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

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Now that 2023 is packaged and put away (except of course for taxes!), it's time to take a look at it in retrospect and see what we accomplished. It was a busy year. Many of the members traveled the far reaches of the globe... ok, a bit of an exaggeration but not by much! We are still dealing with the effects of the pandemic but have safely worked around to be able to gather in person and continue the work of the League.

We hosted 9 Educational Forums with a variety of excellent topics and diverse speakers. The Book Club switched leadership, and our thanks to Wanda Clark and Linda McCann for continuing to choose interesting and relevant books for review. The Mauch Project has moved forward with its work with fellows from Bucknell and representatives from area high schools.

The phenomenal team from the Voter Services Committee produced 2 *Voters Guides* in preparation for the elections along with the *Facts for Voters* and the information that is available on **vote411.org**. They presented two Candidate Nights with very good participation. It takes an incredible amount of work to produce these publications and platforms for candidates to address their constituents. Another large piece of work is formatting the information in preparation for posting it on the website.

Looking forward, 2024 promises to be just as busy and fulfilling as past years. It is a Presidential election year, just in case you have not heard! That, of course, means two elections and two editions of the *Voters Guide*. We are embarking on a new project with the Bucknell Management College. The Integrity of the Ballot work will continue, plus numerous other activities to help Enable Voters and Defend Democracy. There is always something going on and something for people to do. Come join us!!

Kandy Duncan, President

INTEGRITY OF THE BALLOT TASK FORCE

This project, centered around arming the voting public in order to combat misinformation, is moving forward. Kandy Duncan will be presenting *Questions left Unanswered*, *Integrity of the Ballot* at the February 29th, Lunch and Learn program of the Bucknell Institute of Lifelong Learning (BILL). The event takes place at the Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village Common, 6 Tressler Boulevarde, Lewisburg, at 12:00 noon. It is open to all who register at least 5 days in advance by calling the BILL office at 570-522-0105.

Kandy Duncan, Representative

BUCKNELL PROJECT

The Bucknell Project will kick off on January 24th. The Management Course at Bucknell, under the direction of Professor Eric Martin, will be working with our League until spring. They will look at our processes, forms of communication, funding sources, etc. and will develop a plan of action to be presented to the Board for their consideration. Stay tuned!

WHAT'S HAPPENING

The following events are <u>current as of</u> <u>publication date</u>, <u>February 1st</u>. Please check our website, <u>LWVLewisburgArea.org</u>, frequently for the most current updates.

Monday, February 5th, 4:00p.m.

BOARD MEETING

East Buffalo Township Municipal Building 589 Fairground Road, Lewisburg

Thursday. February 8th, 6:00-8:00p.m.

WINTER SOIREE

Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village Common 6 Tressler Blvd., Lewisburg

Thursday, February 15th, 1:00p.m.

BOOK CLUB

Union County Public Library and Zoom (To obtain the Zoom link, please email Wanda Clark, wclark7722@gmail.com.)

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

FORUM

Kim Wheeler, Executive Director SEDA-COG "What's Happening in Central PA Economic Development?"

LaPrimavera

2593 Old Turnpike Road, Lewisburg

Thursday, February 29, 12:00-1:00p.m.

LUNCH and LEARN (BILL)
Kandy Duncan, President LWVLA
"Questions left Unanswered; Integrity of the

Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village Common 6 Tressler Blvd., Lewisburg

MAUCH MILLENNIAL PROJECT

The Mauch Millennial Project is gearing up to begin recruiting our Bucknell Mauch Fellows for 2024. We partner with the Bucknell University Political Science Department to cosponsor this fellowship on a competitive basis to students interested in working to enhance political participation among the Bucknell student body through supported student efforts. The fellows work under the guidance of a faculty adviser to develop effective campus communications on registration and voting, meet with student groups to share election information and provide brief reports of their activities to the committee. Fellows in the past have been very creative about finding ways to connect with peers. This year for the first time we are also partnering with the Bucknell Office of Civic Engagement, which supports a project called Bison Votes. We are excited about the synergies this partnership will create and we look forward to working with our new fellows.

Our Lewisburg Area High School intern for this academic year is Vivian Vance. She will begin working on voter information and registration efforts at the high school this spring, mostly targeting her peers who will be 18 by the time of the November election. The committee is interested in connecting with other groups that would like to partner with us to encourage civic engagement and

participation in the political process. If you work with a Scout troop or other youth organization and would like to discuss ways in which we might be helpful, please contact Elaine Hopkins at:

elaine.hopkins@icloud.com

Elaine Hopkins for the Mauch Millennial Project

BOOK CLUB

We have two books for our February Book Club Meeting which will be held February 15th at 1:00p.m., at the Library for Union County and on Zoom. The titles are *Prequel:* An American Fight Against Fascism by Rachel Maddow, and Democracy Awakening: Notes on the State of America by Heather Cox Richardson. Here are two, hour-length conversations with the authors about their books:

• Rachel Maddow at Politics and Prose Bookstore with Susan Glasser:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0wXGTtY5M 4

• Heather Cox Richardson with TJ Stiles of the Commonwealth Club:

 $\underline{https://www.youtube.com/watch?v = v5MI5VkcoAk}$

Please mark your calendars now and join us whether or not you read the books!

As a preview of coming attractions for June, we will be reading *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI* by David Gran (and yes, you can watch the movie!).

Wanda Clark & Linda McGann

FEBRUARY FORUM

The League of Women of Women Voters of Lewisburg Area Forum series will continue on Tuesday, February 20th, 2024. Kim Wheeler, Executive Director, SEDA-COG, will discuss *What's Happening in Central PA Economic Development?* Her talk will focus on the changing landscape of economic development, the PA Statewide Economic Development Strategy and how we in the central PA region can capitalize on it.

League members and the general public are invited to attend the presentation from noon to 1p.m. at La Primavera in Lewisburg. An optional lunch is available beginning at 11:30a.m. for \$15.50. Reservations are requested although not required so we can provide the restaurant with an idea of the food needed for the in-person lunch. Kindly send an email if you intend to eat at the buffet to **LWVLAForum@gmail.com** before February 17th, 2024.

The meeting will be recorded and promptly posted after the event on the League website under What You Missed.

Mark your calendars for the spring Forums:

March 19: The Imperiled Nature of Public
Education, Abe Feuerstein, PhD,
Department of Education, Bucknell
University

(continued on next page)

April 16: Union County Government Update, Jeff Reber, Preston Boop and Stacy Richards, Union County Commissioners

Teri McBride, Forum Committee Co-Chair

JANUARY FORUM

On January 16th, 2024, Janet Tomcavage spoke to the League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area about the challenges facing the health care system in Pennsylvania. She gave a broad overview of some of the problems including an aging population and the gap between the rising cost of health care and the payment provided by Medicare and Medicaid. She described the concept of value-based health care, and explained its focus on prevention and positive outcomes in medicine. She also stated that increasingly health care is becoming team based. For a fuller view of the presentation see the video on the website of LWVLA.

Mary Zimmerman, Forum Committee Co-Chair

VOTER SERVICES

Our Publications

Voters Guide

The date for the Pennsylvania General Primary has been moved up to April 23rd this year. So work on the Spring 2024 *Voters Guide* will be beginning soon. The Fall 2023 *Voters Guide* remains online on our website until the Spring edition is available.

Facts for Voters

The editorial staff, including editor, Lisa Tranquillo, and her staff have begun the tedious task of verifying information for the upcoming 2024 *Facts for Voters*. It will be distributed in March this year. Due to scheduling difficulties, this year's *Facts for Voters* will *not* be available in an online format; only a printed format will be available.

If you are interested in becoming part of the editorial/writing staff, please contact me:

Lsharris323@gmail.com

Additional LWVLA Website Updates

Thanks go to Dawn Maneval, Designer, and Carole Madle, Editor, for all of the Voter Services updates they provided to the Website. We appreciate the efforts of Bev Zorn, Website Designer, to implement the changes we suggested.

To see these changes, visit our website, LWVLewisburgArea.org, where you will also find the most up-to-date information about our voter-education efforts.

Who's on the Ballot?

NOTE: This list is <u>not official</u> until PA Department of State so indicates.

U.S. Government

- · US President
- US Senator
- US Representative, 15th district

PA State Government

- PA Attorney General
- PA Auditor General
- PA State Treasurer
- State Senator, 23rd district
- State Representatives: 76th, 83rd, 85th districts

Delegates to Democratic and Republican National Conventions

LEAGUE LINE

FEB. 2024

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.

Deadline for submission of articles is the 15th of each month.

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Mail-In Ballots

There are two changes to the instructions for the mail-in ballots, so please carefully read the instructions before filling out your mail-in ballot:

- **1.** You can use blue or black ink, but <u>not</u> a marker, as it bleeds through the ballot.
- 2. You still put your completed ballot into the yellow secrecy envelope. However, now you will then put that secrecy envelope into an envelope that has purple coloring.

2024 Election Calendar

Below is the Election Calendar from February until the General Primary on April 23rd, 2024. *Linda Harris, Voter Services Chair*

2024 Pennsylvania Elections: Important Dates to Remember

Source: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of State, Bureau of Elections and Notaries (NOTE: All dates in this calendar are subject to change without notice.)

2024 Election Milestone	Deadline
Last day to circulate and file nomination petitions	February 13
First day to circulate and file nomination papers	February 14
Last day to file objections to nomination petitions	February 20
Ballot lottery	February 21
Last day for withdrawal by candidates who filed nomination petitions	February 28
Last day to REGISTER to vote or to change party affiliation before the April primary.	April 8
Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot	April 16
Last day for County Boards of Elections to receive voted mail-in and civilian absentee ballots (must be received by 8:00pm)	April 23
GENERAL PRIMARY In-Person voting: Polls open from 7:00am to 8:00pm	April 23
Last day for County Board of Elections to receive voted military and overseas absentee ballots (submitted for delivery no later than 11:59p.m. on April 22nd)	April 30

MEMBERSHIP

The Winter Soiree, a celebration of winter, will take place on February 8th from 4:00 to 6:00p.m. at the Village Common of Buffalo Valley Lutheran Village. Please come and join us for some hors d'oeuvres and cocktails and socialization. Please RSVP by emailing lwvlewisburgarea@gmail.com.