# LWV LEHIGH COUNTY VOTER

League of Women Voters of Lehigh County

April/May 2020 Volume 68, Issue 4

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## President's Message

Dear League Members,

As is the case with many other organizations, the COVID-19 pandemic has forced our organization to find other ways of conducting our business. Our board normally meets monthly at the Rittenhouse Village At Lehigh Valley retirement center but in March (before the 'shelter in place' order) we switched the meeting place to the dining room in my home. In April, the board held its first online meeting. There were a few glitches using the Zoom app - such as several of us had trouble logging in - but otherwise it worked well.

One issue addressed at the April board meeting was the status of the Annual Meeting scheduled for Saturday, May 16 at Morgan's Restaurant. Our organization's bylaws state that we must hold an annual meeting between May 1 and June 30. Two items of business which require membership approval are adoption of the budget and adoption of the local program. Twenty percent of the membership is required for a quorum and for a vote.

With the uncertainty about when restrictions will be lifted and whether our members would even feel comfortable gathering as a group so soon in May, we have decided to cancel the in-person meeting and handle the necessary business online. Details still need to be worked out. We will contact you with more information as we determine how to proceed under such extraordinary circumstances.

Otherwise League members have been creative in carrying out their duties.

For example, the distribution committee had to recalibrate its delivery process of the Government

Continued on Page 2

## Tabling and Voter Registration

The Voter Registration and Tabling Committee of the LWVLC continues to actively explore ways to educate Lehigh County citizens regarding voter registration and procedures.

The COVID-19 school and community closures resulted in the postponement or cancellation of a number of planned voter registration and tabling events. The LVWLC is registered for the Lehigh Valley Book Festival tabling event to take place on Saturday, June 5 at the Bethlehem Area Public Library.

This summer, the LWVLC hopes to participate in the IronPigs Community Nights at the Ballpark. While the IronPigs baseball season start has been delayed, we remain optimistic about this opportunity.

The committee initiative to reach out to assisted living, retirement and senior centers in offering voter

Continued on Page 2

## Mark your calendar:

- **May 18** Last day to register to vote or change existing voter registration.
- **May 26** Deadline to fill out and submit an absentee or mail-in ballot .
- **June 2** Primary Election Day

## President's Message (continued from Page 1)

Directories because many organizations on our regular distribution list are closed to the public. Also, legislative interviews that are still pending are being handled online and by phone rather than in person.

Thank you for the work that you do. Stay safe and stay well.

Yours in League,
Molly Faust
President

## Tabling and Voter Registration (continued from Page 1)

services continues. Due to the closure of senior communities, we are unable at present to schedule any voter registration or education events. We hope in the near future to gain a clearer perspective of how to proceed in reaching out to our senior citizens.

At this time, we continue planning to receive training from Terri Harkins, deputy chief clerk of the Lehigh County Office of Voter Registration and Elections following the June 2, 2020 primary. Members interested in participating in tabling and voter registration are encouraged to attend the training. This is a great opportunity to be educated in election procedures, meet league members, and envision your participation in voter registration and tabling.

We are always open for more volunteers for voter registration and tabling events. Whether you are a long-time or new member, consider learning about this important league mission. We anticipate a busy pre-election season and will need many hands on deck!

Contact Barbara Connolly at email@lwvlehighcounty.org for additional information about these activities.

Barbara Connolly, Chair, Voter Services

## ATTENTION

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the May 16 Annual Meeting will not be held at Morgan's Restaurant. Instead, we will determine a process for handling the required business virtually. We are working out the details and will notify you soon. Stay tuned.

Molly Faust, President

## 2020-2021 Budget Development

The budget committee met on February 21 to prepare the 2020-2021 League budget.

The budget was approved by the board on March 12, 2020 and was sent out to the membership, either by email or regular mail, to be previewed before the Annual Membership meeting in May.

Special thanks to committee members Mary Bongiorno, Budget chair; Molly Faust, Doris Glaessman, Rochelle Kaplan, Mary Anne Stinner and Barbara Williams.

The budget will be presented to League members for adoption at the Annual General Membership meeting.

Barbara Williams, Treasurer

# LWVLC Government Directory 2020 Distribution

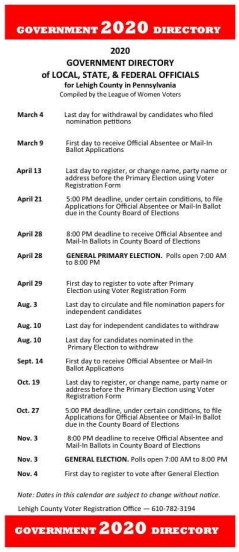
The distribution of the Government Directory has been overshadowed by the pandemic.

Last year, we mailed quite a few of the copies to offices and agencies in our county. This year, we wanted to rely less on mailing copies and, instead, deliver them to more locations. However, once the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania announced the closure of all non-essential state jobs and closure of all non-life sustaining businesses for the duration of the pandemic, our plans changed.

As a result, schools, colleges and public libraries were closed until further notice. In addition, public officials' offices were either closed or staffed with a minimum work force.

Working under these conditions, it was decided to place most of the distribution of the guides in the hands of the United States Postal Service supplemented by delivery to offices which are still able take deliveries. We mailed sets of 20 directories to agencies, state and federal legislators' district offices, municipalities and our donors. Caryn Schoenthal has 300 directories to distribute at the naturalization ceremonies taking place in the Lehigh County Courthouse later this year. (NOTE: The ceremony scheduled for April 8 was canceled.)

We would like to thank Jan and Trevor Little for their guidance in mailing a copy of the directory to every member of our local League and generating mailing address labels for the offices. Also thanks to Doris Glaessmann for distributing copies to the offices in the Lehigh County Government Center and the Lehigh County Courthouse.


GOVERNMENT 2020 DIRECTORY

2020
GOVERNMENT DIRECTORY
of LOCAL, STATE, & FEDERAL OFFICIALS
for Lehigh County in Pennsylvania
Compiled by the League of Women Voters

March 4 — Last day for withdrawal by candidates who filed nomination petitions
March 9 — First day to receive Official Absentee or Mail-In Ballot Applications
April 13 — Last day to register, or change name, party name or address before the Primary Election using Voter Registration Form
April 21 — 5:00 PM deadline, under certain conditions, to file Applications for Official Absentee or Mail-In Ballot due in the County Board of Elections
April 28 — 8:00 PM deadline to receive Official Absentee and Mail-In Ballots in County Board of Elections
April 28 — GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION. Polls open 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM
April 29 — First day to register to vote after Primary Election using Voter Registration Form
Aug. 3 — Last day to circulate and file nomination papers for independent candidates
Aug. 10 — Last day for independent candidates to withdraw
Aug. 10 — Last day for candidates nominated in the Primary Election to withdraw
Sept. 14 — First day to receive Official Absentee or Mail-In Ballot Applications
Oct. 19 — Last day to register, or change name, party name or address before the Primary Election using Voter Registration Form
Oct. 27 — 5:00 PM deadline, under certain conditions, to file Applications for Official Absentee or Mail-In Ballot due in the County Board of Elections
Nov. 3 — 8:00 PM deadline to receive Official Absentee and Mail-In Ballots in County Board of Elections
Nov. 3 — GENERAL ELECTION. Polls open 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM
Nov. 4 — First day to register to vote after General Election

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

Lehigh County Voter Registration Office — 610-782-3194

GOVERNMENT 2020 DIRECTORY

Charles and Donna Barker, Co-Chairs, Distribution

# Membership Report

As of March 12, we have 76 members. We had three new members join our League.

- Dennis Geiger

1434 Packard Ct., Kutztown, PA 17530

814 730-0203, dejergeiger@hotmail.com

- Nancy Dole Mellish

2324 Lehigh Parkway North, Allentown, PA 18103

610 899-2041, nancyandgenemellish@gmail.com

- Ashleigh Strange

815 S. Front St., Allentown, PA 18103

484-635-6650, strange.ashleigh@gmail.com

A big thank you to Ann Bartholomew for new membership booklet. I mailed copies to each household earlier this month. Please let me know if you still need to receive a copy.

Margie Dunn, Chair, Membership

# Nominating Committee

The nominating committee has been working hard to fill all positions. Compared to last year we are doing quite well. The following slate will be voted on at our virtual Annual Meeting. We will send more details by email about how to join the meeting.

**Officers**

| | |
|---|---|
| President | Molly Faust |
| Vice President, Program/Action | Mary Erdman |
| Vice President, Voter Service | Vacant |
| Secretary | Rochelle Kaplan |
| Treasurer | Barbara William |

**Directors**

| | |
|---|---|
| Media | Jan Little |
| Government Directory | Cheryl Winters-Tetreau |
| Membership/Nominating | Margie Dunn |
| Publication Distribution | Charles & Donna Barker |
| Voter Registration & Tabling | Barbara Connolly |
| Voter's Guide | Michelle Graupner |
| Special Project | Terri Purdy |

We have Vice President, Voter Service vacant. This person would be responsible for candidate forums and other special projects. If you are interested, contact me at 610 298-8946 and I will go into greater detail.

Margie Dunn, Nominating Chair

## Hot Topics Luncheons — Future Plans

Unfortunately we had to cancel our last Hot Topics Luncheon: "TerraCycle - Eliminating the Idea of Waste®," a very timely topic. We have already scheduled that speaker, Maame Mensah, U.S. Account Director, Brand Partnerships, TerraCycle US, LLC, for April 12, 2021.

I think our membership will be very happy to know Bill White will be back this year! As of today, he will be our first speaker in September. He chose the topic "You Will Miss Us When We're Gone" about losing the print news writers and commentators from our local newspapers.

Bill White seems excited to be back and hopefully will have a lot to speak about with the present news as well as the upcoming election. He is scheduled tentatively for Monday, September, 14, 2020. Let's hope we are all back to whatever will be our new normal way of life before September!

The plan is to have Chris Borick back twice next year; once to analyze the election results and again in spring for his research work on climate change. Chris has been frequently published for his research on climate change over the last 10 years.

If you have any ideas for other speakers, please feel free to send those to me at email@lwvlehighcounty.org. Stay Well! Have a wonderful, healthy summer.

Mary Erdman, Program Chair

## 'Captain Kirk' Beams Down to March Hot Topics Luncheon

Bill Kirk, the co-founder of Weather Trends, International, made a visit to our March Hot Topics Luncheon to introduce us to a very different form of weather forecasting, "Year Ahead Weather Forecasting."

The REAL "Captain Kirk!"

As a United States Air Force Veteran of Desert Storm, the Gulf War and the NASA Challenger Program, "Captain Kirk's" background in physics, math and meteorology was integral in creating a forecasting process which over 100 top-level companies use in their yearly planning.

Weather Trends does forecasting for companies like Kohls, Target, AutoZone, Walgreens, Coca-Cola, Anheuser-Busch and AgriGold, just to name a few. For example, if Weather Trends forecasts a very hot week in June of 2021, Coca-Cola may increase production the week before. Or, if forecasting a snowy winter, Target may order thousands more snow shovels for that winter.

Weather Trends has had an average 75 percent rate of success in forecasting what the weather will be in a specific week almost a year ahead. It is easy to see how their work benefits these companies in many ways.

Bill was able to show numerous weather history charts and examples of forecasting almost a year out which was extremely interesting and accurate. He explained there are numerous ocean models like El Niño, air currents, etc. factored in by the mathematicians, scientists and meteorologists using programs they have developed over the years. Weather Trends International has been awarded many citations for their work in this country and around the world.

Bill finished his presentation by challenging us to take another look at climate change and question the history of the many climate maps

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## 'Captain Kirk' Beams Down to March Hot Topics Luncheon (continued from Page 4)

he claims shows that perhaps our weather has been more cyclical. He left us with a lot of information about the benefits of year-ahead forecasting and the question of what we commonly refer to as climate change.

It was a truly thought-provoking presentation.

What did he say about this summer? Hopefully bright, sunny, warm with low-humidity!

Happy summer!

Mary Erdman, Program Chair

## Changes to the 2020 Election

Due to the current health crisis, Gov. Tom Wolf signed into law Senate Bill 422 on March 27, 2020. Not only was the primary election date moved from April 28 to June 2, other dates changed as well.

The last day to register to vote or change your existing voter registration is now May 18, 2020. After you submit your application, find voter registration status at: www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/Pages/voterregistrationstatus.aspx.

Those wanting to complete an absentee or mail-in ballot can do so by completing the online application at: www.votespa.com/applyabsentee for absentee or www.votespa.com/applymailballot for mail-in ballot. The deadline to fill out and submit an absentee or mail-in ballot application is May 26, 2020.

More information may be found on the Election Calendar webpage in the Government Directory section of our local League's website.

Due to the new primary election date, the Voters' Guide 2020 for the primary election is expected to be published by The Morning Call on Thursday, May 21, 2020. Those who have a subscription to The Morning Call will receive their copy in that day's edition. The Voters' Guide can also be found in the voters guide section of our website. Also, by mid-May, you can review your personal ballot by using www.vote411.org.

Please be advised that due to the novelty of the online portal, the only individuals that can use the online application for a mail-in ballot or absentee ballot are those who possess a PA Driver's License or PA State Identification Card. The state is currently working on making the online application for the absentee ballot accessible with just a Social Security Number. The setback in the online portal will affect the 2020 Primary Election on June 2, 2020. A mail-in ballot or absentee ballot application can also be obtained by requesting one through your local Voter Registration Office.More information about may be found on the Election Calendar webpage in the Government Directory section of our local League's website.

Due to the new primary election date, the Voters' Guide 2020 for the primary election is expected to be published by The Morning Call on Thursday, May 21, 2020. Those who have a subscription to The Morning Call will receive their copy in that day's edition. The Voters' Guide can also be found in the Voters Guide section of our website. Also, by mid-May, you can review your personal ballot by using www.vote411.org.

Michelle Graupner, Chair, Voters Guide 2020

Michelle Graupner, Chair, Voters Guide 2020

## FDPA — What Now?

It was mid-March and one-by-one, meetings, updates, gatherings and finally the rally in Harrisburg on March 23 were canceled. The legislators left Harrisburg and the COVID-19 began to make its assault on the residents of Pennsylvania.

Our chairperson, Carol Kuniholm, realizing that families and legislators had enough to worry about, shut down almost all of our activities. She even suggested we not contact our legislators because of the undue pressures on them right now as well. Therefore, we were asked to put everything on hold for the time being and hope and pray for the best.

We don't have any idea when life will return to normal, but as we come closer to the end of the legislative session in late fall of 2020, we know that time is running out for our impending legislation: House Bill 22, House Bill 23, Senate Bill 1022 and Senate Bill 1023. Our legislative team already has a plan "B" in the works. This would involve legislation that would add certain criteria, just short of needing a constitutional amendment, to the present process. This is what is referred to as "enabling legislation."

Some of the areas that could be adjusted would be in:

Transparency - requiring all meetings to be open, public meetings with citizen input.

The present commission membership could be more representative of gender, geography and culture.

A more complete explanation of what constitutes a "compact" district and stricter enforcement of the number of splits allowed in county and municipal borders.

The review process would include more citizen input and commentary before the maps are adopted.

Right now we are most concerned about the health of all citizens and as soon as this pandemic levels off and we can begin to live more normally, these issues will be brought to the forefront.

Until then, maybe you can think of additional ideas and improvements. And, when Harrisburg is at work again, we will be ready to resume our advocacy for more fair maps to be created in 2021. We will keep you informed and updated. Remember: Not red, not blue - just fair! Keep the faith!

For more information, visit www.FairDdistrictsPA.com.

Mary Erdman, Chair, Action, FDPA Liaison

## 2020 Legislative Interview Update

The 2020 legislative interview process is still ongoing despite the pandemic disruptions. At this point state legislators are sheltering in place as we are and are not available for in-person visits. Thus, League interviewers are using conference calls, email or regular mail to ask the state league questions.

Lead interviewer Pat Hudson and her team consisting of Marianne Phillips and Sue Phillips conducted only one in-person visit with state Rep. Michael Schlossberg, D-132nd, before the state-wide meeting restrictions. Rochelle Kaplan used a conference call setup to interview state Rep. Ryan Mackenzie, R-134th; members of her team were invited to call in and participate. The other six interviews are pending.

You can read the results of the two completed interviews on the legislative interview webpage in the special interests section of our website. Click on the legislators' names to open the reports.

Molly Faust, President

## Sustainable Lehigh Valley booklet

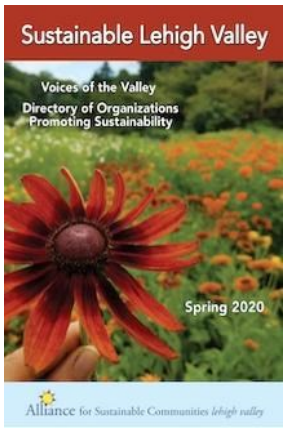
Greetings. We hope this finds you well.

We had to delay printing of this year's Sustainable Lehigh Valley booklet due to the coronavirus shutdown, so we published the booklet in PDF format — you can find it at www.sustainlv.org/slv.

Please download a copy and encourage friends and family to do so as well. The League of Women Voters of Lehigh County's listing is also included in the online directory www.sustainlv.org/publications/sustainable-lehigh-valley/sustainable-lv-directory-listings, although some listings are still being updated to match the booklet.

The Sustainable Lehigh Valley team

slv-editors@sustainlv.org




## Board Notes

The Board of the League of Women Voters of Lehigh County met twice on March 12 and April 9. Due to COVID 19, the April 9 meeting was virtual. Here are highlights of the two meetings.

**March 12**

Treasurer Barbara Williams reported we had a balance of $18,993.98 in assets for the month ending March 31, 2020. Moreover, the third quarter report ending March 31, 2020 showed income as $7,909.33 and expenses as $5,364.60 year to date.

The board voted to approve the 2020-2021 budget. The budget will be posted on the newsletter's webpage in the members section of the website for members to review. Members attending the annual meeting on May 16 will approve the budget. The annual meeting may be conducted virtually.

Due to COVID-19, all tabling activities with elementary schools, community groups, senior centers, nursing homes and independent living facilities have been put on hold indefinitely.

Membership Chair Margie Dunn reported we have 76 members who have renewed their memberships.

Barbara Williams and Margie Dunn will review the recommendation from the national League to create a "young membership category" for individuals under the age of 35. The dues would be $35. Should the board decide to adopt the new membership category, the bylaws will be amended to reflect it.

The board approved the expenditure of $455 to purchase a new 8-foot tablecloth and tabletop pull-up with our local League's logo and "Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy" printed on it for our tabling activities.

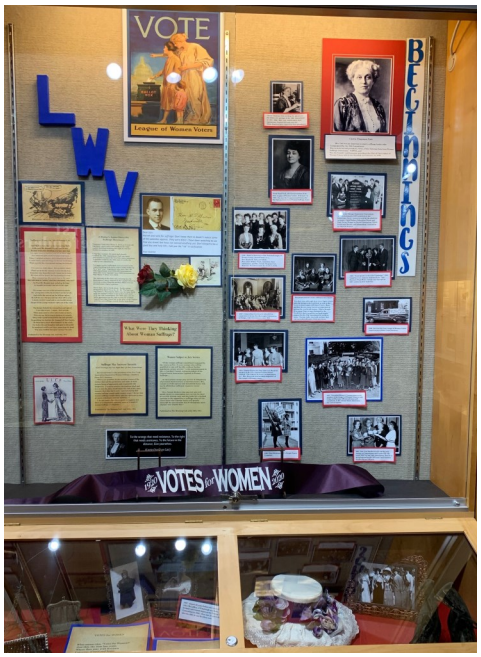
**April 9**

Due to COVID-19, the board decided that it will look into ways to conduct the Annual Meeting virtually. It was decided not to reschedule the date of the Annual Meeting since it is uncertain when a large gathering would be possible.

Rochelle Kaplan, Secretary

# Liberty Bell Museum Opens February 20th; Abruptly Closes Two Weeks Later

The 100th celebration of the League of Women Voters as well as the 100th Anniversary of the womens' vote were combined in an interesting exhibit held in conjunction with the Liberty Bell Museum and The League of Women Voters, Lehigh County.




Many items from the early 1900s were contributed by many members and a few others who were interested in helping with this exhibit. After a few weeks of work from members Ann Bartholomew, Mary Erdman, Gayle Getz, Chris Herbener, Cheryl Winters-Tetreau and Barb Williams, the exhibit took form and opened formally on the evening of February 20.

In attendance were Lehigh County Executive and Guest Speaker Philips Armstrong, Mr. Daniel Diaz, representing Mayor Ray O'Connell, (who presented a proclamation from the City of Allentown) Pastor Joshua Knappenberger of the Zion Church and director of the Liberty Bell Museum and League of Women Voters Lehigh County President Molly Faust. Many of our members were also in attendance, as depicted in the group photo.

Needless to say, this was the beginning of the COVID-19 virus which was just hitting Washington state. A few weeks later, Gov. Tom Wolf issued an executive order for us to stay home, shutting down businesses and many other establishments.

What happens now? The board of the Liberty Bell Museum will be meeting soon to discuss the next step. Our exhibit was to end on April 30 and a new exhibit celebrating the 100th anniversary of PPL was to begin. Hopefully we can keep our exhibit open or at least reschedule sometime later. Our plans were to have a simple event for our members so that all could see the exhibit. We will keep you posted.

Stay home and stay healthy!

Mary Erdman, Action Chair

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## League of Women Voters of Lehigh County

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email@lwvlehighcounty.org

President: Molly Faust, TBA
Membership: Margie Dunn, 610-298-8946
LWVPA Hotline: 717*234-1576



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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