

# LEAGUE LINE

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

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Recently I have been helping, by which I mean watching, my husband construct handrails on both sides of the steps leading from our basement to the main floor of our house. The house is decades old and never had handrails on these steps making them very precarious and frankly unsafe to maneuver. As the plans unfolded for the handrails, it became apparent that there are building codes that exist related to handrails that ensure an acceptable standard of quality and safety. These codes had clearly been ignored, disregarded or most likely, were unknown to the original owners of the house.

Bringing the steps and handrails up to code, made me think of how many things in our daily lives are regulated by codes or rules. These handrails are meant to provide support, boundaries, and safety. As with the various building codes, our society is also guided by codes of conduct or behavior. These standards are a set of conventional principles and expectations that are considered binding on any person who is a member of a particular group. Codes of conduct do the same thing for society as building codes do for handrails. They provide for boundaries, support, and safety. Deviation from accepted behavioral patterns, over time, can lead to serious societal issues. To accept major departures from the accepted norms of behavior can be dangerous.

We have recently witnessed increasingly disturbing departures from what one would consider acceptable behavior in our society. Here are a few instances: the disrespect shown to the President during a State of the Union Address; the increase of violent deaths and mass shootings; the tolerance of untruthful background reports and resumés of elected officials. These examples barely scratch the surface. If allowed to become normal they certainly signal a paradigm shift in an alarming direction.

The core mission of the League of Women Voters is to educate the voting public in order to have an informed electorate. An informed electorate strengthens our democracy through voting. A strong democracy preserves civil society and prevents it from being crushed under the weight of a shifting paradigm. The League continues to stand as one of our democracy's guide rails.

*Kandy Duncan, President*

## MARCH FORUM

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

On Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 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 Dara Purvis, Esquire, Associate Dean and Professor of Law, Penn State Law at University Park. Professor Purvis will address the legal ramifications of the U.S. Supreme Court's recent abortion rights case in her talk, "Roe, Dobbs and What's Next: Law of Privacy Today".

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

*The following events are current as of publication date, March 1<sup>st</sup>. Coronavirus containment measures may cause delays or cancellations. Please check our website, [LWVLewisburgArea.org](http://LWVLewisburgArea.org), frequently for the most current updates.*

**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** by March 19th.

**Tuesday, April 3rd, 4:00p.m.**

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

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, March 19<sup>th</sup>**. Send an email to [LWVLAForum@gmail.com](mailto:LWVLAForum@gmail.com) stating interest and which of the above formats you wish to use. Further details will be shared upon receiving the required advance request.

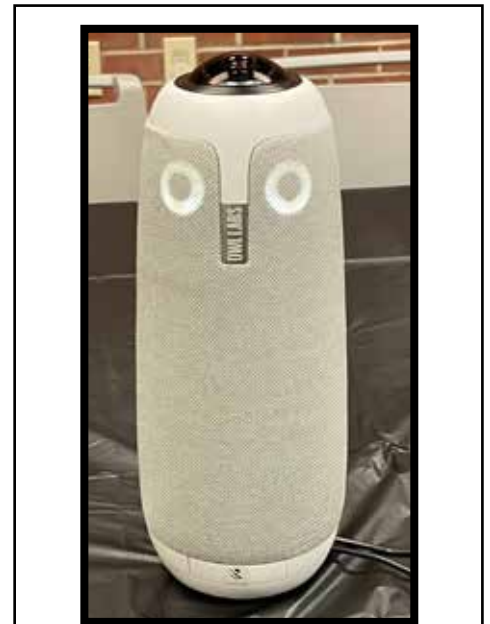
A subsequent recording will be posted on the League website:

[LWVLewisburgArea.org](http://LWVLewisburgArea.org)

*Teri MacBride, Forum Committee Chair*

## FEBRUARY FORUM

On February 21<sup>st</sup>, the LWVLA Forum was held via Zoom, and in person at the Union County Public Library, using OWL, an audio and camera conference system purchased by the library.



*Meet the Owl! The Owl provides a superior video and audio experience when meeting in a conference setting. Thanks to The Public Library for Union County allowing members to brown-bag their lunches and jointly experience the February Forum Zoom talk.*

The speaker, Dr. Amy Uelmen, special advisor to the Dean of the Georgetown Law School, gave a presentation entitled, "Let's Talk: Three Healthy Habits for Good Citizenship in Polarized Times". Dr. Uelmen began by recognizing Mary Beth Clark who invited her to speak to the League.

In young adults especially, current communication technologies have led to several behaviors that are detrimental to healthy discourse. Two examples are a tendency to be performative in stating one's position and to regard listening to another person as affirming what that person is saying.

As an attempt to mediate the problems caused by modern technology, Dr. Uelman suggests slowing down the pace of interactions

**Do you know someone who is interested in joining the**



**Please encourage them to join us!**

**We welcome new members to our League.**

**We need your ideas and support !**

**If you have any questions, please email:**

[lwwlewisburgarea@gmail.com](mailto:lwwlewisburgarea@gmail.com)

Professor Purvis 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.

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.
- **IN-PERSON FORMAT:** This month there will be a second 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,

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by using her “three P’s”: **Performance, Pairs and Peace.** **Performance** speech should be discouraged by a number of techniques including taking time to reflect and encouraging discourse in smaller groups. **Pairs** are useful when partners take time to build trust with each other to form an authentic relationship enabling each member to begin to appreciate the other’s core values. **Peace** is more ambiguous and may reflect the limits of dialog, but still focuses on the ultimate goal of increased mutual understanding and de-escalating contentious issues. This can happen in a variety of ways including: pausing to reflect/regroup; using active listening to facilitate understanding of a person’s beliefs; making the effort to approach issues from a different point of view; and sometimes acknowledging the impossibility of direct discussion on certain topics.

Dr. Uelmen’s talk had a number of examples and a much fuller exposition of the above points. Members are urged to access the recording of her entire talk to gain a deeper appreciation of her position at:

[LWVLewisburgArea.org/what-you-missed](http://LWVLewisburgArea.org/what-you-missed)

Mary Zimmerman, Forum Committee

### LAW DAY AWARDS

The Union-Snyder County Bar Association, in celebration of National Law Day on May 1<sup>st</sup>, will be sponsoring the 2023 Law Day Essay and Art Contest. It is open to high school students from both Lewisburg and Mifflinburg, offering cash prizes to the winners. This year’s theme, established by the American Bar Association, is “Cornerstones of Democracy: Civics, Civility, and Collaboration”. The selected topic overlaps with our League’s recent Book Club selection and the February Educational Forum. In recognition of the common theme, the League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area is offering a Special Award of \$150 for art and \$150 for an essay that are responsive reflections on the topic.

### POINT OF INTEREST

The Union County Comprehensive Plan is being updated. This update happens every 10 years. The Plan guides the county’s future by identifying priorities and creating a new 10-year strategy for community and economic development, housing, land use, natural resources, transportation and more. The Union County Planning Commission will be holding a series of public meetings throughout the county in 2023 to garner suggestions and feedback from residents about their priorities and suggested strategies. For more information, contact Shawn McLaughlin, Director of Union County Economic Development and Planning, at 570-524-3840 or follow the Comprehensive Plan’s activities on the county website:

[www.unioncountypa.org](http://www.unioncountypa.org)

If you would like to stay informed on comprehensive plan news, you can subscribe to the Union County Comprehensive Plan’s email list:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfYpgAALqU6Vc\\_89M0pC5hoETBznuqf-yhEKU-mJ1jPJNd\\_BO/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfYpgAALqU6Vc_89M0pC5hoETBznuqf-yhEKU-mJ1jPJNd_BO/viewform)

This month we are happy to welcome Ruth Shrawder as a new member! Her email is: [fosternruth@gmail.com](mailto:fosternruth@gmail.com).

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**LEAGUE LINE**  
**MAR. 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.

Deadline for submission of articles is  
the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

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[LWVLewisburgArea.org](http://LWVLewisburgArea.org)

### BALLOT INTEGRITY

The Ballot Integrity task force is moving forward with the development of a plan to help the electorate gain confidence in the election process. Among other things, the task force will be interviewing the county Director of Elections and various local journalists as part of their fact finding. The goal is to have a product completed well in advance of the 2024 election.

### MAUCH COMMITTEE REPORT

Bucknell Mauch Fellows, Bernadette Maramis and Emily Parker (Ninah Jackson missing from picture), reported to League members on their project to provide voter registration and information to students.



### FINANCE DRIVE

Early this month you will receive information about the annual Members and Friends Finance Drive. LWVLA is dependent on contributions from members, friends and businesses to fund our many local efforts. Please read Kandy’s letter and consider making a donation to this year’s drive. Some supporters of the LWV Education Fund have chosen to make their contributions directly from IRA required minimum distributions because of tax advantages that may offer.

Carole Madle, *Members & Friends Finance Drive chair*

### MEMBERSHIP

The annual data base has been submitted to LWVUS. The official total was 133. We lost some members this year, as usual, for various reasons such as moving out of town, death and personal reasons. We did, however, pick up 9 new members over the course of the year.

This month we are happy to welcome Ruth Shrawder as a new member! Her email is: [fosternruth@gmail.com](mailto:fosternruth@gmail.com).

## VOTER SERVICES REPORT

### Upcoming Election

The Municipal Primary  
will occur on  
**May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Women have been voting for over 100 years,  
Why Stop Now?

One Vote can make a Difference!  
Can't Complain if you don't Vote!  
One Vote can Rock the Vote!

Some of the races in the upcoming election include:

- **UNION COUNTY:** Commissioners, District Attorney
- **LOCAL JUDICIARY:** Mifflinburg Magisterial District Judge
- **TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS:** Buffalo, Gregg, 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), the candidates 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* will include all Union County races listed on [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org), which we download to create our *Voters Guide*. We are aiming to put out the printed *Voters Guide* about three weeks before the Primary election on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

### Facts for Voters

*Facts for Voters* is a non-partisan yearly publication that provides residents of Union County with information about voting and their elected officials. This free trifold publication has been distributed to 104 locations around our county. Appreciation and thanks go to the staff, including editor Lisa Tranquillo, researchers: Mary Lotspeich, Helen Nunn and Ann Longabach, and designer, Dawn Maneval, for all their hard work creating this publication.

Also, huge thanks go to the distributors: Kathleen Bohinski, who is a new member of the team, Janice Bigelow, Diane Gottlieb, Kathleen Martin, Mary Zimmerman, Pat Marolo, Ann Longanbach, Phyllis Dyer, Judy Ellis, Carol Crichley, Mary Lotspeich, Betsy Noyce, Patty and Hood Johnston, Martha Donahue, and Theresa Bzdil.

The 2023 *Facts for Voters* will also be available in an online form on our website:

[LWVLewisburgArea.org/facts-voters](http://LWVLewisburgArea.org/facts-voters)

### LWVLA Website updates

Thanks go to Dawn Maneval, designer, and Carole Madle, editor, for all of the Voter Services updates that they provide to the Website. We appreciate the efforts of Bev Zorn, website designer, to implement the changes that we provided. To see these changes, visit [LWVLewisburgArea.org](http://LWVLewisburgArea.org), where you will also find the most up-to-date information about our voter education efforts.

Linda Harris, *Voter Services Chair*