



LWV LEHIGH COUNTY VOTER

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

March

9 Thurs		Last Day to reserve for Hot Topics Lunch
9 Thurs	4:00 p.m.	Board Meeting Woodland Terrace
13 Mon	11:30 a.m.	Hot Topics Lunch Superior Restaurant
23 Thurs	4:00 p.m.	Naturalization Old Lehigh County Courthouse

April

6 Thurs		Last Day to Reserve for Hot Topics Lunch
10 Mon	11:30 a.m.	Hot Topics Lunch, Superior Restaurant
13 Thurs	4:00 p.m.	Board Meeting Woodland Terrace

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year, League members! This is the year of municipal elections while continuing our ongoing initiatives. The topic of our first Hot Topics Luncheon of 2017 certainly oriented us to our geographic area.

On January 9, twenty-one members heard Becky A. Bradley, AICP, Executive Director, Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC), speak about "The Impact of Warehouse Development on Traffic in the Lehigh Valley."

She has been the Executive Director of the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission since August 2013.

Concerning warehouse development, this is the end stage of the Lehigh Valley's position near the port of New York of today. It is a blessing and a curse: ships can carry more cargo using containers that can be quickly moved to rail cars and trucks. The Norfolk Southern freight route and I-78 enable the cargo to travel quickly to our area's warehouses. The national business community views our area and other areas nearby as the "New Inland Empire," even bigger than the older one on Long Island, New York.

Consumers contribute to the increase in delivery-truck traffic as they switch from shopping in brick and mortar stores to ordering items online. How can our transportation system handle this volume of traffic? To determine this, Becky Bradley is leading the LVPC's \$3.3 billion regional transportation planning program and the public is invited to join the early stages.

Very soon, we will forward e-invitations to public planning meetings to be held on this topic. Here, you and other members of the public can share their views and effect upcoming plans.

Becky Bradley made many, many additional points about the changing economy and population in the Lehigh Valley. They are contained in two informative documents each attendee received: "Build Lehigh Valley: Lehigh Valley Annual Development Report" and a set of copies of PowerPoint slides stapled together. We will bring extra copies of the materials to upcoming meetings.

Topics and Speakers of Upcoming Hot Topics Luncheons and members involved

- March 13th: Pennsylvania League's Criminal Justice Position, Gordon Roberts, Magisterial District Judge Administrator, County of Lehigh (Doris Glaessmann and Mary Anne Stinner)
- April 10th: Endangered Bees, speaker to be announced (Barbara Williams)
- May 13th: Annual Meeting and Luncheon (Barbara Williams)

Let's continue to invite members of the public as guests! On the second Monday of every month we meet at 11:30 a.m. at the Superior Restaurant, 102 State Avenue, Emmaus, PA 18049, Phone: (610) 965-5750. A buffet luncheon will be served at

(Continued on page 3)

JANUARY BOARD NOTES

The Board of the Lehigh County League of Women Voters met Thursday January 12, 2017, at the Woodlands Personal Care Home. Here are highlights of the meeting.

- Barbara Williams said that our League will consider holding candidates' nights for school boards. We will need to wait until the list of candidates is published before making a decision on school boards.
- Barbara Williams reported a balance of \$17,033.22 as of December 30, 2016. Our League has 26 members and three households so far.
- Our League will not be offering the "Running for Office" workshop this year. The League members who have run this well-regarded program in the past wish to retire and no one has stepped forward to head the effort.
- Janet Little encouraged board members to attend the Fair Districts PA public meeting to be held Friday, January 27, 2017, at the First Presbyterian Church, Allentown.
- The LWVPA sent a \$1000 check to our League in payment for the participation of Janet Little and Kathy Stagl in the Election Protection project. The board approved using some of this money for a donation of \$200 to St. Paul's Lutheran Church for the use of their facility on election day.

The board decided that the Government Directory Update will cover only the Lehigh County area.

Molly Faust
Secretary

MEMBERSHIP MARCH 2017

Our membership drive is now over. As of February 20 we have 39 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 Topics Luncheon or I will mail it to your home. Again, thank you for your support!

Margie Dunn

MARCH HOT TOPICS LUNCH

Monday, March 13, 11:30 a.m.

Superior Restaurant, Emmaus

H. Gordon Roberts, Speaker

H. Gordon Roberts will speak to our League on Criminal Justice issues, a topic that was updated by the LWVPA at their June meeting. Roberts is the Magisterial District Judge Administrator for the County of Lehigh.

To make a reservation for this Hot Topics Lunch, call or email Sue Phillips at 610-821-1118 or suemph@verizon.net no later than Thursday, March 10.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

(Continued from page 1)

11:30 a.m. followed by the speaker. Please tell your guests that you can listen to the speaker without ordering the luncheon.

Legislative Interviews

It's that time again! The Pennsylvania League has asked local Leagues to interview state and federal officeholders in their area and submit reports by March 4. This year, there are three topics: redistricting reform, voter-access reforms and education funding reform.

Please let me know if you are willing to make an appointment to visit your state representative and Senators Browne and Boscola ask these questions.

As was done last year, I will email a packet of supplemental information to you. It will be rewarding to submit reports of completed interviews that will take their place among the 253 Pennsylvania legislators in Pennsylvania by March 4.

Fair Districts PA

The statewide coalition is still growing and organizing. Since the retirement of Barry Kauffman, Executive Director of Common Cause PA, Carol Kuniholm, of the state League, is now the sole chair. Carol and others have been working with Senator Boscola's legislative aides to develop a new redistricting reform bill, SB22. They are seeking a member of the state house to introduce a similar bill in the House. Recently they turned to Democrat Steve Samuelson to sponsor a bill.

The coalition has divided into three regions and smaller regions within them. Lehigh, Northampton, Carbon and Monroe counties comprise the "Lehigh Valley" region within the "Eastern" region. Fritz Walker and I were co-chairs.* Basically, the tasks of the regions include planning meetings to develop groups of volunteers into workgroups, setting up public information meetings, legislative visits and media outreach.

We are proud of the Monroe County League. Before their county became part of the Lehigh Valley region, they scheduled a similar event the morning of Saturday, March 25 from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Hughes Library in Stroudsburg. Doors open at 9:30 a.m..

Thank you if you already registered formally with Fair Districts PA. If you haven't done so yet, as soon as possible please go to: www.fairdistrictspa.com/support-fair-districts, and share with family, friends and colleagues. We want to set up a workgroup meeting in Jim Thorpe, Carbon County. If you have contacts in that area, particularly in the business community, please let me know.

Jan Little
President, LWVLC

*I have since stepped down as co-chair of the Lehigh Valley Region. If you would like to fill that position, please contact me.

NATURALIZATION

Four Naturalization Ceremonies have been scheduled for 2017. They are:

Thursday, March 31, 2017

Thursday, June 23, 2017

Thursday, September 22, 2017

Thursday, December 15, 2017

All ceremonies will be in Judge Reibman's Courtroom (1A) in the Old Lehigh County Courthouse at 4:00 p.m.

Caryn Shoenthal

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY RESTORE

Now in the Valley! Recycled latex paint!

According to www.paint.org, "An estimated 10 percent of the more than 650 million gallons of architectural paint sold each year in the United States is unused. Post-consumer paint is the largest component of local household hazardous waste collection programs and is costly to manage."

The ReStore of Habitat for Humanity of the Lehigh Valley has introduced a new latex paint recycling program that is greatly beneficial to our community and to our environment. Recyclable latex paint is collected by the ReStore crew, mixed locally at the ReStore and sold at the ReStore too!

The benefits of this program are endless

- Offers residents and local businesses a resource to responsibly recycle leftover or new latex paint
- Keeps reusable latex paint out of our waterways and landfills
- Makes high quality, low cost, latex paint easily available for purchase in our community
- Contributes to funds needed for Habitat for Humanity of the Lehigh Valley to continue building homes in our neighborhoods

RECYCLING PROCESS

Latex paint is collected at local paint drives (check website for locations and times), where Lehigh Valley residents drop off reusable latex paint. Once accepted, latex paint of many colors, varieties, and quantities* are brought back to the ReStore where it is recycled and transformed into a new resellable product labeled "recolor." By mixing already tinted paints, as opposed to tinting a base, "recolor" provides excellent coverage and durability.

*There is a 15-gallon limit per vehicle at paint drives. Please refer to the acceptability list for a list of latex paint requirements attached to this email.

WHAT IS "recolor"

The Habitat LV ReStore has partnered with The Paint Exchange, LLC, of Rockland, MA. By using their process at the satellite location in the ReStore, latex paint is recycled into the product, "recolor". "recolor" is available in over 15 colors and is a superior, high quality, latex paint, that can be purchased right off the ReStore shelves.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit organization that relies significantly on volunteers and donors. There are several ways you can contribute to the sustainability of this program and get involved!

- Volunteer - volunteers are needed to assist with collection events and mixing latex paint to create "recolor"
- Donate - latex paint that meets recyclable requirements can be donated at specified locations and dates
- Educate - tell your friends, family, coworkers, neighbors...everyone! Share the importance and impact our latex paint recycling program has on the community and the future of our environment and families
- Purchase - you can find out latex paint for sale at our ReStore in Whitehall
- Collection Events-if your group/organization is interested in hosting a paint collection event, please contact emily@habitatlv.org for more information

The end of September 2016 HabitatLV completed their first full operational year of our latex paint recycling program and it was a huge success! As of September 2016, they collected and recycled well over 1,000 gallons of paint! They are looking to grow this incredible endeavor and would love any support and involvement from neighbors in the Lehigh Valley. Whether it's a donation of latex paint, a purchase of "recolor" or a forward of this email, a little effort can make a large impact on our environment and our community!

Please feel free to reach out to Emily with any questions or if you would like to know more about the program.

Emily London
ReStore Operations Manager
emily@habitatlv.org
[610-776-7499](tel:610-776-7499) ext. 302 office
[570-269-5686](tel:570-269-5686) cell
www.habitatlvrestore.org

THE PATH TO CITIZENSHIP

In the last issue of the Voter we looked at the eligibility requirements for getting a green card. This month we'll look at "Adjustment of Status." Given the recent changes by President Trump, it is important to know what the rules are even though they may be changed.

Adjustment of Status

The Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) permits the change of an individual's immigration status while in the United States from nonimmigrant or parolee (temporary) to immigrant (permanent) if the individual was inspected and admitted or paroled into the United States and can meet all required qualifications for a green card (permanent residence) in a category. The common term for a change to permanent status is "adjustment of status."

The INA provides an individual two primary paths to permanent resident status. Adjustment of status is the process by which an eligible individual already in the United States can get permanent resident status (a green card) without having to return to their home country to complete visa processing.

Consular processing is an alternate process for an individual outside the United States (or who is in the United States but is ineligible to adjust status) to obtain a visa abroad and enter the United States as a permanent resident. This pathway is referred to as "Consular Processing."

Steps for Adjustment

1. **Determine Your Basis to Immigrate.** The first step in the adjustment of status process is to determine if you fit into a specific immigrant category. Most immigrants become eligible for a green card (permanent residence) through a petition filed on your behalf by a family member or employer. Others become permanent residents through first obtaining refugee or asylum status, or through a number of other special provisions.
2. **File the Immigrant Petition.** When you know what category you believe best fits your situation, in most cases, you will need to have an immigrant petition filed on your behalf.
 - **FAMILY BASED**
 - Family based categories require that a U.S. citizen or permanent resident relative file a Form I-140, Petition for Alien Relative, for you. For more information, see the "Family" page on the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services webpage.
 - **Employment Based**
 - Employment based categories often require the intending U.S. employer to file a Form I-140, Petition for Alien Worker, for you. Entrepreneurs who intend to invest significant amounts of capital into a business venture in the United States may file Form I-526, Immigrant Petition by Alien Entrepreneur, on their own behalf. For more information, see the "Working in the U.S." page on our website.
 - **Special Classes of Immigrants**
 - In some cases, certain immigrants may file a Form I-360, Petition for Amerasian, Widow(er), and Special Immigrant, or have one filed on their behalf. To learn more about who may file a special immigrant petition, see the "Humanitarian" page.
 - **Humanitarian Programs**
 - Most humanitarian programs do not require an underlying petition, although individuals may need to meet additional requirements before they can adjust status. For more information, see the "Humanitarian" page.

Depending on the category you wish to adjust under, you may be eligible to have the petition filed at the same time that you file your Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status. This is called "concurrent filing." Immediate relatives of a U.S. citizen may be able to file concurrently. Also, other certain classes of individuals who have a visa immediately available may be able to file concurrently. Most categories, however, require that you first establish your eligibility for the immigrant category by having an approved petition before you can file Form I-485, for these categories you will not be able to file concurrently.

These steps to "Adjustment of Status," are the first two of seven steps toward being granted permanent residency.

In a future issue, we'll explore more of the requirements in the process of becoming a citizen.

Caryn Shoenthal

HOT TOPICS LUNCHEON IN REVIEW

On February 12, our topic of discussion was Preventive Health. Our speaker was Erica Dwinell, the pharmacy manager at the Walgreens on the corner of Route 191 and Macada Road in Bethlehem. Erica is a graduate of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science. She has worked in a vast array of settings including retail, hospital and long term care pharmacies. She has been working at Walgreens since 2003. Erica spoke to us about senior immunizations.

Seniors ages 65 and older have a higher risk for developing complications from the flu and account for more than 60% of the flu-related hospitalizations each year. Recent studies show that people age 65 and older may not respond well to standard-dose flu shots because they do not produce as high of an antibody response following vaccination as do younger people. There are the vaccines Fluzone High-Dose and Flaud designed specifically for people 65 and over that work by improving the production of antibodies to promote a stronger immune response to the flu than the traditional vaccine. Flu shots are available starting in September.

Shingles (herpes zoster) is a painful skin rash cause by Varicella Zoster, the same virus that causes chickenpox. Once you have chickenpox, the virus remains in your body in a dormant or inactive state. If the virus becomes active again you may develop shingles. You cannot catch shingles, however a person who has not been vaccinated for chickenpox may get chickenpox from someone with shingles. The shingles vaccine has been proven to reduce the risk of shingles by 50% and also reduces the pain of shingles in people who still get shingles after being vaccinated. The vaccine is recommended for people 50 years and older.

Pneumococcal pneumonia is a lung disease caused by streptococcus pneumoniae bacteria that can infect the upper respiratory tract and can spread to the blood, lungs, middle ear or nervous system. Pneumonia can be spread from person to person from close contact. The elderly are especially at risk of becoming seriously ill and dying from this disease. There are two types of vaccines. The pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23) protects against the 23 most common types of bacteria, and the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13) protects against 13 types of bacteria. New recommendations state that both doses are needed. PPSV23 is given first and then 12 months later the PCV13 is given.

Pertussis, also known as whooping cough, is a highly contagious illness spread by droplets coughed out by someone with the disease. Early symptoms are runny nose, nasal congestion and sneezing. After this stage, the most common symptom is bouts of coughing in which the gasping person makes a “whooping” sound when inhaling between coughs. The whooping cough vaccine is given in conjunction with the tetanus and diphtheria vaccine. This vaccine is recommended for adults who will be in contact with children.

As always, check with your doctor before you receive any vaccine. Also, check with your insurance company for some of the vaccines can be costly. All vaccines are available at Walgreens without an appointment or at the Health Clinic with an appointment.

Margie Dunn

PROGRAM PLANNING: ADD ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Our board has received a letter from Karen Price, President, League of Women Voters of Needham, Massachusetts (president@lwv-needham.org) asking us to consider a recommendation they have for an addition to the LWVUS “Making Democracy Work” position. She states that their board fully understands and supports the national board’s focus on action, but they feel strongly that action on climate change must be included as part of the program that will guide the national League through the next two years..

The LWV Lehigh County board will consider the Needham board’s recommendation. They suggest adding one more “action opportunity” to the bullet list, which currently includes four voting-related items and “money in politics.” The specific recommendations and rationale are:

- ***Sustainable Planet/Sustainable Democracy***
Our League feels this topic should be part of the program in order to emphasize the critical importance of taking action on climate change. While we know the League will continue working on efforts to address climate change, the items in the “Making Democracy Work” list have risen to the highest level of action, and including this additional item as part of the program sends a message of support and urgency.

GERRYMANDERING AND HOW TO CREATE FAIR DISTRICTS IN PENNSYLVANIA

The Lehigh Valley Region of Fair Districts PA held its first public information event of 2017 in January. It was sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Lehigh County and the Justice and Advocacy Committee of the Lehigh Conference of Churches

Although many people didn't think we would get a turnout on a Friday night. Fellowship Hall, with a seating capacity of 300, was completely full and people were standing in the back with members of the media. Attendees were from the Lehigh Valley Region as well as Berks, Bucks and Montgomery counties. Fritz Walker and were co-chairs.

The audience seemed responsive to our message. Carol Kuniholm, member of the board of directors of the League of Women Voters PA and co-chair of Fair Districts PA, gave an excellent 45-minute PowerPoint presentation. Members of the audience each received two documents and a copy of our Government Directory. There were many questions after the presentation.

Representative Steve Samuelson, D-135, Bethlehem, spoke about the importance of redistricting reform. To bring hope to reaching our goal, his bill in 2006 attracted 95 co-sponsors. Carol had shared that we are looking for a Republican representative to introduce a redistricting bill in the House. The audience showed Representative Samuelson its appreciation for his years of service.

The speakers made clear that changing the state constitution so an independent redistricting commission would be in place by 2021 would be a "heavy lift." Fritz Walker, Co-Chair, Lehigh Valley Region, Fair Districts PA, announced two volunteer workgroup meetings that were held on February in Stroudsburg, Monroe County on February 9 at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Bethlehem. If you are interested in participating in future events, please join Fair Districts PA by clicking on "Join Us" on the upper right side of the home page www.fairdistrictspa.com/. Then you will receive an e-invite. You are also welcome to click on "Donate," too.

At these meetings, we will organize to visit local legislators. Audience members had asked about the fate of the bills that were in the state house and senate last year. As they did not make it out of committee, we need a similar senate bill to pass this year. Senators Boscola (D-18), and Scavello (R-40, Monroe) are prime sponsors of SB22 and are circulating a memo to their colleagues to sign. We will review the information in the packets that Joseph M. Kelly, District Director for Senator Boscola, distributed including lists of contact information of state legislators in the area and information about redistricting. The quiet and intense crowd heartened Mr. Kelly. "It makes you feel good about what you do."

Carol shared that she and other members of the coalition have been meeting with Joe Kelly's colleagues in Senator Boscola's Harrisburg office to develop SB22.

We will also plan additional public information events. For example, the Northampton County League has long wanted to hold an event in northern part of that county. Senator Boscola's scheduler told me she would share best dates for the senator to attend. The Monroe County League has already scheduled a public information event on Saturday morning on March 25 at the Hughes Library in Stroudsburg, Monroe County.

We need to organize in Carbon County and would appreciate your ideas about how to do this, and the names of friends and colleagues we can recruit, and location(s) for a public event. You can email me at jkldr@jklrd.com.

Janet Little, Co-Chair, Lehigh Valley Region, Fair Districts PA
(Lehigh and Northampton, Carbon and Monroe counties)



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



Caryn Shoenthal, Editor Email: CarynMC1030@gmail.com Phone: 610-261-0596

League of Women Voters of Lehigh County 2017 Annual Meeting

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

Saturday, May 13, 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Don't forget to bring new or gently used books for Cops 'n' Kids

Entrees from \$14.95 to \$26.95 11:30 p.m. - Cash Bar 12:30 p.m. - Lunch Program begins at 1:30 p.m.

Name: _____

Guest(s): _____

No. of Reservations: Total _____

Deadline for reservations is Monday, May 9th

Mail to: Barbara Williams 4313 Crest Lane

PROGRAM PLANNING: ADD ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

(Continued from page 6)

- In the recent member survey, Climate Change was identified as the second-highest issue that LWV can impact at the national level (77%); while money in politics was 86%, voter service/voting access 68%, and redistricting 55% (source: http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/program-planning-2016-webinar).
The issue of climate change and sustainability clearly falls within the general framework of "Making Democracy Work." World leaders and the US military recognize that as the impacts of climate change become increasingly severe and frequent, the resulting "climate chaos" will have devastating effects on the US economy, the lives of individuals and all levels of government. These effects will pose a serious threat to our democracy and the civil liberties and freedoms that our democracy is built upon.
Although our Leagues work diligently locally and at the state level on climate change issues, it is imperative that an action goal that addresses climate change be one of the highest priorities for action at the national level.

We have also received a letter from Nancy Crow, of the League of Women Voters of Colorado, asking us to consider support for Behavioral Health to be added to the League's positions.

Their position (updated and adopted 2015), is to support access to adequate health care with funding by state and federal monies where necessary. LWVCO supports access to affordable, quality in- and out-patient behavioral health care, including needed medications and supportive services, for all people.

Jan Little President-LWVLC



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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
2016-2017	\$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