



LWV LEHIGH COUNTY VOTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

March

4 Sun		Legislative Interviews due
8 Thurs		Deadline to reserve for Hot Topics lunch
8 Thurs	4 pm	Board Meeting
12 Mon	11:30 am	Hot Topics Lunch, Superior Restaurant
15 Thurs	4 pm	Naturalization Ceremony
21 Weds		Candidate withdrawal date

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	1
Board Notes	2
FDPA Support	2
Feb. Hot Topic Report	3
March Hot Topic Intro	3
March Membership	4
Election Dates	4
FDPA Update	5
Government Directory	5
New District Map	6
Legislative Interviews	6
Naturalization Dates	7
Annual Meeting Invite	8
Delaware Basin Report	8

See inside for invitation to LWVLC's annual meeting—
Saturday, May 12, 2018.

Dear League Members,

From the almost daily news about the impact of the League of Women Voters, et al., v. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, et al. - 261 M.D. 2017 concerning the 2011 congressional map, to nearly fifty members and members of the public attending our Hot Topics luncheons, this year has been one to watch. Articles inside this issue share more information about these initiatives and how they affect us in Lehigh County.

Hot Topics Luncheons

The Hot Topics Luncheons are consistently more popular than ever! The Luncheon on February 12 attracted 43 people in total, including the speaker, Milagros "Milly" Canales. Half of the attendees were members while the rest were non-members. Some non-members, like Allentown School Board member Phoebe Harris and State Representative Michael Schlossberg, knew Milly. Pam Fleck, Assistant Director of Student Affairs, Penn State Lehigh Valley, responded to our publicity by bringing three students with her. Eight attendees were walk-ins. Ten attendees were men. Thirty-nine attendees ate lunch leaving four who did not. Kudos to everyone who made this attractive luncheon possible and known to the public.

Inside this issue there are articles by Program Chair Mary Erdman about this and the upcoming Hot Topics Luncheon topics.

Government Directory

Thank you, thank you, thank you!
These companies and organizations

donated \$150 each toward the cost of printing will appear on the back cover of the Directory: Keystone Consulting Engineers, Inc., the Lehigh County Medical Society and the Lehigh Valley Chapter of ACLU Pennsylvania. These names and logos also appear on our website and Facebook page.

We know that personal contact works better than cold sales calls. We appreciate Bill Erdman and Jay Hudson for their role in securing the support of the first two organizations. We also want to thank ourselves.

The LWV Education Fund will also be listed: that's YOU! We want to recognize and thank the many members and at least one non-member who donated to the fund for this and other purposes. I should also mention board members Molly Faust, Margie Dunn and Mary Erdman who updated the solicitation letter that we then mailed to the nearly 90 businesses, associations and societies identified by Mary and Bill Erdman and Cecilia Birdsell last December.

At the meeting in January, the board voted to offer the business community the opportunity to support us financially on an annual basis. So, this Fall, we will send letters again offering the opportunity to be listed on the back cover of the Government Directory published in early 2019. Please let me know if you can recommend a business or organization we should contact. We would also appreciate your willingness to make a follow up phone call.

(Continued on page 7)

BOARD NOTES

The Board of the Lehigh County League of Women Voters met Thursday, February 14, 2018 at the Woodlands Personal Care Home. Here are highlights of the meeting.

- The board reaffirmed its intention to continue to publish our local Voters' Guide in conjunction with The Morning Call newspaper in addition to publicizing the state league's VOTE411 site for candidate information.
- Barbara Williams, Treasurer, presented financials for the month of January. The balance for the month ending January 31, 2018 was \$19,564.31. She reported that our league membership now consists of 57 individuals, 11 households and 2 students for a total of 69 members. She noted that the budget committee will meet February 21, 2018.
- The board decided to work with DeSales University to develop student internships to work as website coordinator and newsletter editor.

Molly Faust
Secretary

UPDATE ON FAIR DISTRICTS SUPPORT

It has become difficult to update our progress, accurately, because things have been changing almost daily and mostly in a positive way. Just a year ago, we would see spotty coverage of the gerrymandering issue; but in the last few months this topic has catapulted to national prominence! Pennsylvania has been in the news, statewide and nationally, almost every week since about October.

The main goal of Fair Districts PA is to promote the debate and discussion of HB 722 and HB 22 and to call for a vote no later than June 30, 2018. That would be the first step in moving towards a constitutional amendment which would place the responsibility of redrawing districts after the next US Census in an independent citizens' commission and out of the hands of politicians. To that extent, we have been visiting local legislators and municipalities in securing more co-sponsors and resolutions backing this important legislation.

State-wide we now have 109 co-sponsors for HB 722, which is record-breaking support for any legislation in a single session. That is a majority of the State Representatives. We have 36 Republicans and 71 Democrats, with more expected. On the Senate side, we have 18 co-sponsors: 7 Republicans and 11 Democrats, with only 7 more to go before reaching support from 50% of the State Senators. All of our local senators are in support of SB 22: Pat Browne (R), Lisa Boscola (D) and Mario Scavello (R). Unfortunately, three of our local (Lehigh) legislators have been very solid "no's" and we encourage you to contact your legislator if they are one of the following: Gary Day 187th, Ryan Mackenzie 134th, and Zachary Mako 183rd.

We have been very successful with resolutions from our local municipalities. We have two pending right now: Lynn Township and Weisenberg Township. If you live in either one, you may want to contact those townships and encourage resolutions from each.

The complete list of Resolutions supporting HB 722 and SB 22 are as follows:

- 10/16 - County of Northampton
- 2/17 - Whitehall Township
- 2/17 - City of Easton
- 2/17 - County of Lehigh
- 4/17 - Lower Macungie Township
- 6/17 - City of Bethlehem
- 4/17 - Bethlehem Township
- 7/17 - South Whitehall Township (created a letter to legislators, not a resolution)
- 9/17 - Williams Township
- 2/18 - Upper Saucon Township
- 2/18 - Upper Milford Township

Still on the calendar to be discussed are: The City of Allentown, 2/21, and North Whitehall Township, 3/5.

Please take the time to thank our supporters and contact legislators who have not yet endorsed more fairly drawn districts. Please visit our website, fairdistrictspa.com, to stay updated on all we are doing. We welcome your support and volunteerism.

Mary Erdman
Action Chair, FDPA Liaison

FEBRUARY HOT TOPIC: MINORITY INCLUSION

Our February Hot Topics luncheon was a very honest look into how “minority inclusion” is seen by minority populations. “Milly” Canales, an advocacy worker, community activist and resident of Allentown, gave us an insight into how we approach and embrace our minority neighbors.

Milly challenged us to learn about our different minority neighborhoods; their culture, their beliefs about family and neighbors; and not to judge what we do not know. She humorously described her own Hispanic culture as one which likes loud music, dancing and sharing food in celebration. Milly advised us to acknowledge the differences in minority cultures when attempting to embrace a population different than what most are used to in our everyday life experiences.

Her advice also included showing a sincere interest in her community and others by actually coming into the community and talking and listening to: needs, concerns, problems and solutions. Milly’s frustration with politicians that just show up during election time and then disappear after they have been elected is very disheartening to her community and other minority communities. She expressed that her culture believes in neighborhood members looking after each other, but that government can go a long way in helping with the many issues and problems that plague an urban setting. Milly shared stories which showed hope in the future especially in a number of programs with which she has been involved, like her Snow Angels program where young kids from the city mobilize and shovel snow for over 100 seniors who cannot shovel their own sidewalks and walkways. Milly invited us to “come into her community” and learn, talk, share and celebrate her culture and her people. A true eye-opening address that challenges us to embrace our minority neighbors openly and honestly, from someone who truly practices what she preaches. Our sincere thanks to Milly for her thoughtful words and suggestions.



Mary Erdman, Program Chair

MARCH HOT TOPIC: IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENT ON BIRD POPULATIONS

Have you ever noticed how many of our newer high-rise office buildings are being constructed with almost all-glass facades? And, have you ever wondered what the impact has been on birds that see the reflection of the sky and trees in those windows? Well, the results are disastrous. According to Daniel Klem, Ph.D., the world’s leading expert and researcher on this issue, “up to a billion birds are killed each year, more than pesticides and oil spills!”

Klem, a Sarcis Acopian professor of Ornithology and Conservation Biology at Muhlenberg College, has been researching bird collisions, and consulting on the construction of buildings using glass for many years.

Please join us as he shares his vast knowledge of birds and the possible solutions to this problem. Professor Klem will also address the buildings that are part of the down-

town Allentown development in relation to the local bird population. His genuine feelings of concern for these defenseless creatures is evident in the body of his life work.

The date is Monday, March 12th, at 11:30 a.m. at the Superior Restaurant, 102 State Avenue. Emmaus, PA. Please register by emailing: lwvlehigh@yahoo.com by 3/8/18. Optional \$11.00 lunch buffet.

Mary Erdman
Program Chair



MARCH MEMBERSHIP

Our membership drive is now over. As of Feb 18 we have 70 members in our League. Thank you for the quick response and your renewal in our League! If anyone knows someone who may be interested in joining, please let me know by calling me at 610 298-8946. We are currently revising the membership booklet and it will be available at the Hot Topic Luncheon in April or I will mail it to your home. Again, thank you for your support!

I am pleased to announce we had 5 new people join our League. Daniel Poresky and Julie Thomases have been long-time supporters of our League. As an owner of Dan's Camera in Allentown, Dan has advertised in our Voter for many years. Jeanne Grubb is a doctor specializing in Emergency Medicine at Lehigh Valley Hospital.

Joyce Moore has been a resident of Upper Milford for 22 years. She serves on the Emmaus/Upper Milford EAC and the Open Space Committee. She was recently elected as an Upper Milford Supervisor. Susan Wild is a partner at Gross McGinley Attorneys at Law. Her community involvement includes being a board member of the Civic Theatre of Allentown and Buy Fresh Buy Local of the Greater Lehigh Valley. She is currently running for Congress in the PA 7th District race.

Margie Dunn, Membership Chair

Daniel Poresky and Julie Thomases 824 N Broad St Allentown 18104 610 434-1396 dporesky@yahoo.com	Joyce Moore 4296 Glenwood Dr Emmaus 18049 610 966-6128 joyce@jmfs.com
--	---

Jeanne Grubb 1600 Lehigh Parkway E Apt 9F Allentown 18103 610 698-7476 Jgrubb0505@yahoo.com	Susan Wild 1386 Doe Trail Rd Allentown 18104 610 509-5172 swild@grossmcginley.com
--	--



2018 PENNSYLVANIA ELECTIONS IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

February 13 First day to circulate and file nomination petitions
 March 6 Last day to circulate and file nomination petitions
 March 7 First day to circulate and file nomination papers
 March 21 Last day for withdrawal by candidates who filed nomination petitions
 March 26 First day to apply for a civilian absentee ballot
 April 16 Last day to REGISTER before the primary
 May 8 Last day to apply for a civilian absentee ballot
 May 11 Last day for County Board of Elections to receive absentee ballots
 May 15 **GENERAL PRIMARY**
 May 16 First day to REGISTER after primary

These dates are subject to change without notice.

Thanks to our many members who contributed to the Education Fund during the 2017-2018 membership drive. These funds will help with our many citizen education projects such as our bilingual brochures on How to Vote and our well-regarded Government Directory.

FAIR DISTRICTS LEHIGH-NORTHAMPTON COUNTY UPDATE

As the Action Chair, FDPA liaison, and a member of the leadership team of FDPA, I strive to keep you up to date about this group that has its origins in the work and mission of the League of Women Voters. Our own President, Jan Little, has been there since the first meeting that created *Fair Districts PA*. This grass-roots, non-partisan all-volunteer organization has come a long way, but we still have a tough battle ahead.

There are two main issues that need to be updated: 1. The lawsuit filed in the State Commonwealth Court last June. That case was filed by the LWV of PA along with 18 plaintiffs (one from each of the 18 Congressional Districts) against the GOP General Assembly leaders, asserting that the US Congressional District map (of 2011) was an unconstitutional partisan gerrymander which entrenched Republicans in a majority of districts and had made it nearly impossible for Democrats to be elected despite more registered voters and/or popular votes. The result of this case has been a map ultimately decided upon by the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. That is discussed in a separate article.

2. The other topic is about the future. This issue will not be resolved by litigation. A more permanent solution is a constitutional amendment which has been proposed in the two bills introduced in the PA Senate, SB 22 and in the House, HB 722. Both bills were introduced over a year ago and neither bill has been moved to the floor for debate, hearings and a vote. Our efforts now are to put pressure on the GOP leadership and the Chairman of both the House and Senate State Government Committees to act on these bills. We need a vote on both bills, then a vote on an identical bill, no later than June 30, 2018. Time is running out. You have the opportunity to get involved and help this race to the end. Our upcoming events are as follows:

Go to our Facebook page "*Fair Districts Lehigh Northampton Counties*" and make sure you "like" our page and sign our petition.

Go to the Fair Districts PA website: www.fairdistrictspa.com and learn more about this topic and how you can get involved.

Check our Facebook page for dates and locations of municipal meetings to obtain more resolutions.

Attend our information event: **"Why Gerrymandering is Wrong and How to Fix It," on Sunday March 11th, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.** The location is: **Union Lutheran Church in Schnecksville, 5500 PA-873, 18078**

Attend the state-wide rally in Harrisburg, PA on **Tuesday, April 16th**. Information coming.

Go to: www.cafepress.com and type in fair districts pa and order t-shirts and sweatshirts for the Rally Day.

Mary Erdman, Program Chair and Action Chair, FDPA Liaison

GOVERNMENT DIRECTORY 2018

We are almost ready to publish the new government directory for Lehigh County. We're waiting now for a few vacancies to be filled. For the first time, Kaitlyn Moyer is inputting the final, approved content into a program.

Many members have helped to compile the information from school districts and municipalities. Thank you to Mary Anne Stinner, Mary Erdman, Doris Glaessmann, Sue Phillips, Patricia Hudson, Pat Swan, Kathy Stagl, Barb Williams, Margie Dunn, Ken Mohr, Janet Little and Molly Faust.

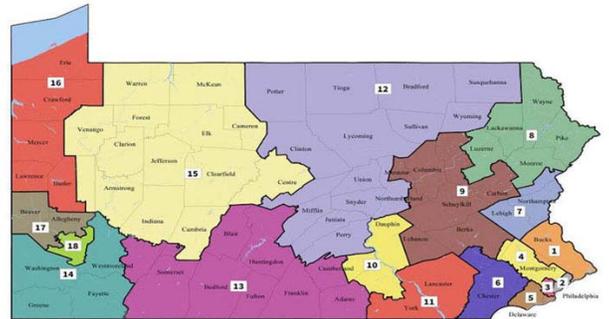
Please respond to an email you will receive after the booklet is printed, as we will need help from as many of you as possible to bundle and deliver the directories.

Ann Bartholomew, Director, Government Directory/Voters Guide/Website

NEW DISTRICT MAP – WE ARE NOW DISTRICT 7!

On Monday, February 19th, the Supreme Court released the map that was created by the Court with the help of a mapping specialist. This map was the result of a review of the nine maps submitted to the Court, and the advice from Nathaniel Persily, a Stanford Law professor and redistricting expert.

The entire new map has been renumbered and splits fewer counties than the previous maps. The previous map split more than 25 counties; on this map only 13 counties are split between two or three districts. It is also designed to give Democrats a better chance of equal representation that was unavailable in the previous map. The goal was more fairly drawn districts, and early review of the map by the Pittsburgh Post Gazette believes that has been achieved by the Supreme Court, which voted on this new map by a 4-3 vote.



According to the decision of the Court, this map will be in place for the May Primary election and the remainder of the 2018 election season, but not necessarily for the special election scheduled for March 13th in the present-day 18th Congressional District in southwestern PA. As of this submission, the GOP Leadership will be filing lawsuit stating that the Court had no Constitutional right to create a map over the Legislative Branch. It had not been determined whether this lawsuit would be filed in State or Federal Court.

Stay tuned.....

Mary Erdman, Action Chair, FDPA Liaison

2018 LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEWS

We are completing the 2018 legislative interviews of the nine legislators who represent Lehigh County in the state assembly. As you know, the purposes of these legislative interviews are:

- To learn where legislators stand on specific issues so the League can be a better advocate on our positions. This year, the four issues are Voting Modernization, Redistricting Reform, Criminal Justice Reform and Environmental Protection.
- To educate legislators about issues the League cares about and to let them know our position on those issues. The background information may be found in "Where We Stand" on the state League webpage.
- To help Leagues build a relationship with their legislators. We have participated in this program through the years and enjoyed the opportunity to meet recently-elected officeholders such as Zachary Mako and Jeanne McNeill.

Thank you to the following members for their work contacting and speaking with local legislators on behalf of our League and the Pennsylvania League.

Legislative Interviews Completed

- Day: Mary Erdman, Jan Little
- Mackenzie: Ron Clever, Jan Little
- Mako: Mary Erdman, Barbara Williams
- Schlossberg: Susan Phillips, Marianne Phillips, Gabriel Tuttle, Mary Erdman, Jan Little

Scheduled for a date in March

- McNeill: Ron Clever, Tom Ulrich, Jan Little
- Canceled by officeholder***
- Simmons: Ken Baumert, Molly Faust, Kathy Stagl

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Cont. from page 1)

Fair Districts PA

Mary Erdman and other members of our local league have been carrying out the municipal resolution campaign in our county, asking the governments of as many of our 25 municipalities as possible to sign the resolution supporting the independent redistricting commission. Mary writes about this elsewhere in this issue.

Clean Water Forever

We are also encouraging members to work in a similar way with other citizens who are concerned about recent regulations for water withdrawal and wastewater storage in the Basin proposed by the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC). The statement that Marianne Phillips read to the Allentown City Council is in this issue. This could be you! Please contact me if you would like to present a similar view to the governing body of your municipality. You will not stand alone; Karen Feridun and I accompanied Marianne.

The DRBC held 6 public hearings about these regulations in February. These included the fifth hearing located at Lehigh Carbon Community College on February 22. An article will appear in the April issue that will explain major points and what will happen next.

Distribute the Government Directory?

We will make the 2018 edition available at the earliest Hot Topics Luncheon. After every member attending takes their copy, we will distribute packets of the directory to members who are willing to take them to locations throughout the county. Many members have done this for years. It helps to pair up with another member especially if it isn't a location you visit in your regular schedule; one member can drive and the other can bring the Directories into the building.

Janet Little, LWVLC President

2018 LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEWS cont.

Legislative Interviews Completed

- Boscola: Susan McNamara, Tom Ulrich, Jan Little
- Browne: Mary Erdman, Ron Clever, Jan Little

Members were able to set up and complete many of the legislative interviews and submit their reports (approved by the officeholder) to the PA League far in advance of the submission deadline. I would like to thank student members Audrey Danek, Kaitlyn Moyer and Erin Ondush for inputting the content of the reports into the online format provided by the PA League. Both efforts will enable the PA League to make the reports available to the public online much sooner.

Janet Little, LWVLC President

NATURALIZATION

The Naturalization schedule for 2018 has just been announced. Four Naturalization Ceremonies have been scheduled. They are all scheduled on Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. and will be held in President Judge Edward Reibman's Courtroom 2A, in the Lehigh County Courthouse. Please note this is a new courtroom location. All who wish to attend any of these ceremonies are welcome.

The dates are: March 15, July 12, September 6 and November 29.

Caryn Shoenthal, Director



League of Women Voters of Lehigh County

P. O. Box 3275
Allentown, PA 18106
610-432-1456
LWVPA Hotline: 1-800-692-7281

President: Janet Little,
610-398-7228
610-442-1733 (cell)
Membership: Margie Dunn,
610-298-8946



Mary Faust, Editor
Email: mfaust11@ptd.net
Phone: 610-965-6974



League of Women Voters of Lehigh County
2018 Annual Meeting

Morgan's
3079 Willow Street, Allentown 18104
At the intersection of
Cedar Crest Boulevard & Willow Street
(610-769-4100)

Saturday, May 12th, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Individual ordering from the menu (Soup & Sandwiches, Salads,
Pastas or Entrees)

11:30 p.m. - Cash Bar

12:00 p.m. - Lunch

Program begins at 12:30 p.m.

Name: _____

Guest(s): _____

No. of Reservations: Total _____

Deadline for reservations is Friday, May 4, 2018

Mail to: Barbara Williams
4313 Crest Lane
Allentown PA 18104

E-mail: wils48@ptd.net

Text to Phone: 610-762-4009

DRBC MUNICIPAL RESOLUTION CAMPAIGN

On February 21, League member Marianne Phillips asked the Allentown City Council to support a resolution requesting the Delaware River Basin Commission to support a complete ban on natural gas development and hydraulic fracturing and all related activities throughout the Delaware River Basin. Karen Feridun, founder of Berks Gas Truth, and Jan Little accompanied Marianne.

In her testimony, Marianne stated that over 900 studies have led many states and countries to ban fracking outright. The quality of life for communities in the watershed can be adversely affected in a variety of ways from the fracking process. You can read Marianne's entire testimony in our Facebook account in the Posts section.

We will keep you apprised of next steps leading to the Council passing the resolution. Please contact Jan Little to learn more about approaching your municipality's government to ask them to support the Resolution and what support is available to you.

Janet Little, LWVLC President



danscamera.com

easton | 610.829.2313

allentown | 610.434.2313



\$10 OFF
ANY PURCHASE
OF \$20 OR MORE

Don's. One offer per customer. Not valid on Nikon MVP, Canon MAP or Sony Sure Products. Not valid with other offers or studio orders.

Redeem in stores only. Exp. 9/30/16

When patronizing our sponsors, please let them know you saw their ad in the **Lehigh County Voter**

McNabb's Service & Repairs

Automotive Excellence since 1958



4948 Hamilton Blvd.

Allentown PA 18106

610-398-1324 610-395-0444

www.McNabbsServiceCenter.com

McNabb's Service & Repairs

State Inspection and Emissions Test	A/C Service	Alignment
Brakes	Steering and Suspension	Engine Repairs
Exhaust	Preventive Maintenance	Oil Change

NICOS C. ELIAS FUNERAL HOME, INC.

1227 Hamilton Street Allentown, Pa. 18102

at the Historic General Trexler Estate

610-433-2200

*Green and
 Eco-Friendly plans*

**Nicos C. Elias,
 Owner & Supv.**

www.eliasfuneralhome.com

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

League of Women Voters of Lehigh County
P.O. Box 3275
Allentown PA 18106



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEHIGH COUNTY

Name _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____

Membership dues include membership in the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) and the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania (LWVPA) and a subscription to the local and state *Voter*.

League dues and contributions are not tax-deductible as a charitable donation.

Contributions to the LWV Education Fund (LWVEF) are tax-deductible.

Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to all citizens. Voting members must be at least 16 years old.

ANNUAL DUES	\$70.00 individual
2017-2018	\$105.00 household
	\$25.00 full-time student

Contact membership secretary Margie Dunn for details of pro-rated dues amounts.

Please make check payable to LWVLC and mail to:

LWVLC
c/o Margie Dunn
8411 Carpet Road
New Tripoli, PA 18066