LWV LEHIGH COUNTY VOTER

League of Women Voters of Lehigh County

April 2019 Volume 67, Issue 7

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Mark your calendar:

- **April 5** Spring Meet and Greet Event
- **April 8** Hot Topics Luncheon
- **May 11** Annual Membership Meeting
- **May 15** Teen Outreach at Emmaus Public Library
- **May 16** Town Hall Gathering
- **May 21** Primary Election

President's Message

Dear League members,

As usual, it is easy to fill up your calendar with League events. The final Hot Topics Luncheon is scheduled for April 8, our first meet and greet event will have taken place on the previous Friday night and our annual membership meeting will be held May 11. Look inside for more information and how you can register for all of these events.

At the meet and greet, new members will learn about our initiatives and how to carry them out. It is at the annual membership meeting that members participate in the process of adding new members to our board. Nominating Chair Margie Dunn describes that process inside.

Another major consideration at the annual meeting is the budget for the next year of local League activities. The process began in February when Treasurer Barbara Williams and chair of the budget committee Mary Bongiorno developed the budget draft. They then met with budget committee members Molly Faust, Doris Glaessmann and Jan Little to review the draft and make changes. Mary Bongiorno presented the final draft to the board during its meeting in March where it was approved. You will receive the final budget as part of this issue of The Voter. The membership will review it on May 11. New members will benefit from participating in this review.

I am pleased to inform you that we have not had to request an increase in membership dues this year. Our membership has doubled over the last three years, we have successfully solicited donors for the Government Directory for the second year in a row and we are utilizing our resources efficiently.

Thank you all for your continued support of League efforts to maintain an informed body of local voters.

Janet Little, President

April Hot Topics Luncheon

The League of Women Voters of Lehigh County will present "Electoral College and Electoral Reform" on April 8 at the Superior Restaurant.

Guest speaker Dr. Kellen Gracey joined the DeSales political science faculty after receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Iowa. His research interests include religion and politics, electoral systems and political behavior in both American and comparative contexts. His recent work examines the consequences of adopting preferential voting reforms and compulsory voting laws, the role of emotions in shaping attitudes about candidates, and how subnational variation in religious diversity shapes politics in the states.

Gracey enjoys grappling with methodological and research design questions. He is looking forward to engaging students with the social science research process. His research is routinely presented

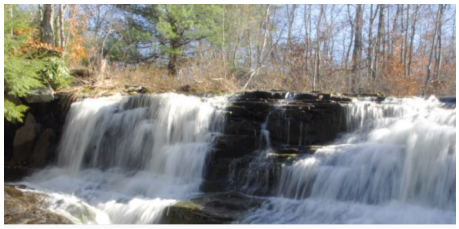
Continued on Page 2

April Hot Topics Luncheon (continued from Page 1)

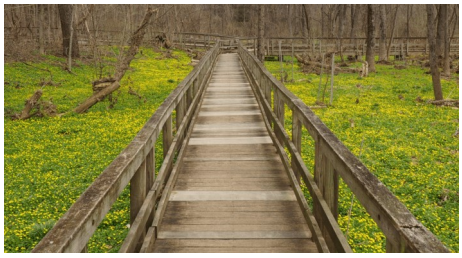
at professional conferences across the country and he is excited about the opportunity to collaborate with both students and colleagues alike at DeSales University.

Luncheon starts at 11:30 a.m. April 8. To make a reservation, please contact crizzy49@yahoo.com or call 610-432-1456 by April 4. The buffet luncheon cost is $11 payable at the door or attendees can listen to the speaker without lunch.

March Hot Topics Luncheon



Land Planning



Chris Kocher's presentation was a wonderful mix of pertinent information about the Wildlands Conservancy, as well as heartwarming stories about a few people who have enjoyed what the Wildlands has to offer the Lehigh Valley and beyond.

Wildlands began in 1973 and grew tremendously when philanthropist Leonard Pool donated 77 acres of land which became the home of Wildlands Conservancy in 1975. Just this past year, the location was renamed the Dorothy Rider Pool Wildlife Sanctuary in honor of his first wife.

Robert Rodale, in 1976, donated 96 acres on South Mountain to the Conservancy called the Walter Tract. And thus began the work of protecting open spaces by this wonderful group. Kocher did mention that one of our members, Janet Keim, was one of the founding members of the Wildlands Conservancy of which we are very proud.

Just this year, Wildlands Conservancy was named as a Land Trust which means they are a private, nonprofit organization whose mission it is to conserve land becoming stewards of such properties. Wildlands is only one of 400 Land Trusts in the entire United States.

Quoting from their Mission Statement: "Wildlands Conservancy envisions a Lehigh Valley and Lehigh River Watershed that contain expansive natural areas, connected green spaces, healthy waterways and an enlightened community where people embrace conservation and sustainability."

According to Kocher, Wildlands accomplishes this in three major ways:

Through land protection - there have been roughly 2,600+ acres of nature preserves, 72 conservation easements totaling 7,671 acres, and 4,000 acres of protected land in Lackawana County along the Kittatinny Ridge to bring the number of protected acres along this ridge to 13,000.

Environmental Stewardship - the removal of 21 dams, which is the easiest way to improve the health of a waterway for "immediate and lasting" effects, stream restoration, and land protection efforts led by scientists and local college students involved in research, restoration of the native grassland habitat within the 220-acre area of the North Range at the Trexler Nature Preserve, are just a few of their wonderful projects.

Education - Last year, Wildlands educated more than 58,000 people in more than a 1,000 programs throughout the 10-county Lehigh River Watershed. More than 40,000 students experienced over 400 school programs. Programs like the Annual Lehigh River Sojourn, Get -Out! Lehigh Valley — a walking and hiking program — and bi-monthly naturalist outings are just some of the education programs held every year. The Wildlands also conducts nine different summer camps for children ages three to five and up to grade six and above.

We are very grateful to Kocher for his presentation and all the work Wildlands Conservancy does to provide the Lehigh Valley with open spaces and cleaner waters for all of our citizens to enjoy. If you would like to learn more about the Wildlands, their website has much more information at www.wildlandspa.org.

Mary Erdman

March Board Notes

The Board of the Lehigh County League of Women Voters met March 14 at the Rittenhouse Village of the Lehigh Valley. Here are highlights of the meeting.

- Barbara Williams, Treasurer, emailed her report which stated that the treasury balance for the month ending February 28 was $22,554.96.
- Board members reviewed the 2019-2020 budget proposed by Mary Bongiorno, budget chair and her committee. The board approved the proposed budget which will be presented to the membership and voted on at the annual meeting in May.
- Janet Little, President, reported on progress in preparing the Voters' Guide. She and Trevor Little have gathered candidate information – mailing addresses and email addresses – from the voter registration office which will be input into VOTE411. Letters will be mailed to candidates in this Municipal Election telling them that participation in the guide must be online through VOTE411 and explaining how to access the site.
- Molly Faust reported on plans for the April 5 "Meet & Greet" event. Board members will be making phone calls to the membership to encourage attendance. Molly said our League's membership has doubled in the past two and a half years.

Molly Faust, Secretary

League Teen Outreach

When I was delivering the 2019 Government Directories to the Emmaus Public Library, I was approached by the youth services librarian who asked if anyone from our League would be willing to speak to teens about voting. The library hosts regular events for teenagers throughout the year and she thought this topic was an important one to include. We, of course, said yes. It has been far too many years since we have been invited to present a program on the importance of voting to this age group. There was a time when our League was regularly asked to speak in high school classrooms. Perhaps that time is coming again.

The date has been put on the Emmaus Public Library calendar for 7 p.m. May 15 at the Emmaus Public Library. If you have an interest in this, please contact me at email@lwvlehighcounty.org.

Molly Faust, Secretary

Spring Meet and Greet Event

We are looking forward to our first meet and greet gathering for all members, both new and those who are not so new. This will be held 6 to 7:30 p.m. April 5 at First Presbyterian Church of Allentown, 3231 Tilghman St., Allentown, Room 115. There will be coffee, tea and light refreshments. In addition to meeting and greeting, there will be a short program highlighting the work our League does. Longtime members can share the history of our vibrant local League and begin to mentor newer members' transition toward active membership in our local League.

Please send your RSVP to email@lwvlehighcounty.org by April 1.

Molly Faust, Secretary

Annual Membership Meeting

Why attend the annual membership meeting?

Our League meets once a year to conduct general League business. We elect officers, approve a budget and review local League positions. It is a time to see your local League in action and to make your voice heard.

This year the annual meeting will be held 11:30 a.m. May 11 at Morgan's restaurant. The registration form included in this newsletter on Page 9 tells how to RSVP for the event. The deadline for reservations is May 3. We would love to see you.

Molly Faust, Secretary

"Every election is determined by the people who show up." - Larry J. Sabato , Pendulum Swing

Naturalization

The League is represented at the Lehigh County Naturalization Ceremonies, where we hand out a package of materials useful for new citizens. On March 6, 65 people from 25 countries became citizens of this great country. Judge Melissa Pavlack presided over the ceremony. In her statement to the new citizens, she spoke about the greatness of our country because of the people who emigrated from countries all over the world. She brought with her the citizenship papers of her grandparents who went through the same process to become citizens, and how grateful they were to be able to come here.

The ceremony is always very emotional for anyone who attends and is open to all. There are usually four ceremonies each year. The next ceremony will be held July 10, and unfortunately I will not be able to attend to represent our local League. Please contact me at email@lwvlehighcounty.org before June 30 if you would like to fill my role at this ceremony.

Caryn Shoenthal

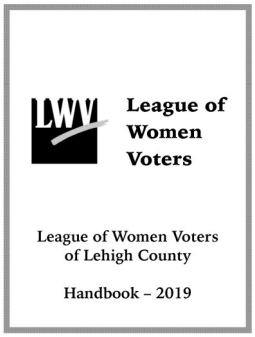
Membership

Our membership is growing. We now have 84 members and have completed and mailed out our new membership booklet. If you did not receive your copy, please let me know.

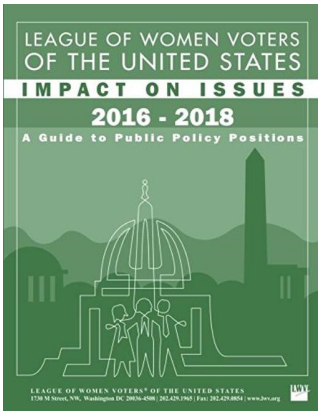
Copies of the membership booklet and the 2019 Government Directory were distributed to members attending the Hot Topics Luncheon on March 11. The remaining members should have received a copy of both publications in the mail.

This month, we had two new members join our League; they are Jill Stanley of Allentown and Michelle Grauper of New Ringgold. We welcome them to our League.

Margie Dunn, Membership Chair



May we recommend...



"League of Women Voters of the United States Impact on Issues 2016 - 2018: A Guide to Public Policy Positions" by League of Women Voters | Jan 26, 2017

The soft-cover book, "Where We Stand," is a good overview of League positions on many issues. If you want to go deeper, get this book. "Impact on Issues" is designed to help League leaders use LWVUS public policy positions effectively at the state and local levels. This guide briefly traces significant past actions and achievements, indicates links among positions and provides the official statements of position for each program area. You can buy the book new for $5.95 or read the online edition. The book is one of many mission impact tools found on the LWVUS website https://www.lwv.org/league-management/mission-impact-tools.

Town Hall Gathering

Jill Greene, Executive Director, League of Women Voters of PA, will give a presentation at The Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley as part of the PA Democracy Partnership 6 p.m. May 16. Greene will speak about open primaries, early voting, and funding for the new voting machines. Her colleagues from Common Cause PA, Represent Pennsylvania, and March on Harrisburg will talk about other good government and election reforms.

We think this is going to be a great event for engaging the public on these issues. Let us know if you would like to staff our table. Email us at email@lwvlehighcounty.org.

Nominating Committee

The members on our nominating committee are Molly Faust, Chris Herbener and Pat Swan. Our committee intends to get to know members' skill sets and interests and match them to positions on the committees and the board. Conversations have been taking place at the Hot Topics luncheons, will take place at the meet and greet event and by phone. Feel free to introduce yourself to other members at our events if you are new to our League.

At the annual membership meeting on May 11, we can nominate new members to our board. Attendees may nominate members for the board from the floor, as long as they have their permission. It is advisable to let me know before the end of April so that we can make sure to add the process to the agenda. You can also volunteer to serve on the board or with an off board portfolio.

We have a major challenge this year, since Jan Little, our president, and Molly Faust, our secretary, are both leaving the board after their two-year terms end in May. Therefore, we need to fill these positions in time for the new term starting in June. These positions require using a computer. We would financially support your attending the 2019 LWVPA State Convention to be held in Reading, Berks County, on June 21-23. Orientation of new local League presidents is always part of the agenda. .

A lot of our publications and services can be done from home. We also need a board member to take charge of the Government Directory found on our website all year and generating the printed form annually. Another board member should be responsible for gathering the candidate and race information for the Voters Guide that The Morning Call prints twice a year.

The procedures for these publications are well-defined. You must have a computer and be familiar with the basic programs. Over the years, we have been incorporating additional programs into the procedures. We can certainly tell you more about these programs.

Our League cannot continue unless members volunteer their time and expertise. Please contact members of the nominating committee if you are interested in joining the board.

Margie Dunn, Nominating Chair

For more information on the May 21 Primary Election, visit https://www.dos.pa.gov/votingelections

2019 Government Directory

GOVERNMENT 2019 DIRECTORY

2019
GOVERNMENT DIRECTORY
of LOCAL, STATE, & FEDERAL OFFICIALS
for Lehigh County in Pennsylvania
Compiled by the League of Women Voters

April 1	First day to apply for an absentee ballot
April 22	Last day to register, or change party, name, or address before the Primary Election
May 14	Last day to apply for an absentee ballot
May 17	5 p.m. deadline for county election board to receive absentee ballots
May 21	**Municipal PRIMARY ELECTION.** Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
May 22	First day to register to vote after Primary Election
Aug. 1	Last day for independent candidates to circulate and file nomination papers
Aug. 8	Last day for independent candidates to withdraw
Aug. 12	Last day for candidates nominated in the Primary Election to withdraw
Sept. 16	First day to receive Official Absentee Ballot Applications
Oct. 7	Last day to register to vote before the General Election
Oct. 29	Last day to apply for an absentee ballot
Nov. 1	5 p.m. deadline for county election board to receive absentee ballots
Nov. 5	**GENERAL ELECTION.** Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Nov. 6	First day to register to vote after November election

Note: Dates in this calendar are subject to change without notice.

Lehigh County Voter Registration Office — 610-782-3194
League of Women Voters, Lehigh County — 610-432-1456

LWVPA HOTLINE: 1-800-692-7281

GOVERNMENT 2019 DIRECTORY

We appreciate the members who delivered copies of the full directory including Jay and Pat Hudson, Molly Faust, Doris Glaessmann, Lynn Kokolus, Emma Lewis, Janet Little and Barbara Williams. The remaining offices received copies by mail. The 100 offices that received copies included every local office included in the directory, public libraries, 25 organizations and agencies and our donors.

The ACLU, Lehigh Valley Chapter, was the latest organization to make a donation. The ACLU joins a healthy list of donors including Barry Isett & Associates, Inc., Keystone Consulting Engineers, Lehigh County Medical Society, Peter K. Ryan, Realtor, and the League of Women Voters Education Fund.

Thanks to Kaitlyn Moyer for sending a press release to area media, the public should be aware of the availability of both forms of the Government Directory. We also posted the press release on our Facebook page.

Many members have asked why we didn't distribute as many copies as last year. The board's goal this year is to determine how many copies these recipients really use. To that end, the board decided to print fewer copies than we usually do.

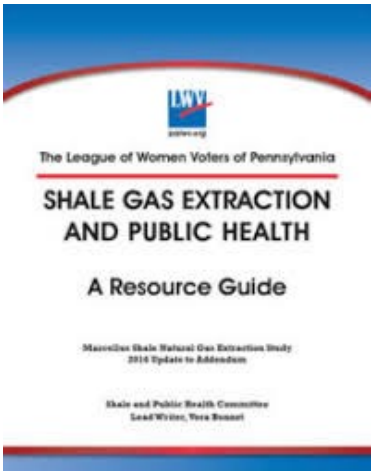
If the recipients run out of copies, they can request more of them by emailing email@lwvlehighcounty.org. Based on these requests, the board can decide how many more copies to have printed next year.

We are in a position now to communicate directly with every one of the local offices included so we can continue to keep the online directory updated. Please contact Jan Little at email@lwvlehighcounty.org if you are interested in helping.

Jan Little, President

2018 Shale and Public Health Conference

The sixth annual Shale and Public Health Conference was held November 14, 2018. One outcome that benefited our local League immediately was the presentation of The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania SHALE GAS EXTRACTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH, A Resource Guide, Marcellus Shale Natural Gas Extraction Study, 2018 Update to Addendum Shale and Public Health Committee, Lead Writer and Editor, Vera Bonnet. Our local League offered copies to members who attended the Hot Topics Luncheon in March. We donated copies to all of the 13 public libraries in the Allentown Public Library district. The district includes Carbon and Lehigh counties. Soon, we will donate copies to public libraries in the Bethlehem Public Library district (western Northampton County) and the Easton Public Library district (eastern Northampton County and all of Monroe County).



If you would like to receive a copy, please send your request to me at email@lwvlehighcounty.org.

Jan Little, President

Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations

The 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York March 11 to 22. Representatives of member states, UN entities, and ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council)-accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from all regions of the world attended. The priority theme was social protection systems, access to public services, and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The CSW is instrumental in promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

The League of Women Voters is an ECOSOC-NGO and was represented by 20 members from across the U.S. who attended many of the sessions related to the theme. The LWV sponsored one of the sessions at the UN entitled "From Critical Mass to Gender Parity – Women in Decision-Making do Make a Difference!" This session provided a forum to discuss how women leaders have brought about positive change, especially in the areas of social protection programs and efforts to eliminate gender-based violence against women. The session was moderated by Rosalee Keech, Chief Observer to the United Nations, League of Women Voters. Speakers included women ambassadors and parliamentarians from Trinidad and Tobago, Albania, Fiji, Mexico, and Namibia, and the Senior Adviser on Women's Leadership from UN Women.

More information about the CSW is available at http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw. There is also a Google group called LWVUS-UN which further discusses activities of the League as they relate to the UN.

Susan Sherer, CSW Attendee

League of Women Voters of Lehigh County

2018-2019 Officers

President – *Janet Little*

Secretary – *Molly Faust*

Vice President, Program – *Vacant, Acting: Janet Little*

Vice President, Action – *Mary Erdman, FDPA Liaison*

Vice President, Voter Services – *Barbara Williams*

Treasurer – *Barbara Williams*

Hot Topics Luncheon

September 10, 2018
"Russia – Its Impact on U.S. Elections and Politics"

October 8, 2018
"Fix it Healthcare - At the Tipping Point"

November 12, 2018
"Election Results"

December 10, 2018
"The State of Lehigh County"

January 14, 2019
"The State of Fracking in PA in 2019"

February 11, 2019
"Election Trends"

March 11, 2019
"The Work of the Wildlands Conservancy and its Impact on the Local Environment"

April 8, 2019
"Electoral College and Electoral Reform"

League Invited to Testify on Voting Rights

State Rep. Mike Schlossberg, D-132, invited Mary Erdman to represent the League at a hearing about voting rights and reforms. The meeting was held at the Dubbs Memorial Community Center in Allentown on February 26.

Also in attendance were Rev. Larry Pickens of the Lehigh Conference of Churches, Ed Hozza Jr. of Lehigh County, Barbara Redmond, NAACP, Hilda Gonzalez, Director of the Interlace Cultural y Desarrollo Integral Mexicano de Lehigh Valley, Inc., Tim Benyo, Chief Clerk of Registration and Elections and Terri Harkins, Deputy Chief Clerk of Lehigh County. Many of the specific questions about absentee ballots, registration through the DMV and other state organizations and frequent purging of the voter rolls were answered by Benyo and Harkins. They also answered questions and discussed the new voting machines purchased by Lehigh County.

Residents of Lehigh County should be very proud of all the work Benyo and Harkins do in their office to keep elections, candidates and voters up-to-date, legal and informed. They are extremely knowledgeable.

Locally, Schlossberg and Rep. Jeanne McNeill, D-133, were present as well as Rep. Mike Sturla, D-96, who is the chairman of the House Democratic Policy Committee. There were about 10 other committee members from across the state.

Each testified about concerns regarding voting issues. Erdman testified about the policies held by both the national and state League of Women Voters. Some of the reforms we are encouraging are: no excuse-absentee voting, early voting, automatic voter registration (when you apply for a license or have interaction with other state services), same day registration, open primaries, and the encouragement of prison voting for eligible voters, just to name a few. Erdman was very impressed with the number of questions asked by each of the representatives.

The hearing panel was very interested in protecting voting rights, making voting accessible to all voters and improving the absentee voting policies. Pennsylvania has some of the most restrictive absentee voting policies in the nation and because of that, over 9,000 absentee votes were classified as ineligible in November 2018. Because of the high number of disqualified voters, the representatives believed this could be considered a form of voter suppression in Pennsylvania.

The representatives asked many questions about the feasibility of many new policies and Erdman along with Benyo and Harkins were able to answer most of their questions.

Some of the policies they discussed included: early voting, mail-in ballots, meeting handicapped persons at the curb to vote, allowing people to update their signatures which may have changed in crispness and clarity over the years (Schlossberg), Election Day as a holiday, using school buildings as voting locations (if voting becomes a holiday), doing away with “dark money” in elections, turning into law Gov. Tom Wolf’s executive action allowing online registration and employers allowing time off to vote, to name a few.

Erdman found their level of interest in these topics to be very reassuring. Their concern for voters and voting was very genuine and it was an honor to testify before them.

In the spirit of non-partisanship, the League would also appreciate the opportunity to testify before the House Republican Policy Committee on the same topics of voting rights and reforms. We know that these

Continued on Page 9

For membership information and other great resources check out our *new* website:
www.lwvlehighcounty.org
Or email us at: **email@lwvlehighcounty.org**

League Invited to Testify on Voting Rights (continued from Page 8)

are timely issues, and the trend is to reform voting and election policies for all of our citizens, both in Pennsylvania and across our nation.

Even though the League of Women Voters takes on issues like the environment, transportation concerns, money in politics, and pay equity, the main focus of our work has always been voting rights and reforms. Hopefully, we will see a bipartisan approach to improving the accessibility and convenience for all our state voters during this legislative session.

We thank the House Democratic Policy Committee for their invitation to have The League of Women Voters, Lehigh County, testify before them about issues that are near and dear to our organization.

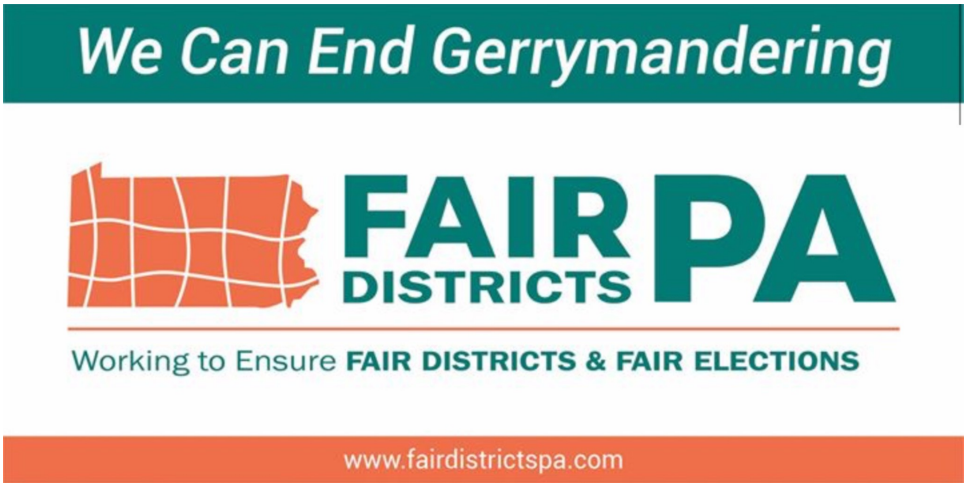
Mary Erdman, Action Chair

League of Women Voters of Lehigh County
2019 Annual Membership Meeting
Morgan's
3079 Willow Street, Allentown 18104
At the intersection of Cedar Crest Boulevard and Willow Street
(610-769-4100)
May 11, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Individual ordering from the menu (soup and sandwiches, salads, pastas or entrees)
11:30 p.m. - Cash Bar, Noon - Lunch
Program begins at 12:30 p.m.

Name: _____
Guest(s): _____
No. of Reservations: Total _____

Deadline for reservations is Friday, May 3
Mail to: Barbara Williams
4313 Crest Lane, Allentown PA 18104

Email: wils48@ptd.net — Text: 610-762-4009



Advocates Anxiously Await the Introduction House Bills 22 and 23

Almost three years ago, a number of good-government groups combined their efforts to put an end to partisan gerrymandering in Pennsylvania. The key members of that group were: The League of Women Voters, Common Cause, the Committee of Seventy and the PA Council of Churches. Since then, the newly formed group Fair Districts PA has been working very hard to bring about change.

Last year after garnering the most number of cosponsors of any piece of legislation in the last Legislative Session, both House Bill 722 and Senate Bill 22 died as a result of antiquated, unfair procedural rules and the untapped power of one committee chairman. Fair Districts went back to the drawing board enlisting the help of experts in the field of gerrymandering reform, past legislators from both parties as well as present legislators from both parties. As a result, a three-prong approach has been developed.

Legislatively, two bills should be introduced any day. They include House Bill 23 — primary sponsor Rep. Steve Samuelson, D-135th, which creates an independent redistricting commission to draw U.S. Congressional Districts. And it lays the groundwork for how Congressional and PA legislative districts will be created and drawn by this commission. House Bill 22 — primary sponsor Rep. Thomas Murt, R-152, will require an amendment to the PA Constitution which will allow this independent redistricting commission to draw the lines for PA House and Senate districts. The idea is that House Bill 23 will be passed first, creating the commission — then when House Bill 22 is on the ballot and approved by the voters (surveys tell us that well over half of Pennsylvania citizens want redistricting reform), the commission will be in place and ready to redraw the new districts after the 2020 U.S. Census in 2021. This would be the first time in Pennsylvania history that districts will be drawn in an open and transparent fashion, with citizen input and without legislators of either party having the ability to draw new district lines for party advantage. This strategy is referred to as: Two Bills One Commission.

The third part of this strategy is to finally update the procedural rules that put a stranglehold on bills which are introduced by our legislators. Last session over 5,600 bills were introduced and out of all those bills only 5 percent even got out of committee. This is inefficient and stunts the hard work of legislators from both parties from getting a fair consideration of their bills.

A number of resolutions have been created beginning with House Resolution 11, sponsored by Rep. Gene DiGirolamo, R-18, which would create a commission of 12 Republicans and 12 Democrats to review the procedural rules and make sensible recommendations for change. Right now that has about 30+ cosponsors. House Resolutions 12-20 are a number of common sense changes that would enable bills to be fairly considered. For example: House Resolution 12, sponsored by Rep. Steve Samuelson, D-135th, calls for any bills which have a majority of support from House members, to move to the floor for a vote. To read about the other resolutions go to: www.FairDistrictsPA.com. Click “Take Action” and scroll down to the “Reform the Rules” section.

In order to get these bills and resolutions passed grass roots pressure on every legislator from both parties will be needed. The League of Women Voters has been supporting this change for over 30 years and this is our last chance to change the unfair process for the next 10 years.

Gerrymandering is one of the main reasons we see little progress in Pennsylvania. We are still one of the top three gerrymandered states in the nation. We are falling behind in many ways. One example is in how inefficient and inequitable our school funding process continues to be in this state. There are 46 other states that do a better job than Pennsylvania! Yet we have one of the largest, best-paid legislatures in the nation. Our property tax issues never seem to get the attention they need. We have increasing environmental concerns from fracking and the subsequent necessary pipelines. When we have fairly drawn districts with fair representation and more competitive districts, legislators will be more motivated to solve problems instead of remaining secure in entrenched districts with politicians who are not getting things done the way they should.

During the coming months, Fair Districts PA and The League of Women Voters will be reaching out to citizens to encourage your legislators to support these changes that will bring fairness and efficiency to our government in Harrisburg and to the citizens of Pennsylvania.

Fair Districts would appreciate the opportunity to speak to your civic groups, church groups, or even a group of neighbors and friends in your homes about these issues. We have many opportunities for you to help move this legislation forward. First of all, if you have not signed our petition go the website (above) and sign online. Please contact me or member Terry Schettini if you are interested in having us speak to your group. We have so much information to share, and would love to visit with your group. Hope to hear from our members soon. Time is constantly ticking away to get this legislation passed before 2021.

Mary Erdman

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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 <u>not</u> tax-deductible as a charitable donation.

Contributions to the LWV Education Fund (LWVEF) <u>are</u> tax-deductible.

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

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Contact membership secretary Margie Dunn for details of prorated dues amounts.

Please make check payable to LWVLC and mail to:

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