14th, 10a.m.

BOOK CLUB
via Zoom

Tuesday, February 21st, 12:00-1:00p.m.

FORUM
Dr. Amy Uelmen, Esquire, Director for Mission & Ministry, Georgetown University Law Center, Lecturer in Religion & Professional Life and Senior Research Fellow, Georgetown University Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs:
“Three Healthy Habits for Good Citizenship in Polarized Times”
Please PREREGISTER for Zoom link by February 19th.

Monday, March 6th, 4:00p.m.

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

Tuesday, March 21st, 12:00-1:00p.m.

FORUM
Professor Dara E. Purvis, Esquire, Associate Dean for Research and Partnerships and Professor of Law, Penn State Law, University Park:
“Roe, Dobbs, and What’s Next: The Law of Privacy Today”
Please PREREGISTER for Zoom link by March 19th.

This month’s forum will be offered in the following two formats:

- **VIRTUAL FORMAT:** All wishing to attend virtually and observe the talk via Zoom must pre-register.
- **NEW IN-PERSON FORMAT:** This month there will be a new option for **League members**. An in-person meeting point at the Public Library for Union County has been established for members who would enjoy a more communal experience. You are welcome to bring a brown bag lunch (or not) and interact in person with members present, and virtually with the speaker and others on Zoom. There, a “Meeting Owl” will join the Zoom meeting and broadcast the speaker onto a screen. When unmuted, everyone can interact with others through the Owl’s high quality audio system. The other Zoom participants will see those at the room. Those in the room will see the speaker and when unmuted, be heard by all.

For either of the above options, interested people must REGISTER before

Sunday, February 19th. Send an email LWVLAForum@gmail.com stating interest in coming and which of the formats above you wish to use. Further details will be shared upon receiving the required advance request.

Subsequent recordings will be posted on the League website LWVLewisburgArea.org.

Teri MacBride, Forum Committee Chair

JANUARY FORUM

Christi Buker, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Library Association, presented a talk entitled, “Libraries, Booms, Bans, and Censorship in Pennsylvania” at La Primavera for the January Forum. Ms. Buker started with an overview of the differences between challenges to a book and bans on books. She emphasized strongly the need for libraries to provide information to all of their constituents. She gave several extremely interesting examples of libraries attempting to ban books nationally, and then specific examples from Pennsylvania.

Members who were unable to attend might want to access the recording of her presentation on the Lewisburg League website: LWVLewisburgArea.org.

Mary Zimmerman, Forum Committee

POINT OF INTEREST

In Union County, there are many boards, authorities, and commissions that have openings for interested individuals. In addition to having such vacancies, many of these governing bodies have too few women serving relative to their population in the county. If you have an interest, please use the following link to find a list of the vacancies and how to apply: unioncountypa.org/authorities-and-boards/

Have you **RENEWED** your membership to:



We are in the middle of the **annual membership renewal period.**

If you have not renewed, please do !

We need your ideas and support !

If you have any questions OR you need another renewal form, please email:
lwwlewisburgarea@gmail.com

BALLOT INTEGRITY

The task force working on ballot integrity and increasing the voters' confidence in the election and the ballot counts, met January 11th. Many interesting ideas and possible tactics were discussed, among them a meeting with the Director of Elections, approaching various reporters from the local news agencies, and contacting WVIA for possible ideas and partnerships. If any member has a question that is of particular interest to them, please send email to:

lwvlewisburgarea@gmail.com

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee is beginning to meet in anticipation of creating a slate of officers, directors and a nominating committee for 2023-2024. Because we cannot reach out to all our members individually, please let us know if you would like to know more about serving on the Board. There are several positions which we need to fill, and the best way to do that is to find those with the interest, enthusiasm, skills and dedication to continue and advance the mission of our organization.

We anticipate needing officers and directors, as well as the nominating committee for next year. Questions, or to learn more, please email to:

pa2albania@yahoo.com

Please let us hear from you by **February 28th**. Thank you!

Teri MacBride, chair, Nominating Committee

BOOK CLUB

Our February Book Club will meet on Tuesday, February 14th, 2022 @ 10 a.m. via Zoom. The book selection is : *The Power of Ethics: How to Make Good Choices in a Complicated World* by Susan Liautaud.

By request from Book Club members, we are reading a book on ethics. This is a guide to ethical decision making in the 21st century, particularly as relates to technology. There is lots to discuss.

Please come even if you have not read the book! We always welcome anyone with an interest in the topic to our meetings. To obtain the Zoom meeting link please email me at:

mbclark112@gmail.com

Mary Beth Clark

MEMBERSHIP

New Members

Please help us welcome new members

Sarah Stigerwalt-Egan

Wanda Clark

Linda McGann

Carol Laudermilch

Plans are being started to have a Membership Tea for all the new members that have joined us since the beginning of the pandemic. Stay tuned for further information!

January Member Social

Approximately 50 people gathered on Thursday January 19th at Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village from 4:00 - 6:00p.m. to toast the new year, and celebrate being together, as members of the League. Everyone had a wonderful time catching up and visiting in person. Special thanks go to the planning committee for this party; it was a smashing success!

LEAGUE LINE

FEB. 2023

League Line is published by the
**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE LEWISBURG AREA.**

It is typically published from
September to April, and available
by the first of the month.

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the 15th of each month.

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Membership Renewal

A reminder that we are in the middle of annual membership renewal period. If you have not renewed, please do. If you have any questions or need another renewal form, please email:

lwvlewisburgarea@gmail.com

VOTER SERVICES REPORT

Upcoming Election

The **Municipal Primary** will occur on
May 16th, 2023

As explained in the February 2022 *League Line* article, "Your Vote Matters – But Do You Know Why," the 2021 Fall election was a close race. Local races in particular can be extremely close, which makes each individual vote essential in determining the final outcome. According to the Union County Elections Office report on the Fall 2021 election results, the New Berlin Borough Council, Lewisburg Borough Council Ward 4, and Lewisburg School Board elections were determined by less than 25 votes each. Also, for the Mifflinburg School Board, the president who was running unopposed received only 6 more votes than write-in candidates. You have the chance within four short months to make your voice heard again when you vote. Some of the races in the upcoming election include:

- **UNION COUNTY:** Commissioners, District Attorney
- **LOCAL JUDICIARY:** Mifflinburg Magisterial District Judge
- **TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS:** Buffalo Twp, Gregg Twp, Hartley, Kelly, Limestone, Union, West Buffalo, and White Deer
- **BOROUGH COUNCILS:** Hartleton, Lewisburg, Mifflinburg, and New Berlin
- **SCHOOL DIRECTORS:** Lewisburg and Mifflinburg

These candidates will directly affect your day-to-day lives. If we have contested races (more than one candidate running in a race), they will be invited to a Candidates Night. We hope they agree to attend so they can answer your submitted questions. I urge you to encourage candidates to respond to our invitation to participate in Candidates Night.

Spring Voters Guide

The *Voters Guide* staff will be starting their thorough research, writing, and designing soon. Huge thanks go to Sheri Stayton, Liz Clement, Carole Madle, Kathy Swope and Designer Dawn Maneval for continuing this work.

Facts for Voters

The editorial staff, including editor Lisa Tranquillo, and Mary Lotspeich, Helen Nunn and Ann Longabach, will finish creating the upcoming 2023 *Facts for Voters* by the end of February. The distributors will deliver them to 104 individual locations by March 1st.

The 2022 *Facts for Voters* can still be found on our website:

LWVLewisburgArea.org/facts-voters

LWVLA Website updates

Thanks go to Dawn Maneval, designer, and Carole Madle, editor, for all of the voter services updates they provided to our website. We appreciate the efforts of Becky Perez, website manager, and Bev Zorn, website designer, to implement the changes that we have provided. To see these changes, visit: LWVLewisburgArea.org, where you will also find the most up-to-date information about our voter education efforts.

Linda Harris, Voter Services Chair