

The **VOTER**

President's Message

Dear Members,

Very soon signs of Spring will be popping up all around us, and with the new season come many changes. The same is true with our local League. We have been very busy creating a larger footprint for our League in Lehigh County and expanding our services to many underserved communities. That work will continue, but only if we have more members becoming more actively involved very soon!



This May we will be down by three Board members: two are retiring from our Board (Rochelle Kaplan and Terri Purdy), and one has already stepped down to run for Lehigh County Clerk of Courts (Michelle Graupner). These are three very, very active and valuable Board members who have contributed so much to making our League better every day. We need people to step up and take their places. We need someone to: manage our website, work on special projects, be the secretary for our Board, help with our candidate workshop (in 2025), attend tabling and community events, and create graphics for our social media.

If you have any of these skills and want to do just ONE of them, we need you to step up very soon. We have over 76 members. Can we find three or four members who want to work in a collaborative manner to keep our League running smoothly? Maybe you have a friend or family member who might be interested in getting involved - please ask them. **WE NEED YOU NOW!** Please contact the League at email@lwvlehighcounty.org or email me directly at: maryc.erdman@gmail.com. We are a friendly, hard working group who truly enjoy the work we do together. And we will help to train you in these specific tasks we need fulfilled. You won't be on your own, we promise.

We are counting on you, a friend or family member to get involved in one of the most important, successful and long-standing grassroots organizations in American history. Can we count on you this Spring? Thank you for considering joining us in our important work.

And if you have not re-registered yet, please do. You can do that online at www.lwvlehighcounty.org. Happy Spring!

Yours in League,

Mary Erdman, President

Upcoming Events

March 13, 11:30am - 1:00pm
Hot Topics Luncheon - The Amazing Work of the Cohesion Network

April 10, 11:30am - 1:00pm
Hot Topics Luncheon - The Environment and the Lehigh Valley - Concerns and Successes

May 1, 12:00am - 5:00pm
Last day to Register to Vote before the Primary Election

May 9, 12:00am - 5:00pm
Last day to Apply for a Mail-in Ballot before the Primary Election

May 15, 5:30pm - 7:00pm
LWV of Lehigh County Annual Meeting and Dinner

May 16, 7:00am - 8:00pm
Primary Election

FOR DETAILS VISIT
<https://lwvlehighcounty.org/events/>

SAVE THE DATE

Please join us for our League's

ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER

MAY 15 AT 5:30PM

**MADELINE'S
1250 TURNSTONE DR.
FOGELSVILLE, PA**

Community Outreach Report

The 2023 Municipal Primary will take place on Tuesday, May 16th. With that date just a few months away, our Community Outreach calendar is beginning to fill in dates for tabling events and presentations. These events are an important part of our efforts to share voter registration information and resources relating to voting options. In addition, our continuing attendance at Community Ambassador Block Meetings in Allentown gives us a chance to spread the word about the importance of all elections as we learn more about the challenges facing city residents.

One of our community outreach goals this primary season will be providing voters with information about the offices that will appear on the primary ballot in May and the responsibilities of each office. The LWVPA Vote411 initiative is a resource we recommend to voters as one avenue to assess candidate experience, viewpoints, and positions.

We were invited to participate on Friday, March 3rd at the Community Resource Fair held at the Bethlehem Hope Center. The mission of the center is *“to instill hope and encourage recovery through connections in a safe, supportive environment.”* Participation in the civic life of a The Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living has invited the League to visit with young clients of LVCIL as part of their weekly Independent Living Skill programming. We will provide a voter registration opportunity and preview the coming May primary. Catherine Bogdanski, the Statewide Coalition Project Coordinator for LVCIL, encourages program attendees to become involved in their communities and informed about issues facing the younger generation.

We have a new postcard for 2023 which details how to register to vote online, the requirements for registration, and the information available on www.vote411.org. The inclusion of a QRI allows quick and easy reference to Pennsylvania online voter registration.

Please contact me with any ideas about events or potential presentations. If you are interested in learning about or helping with community outreach, calls or emails are welcome. email@lwvlehighcounty.org or 610-216-9448

Barbara Connolly, Vice President, Community Outreach

Membership Report

Our Membership Drive for 2023 is over. It was not as successful as we had hoped. We lost 13 members. As of February 28, 2023, we now have 77 members. We have reminded the lapsed members via email, asking why they have not rejoined as yet. We hope to gain some insight into any changes we might make to our activities going forward. Suggestions are always welcome.

The good news is that we had two former members rejoin our League last month: Susan Wild and Shawn Younes. Merry Landis is a new member of LWVLC. Welcome Merry!

Margie Dunn, Membership Director

Inside Articles

Event Calendar	1
Membership	2
Local Issues	2
Government Policy	3
Book Club	3
Budget Review	4-6
Hot Topic Report	7
Legislative Interview Addendum	Attachment

Local Issues Committee

The Local Issues Committee has met twice so far this year and has determined the Lehigh Valley issues that we would do more research on. They are: solid waste management, local water issues, transportation needs, education, and prison reform.

The members of the committee are Ann Bartholemew, Rochelle Kaplan, Merry Landis, Barb Connolly, Molly Faust, and Cheryl Winters-Tetreau.

The committee meets every month at noon at the Superior Restaurant in Emmaus. Any member who is interested in any of these topics is welcome to join us and help us prepare our position papers. Please let me know (cheryl.tetreau@gmail.com) so I can put you on the invite list for our March meeting.

Cheryl Winters-Tetreau, Local Program Chair

Government Policy Report

It has certainly been a chaotic beginning to the 2023-2024 legislative session. On January 3, the House and Senate re-convened in Harrisburg. The House elected Representative Mark Rozzi (D-Berks) as Speaker, but could not agree on rules of procedure. The new Speaker immediately recessed the House and created a bipartisan task group to work on rules of procedure. One of our local representatives, Pete Schweyer, served on this task group. Speaker Rozzi also embarked on a listening tour in four cities-Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Wilkes-Barre and State College. He invited members of the public to attend and provide recommendations on creating a more bipartisan legislative process in Harrisburg.

In the meantime, the Senate passed procedural rules and commenced business. Their first legislative act was the passage of three unrelated constitutional amendments in one bill (SB 1). This legislation included opening the two-year window for child sexual assault claims, requiring voter ID, and expanding the power of the General Assembly to disapprove of regulations. There was no public input or opportunity to observe proceedings. The Senate sent the legislation to the House and recessed until February 27. LWVPA [opposed](#) the process and the legislative package.

Thereafter, on February 21, the Speaker convened a special session of the House for the sole purpose of passing legislation to open the two-year window for survivors of childhood sexual abuse. After a contentious debate over the rules governing the special session, the House passed in a bipartisan vote two measures pertaining to the two-year window- one statutory (134-67 vote) and the other, constitutional (160-40 vote). These now go to the Senate for consideration.

The Senate has a choice. If the Senate chooses to pass the statutory measure, survivors of childhood sexual abuse could begin pursuing relief in the next several months. If the Senate chooses to go the constitutional amendment route, survivors will have to wait until after the November 2023 election, when it will appear on the ballot. Some Senators have already said that the only pathway for giving relief to survivors would be through the constitutional amendment package it passed in January.

There is important work to be done this session, such as education funding, election law reform, and ethics rules, just to name a few. If this is any indication of how the House and Senate will conduct their work, it is not at all likely that much needed action will be taken. Stay tuned.

Rochelle Kaplan, Member, LWVPA Govt Policy Committee and Secretary

LWVLC Book Club News

The Personal Librarian was the book under discussion at the February 20th meeting of the LWVLC Book Club.

Historical fiction based on the true life story of Belle da Costa Greene, Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray's book depicts the experience of J.P. Morgan's personal librarian, a "Black American woman who was forced to hide her true identity and pass as white in order to leave a lasting legacy that enriched our nation.

Definitely one to add to your reading list, *The Personal Librarian* challenges the reader to confront the social system that persons of color faced in the early 20th century, where to be Black sometimes meant hiding your own identity and past to succeed.

Information about Belle da Costa Greene is available at the website of the Morgan Library and Museum, where an exhibition devoted to her life and career is planned for the fall of 2024. An online exhibit of her life and the women she worked with is available now at www.themorgan.org

**The LWVLC Book Club will pick up this summer
with a book still to be decided.
Call or email me if you are interested in joining
or would like more information.**

Barbara Connolly

League of Women Voters of Lehigh County
Proposed Budget to be Presented at the Annual Meeting
July 1, 2023—June 30, 2024

	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET
	7/01/21 -	7/01/22 -	7/01/22 -	7/01/23 -
<u>INCOME</u>	<u>6/30/2022</u>	<u>6/30/2023</u>	<u>2023 (Jan.31)</u>	<u>6/30/2024</u>
A. Dues (\$70, \$105, \$35)	\$5,545.94	\$5,000.00	\$5,146.26	\$5,000.00
B. Contributions				
1. Members/Donors - LWVEF	\$1,475.00	1,000.00	\$1,195.00	1,100.00
2. Corporations - LWVEF	300.00	300.00		300.00
3. Members/Donors-LWVLC	<u>684.60</u>	<u>150.00</u>	<u>122.58</u>	<u>100.00</u>
	\$2,459.60	\$1,450.00	\$1,317.58	\$1,500.00
C. In-kind Contributions				
1. Members	\$313.91	150.00	\$110.40	200.00
2. Printing of Voters' Guides	<u>750.00</u>	<u>750.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>750.00</u>
	\$1,063.91	\$900.00	\$110.40	\$950.00
D. Publications & Programs				
1. "How To Run for Office" Wrkshp	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$968.11	\$0.00
2. Government Directory	992.23	1,000.00		1,050.00
3. Luncheon/Rental - Ed. Fund	0.00	400.00		1,050.00
4. Other (e.g., Lunch Kitty)	333.68	100.00	0.00	0.00
5. Vote 411	<u>0.00</u>	300.00	<u>300.00</u>	0.00
	\$1,325.91	\$3,300.00	\$1,268.11	\$2,100.00
E. Other Sources				
1. Special Fundraising Projects	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
2. Annual Membership Meeting	0.00	0.00		0.00
3. Bulletin Ads	0.00	0.00		0.00
4. C.D. Interest	6.96	10.00	0.60	10.00
5. Grants	1,101.00		1,101.00	0.00
6. Miscellaneous	<u>240.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>		<u>0.00</u>
	\$1,347.96	\$110.00	\$1,101.60	\$10.00
F. Reserves		\$24.00		
TOTAL INCOME	\$11,743.32	\$10,784.00	\$8,943.95	\$9,560.00

The proposed budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 is being presented for your review. Per our bylaws, this must be sent to the membership 30 days before the annual meeting where its adoption will be voted upon. This is the first of 3 pages.

League of Women Voters of Lehigh County
Proposed Budget to be Presented at the Annual Meeting

July 1, 2023—June 30, 2024

(continued from page 4)

	Actual	BUDGET	Actual to	BUDGET
	7/01/21-	7/01/22 -	7/01/22-	7/01/23 -
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>6/30/2022</u>	<u>6/30/2023</u>	<u>2023 (Jan.31)</u>	<u>6/30/2024</u>
A. Operating Costs				
1. Liability Insurance	\$278.69	\$300.00	\$299.58	\$325.00
2. P.O. Box	83.00	166.00	166.00	100.00
3. PA Sales & Use Tax	0.00	0.00		0.00
4. Miscellaneous	<u>85.00</u>	<u>50.00</u>	<u>42.89</u>	<u>100.00</u>
	<u>\$446.69</u>	<u>\$516.00</u>	<u>\$508.47</u>	<u>\$525.00</u>
B. Board & Administrative Committees				
1. Officers & Board	\$462.78	\$200.00	\$258.88	\$300.00
2. Administrative Committees				
a. Finance	115.20	100.00	10.59	50.00
b. Membership	334.42	250.00	145.18	250.00
c. Public Relations	<u>28.47</u>	<u>50.00</u>	<u>121.13</u>	<u>100.00</u>
	<u>\$940.87</u>	<u>\$600.00</u>	<u>\$535.78</u>	<u>\$700.00</u>
C. Delegates, Travel, Affiliates				
1. LWV A. US Convention/Council	\$1,325.98	\$0.00		\$500.00
B. PA Convention	0.00	500.00		0.00
2. Workshops, Other Meetings, & Travel Expenses	0.00	50.00		50.00
3. Annual Membership Meeting	<u>0.00</u>	<u>25.00</u>		<u>50.00</u>
	<u>\$1,325.98</u>	<u>\$575.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$600.00</u>
D. Assessments				
1. LWVUS PMP (\$32/48/0)*	\$2,256.00	\$2,208.00		\$2,256.00
2. LWVPA PMP (\$20/30/0)	<u>1,340.00</u>	<u>1,360.00</u>	<u>1,360.00</u>	<u>1,410.00</u>
	<u>\$3,596.00</u>	<u>\$3,568.00</u>	<u>\$1,360.00</u>	<u>\$3,666.00</u>

Continued on page 6

League of Women Voters of Lehigh County
Proposed Budget to be Presented at the Annual Meeting
July 1, 2023—June 30, 2024
(continued from page 5)

	ACTUAL	BUDGET	Actual to Date	BUDGET
	7/01/21 -	7/1/22-	7/01/23 -	7/1/23-
EXPENDITURES (continued)	6/30/22	6/30/2023	2023 (Jan.31)	6/30/2024
SUB-TOTAL BROUGHT FORWARD	\$6,309.54	\$5,259.00	\$2,404.25	\$5,491.00
E. Bulletin - Voter				
1. Supplies, Duplicating	\$165.57	\$150.00	\$165.00	\$150.00
2. Postage	87.30	150.00	61.80	150.00
	\$252.87	\$300.00	\$226.80	\$300.00
F. Educational Activities				
1. Publications (purchased)	\$0.00	\$25.00		\$25.00
2. Program Committees	200.00	50.00		50.00
3. Voters Service				
a. Voters Guide (postage & printing)	791.00	800.00	25.00	800.00
b. Vote 411	0.00	300.00	300.00	0.00
c. Candidates Nights	0.00	50.00	100.00	50.00
d. Citizen Education	551.39	500.00		1,050.00
e. Grants				
* Voter Ed		500.00	481.56	0.00
* DEI		600.00	591.03	0.00
f. Government Directory	992.23	1,000.00		1,050.00
4. "How to Run for Office" Wrkshp	0.00	1,500.00	1,586.16	0.00
5. Citizen Information Telephone	838.60	800.00	249.74	260.00
6. Website/Domain Name	287.76	150.00		300.00
7. Miscellaneous	536.97	50.00	358.28	50.00
	\$4,197.95	\$6,325.00	\$3,691.77	\$3,635.00
G. Position Support				
1. Legislative Action	\$0.00	\$0.00		
H. Reserves				\$134.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>\$10,760.36</u>	<u>\$11,884.00</u>	<u>\$6,322.82</u>	<u>\$9,560.00</u>
YEAR DIFFERENCE (total income	\$982.96	-		
- total expenditures)				

Approved by the Board on February 28, 2023 for presentation at Annual Membership Meeting

Upcoming Hot Topics Luncheons

The March Hot Topics Lunch will feature Darian Colbert, from the Cohesion Network. Darian is the founder and Executive Director of Cohesion. He has served in leadership positions in urban development work since 1999. Through these roles, he has developed partnerships with leaders in universities, the public school system, and the juvenile justice system. Here is how the organization describes its mission:

Cohesion Network is a community-based nonprofit organization in Allentown, PA. Rooted in the city's 1st Ward, we approach our work centered on the belief that people are the greatest asset on Planet Earth. While many see marginalized communities as needy and impoverished, we envision neighborhoods that are thriving socially, educationally, and economically.

Rachel Hogan Carr, our April presenter, is the Executive Director of the Nurture Nature Center. She holds a master's degree in environmental policy design from Lehigh University, where she focused her research on improving flood risk communication through social science. She is a certified floodplain manager. Rachel helped to found the Nurture Nature Center, and prior to that, worked as a community organizer and in urban real estate development.

The Nurture Nature Center (NNC), which is located in Easton, is a center dedicated to engaging the public in learning about environmental risks. On their website you can learn about their multifaceted work. The Nurture Nature Center features a science theatre and four art galleries and hosts a variety of special programming. The premiere exhibit is, "Science on a Sphere," a giant, animated globe from NOAA. Visit Nurture Nature Center's science and art exhibits.

Chris Herbener, Vice President, Program



***VOLUNTEER
AND
MAKE A DIFFERENCE***

**The League of Women Voters
of Lehigh County
is looking for volunteers**

- Website management (training provided)
- Work on special projects
- Board secretary
- Help with Candidate Workshop
- Participate in Community Events
- Create graphics for social media

Legislative Interview Addendum

A four page addendum has been attached covering the recent legislative interviews made by local league members. This was put together by Mary Erdman and Terri Purdy.



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

Please make check payable to LWVLC and mail to:

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