

**THE  
VOTER**

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**President's Message**

Dear League Members,

Let me start by wishing you and your families the happiest of New Years. May this coming year of 2022, be one of fulfillment and good health for all. I would also like to wish a warm welcome to our newest members; we are so glad you have joined us and hope to get to know you much better during this coming year.

There is so much to talk about at this time, but this is just a message; I will try to keep it short and to the point.

The past year was very busy. The LWVLC launched many new projects and we provided a number of opportunities for our members to become involved and informed. In the past year, we saw more challenges to our democracy than ever before: from an insurrection at our Capitol, to the destructive continuation of the Big Lie, to numerous bills introduced in Harrisburg that are labeled as "election integrity," but which contain many subtle forms of limiting voting access. In addition, the redistricting of our Congressional, PA House and Senate maps has presented the League with a series of challenges which are still being argued as we go to press.

Our goal to educate and inspire voters is an essential, difficult task where we will need all-hands-on deck. This is a very important year with new laws, new districts, and new opportunities for candidate forums and debates.

We are proud to say that our Lehigh Valley League seems ahead of the curve in many of our ongoing projects. We are particularly pleased to have two members in positions on statewide committees: Rochelle Kaplan has just accepted the position of State Chair of Voter Education, and Molly Faust is on the statewide committee for the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force. We congratulate these members and thank them for their extra time and commitment to the League.

Sometime in the next few weeks, you will receive a brief survey from LWVLC. During these challenging times, we want to make sure that we are reaching all our members. Please take the time to complete the survey, so we will be able to assess our messaging strategies. We will also have many opportunities for you to become involved and hope you will help us meet the challenge to: "Empower Voters and Defend Democracy," during this coming year. We need your help and your talents more than ever!

Happy New Year!

Yours in League,  
Mary Erdman



# UPCOMING EVENTS

February 14 @ 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

**Hot Topics Luncheon – February**

Mehmet Barzev, Director of the Allentown EMS, and Bill Stauffer, Director of the PA Recovery Organization Alliance (Pro-A), will present “Addressing the Drug Issue in the Lehigh Valley” and “What are We Doing Locally and Statewide to Help People Suffering from these Disorders” at the League’s February Hot Topics Luncheon. Please RSVP for the event at <https://www.lwvlehighcounty.org/events/>

**Location: Virtual Event via Zoom**

March 14 @ 11:30am – 1:00pm

**Hot Topics Luncheon – March**

Leah Purdy, Regulatory Specialist for Resource Environmental Solutions (RES), will present “Habitat Creation for Native Beneficial Insects” at the League’s March Hot Topics Luncheon. Please RSVP for the event at <https://www.lwvlehighcounty.org/events/>

**Location: To Be Determined**

April 11 @ 11:30am – 1:00 pm

**Hot Topics Luncheon – April**

Bob Elbich, Lehigh County Commissioner-At-Large, will present “Massive Shale Gas Transport Through Lehigh County” at the League’s April Hot Topics Luncheon. Please RSVP for the event at <https://www.lwvlehighcounty.org/events/>

**Location: To Be Determine**

May 2 @ 12:00am – 5:00pm

**Last day to Register to Vote before the 2022 Primary Election**

May 10 @ 12:00am – 5:00pm

**Last day to Apply for a Mail-in or Civilian Absentee Ballot before the 2022 Primary Election**

May 17 @ 7:00am – 8:00pm

**Primary Election Day**

## Redistricting Update

On December 15, the Legislative Reapportionment Committee (LRC) approved preliminary maps for state legislative districts. The House maps were approved by a vote of 3-2. Chair Mark Nordenberg voted with the Democratic leadership, Representative Joanna McClinton, and Senator Jay Costa to approve the maps. The Senate maps were approved by a vote of 5-0. The public has 30 days, or until January 18, 2022, to file exceptions and comments on the maps. While anyone can submit written comments online, the LRC has also scheduled a series of public hearings for January 6, 7, 14, and 15 to take public comment. Chair Nordenberg has said that the LRC may revise the maps based upon the exceptions/comments submitted prior to voting on final maps. Any interested citizen can then appeal the final map to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. The maps will not go into effect until the appeals process has been completed. The maps can be viewed at the following links:

House Map:

<https://davesredistricting.org/maps#viewmap::a3157651-f2a6-4df1-ab3c-ffc38404bc7d>

Senate Map:

<https://davesredistricting.org/maps#viewmap::0badcef4-e9b6-44d3-9d62-b0ebce337aac>

*Spotlight Pa* has created a helpful tool for finding out where your residence would fall in the proposed legislative districts:

<https://www.spotlightpa.org/news/2021/12/pennsylvania-redistricting-house-senate-districts-lookup-tool/>

Preliminary congressional maps were approved by the House State Government Committee (HSCG) on December 8. The Senate State Government Committee has not approved any maps, nor has the committee released preliminary maps. Since the maps are contained in a piece of legislation, the House and Senate must approve the same maps and then the bill is sent to Governor Wolf for approval or veto. There is no set time frame established for this process. The General Assembly will convene again on January 4. It is possible that congressional maps will be approved by the General Assembly sometime that week and sent to Governor Wolf. The congressional maps approved by the HSGC can be found at the following link:

<http://www.paredistricting.com/pcplan>

We urge members to contact the LRC (<https://www.redistricting.state.pa.us/commission/article/1086>) and the HSGC (<http://www.paredistricting.com/pcplan>) with your comments and suggestions on the preliminary maps. The final maps will be in effect for the next 10 years.

One final note, the former Acting Secretary of State Veronica W. Degraffenreid has informed the LRC that the timeline for finalizing the legislative maps may conflict with the timeline for the May 17, 2022 primary election. In her letter to the LRC, she pointed out that either the General Assembly or the Pennsylvania Supreme Court could take action to mitigate the conflict.

Rochelle Kaplan, LWVLC Secretary

## Subscribe to Our Events Calendar

We have added a new feature to our website. You can now subscribe to our events calendar with a single click of a button! Once you have subscribed you will be able to see what is coming down the pipeline on your own digital calendar. It will also keep you up to date on any last-minute changes.

All you have to do to subscribe is scroll to the bottom of the events page on our website (<https://lwvlehighcounty.org/events>) and click on the "Subscribe to calendar" button on the right side of the page. You can choose either Google Calendar or iCalendar and you will be redirected to your calendar application of choice. It is that easy!



# Spotlight

**Rochelle Kaplan**



The LWV of Lehigh County is delighted to announce the appointment of Rochelle Kaplan, our Board's Secretary, as the new Voter Services Director for the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania.

"Rochelle Kaplan is a retired attorney, arbitrator, and fact-finder in labor and employment disputes for the private and public sectors. Since her retirement in 2016, she has been actively involved in Fair Districts PA and the League of Women Voters. She is part of the Lehigh-Northampton Fair Districts PA Leadership team. From 2017-2020, her work for the team focused on assisting residents in presenting in the Lehigh Valley in support of the creation of an independent citizen redistricting commission. Currently, Rochelle's efforts are focused on providing feedback to mappers on Lehigh Valley legislative and congressional maps.

Rochelle joined the League of Women Voters of Lehigh County in 2017. She has assisted with voter services projects for her local League including educational programs, voter registration events, and meeting with legislators. Rochelle has been a member of both the statewide Voter Services committee and the Government Policy committee since their inception.

Rochelle is honored to have been asked to serve as Voter Services Director on the LWVPA Board. She believes that voter education is foundational work of the League and is all the more important because of the level of misinformation on social media. One of her priorities will be proactively communicating with voters to inform them on how elections are conducted and the candidates that will be on the ballot.

Rochelle also works with Plant A-Row, a volunteer-driven organization, to deliver organically grown produce from local farmers to food banks in the Lehigh Valley, and is a volunteer with Parkland Community Library. She is married, has five grown children, and twelve grandchildren."

From The Communicator ( Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania)

The **Spotlight** feature is a new addition to The Voter. In each subsequent issue, we'd like to profile one of the members. As our membership grows, and as our face- to- face meetings go virtual, we'd like to keep in touch with one another through these brief interviews.

So, if you would like to nominate a League member to be "Spotlighted", or if you would like to be "Spotlighted" yourself, please let one of our Board members know.

Donna Barker  
Editor, The Voter

## Fracking with “Forever Chemicals”



The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania held its 9<sup>th</sup> annual Shale and Public Health Conference in November. Dr. Ned Ketyer presented a disquieting summary of the Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) report on Fracking with “Forever Chemicals” written by Dusty Horwitt.

Forever chemicals are polyfluoroalkyl chemicals (PFAS) and chemicals that can degrade into PFAS, termed pre-PFAS. These chemicals have been used in fracking fluids because of their waterproof, greaseproof, and non-stick properties.

These very properties make dispersal of PFAS easy and containment difficult. PFAS chemicals do not break down, hence the term “forever chemicals”. They can disperse widely in water, think fracking wastewater. They are difficult to contain and extremely difficult to remove.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approves PFAS and pre-PFAS chemicals for commercial use despite EPA records indicating that these chemicals have been linked to adverse health effects. The Philadelphia Inquirer followed up on the PSR report and found eight instances of PFAS being used in fracking operations in Pennsylvania. There may well be additional instances of PFAS being used for fracking in Pennsylvania, but this is unknown because there is no requirement for oil and gas operations to disclose the composition of their fracking fluids.

What should be done to protect the public? 1.) Require disclosure of chemical used in fracking fluids. 2.) The EPA should perform a comprehensive health assessment of PFAS and pre-PFAS chemicals used in oil and gas operations, including the identification of potential pathways of exposure. 3.) Require the oil and gas industry to identify where PFAS and pre-PFAS waste from their operations has been deposited. 4.) Require oil and gas operations to fund environmental testing and clean-up. 5.) Prohibit use of PFAS and pre-PFAS chemicals in oil and gas operations until testing and investigations are complete. As the PSR report stated, “When doubt exists as to the existence or danger of contamination, the rule of thumb should be, ‘First, do no harm’.”

The PSR report can be viewed at <https://www.psr.org/blog/new-report-fracking-with-forever-chemicals/>.

Terri Purdy

Special Projects Director

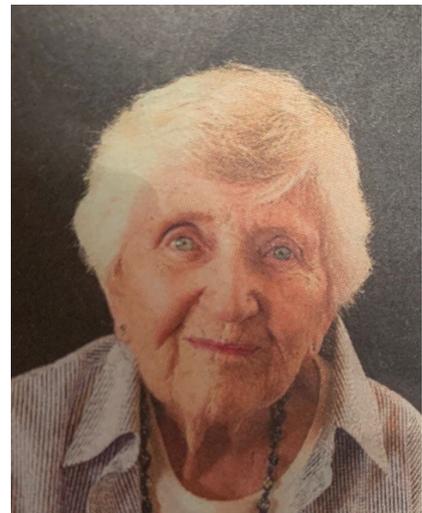
## League Notes

### A Life Well Lived - An Example for All

This past November, the Harrington family lost their matriarch, I lost a new friend, and the League lost a longtime and dedicated member. I had written about Jane Harrington in a previous issue last year and was sad to hear of her passing. Jane was an impressive lady who seemed to do it all. She was the mother of four very active children and wife to her high school sweetheart, who worked for Bethlehem Steel. Her husband, Robert, moved often during his long career with Bethlehem Steel, and everywhere they moved Jane joined the League of Women Voters- beginning in 1957!

In one of her writings Jane is noted that, "As a volunteer with the League, it gave me expertise for the rest of my life." I know many of us can agree with Jane on the value of volunteering with the League. Jane also said that joining the League in each new town provided her with an opportunity to become "acquainted with women who were the "movers and shakers" in their community." I must agree with Jane on this as well. She was so appreciative when we recognized her 90th birthday last year with a proclamation and a LWV pin, and I cherished the correspondence which grew from our League connection.

As a wife and mother, Jane lived in many different areas: Massachusetts, New York, Indiana, and Pennsylvania (the Lehigh Valley and Wyomissing). During those years Jane worked on various projects both with the League as well as with other community organizations. Some of those projects included: a family court in New York State to help runaway children, and clean air and water projects in Indiana. Jane also started a Literacy Council and Food Bank in Allentown. After receiving a Masters in Community Counseling, she led an AIDS support group, and in retirement ran support and grief counseling groups. For the last decade of her life, she returned to her home state of Massachusetts, where she was part of a Welcoming Committee at her residence and also ran a writer's group. This entire time, she was a loyal member of the LWV.



Jane has inspired a family of many active members. Her son Tom, is the CEO of Valley Youth House, his wife, Kathy, the president of LV4ALL; and her grandson Dave, a Lehigh County Commissioner and an immigration lawyer. She must have been so proud.

What a legacy Jane Harrington has left for all of us. And to think she accomplished so much of what she did without an iPhone, e-mails, computers, Zooms and FaceTime! Jane will remain a constant inspiration for me and I hope for each of our members as well.

Jane Harrington, a life very well lived. Rest in peace, my friend.

Mary Erdman, President

### Patricia Hoffman

Our league also lost a longtime member. Patricia Hoffman died on January 1, 2022. Pat had served as our treasurer and as a member of the Budget Committee for many years. As a former teacher, she championed education and was elected to serve on the Allentown School board including stints as president and vice president. She was very active with other community organizations including the Junior League, First Presbyterian Church and the Allentown Art Museum.

She is survived by her husband David, two sons and two grandchildren.



## Hot Topics Luncheons Update

The Dec. 13 Hot Topic Luncheon speaker was Catharine Kessick, Executive Director of VAST (Valley Against Sex Trafficking). Their vision and mission are to eliminate sex trafficking and end sexual exploitation through collaboration, education, and advocacy. They empower survivors and encourage the community to act in the anti-trafficking movement. VAST believes that along with equality, every person has a right to dignity and every person has the same inherent worth.

Upcoming programs in the next two months are:

January 10, 2022: Dr. Chris Borick, Professor of Political Science and Director of the Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion, will speak to us about election trends.

February 14, 2022: Mehmet Barzov, Director of the Allentown EMS and Bill Stauffer, Director of the PA Recovery Organization- Alliance Pro-A. They will discuss "Addressing the Drug Issue in the Lehigh Valley" and "What are We Doing Locally and Statewide to Help People Suffering from these Disorders?"

We will also celebrate the League's 102 birthday at this meeting!

Chris Herbener, Vice President of Programs

## 2022 Government Directory

### **Seeking Donors**

We are in need of everyone's input to help us come up with a list of potential donors to offset the cost of printing the 2022 Government Directory.

Please send your suggestions to our web mail address, or you can call me or email me directly at: [cheryl.tetreau@gmail.com](mailto:cheryl.tetreau@gmail.com).

Cheryl Winters-Tetreau, Government Directory



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 \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Membership dues include membership in the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) and the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania (LWVPA) and a subscription to the local and state *Voter*.  
League dues and contributions are not tax-deductible as a charitable donation.  
Contributions to the LWV Education Fund (LWVEF) are tax-deductible.  
Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to all citizens. Voting members must be at least 16 years old.

**ANNUAL DUES 2022**  
\$70 individual    \$105 household    \$25 full-time student  
\$35 if 35 years or younger