

LEAGUE LINE

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT - PLEASE READ!

The Board of Directors met with the members of the LWVLA on Thursday, January 23rd, to discuss the state of the Lewisburg League. The Board felt that it was important that the members were aware of the difficulties that our League is facing as we move into a new year and into a new term for the League.

There were around 60 people at the meeting, which was huge. Members were given a chance to discuss the information presented to them. Many of the tenured members stood and voiced concern about not being able to fulfill the mission of the LWV. We heard wonderful stories about the time period when the League was strong and active. To view the meeting, if you were not able to attend, you can click [here](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NPAUfEICBwOx-P_5I6UHMv77oXOKx9tM/view?usp=drive_link) to see it or use the link:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NPAUfEICBwOx-P_5I6UHMv77oXOKx9tM/view?usp=drive_link

Members had received a document spelling out the problems the Board feels that the League is facing as we move forward into what is seemingly a new political era. These facts and the concept that one of the alternatives would be to disband the League were very sobering and frightening to all of us. We held the meeting to serve as an informational venue for members to voice their initial reactions, observations, and possible alternatives.

If this conversation was predicated on the lack of money or simply on the contentious relationship between the Republicans in Union County and the League, it would be simple. The problem, however, is not simple. It involves a lack of willing leadership and a lack of energy and drive from members.

The most **stark numbers going into this next term** are these:

2 members left on the **Board**
No Voter Services Chairperson
No Membership Chairperson/committee
No Forum Chairperson
No Roster Manager for liaison with National membership
No Facebook coordinator
No Nominating committee

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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

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

BOARD MEETING
Mary Lahner's home
904 Lakeside Drive, 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

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

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

These are just a few and the list is not all-inclusive. We need Board members and new members in all of the Committees.

Given these realities, we must look at the League through a different lens. We need to focus on our core mission and pare down our activities to include not only what we do well, but what the membership can reasonably do. It is time to collect information from members as to what they see as the League's future:

- Keep limping along until we do nothing well but only half-well?
- Reduce the activity of the League down to a small nucleus?
- Put the League in a status of stewardship whereby the State League would be the Steward but it would still require members from here to contribute.
- Pause the League, regroup with a different format such as bimonthly meetings (every 2 months) for discussion, social interaction, and possible planning for a path forward?
 - Disband the League entirely?
 - Some other unexplored path?

These are just a few of the thoughts that have been sent to me and that we need to ponder as a group with thoughtful discourse. **We need your input and thoughts on:**

- 1) **Ideas** for action
- 2) **Priorities** for the League
- 3) **Personal thoughts and concerns** you may have that we may not have considered.

I will be sending via email a Google survey to help you organize your thoughts. If you are not comfortable with that format, please email us directly (lwvlewisburgarea@gmail.com) or relate your thoughts to any of the Board members. Choose whatever method you wish, but please respond even if it is to say you have no thoughts on this issue. Your non-response will speak very loudly indeed.

The Board will be meeting on Monday Feb. 3rd and this will be the main topic of conversation. Stay tuned...we will do our best to keep you informed and "in the loop"!!

Kandy Duncan, President

MAUCH MILLENNIAL PROJECT

This year's group of Bucknell Mauch Fellows presented their final report to the Mauch Committee and the Board on January 24th, and we were delighted to learn that their work had a meaningful impact on campus. Zane Hensal ('26), Morgan Levy ('25), and Victoria Romero ('25) used a variety of strategies with the goal of making sure that their fellow students knew how to register to vote, what the deadlines were, where their polling place was located, and the importance of voting.

Morgan was in charge of social media; she created and posted informational materials and tutorials on registering to vote. Victoria was in charge of outreach to campus groups; she created a PowerPoint to use for presentations as well as a printable guide with everything a Bucknell student would need to know about registering and voting in Pennsylvania. Zane met with the head of the Union County Elections Office to make sure the information the students were preparing was 100% accurate.

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The three visited classes to give a 20-minute presentation and they manned stations in the Langone Center. Outside rooms where the Political Science Department was hosting a lecture series on elections the Fellows were available so that students could register on the spot either online or using paper forms. They made themselves available on election day to help students who had trouble voting. Zane, Morgan, and Victoria did an excellent job, and those of us who attended their presentation were very impressed by their passion and their professionalism. The future is in good hands with these young people.

Another illustration is the fact that one of our high school interns for this year, Mariah Drexler, was recently featured in *The Daily Item*, along with one of her classmates, Erin DeSantis, for leading a project called *Teach Against Trafficking*. They partnered with Transitions of PA and the Community Zone to submit a grant application to seek funding to create human trafficking prevention toolkits, which will be distributed at many different kinds of businesses along Routes 11 and 15 in Snyder, Union, and Northumberland counties. The community should be very proud of these young women.

*Elaine Hopkins,
Mauch Millennial Project*

FEBRUARY FORUM

The League of Women of Women Voters of Lewisburg Area Forum series will continue on Tuesday, February 18th, 2025, with a talk by Bucknell University Professor of Political Science Michael James on “Between Open Borders and Walls: Rethinking Immigration Policy”. Professor James will explore immigration and American policy, the politics of race and the economics and sociology of immigration.

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

LEAGUE LINE

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DECEMBER FORUM

Professor Nick Clark posited during his “Understanding the Election Results” Forum talk on December 18th, that the economy and the unpopularity of Joe Biden had a lot to do with the election outcome. Professor Clark demonstrated how this is consistent with literature and research on elections and voting behavior. He believes Democrats might have gotten more traction by separating more from the incumbent administration and presenting a candidate who identified as a change from the last two administrations. But, it would not have been for sure even then, that they might have won. He said voters’ memories are short. At the end of the day, the structure of the race was ultimately against the incumbent Democrats. It will be fascinating and illuminating to follow post-election studies of media influence and new channels reaching different audiences.

Teri MacBride, Forum Committee Co-chair

WINTER/SPRING FORUMS

For your planning purposes, please note:

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 are pleased to announce the following new
members this month:

*Clayton Lightman
Mark Giesen
April Giesen
Jenni Stieler
Gloria Woolcock
Kim Findlay
Richard Findlay*

Welcome to the League!

VOTER SERVICES

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

Facts for Voters

The editorial staff, including editor, Lisa
Tranquillo, and her staff are starting to gather
information for the upcoming 2025 *Facts for
Voters*. The current schedule has both a printed
and an online version available at the end of
February.

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

Lsharris323@gmail.com.

Linda Harris, Voter Services Chair