LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF LEHIGH COUNTY

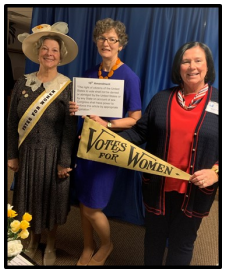
League of Women Voters of Lehigh County Voter

February/March 2020 Volume 68, Issue 4

Celebrating 100 years!

Feb. 14, 2020 marked a milestone in the history of The League of Women Voters; it was the 100th anniversary of our founding. To celebrate the occasion, we had a visit from actress Pat Jordan who came to speak to us in the person of Carrie Chapman Catt at our February Hot Topic Luncheon on Feb. 10.

The luncheon began with President Molly Faust, recognizing the past presidents of the League who were in attendance: Ann Bartholomew, Molly Faust, Gayle Getz, Pat Hudson and Immediate Past President, Jan Little. And we are very grateful that Molly Faust agreed to be president once more this year, as we celebrate the work and dedication of those who came before us.



Next, Lehigh County Executive Phillips Armstrong presented a Proclamation of Recognition congratulating the League on the 100th anniversary. He read from the proclamation about the exceptional, non-partisan deeds of the League over the years. Additionally, Ellen Millard-Kern, chief of staff for state Sen. Pat Browne, R-16th, also awarded a Proclamation of Recognition on behalf of the senator. President Molly Faust accepted these on behalf our Lehigh County Chapter. We are grateful to Phil Armstrong and Ellen Millard-Kern (on behalf of Sen. Browne) for their participation.

The remainder of the program was the visit and performance of "Carrie Chapman Catt" as she gave us a bird's eye view of her emergence as a driving force behind the Women's Suffrage movement following in the footsteps of her mentor, Susan B. Anthony. We heard how Mrs. Catt, from a very early age, could never understand why a women could not vote or even participate in activities that were generally a men-only activity.

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President's message

Dear League Members,

By the time you read this issue of the Voter, our League will have celebrated its 100th birthday. We enjoyed a presentation at our February Hot Topics luncheon given by a special "guest" - Carrie Chapman Catt - the founder of the League of Women Voters. The presenter gave a dramatic rendering of the history of the fight to obtain voting rights for women in the United States. Mary Erdman made the arrangements for this unique presentation.

This is probably an appropriate time to review some of our local League history. Our League has been in existence for 65 years having its start in 1955 as a provisional League. I'm quoting from an article prepared for the 50th anniversary celebration of our local League: "The provisional League immediately started several projects: a "Know Your Town" study (required in order to

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Mark your calendar:

- **March 9** Hot Topics Luncheon
- **April 13** Hot Topics Luncheon
- **April 13** Last Day to register to vote for Primary Election

Celebrating 100 years! (continued from Page 1)

It was amazing to hear how far and wide Mrs. Catt traveled to promote the right for women to vote; from west coast to east coast and many states in-between. What also seems particularly amazing was that the group which preceded the League of Women Voters, the National American Woman Suffrage Association (N.A.W.S.A.), was able to collect over 600,000 signatures on petitions in New York state alone, in support of the 19th Amendment at a time when there was no Internet or social media!

Finally, Mrs. Catt described in detail, the excitement and some dangers of being in Nashville, Tennessee when the 19th Amendment was ratified by the necessary 36th state. There was the time spent lobbying for the ratification, praying for the vote and watching in anticipation as the final vote was taken.

Mrs. Catt told the story leading up to the final vote. State legislators showed their support in the Capitol building in Nashville, by either wearing a red rose boutonnière if you were against suffrage for women, and a yellow rose boutonnière if you were for women's suffrage. Well, young Harry Burn, a first-term legislator was wearing the red rose to show where he stood right up until the day of the vote. But that morning, he received a note from his mother asking him to consider the hard work of Mrs. Catt and vote for woman suffrage.

Harry's vote, inspired by his mother, enabled the 19th Amendment to become the law of the land and again we saw the influence of Carrie Chapman Catt right up to the tie-breaking vote. This story, along with others, is part of our exhibit at The Liberty Bell Museum. The exhibit runs through April 30. We hope you all get to visit.

We want to thank Pat Jordan for an enjoyable performance that helped us to appreciate some of the history of how and why The League of Women Voters developed into one of the most successful and long-standing non-partisan, grass roots organizations in American History.

If you or an organization you belong to would be interested in hearing Carrie Chapman Catt or other women in history, please contact The Heritage Theater Guild at www.heritagetheaterguild.com.

Thank you to all who helped make this day go so smoothly. And Happy 100th Birthday to The League of Women Voters!

Mary Erdman

Vice President, Action & Programs

President's Message (continued from Page 1)

become a recognized League), a study of the financial aspects of the state constitution, and a study of a county health department.

In February 1956, the League of Women Voters of the United States accepted the Allentown group as a full-fledged member. By then, we had 115 members. "The early League here brought a new perspective to local government and elections. It was the first time a non-partisan voters guide was published, which has ever since been eagerly anticipated before elections, and the first time that non-partisan candidates meetings were held. The League became a respected voice in the community.

"Some of the local issues addressed by the League were the form of government in Allentown and later in Lehigh County; water supply and quality; redevelopment, with a strong emphasis on the 'human element' — where should displaced families go? Public housing, solid waste, reform of state government, welfare issues, and urban issues were very important items on the agenda. We held morning and evening 'unit' meetings that were well attended, at which members would present research into whatever issue was the topic of the month. While we were studying local, state and national issues far more than we do today, at the same time we maintained an ambitious citizen education/voters service agenda. Our membership has changed a lot over the years as women moved into the workplace. What has not changed during these past years is the fundamental concerns and interests of our founding members — good government, a safe environment, children, society's disadvantaged, and conservation of the Earth's natural resources."

Yours in League,

Molly Faust, President

2020 Government Directory

This spring, we are once again distributing our annual Government Directory to members at Hot Topics Luncheons and at public places throughout the county, in addition to having the full guide available online at www.lwvlehighcounty.org.

Jan Little and Cheryl Winters-Tetreau divided the contacts list and reached out to staffers in all municipalities, school districts, congressional offices, etc. listed for updates. Trevor Little has been updating the online directory with those updates. Using the website as a guide, Kaitlyn Moyer is updating the template for the printed version. The staffers also sign off on the changes we made to both forms of the directory.

This year, we will have even more help in distributing the directories, which we hope will save us substantially in volunteer time and mailing costs. When the 2020 directory is printed, we will deliver 25 sets of bundles to Phillips Armstrong and 10 sets of bundles to Mark Sullivan at the Allentown Public Library. They will distribute them at the next monthly municipalities' meeting and via the daily courier service to public libraries in our county, respectively.

On the back cover of the printed directory we will again list the names of the donors who gave at least $150 toward the cost of printing: ACLU-Lehigh Valley Chapter, Barry Isett & Associates, Inc., County of Lehigh, Keystone Consulting Engineers, Inc. and Lehigh County Medical Society along with the LWV Education Fund. We appreciate the financial support of these donors and the volunteer support of many members.

Cheryl Winters-Tetreau,

Chair, 2020 Government Directory

Membership

Our membership drive is officially over. As of Feb. 14 we have 75 members. I am pleased to announce we had new members join this month, Dennis Geiger of Kutztown and Nancy Dole Mellis of Allentown.

If you did not rejoin, there is still time. I will submit your dues as late. We also made a change to our membership policy. If a member joins before July 31, the dues will be $70. If they join after July 31, the dues will be $35. We also have had a few inquiries about membership and I'm hoping they will join.

Margie Dunn, Chair, Membership

2020-2021 LWVLC Budget

The budget committee met Feb. 21 to prepare the LWVLC budget for 2020-2021. Committee members include Mary Bongiorno, chair; Molly Faust, president; Barbara Williams, treasurer; Doris Glaessman, Rochelle Kaplan and Mary Anne Stinner. The budget will be presented to the board for its approval at the March meeting. It will then be posted on our website with the April/May edition of the Voter. Members who receive printed copies of the Voter will receive printed copies of the budget. Members who attend the annual meeting May 16 will receive the printed copy with their packet of materials.

Barbara Williams, Treasurer

Board Notes

The Board of the Lehigh County League of Women Voters met twice since the last VOTER – Jan. 16 and Feb. 6. Here are highlights of the two meetings.

- Molly Faust, president, chose board members who will organize interviews of our local legislators by League members. The interviews will be conducted in February and March.
- The board will be active in educating Lehigh County residents on the new voting laws. In addition, the board voted to partner with the Census Bureau and assist in promoting the completion of the Census 2020 survey.

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2020 Census

What is the census? Article I, Section 2 paragraph 3 of the US Constitution states:

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers… The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct.

According to Stephen Shope of the Census Bureau, the decennial census is "a count of the people by the people for the benefit of the people."

The opening of the Allentown area census office, 3900 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 100, was held Jan. 15. Jan Little and Rochelle Kaplan from the League were among many who attended. The office covers eight counties — Lehigh, Northampton, Carbon, Monroe, Luzerne, Lackawanna, Wayne and Pike counties.

The attendees were welcomed to the event by Robert Toth, office manager. He then turned the program over to local officials and community leaders to discuss the vital importance of the census to our community. Lehigh County Executive Phillips Armstrong and Northampton County Executive Lamont McClure told the attendees about the economic impact of the census on the area and the efforts each county is making to ensure everyone in the region is counted.

According to Armstrong, in 2010, 30 percent of Lehigh County residents were not counted, and the county lost about $2,000 in federal funding per person. When Armstrong attends municipal meetings throughout the county, he talks to municipal leaders about how the census will affect their communities. McClure echoed those remarks. He said three hubs will be created in Northampton County for the census — the Northampton County Government Center, the Northampton County Human Services Building, and Gracedale.

Director of Community and Economic Development for the City of Allentown Leonard Lightner, spoke on behalf of Mayor Ray O'Connell. He explained said 17 hubs will be created in Allentown neighborhoods. The hubs will have computers, Internet access, and individuals to assist anyone completing the census survey online.

Shope urged civic and nonprofit organizations to partner with the Census Bureau to help encourage people to complete the census. Partner organizations can increase awareness through newsletters, social media, and information sessions targeted to their members, customers, and stakeholders.

Chief Operating Officer, Faces International Kevin Green, described the ambassador program in which his organization is involved. Ambassadors will be community residents explaining to their neighbors how the census effects their daily life. They will also impress upon residents that their information will remain private and emphasize the track record of the Census Bureau of never disclosing personal information.

Deputy Executive Director, Community Action Committee of the Lehigh Valley Dawn Godshall, said members of minority communities are fearful about completing the census survey. Consequently, people sent out into the communities must have integrity and credibility with the residents. CACLV will also assist in finding and working with the homeless to complete the census.

The Board of The League of Women Voters Lehigh County voted to partner with the Census bureau. This means the League will be a resource for census information. Jan has already posted on the League's website information on the census.

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Board Notes (continued from Page 3)

- Barbara Williams, treasurer, reported we had a balance of $19,966.34 in assets for the month ending Jan. 31. Barbara also reviewed the second quarter 2019 budget report with the board. At the end of December, the League had $4,923.14 in income and $2,809.35 in expenses.
- The board voted to amend the fiscal policy in order to clarify the policy and to permit the prorating of membership dues to those who become members after July.
- Barbara Williams and the finance committee will be meeting in February and March to develop next year's budget.

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Tabling and Voter Registration

Citizen education regarding voter registration and procedures is an important league mission. The LWVLC is honoring requests from the community at two events this spring. Our first school-based event of 2020 will take place at Washington Elementary School, Allentown, on March 23. There, we will offer voter registration and information about Census 2020 to school staff and parents of the students.

The LWVLC is pleased to have been invited to participate in tabling at the Inaugural Lehigh Valley Book Festival to take place the last weekend in March. The festival, co-sponsored by Let's Play Books Bookstore, Emmaus, and the Bethlehem Area Public Library, will host a variety of programs and activities for all ages. The main event will take place March 28 at the Bethlehem Area Public Library 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. We will have the opportunity to share information regarding our broad range of activities. As a Census 2020 partner, the LWVLC is also able to encourage the public to participate by providing information on the importance of the census and how census information is used.

The Election Reform Bill, Act 77, signed by Governor Wolf on Oct. 31, 2019 made significant changes to Pennsylvania election systems and procedures. The legislation was conceived to increase voter turnout by creating new options for mail-in and absentee ballot voting. In addition, the law provided funds to counties to purchase new voting systems with a paper trail to strengthen election security. The changes will be in effect for the primary on April 28, 2020.

A Voter Registration and Tabling Committee of the LWVLC was recently formed to process how these changes will impact our plans for voter services. Members of the committee include Molly Faust, Janet Little, Rochelle Kaplan, and Barbara Connolly, chair. We have already met to examine how best to communicate accurate information at tabling, Census 2020 and voter registration events. We also discussed where, when and for whom to hold these events.

Our committee felt that as high schools and colleges and universities were taking responsibility to help students register to vote, we should offer services to voters in communities throughout our county. We have already started to contact assisted living and retirement centers, congregate meal centers, and agencies that receive printed copies of the Government Directory about holding tabling events in the summer and fall. In order to accurately present elements of Act 77 to the public, we plan to receive training from Terri Harkins, deputy chief clerk of the Lehigh County Office of Voter Registration and Elections, most likely in June. We invite members who are interested in participating in upcoming voter registration and tabling events to attend this training. Contact Barbara Connolly at email@lwvlehighcounty.org about the training and additional information.

If you are interested in becoming involved in a rewarding and stimulating League activity, you might consider tabling and voter registration. In addition to planning tabling events, we anticipate a number of requests in the coming months and through the fall. Contact Barbara Connolly at email@lwvlehighcounty.org for additional information about the these activities.

Barbara Connolly, Chair, Voter Services

Board Notes {Continued from Page 4}

- The board approved the printing of 3,000 copies of the 2020 Government Directory by Christmas City Printing. Jan and Cheryl reported the printed copies should be available by March.
- The board is considering selling commemorative items — mugs, T-shirts and cloth bags — to celebrate our 100th anniversary. The board will canvass the membership first to determine if there is any interest in purchasing such items.
- A subcommittee on "Tabling" has been established with Barbara Connolly as chair. Rochelle Kaplan, Jan Little, and Mary Faust have volunteered to serve on the subcommittee. The subcommittee will review the list of possible locations/events for tabling, prioritize the list, and recruit volunteers to assist with tabling. The committee will also decide which materials will be provided at the tabling events.
- Jan reported that Terri Harkins, deputy chief clerk Lehigh County Voter Registration Office, will complete her editing of the Guide to Registering and Voting for the New Voter pamphlet as soon as she receives final information about the mail-in ballot from the PA Department of State. Terri has also had a role in making sure the election calendar on the online and printed versions of the 2020 Government Directory correctly reflects the new voting law.
- Margie Dunn, membership chair, reported we have 68 members who have renewed their memberships.

Rochelle Kaplan, Secretary

April Hot Topics Luncheon

Get a head start on Earth Day 2020 (April 22) by attending the Hot Topics Luncheon on Monday, April 13. The speaker will share information about one way to deal with all of the plastic waste we generate today.

Vera Bonnet, lead writer of the SHALE GAS EXTRACTION AND PUBLIC HEALTH A Resource Guide and the All About Plastic booklet writes "Plastic is so common today that it's difficult to imagine what life would be like without it.…This sounds good until you consider that plastic never really goes away."

For over two years, the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania's "Straight Scoop on Shale" initiative has been studying the issue and encouraging local Leagues to share information with their community. All along, I have been working with Heather Harr, project director, Shale and Public Health committee, to find a speaker about the subject for one of our Hot Topics Luncheons.

As a result, Maame Mensah, U.S. account director, Brand Partnerships, TerraCycle US, LLC, will describe this private U.S. recycling business headquartered in Trenton, New Jersey. It primarily runs a volunteer-based recycling platform to collect non-recyclable pre-consumer and post-consumer waste, and then partners with corporate donors or municipalities to turn it into raw material to be used in new products.

The public is welcome to attend the luncheon taking place at the Superior Restaurant in Emmaus in the banquet room downstairs. Lunch will begin 11:30 a.m., the presentation will begin noon and finish 1 p.m. Walk ins are welcome but, to ensure we have enough buffet lunch prepared, please register by Thursday, April 9 by emailing crizzy49@yahoo.com or calling 610-432-1456. The event is free but the cost of the buffet lunch is $15, payable at the door. Note: you can listen to the speaker without having lunch.

Janet Little, Immediate Past-President

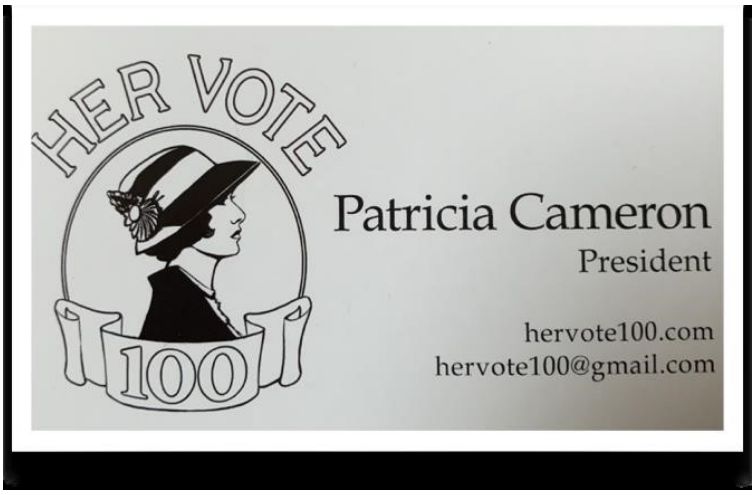
2020 Census (continued from Page 5)

The information includes fact sheets on confidentiality, FAQ's, census jobs, and the financial impact on Pennsylvania, just to name a few. The url is https://lwvlehighcounty.org/topical-interests/census-2020. The census can be completed online, through a mobile device, or by mail. The timeline for the census is as follows.

The invitation to respond online to the 2020 census will be March 12 to 20, 2020. A reminder letter will be sent March 16-24, 2020. A reminder postcard will be sent March 26-April 3, 2020, to those who have not yet responded. A reminder letter and paper questionnaire will be sent April 8-16, 2020, to those who have not yet responded.

A final reminder postcard will be sent April 20-27, 2020 before the U.S. Census Bureau enumerators follow up in person.

Rochelle Kaplan, Secretary



Commemorative Woman Suffrage Sashes Available!

If you are interested in buying a sash, member Pat Cameron has them available on her website for $15. Her website is very informative as well.
And she has graciously offered a 10 percent donation to the LWV on her sales.

Thank you, Pat.

What Are We Waiting For? Fair Districts PA and Redistricting Reform

Two years ago, I had the opportunity, as a member of the PA Political Science Association, to participate in a panel discussion about redistricting reform at our annual meeting at West Chester University. It was a great opportunity to share the dais with Professor Christopher Borick and others concerned and informed about ending gerrymandering in Pennsylvania.

One of the participants was state Sen. Andrew Dinniman, D-19th, who has been a legislator for many years and dedicated to such topics as education, redistricting reform and the environmental effects of pipeline construction. Unfortunately for us, he just announced his well-deserved retirement.

As we were talking about the efforts of FDPA, Dinniman wisely stated to me: "When the will of the legislators and the will of the people coincide then and only then will real reform take place." I have often thought about those words and wondered if we will ever get to that point.

Well, we are almost there! With your help, as members of the League of Women Voters, and during an important milestone in our history, we are called on again to create reform which protects the value of our votes! Let's get this done!

Voting equality has always been one of our goals and now it is time to step up and repeat the work of those who have come before us over the last 100 years. Gerrymandering has had many negative effects especially because it greatly harms the value of "one man, one vote," which is a principle which was strongly pursued by the Warren Court of the 1960s. These decisions were incredibly important as they honored our equality in voting and equal representation of every citizen of these United States. And they are being tested again.

We now know that our Pennsylvania citizens overwhelmingly want a citizens independent redistricting commission by a margin of 69 percent, based on a comprehensive survey conducted by the Center for Opinion Research, Franklin & Marshall, 2019. When you dig deeper into this survey, you see that urban, mostly Democratic areas of Philadelphia want to see reform by 69 percent. On the other hand, rural, mostly Republican areas of central Pennsylvania want to see reform by 71 percent. I cannot think of many topics where these two diverse groups are so closely united!

The residents of our state have spoken their will. Most Pennsylvanians want redistricting reform. Since we are a representative democracy, it should follow that 69 percent of our legislators should also support what the citizens want.

Right now we have 48 percent of state legislators backing House Bill 23, which creates the independent redistricting commission to draw congressional districts, and 47 percent of legislators backing House Bill 22, which develops a constitutional amendment allowing for this new commission to draw state legislative and state senate districts. These two bills are among the most popular and most cosponsored bills in Harrisburg at the present time.

State Sen. Lisa Boscola, D-18th, and state Sen. Tom Killion, R-9th, recently introduced Senate versions of these bills which mirror the House Bills. They are numbered as:

Senate Bill 1022, needing a constitutional amendment, and Senate Bill 1023, which creates the commission to redraw districts. Both senators are in the process of obtaining co-sponsors. As of this writing, Senate Bill 1022 has nine sponsors and Senate Bill 1023 has 11 sponsors including state Sen. Pat Browne, R -16th.

The future of these bills lies with the legislators who have yet to cosponsor, the leaders of both parties and State Government Committee chairmen in each chamber.

The bills in both chambers need committee hearings, committee votes and floor votes by the end of this legislative year to get this done by 2021 when reapportionment takes place.

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Lehigh County

Hot Topics Luncheons

September 9, 2019
"The New Voting Machines in Lehigh County, 2019"

October 14, 2019
"The LWV and the United Nations"

November 11, 2019
"The Role and Responsibilities of the Military Chaplain"

December 9, 2019
"Census 2020"

January 13, 2020
"Election Trends"

February 10, 2020
"Carrie Chapman Catt Visits Local League"

March 9, 2020
"Climate Change and Weather Forecasting"

April 13, 2020
"TerraCycle: Eliminating the Idea of Waste®"

What Are We Waiting For? Fair Districts PA and Redistricting Reform

Once the House has a floor vote on each bill, they will then go to the Senate to create the same language for both versions.

So what can you do as a member of The League of Women Voters? You can do any of the following or ALL of the following. If you need help, just ask!

- Write a Letter to the Editor - legislators do read these! Promise!
- Visit your legislator…remember they work for you and should be happy to accommodate your request to visit.
- Send an email and/or postcard — thanking your legislator if they have co-sponsored or asking them to protect the value of your vote and become a cosponsor!
- Send an email and/or postcard to the chairmen of the House and Senate State Government Committees asking them to schedule hearings as soon as possible.
- Attend the bus rally in Harrisburg on March 23. Information is available on the FDPA website: www.FairDistrictsPA.com for more information.
- Have your municipality adopt a resolution.
- Ask for a speaker. We have a great deal of information to share.

I know we have often asked you to join the fight for redistricting reform, but now is the most critical time to complete any of the above items. This is our legacy and the challenge that we as a League face in the beginning of our second century! Besides voter reforms, this is the only other topic the State League wants us to pursue. Please contact me if you have any questions and I will direct you to the FDPA person who can help you. We need your help now!

We will have more information for you at the March 9 Hot Topics Luncheon to make it easier for you to help. We do not have much time left at all. As of this writing, the House has about 37 session days left and the Senate has about 31 session days left. And many of those days will be used for budget discussions. If we do not get this done, we will not get another chance for 10 more years when the next census is completed in 2031!

As our founder, Carrie Chapman Catt, challenged us 100 years ago: "To the wrongs that need resistance, To the right that needs assistance, To the future in the distance, Give yourselves."

Mary Erdman, Vice President, Action & Programs

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League of Women Voters of Lehigh County
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email@lwvlehighcounty.org
www.lwvlehighcounty.org
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What Are We Waiting For? Fair Districts PA and Redistricting Reform

Lehigh County Representatives

- State Rep. Gary Day, R-187th, 610-760-7082, gday@pahousegop.com, not a co-sponsor
- State Rep. Ryan Mackenzie, R-134th, 610-965-9933, rmackenzie@pahousegop.com, not a co-sponsor
- State Rep. Zach Mako, R-183rd, 610-502-2701, zmako@pahousegop.com, not a co-sponsor
- State Rep. Jeanne McNeill, D-133rd, 610-266-1273, dmcneill@pahouse.net, is a co-sponsor
- State Rep. Mike Schlossberg, D-132nd, 610-821-5577, mschloss@pahouse.net, is a co-sponsor
- State Rep. Peter Schweyer, D-22nd, 610-791-6270, pschweyer@pahouse.net, is a co-sponsor
- State Rep. Justin Simmons, R-131st, 610-282-3901, jsimmons@pahousegop.com, is a co-sponsor

January Hot Topics Luncheon

Professor Chris Borick, Ph.D., made his yearly stop at our January Hot Topics Luncheon to give us a view of the upcoming election year, based on the results of the survey work he does as director of the Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion.

His first observation is that 2020 will be a hard fought battle for Electoral College electors. The total number of electors is 538 and, whoever wins the battle for president must receive a majority or 270 electors to win the office. Borick did admit this is an outdated mode of election but most likely, we will not see reform anytime soon. Pennsylvania has 20 electors: 18 for the number of our Congressional seats and two for the senators.

Although Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania all went for Trump by less than 1 percent in each state; he feels it will be much harder for Trump to hold onto these states, as Democrats will be campaigning vigorously this time around since they seemed to have erroneously "taken a pass" on these states in 2016.

Borick explained how the demographics of Pennsylvania have been changing with the population shrinking in the northern tier areas of the state state including the northwest, southwest and northeastern areas like Scranton. On the other hand, the population in southeastern Pennsylvania is gaining.

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January Hot Topics Luncheon (continued from Page 9)

Therefore, areas which went strong for Trump, are losing votes and areas where Trump lost (in the suburbs of Philadelphia), which went strongly for Hillary Clinton, are gaining. He emphasized that both parties will be dumping a lot of time, money and energy into our state as it is a major focal point for each party to dominate. We are a swing state and may be the most important of the swing states in early voting results. For Democrats to retake the state, campaigners must be able to outwit the Trump "magic" of delivering his message which worked so well in Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania in 2016.

Next he spoke about the fact that the Republican Party has taken a bit of a hit nationally and statewide in 2018. The Congress flipped control to the Democrats and Democrats have been inching their way in Harrisburg as well, although Republicans have had a solid hold on the General Assembly for over 20 years.

He also spoke of the number of incumbent Republicans who have decided not to run on the national as well as the state level. Seventeen legislators have decided not to run in Harrisburg with 12 of them being Republicans. Even Speaker of the House Mike Turzai, R-28th, and President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Joe Scarnati, R-25th, are retiring. Perhaps they want to spend more time with their families, or it could also be due to the fact that once-red districts are beginning to trend blue. Also, the compromise that was made to take away "straight party voting" may be an attempt by Republicans to protect other down-ballot candidates who may fall victim to an anti-Trump movement in 2020.

Borick then spoke about the fact that the Pennsylvania primary, which usually does not have much effect on the presidential race; may very well be of utmost importance this election cycle and that we "might just matter" more than other years. He also briefly discussed the Congressional Race of Susan Wild, D-7th, versus either Lisa Scheller or Dean Browning (Matt Connolly - recently entered the race) from the Republican side. Wild won by 10 points and even though this seems safe; the Republicans will pull out all the stops to flip this seat, since one-term Congresspeople can be most susceptible to defeat. He said Wild has a consistently favorable rating from her constituents and appears to be doing a very good job which will make it a bit harder for Republicans to run against her.

Joe Biden, as the present front runner, is seen as a centrist-moderate and polls very well with the African American community. He should win the state since he has roots here and has always been closely aligned with the residents of Pennsylvania. Borick was asked about Steyer and Bloomberg and he cautioned not to discount them as they have the money and the commitment. Borick stated that on a recent trip to South Carolina, he saw an incredible number of signs for Steyer, commenting that both of these candidates have forgone the traditional caucus of Iowa and the next few primaries concentrating more on South Carolina and the Super Tuesday primary events. (Polling results have changed since his talk, which Borick did predict could happen).

Finally he spoke of the phenomenon of Bernie Sanders getting the youth vote, yet older more moderate voters feel safer with Biden. He stated it will be interesting to see how the Democrats will coalesce behind one candidate as primary season comes to an end. All in all, Borick said it will be one of the most expensive and interesting elections in many cycles.

He also cautioned we should never discount some of the other candidates who may surprise us with excellent results in some of the early primaries, looking at both Barack Obama, Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton throughout Democratic history.

Borick graciously stayed afterward and answered more questions our attendees had about this fascinating topic of election trends of the 2020 election cycle. He complimented our members for being knowledgeable and always asking such thoughtful questions. We thank him again for an invigorating discussion. We look forward to his visit next year when he can explain the yet unknown results of the 2020 elections.

Mary Erdman, Vice President, Action & Programs

Hot Topics Luncheon Cancellation Policy

If area schools are closed due to inclement weather, the League will cancel the Hot Topics luncheon.

March Hot Topics Luncheon

The REAL "Captain Kirk!"

Hold onto to your hats; we are in for a real treat when Bill Kirk, the CEO and co-founder of Weather Trends International, makes a whirlwind visit to The League of Women Voters Hot Topics Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, March 9. Bill, who is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and the Gulf War refers to himself as the "REAL Captain Kirk," and has promised a very interesting presentation about weather forecasting.

Bill's passion is for "year ahead" weather forecasting technology and how the results of his research are utilized by many Fortune 500 companies. This presentation will look at long-range forecasting, that is very different from the daily forecast we depend upon every day. It will be an interesting switch from daily forecasting to what decisions are affected by long-term forecasting, which Bill provides to many large companies both here and abroad.

"Captain Kirk's" vast military experiences along with the time he spent on the NASA Columbia Shuttle Program should provide for a fascinating presentation. Bill has presented his research information on ABC 20/20, CNBC and Fox News besides publishing his research in Air Force journals and the Wall Street Journal. Prepare to hear a lot of new facts about weather and start gathering your questions now. We look forward to this different and scientific look at year ahead weather forecasting. Beam me up, Scotty, Captain Kirk is on the way!

The public is welcome to attend the luncheon taking place on Monday, March 9 at the Superior Restaurant in Emmaus in the banquet room downstairs. Lunch will begin 11:30 a.m., the presentation will begin noon and finish 1 p.m.

To ensure we have enough buffet lunch prepared, please register by Thursday, March 5 by emailing crizzy49@yahoo.com or calling 610-432-1456. The event is free but the cost of the buffet lunch is $15, payable at the door. Note: you can listen to the speaker without having lunch.

A big thank you to Chris for her work throughout the year in taking our reservations, and payments at the door. Thank you, Chris.

Mary Erdman, Vice President, Action & Programs

What to Expect for the 2020 Election

The 2020 primary election will be held on April 28, 2020, with polling places open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Act 77, which details new reforms to voting in Pennsylvania, was enacted into law on October 31, 2019. The details of said law can be found at www.pa.gov under Recent Act 77 Voter Reforms. The election calendar in the Government Directory section of our website www.lwvlehighcounty.org includes links to more information and also to the forms available to voters.

The Voters' Guide 2020 for the primary election is expected to be published by The Morning Call on Thursday, April 16, 2020, to allow time for voters to review candidates prior to the primary elections. Subscribers will receive their copy in that day's edition. It will also be posted in the Voters Guide section of our website. Local races will include state house districts 22, 131, 132, 133, 134, 183 and 187 and Congressional district 7. Our local state senate districts 16 and 18 will be part of Election 2022. The newspaper always gives us hundreds of extra copies. In the next issue, Distribution Chairs Charles and Donna Barker will describe the "bundling" party April 16 at which volunteers prepare those copies to distribute around the county.

Michelle Graupner, Chair, 2020 Voters Guide

Legislative Interviews 2020

Members of our League have been busy this past month organizing and conducting legislative interviews. This is a process which Leagues do each year. The legislative interview is beneficial because it offers local Leagues a structured way to open or maintain a relationship with their legislators. It helps us to build a positive, open relationship with each of our local legislators that represent us in Harrisburg.

Each League receives the questions on four topics and report forms from the state League. They are posted on the Legislative Interviews sub-section of the Special Interests section of www.lwvlehighcounty.org. The non-partisan questions are developed as topics of "good government practices" which have always been supported by the League of Women Voters throughout the years. Our interview teams take notes during the interview. They then collate them into a report and forward it to state League where they are entered into a spreadsheet so they can identify the views of each legislator on each of the four topics across the state. The state League uses these reports to coordinate lobbying efforts more effectively.

The following members have agreed to be part of this process. Lead interviewers are the ones who set up the interview. The state League recommends a team of three interviewers. Some teams listed below meet that criteria. For those that do not, "constituent(s) welcome" appears after the name of the lead interviewer. This means we need members who are constituents of that legislator to contact the lead person to volunteer. Their contact information may be found in the Member Handbook. Or, send a request to email@lwvlehighcounty.org with "Legislative interview" as the subject.

State Representatives

Gary Day - Jan Little, lead, with Rochelle Kaplan and Barbara Connolly

Ryan MacKenzie - Rochelle Kaplan, lead, with Chris Herbener. One more constituent welcome.

Jeanne McNeill - Mary Erdman, lead. Two more constituents welcome.

Michael Schlossberg - Pat Hudson, lead. Two more constituents welcome.

Peter Schweyer - Barbara Williams, lead, with Mary Erdman. One more constituent welcome.

Justin Simmons - Molly Faust, lead, with Ken Baumert and Cheryl Winters-Tetreau

Zachary Mako - out of the country on active duty.

State Senators

Lisa Boscola - Mary Erdman, lead. Two more constituents welcome.

Patrick Browne - Jan Little, lead. Two more constituents welcome.

Molly Faust, President

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Membership: Margie Dunn, 610-298-8946
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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 <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.

ANNUAL DUES 2020

$70.00 individual $105.00 household $25.00 full-time student

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

Please make check payable to LWVLC and mail to:

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