

LEAGUE LINE

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hate this time of year. There is no color to it. The ground is brown with the only hope of beauty being the brief times when there is clean, crisp snow on the ground. In snow, the ground looks pristine, but keep a close eye...it will not last. With the coming of the sun, much of the snow melts and becomes mud. Time seems to slow down during this time of year. We can't "go out and play" like we can during the other times of the year. Problems seem worse and pain seems more intense. I don't really like being so negative. I have found that it does not really do a lot to change things by only looking at the down side.

Unfortunately, this year seems worse than most. Contemplating the state of the nation, and indeed the planet, does nothing to lift the spirits. With all the "goings on" (as my mother would put it) it is easy to throw up our collective hands and say there is no use! It is a total feeling of impotence. We need to be careful that we do not let the political atmosphere define us. We need to find something to do so that we do not give in to the feelings of helplessness.

Many people I know (my husband and I included) write letters, send emails and leave phone messages for our representatives. At this point they are the only ones who can help. Will our voices be heard? I'm not sure.

I was in college in the 60's as was my husband. He was drafted and I was busy stamping out disease and pestilence in nursing school. The country was right in the middle of the Vietnam war and major civil unrest. It seemed like there were large protest gatherings daily. At the time I thought the protesting was silly; why would Congress listen to a bunch of ordinary citizens? We students wondered how protesters were getting time off from jobs and work. We were not seeing the bigger picture.

Those who marched to protest the war in Vietnam and also in support of civil rights, felt that the demonstrations were an effective way to raise awareness, pressure the government and ultimately achieve their goals. They felt that the civil rebellion led to very positive outcomes.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

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

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

FORUM

Dr. Alan Stolberg, U.S. Coordinator for the Department of Defense/NATO Defense Education Enhancement Program
"NATO and the USA: What's in It for US?"
Public Library for Union County Community Room
255 Reitz Boulevard, Lewisburg

Monday, April 7th, 4:30p.m.

BOARD MEETING

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

We are now faced with what seems like a much larger issue, the virtual end of democracy as we know it. What do we do?

We do what others have done in the past. We stay informed by searching for and reading unbiased news sources. We write letters, we send emails, we call our representatives, we network and we march if need be. Nothing will happen if we do nothing. The famous quote comes to mind in times like these:

All it takes for evil to grow is for good people to remain silent.

I don't know if calling, writing, emailing, or marching will make a difference in the grand scheme of things but one thing that I know without a doubt: doing something, anything that gives you agency, will make a difference in how you feel.

Go forward and make your voice heard!

Kandy Duncan, President

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The vacancies that need to be filled in some way for our League to continue are listed below:

President

Voter Services Chairperson

Membership Chairperson/committee

Forum Chairperson

Roster Manager for liaison with National membership

Facebook coordinator

Nominating committee

We also need **Board members** and new **members in all of the Committees**.

If you want to see the Lewisburg League continue, please think about how you can serve in some capacity. **Candidates need to be found by April 1st, 2025.** If one of these positions interests you, please contact: lwvlewisburgarea@gmail.com

IN MEMORIAM

We are sad to note the passing of Cindy Nickelsen, a Lifetime member of the League of Women Voters of the Lewisburg Area. She was a member of the League for 61 years. In addition to attending meetings she served as a volunteer for the League's Finance Drive, distributed League publications such as the Voters Guide and Facts for Voters, and served on the Observer Corps by reporting on public meetings that would be of interest to League members. She loved the League and had many dear friends among its members. A full obituary appeared in the February 22, 2025 edition of *The Daily Item*.

MARCH FORUM

The League of Women of Women Voters of Lewisburg Area Forum series will continue on Tuesday, March 18th, 2025, with a talk by Dr. Alan Stolberg, *Nato and the USA: What's in it for US?*. Dr. Stolberg is the U.S. Coordinator for the Department of Defense (DoD)/NATO Defense Education Enhancement Program (DEEP), helping coordinate and orchestrate U.S. government assistance and support to NATO partner nation professional military education institutions on a global basis.

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.

JANUARY FORUM

In January, Tanya Dynda from the CSIU spoke to a crowd of about 35 members and Forum guests about Artificial Intelligence (AI). We learned how it's being used, and is helpful in our daily lives and in the workplace. AI has revolutionized our lives. It's a valuable tool for all and present everywhere, including Google Maps, Roomba vacuums and Amazon Alexa technology assistance. It has vast potential to further automate tasks and improve decision-making.

AI presents opportunities for innovation but it comes with ethical and practical concerns about fairness, privacy, and societal impact. When a query can be made specific, useful results can enhance human creativity. Results are dependent on the data points found in the search. Much like the potential for human research, results can yield bad or biased information if the query isn't well thought out.

Teri MacBride, Forum Committee Co-chair

FEBRUARY FORUM

On February 18th, Professor Michael James, Associate Dean of the Bucknell Faculty and member of the Political Science Department, spoke at the Lewisburg League of Women Voters' Forum, on immigration policy in the United States. He began by using exit polls from recent elections to demonstrate that among all political groups in the United States there is increasing opposition to current immigration policy. Based on recent data, he illustrated increasing trends worldwide to limit immigration. He used Canada as one example of an area where support for immigration has declined significantly within all political parties.

Professor James then discussed the various categories of immigration, for example, making clear the difference between asylum seekers and refugees. He described the creation of birthright citizenship, with the Fourteenth Amendment, along with the 77-page clarification from the case *United States v. Wang Kim*, in 1899. That case defined two allowable exceptions to birthright citizenship: (British) invaders' children and the children of diplomats.

Professor James addressed current immigration patterns in the US, pointing out that increasingly immigrants have been coming from Central America, as well as China and India. There has no amnesty since Ronald Reagan in 1985 so anyone who has entered since then could be subject to deportation. He pointed out that no one who has entered the United States illegally since then has a legal right to stay, but they might have a moral right to remain. He believes there are just and unjust ways to deport people. Finally, he mentioned that throughout the world there are many countries with walls, and wondered if that might help to control the flow of immigration.

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The preceding comments are just some of the highlights of what was a very concise, but extensive, overview of the current immigration situation in the United States.

Mary Zimmerman,

Forum Committee Co-chair

VOTER SERVICES

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

Change to Polling Place

Attention East Buffalo 4 voters:

According to the Union County Election Office, there will be a poll-site change for the upcoming primary on May 20th. If you voted at Bucknell's Weis Center (East Buffalo 4) in the last election, for the May 20th Primary only, you will cast your vote at:

Bucknell's Langone Center

701 Moore Avenue, Lewisburg

This change is only for the upcoming Primary election.

Facts for Voters

The editor, Lisa Tranquillo, and her research staff, Mary Lotspiech, Helen Nunn, and

Ann Longanbach have completed the print version of the 2025 *Facts for Voters* and it has been distributed throughout the Union County community. You can find them at the libraries, post offices, the Union County Court House, and the Election Office on 15th Street in Lewisburg. We also deliver to businesses and as many stores, schools and banks as they allow.

The online version should be available on our website by the end of the month.

Voters Guide and VOTE411

Sheri Stayton and her amazing staff, Liz Clement, Carole Madle, Wayne Baker and designer, Dawn Maneval, have started working on the *Voters Guide* for the upcoming Municipal Primary.

Sheri has been managing the PA State **VOTE411** website for many years. Liz Clement has been assisting with obtaining contact information for candidates and follows up with candidates to urge them to respond to the questions. The answers that are uploaded to **VOTE411** form the information we download to create our 2025 Municipal Primary *Voters Guide*. We expect to distribute the printed copies one month before the election. The online version will be uploaded to our website soon thereafter.

Candidate Questions for Voters Guide

Do you have questions you'd like to ask the 2025 candidates? Here is your opportunity!

I facilitate the *Voters Guide* Candidate Event Question committee. Its purpose is to create the questions that are sent to all candidates when we invite them to respond to the *Voters Guide* and the candidate events. Typically, we ask questions of the Township Supervisors, Borough Council, School Directors, Mayors and Magisterial District Judge.

If you want to participate, please email me by March 3rd with your suggestions and or questions at Lsharris323@gmail.com. An in-person meeting will be scheduled by March 6th.

Linda Harris, Voter Services Chair

2025 Pennsylvania Elections: Important Dates to Remember

Source: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of State, Bureau of Elections and Notaries

2025 ELECTION MILESTONE	DEADLINE
Last day to REGISTER to vote or to change party affiliation before the April primary.	May 5
Last day to APPLY for a mail-in or civilian ABSENTEE ballot	May 13
Last day for County Boards of Elections to receive voted mail-in and civilian absentee ballots (must be received by 8:00pm)	May 20
MUNICIPAL PRIMARY <i>In-Person voting: Polls open from 7:00am to 8:00pm</i>	May 20
First day to register to vote after the election	May 21
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 May 19th)	May 27