LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF LEHIGH COUNTY

September/October 2023 Volume 71, Issue 2

The VOTER

There was no issue 1 -July/August 2023 of the VOTER

President's Message

Dear Members,

Welcome to a busy and exciting fall season with "our" LWV Lehigh County. Hope each of you had a chance to rest and enjoy the rather nice weather we had this summer. Fall will be here in a few short weeks, and with that comes the following: pushing for voter registration, recruiting poll workers, encouraging voter turnout, and staging candidate forums for local school boards and Lehigh County Commissioners. Hopefully we will get a good response from our candidates, as we have invited them to participate. We have a new Board member- Director of Environmental Policy, Ellen Iobst, who has an exciting project in the works already!

We also have created two new Board positions: **Director of Communication and Public Relations** and Director **of Youth Recruitment** - which we need to keep our League sustainable over the years. We also need to replace our **secretary** who unfortunately had to resign due to a medical issue.

As you can see, we will be asking our members for much needed help this year. Please think about these openings for yourself or someone you think might be interested. We will be working on getting a "younger" person for Youth Recruitment, so if you have someone in mind, *please* send them our way.

Often people dismissively call these upcoming elections "off-year" elections, and nothing could be further from the truth. *Every single election is important* and this year the election results will impact your daily life more than ever. As League members, we need you to spread that message and encourage all your friends to vote. Also, make sure you know for whom you are voting by researching all the candidates- from judges, to local supervisors, school board members, and county commissioners.

Welcome back and see you at "our" events - hopefully you will find the time to participate in some of them! We need YOU!

Yours in League,
Mary Erdman, President

Are You Up for the Challenge? A Friendly League Contest - Who Can Bring the Most Friends to our Hot Topic Luncheons

A little history is in order before we start this next topic. Many years ago, we opened our Hot Topic Luncheons (HTL) to the public. Usually, things went well; but, as time went on, we had people attending who wanted to be disruptive. In fact, some of the uninvited attendees were on the District Attorney's watch list! As we wanted to keep our HTLs safe and friendly, we reinstated the members-only policy.

Recognizing that there might be smarter ways to promote the League's good work and hoping to share our informative Hot Topic Luncheons with interested non-members, we came up with this fun idea- a "Bring a Friend" contest. We will (Continued on page 3)

Community Outreach Report

The summer months have gone by quickly with the inaugural use of the LWVLC tent for Juneteenth held at Cedar Beach on June 17th. Although we experienced a few sudden rainfalls it was a pleasant afternoon and we welcomed a number of new members to our tabling experience.

Throughout the summer Allentown Parks and Recreation Department sponsors Movies in the Park at different community parks throughout the city. We have been able to attend pre-movie events at Stevens Park in July and at Percy Ruhe in August. The September Movies in the Park will be held on Saturday the 15th at the Arts Parks in Allentown with a 5pm start time for pre-movie activities.

The LWVLC was invited to school opening events at Harrison Morton Middle School and Sheridan Elementary in Allentown. At both schools excited students got a preview of schedules, athletics, and activities. Events like these give us an opportunity to talk with parents about the importance of voting, especially because the young ones at home are not able to vote.

On September 16th we will be at the Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living for a LWVLC presentation on voting basics and the November Election. The interns at LVCIL are a lively, interactive, and responsive group of young adults.

That afternoon the Allentown Parking Authority will celebrate International Parking Day at their office location at 603 W. Linden Street. Our league is participating as a sponsor for this event providing a raffle prize including LWV information. The APA event also includes a donation drive for the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank and the Sixth Street Shelter.

The Halloween Walking Parade 2023 takes place on Saturday, October 27th from 11 am to 2pm on Hamilton Street. By eliminating moving vehicles the event allows families and children to enjoy music, dance, and vendor exhibits in a safe environment. We will have a chance to show our creative spirit as we join the ***Walking Parade*** for the first time. Ideas and participants encouraged!

The LWVPA has provided local leagues with postcards for the GOTV initiative for the November election. The postcards focus on using ***www.vote411.org*** asking ***Have You Made Your Voting Plan?*** We will be able to use the postcards for tabling events and also provide them to local libraries, senior centers, and community organizations. These groups look forward to providing citizens with election resources and especially appreciate our efforts to provide up-to-date information.

Barbara Connolly, Vice President, Community Outreach

Membership

We will be kicking off the 2023-2024 League season with 3 new members. Our total membership now Is 83.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if 83 League members attended our upcoming Hot Topic Luncheon? What an impression our membership would make upon State Senator Coleman and Representative Schlossberg at the September 11 meeting at Madeline's!

That's just the beginning of our busy, transformative year as active and involved League members. And don't forget to "Bring a Friend" along and enter our contest. Check out the LWV Lehigh County website for more information and upcoming events.

Margie Dunn, Membership

Michelle Graupner, Molly Faust and Penny Holman working Voter Registration table at Juneteenth celebration at Cedar Beach.

Hot Topic Luncheon—A View from the PA House and Senate

September 11th is our first Hot Topic Luncheon of the season, and it falls on a memorable day. Two of our legislators have graciously accepted our invitation to address our members and friends about what to expect this fall in Harrisburg for the rest of the Session.
The Honorable Jarrett Coleman, (R) Senate District 16, and the Honorable Mike Schlossberg, (D) House District 132 and Democratic Caucus Chair, will honor us with their presence. They will also be speaking about themselves and their own plans for this year.

It is a sign of bipartisanship to have both major parties represented on the same day. You will probably be surprised to see that there really is a sense of camaraderie among our legislators; they are not as unfriendly towards each other as you may think.

In honor of September 11th, we are asking each attendee to bring some nonperishable food products (there will be boxes to place them in) which Barbara Connolly will be delivering when we participate in *International Parking Day* in Allentown for the Ecumenical Food Bank. So, please get those canned and boxed items ready. We will send you a reminder, so please attend our inaugural meeting for this year and become better acquainted with these legislators. Let's make the day memorable!

We will have our usual Q & A opportunity; however, PLEASE do not ask accusatory or unnecessary questions at our luncheon. It is not a debate, and we will not tolerate partisan comments! We want our legislators to feel welcome and eager to return in the future. Remember it is a luncheon and it is an informative event, not a political event.

Thank you! See you on September 11th!

Senator Jarrett Coleman

Representative Mike Schlossberg

Friendly League Contest (continued from page 1)

keep track of the new friends who attend during the year, noting with whom they attended. The member who has brought the most guests will be announced at our April Hot Topic Luncheon.
Are you game? By the way, "friends" can be daughters, grandchildren (of course young adults and up), co-workers, cousins, your favorite legislator, your librarian, or your significant other - you get the idea.

The first Hot Topic Luncheon is September 11th. Speaking will be Senator Jarrett Coleman (R), and House Representative and Democratic Caucus Chair, Mike Schlossberg (D), who have graciously agreed to give us an update as what to expect this fall. We want a *great* audience for them. In October, we will have our Congresswoman Susan Wild, a League member, who will stop by and tell us what she has been up to this Session.

We want to fill the room with members and friends all year long, so start asking and we will keep notes on how many friends you bring this year.

Good luck to all!

Spotlight

Ellen Iobst

Ellen Iobst is a new member to the League of Women Voters of Lehigh County. However, she is not new to the Lehigh Valley. She grew up in Coopersburg and graduated from Southern Lehigh High School. Ellen attended college at Lehigh University following in the footsteps of her father and grandfather.

After graduating from Lehigh University as a Chemical Engineer, Ellen went to work for Procter & Gamble in Manufacturing. For 38 years, Ellen built a career of manufacturing and supply chain expertise at Procter & Gamble, The Sunny Delight Beverages Co. (SDBC) and Farmer Brothers Coffee (FBC). Her roles in manufacturing and supply chain took her to various states across the country. While at SDBC, Ellen also developed an expertise in Sustainability. In 2007, as the SVP of Supply Chain and Chief Sustainability Officer, she and her team created the company's first Sustainability Program. After 3 years of implementation, all her facilities achieved "Zero Waste to Landfill". Upon retirement from FBC, Ellen moved back to the area 2 years ago to be closer to her family.

Ellen strongly believes in giving back to her community. While living in Texas, she was a member of the LWV of Grayson County. In Ohio, she was a member of the Girl Scouts of Western Ohio Board of Directors. Now that she is back in the Lehigh Valley, she has continued to get involved. Ellen is a member of the Girl Scouts of Eastern PA Board of Directors, she is a member of the Greater Valley YMCA Board of Directors, a member of the Lower Macungie Township Environmental Advisory Council and recently became a member of the LWV of Lehigh County Board as the Director of Environmental Policy.

When Ellen isn't doing her volunteer work, she is spending time with her family, hiking or traveling. Ellen and her husband live in Lower Macungie Township. They have two children. Her daughter, son and his wife all live and work in the Boston Area.

Environmental Policy Report

We are all feeling the effects of extreme weather and the impacts of climate change. Whether it is the impact from flooding, wind damage, extreme heat, poor air quality, etc., we all have been affected by it. The League of Women Voters Lehigh County's position on the environment is that we must protect our planet from the physical, economic and public health effects of climate change while also providing pathways to economic prosperity.

Over the coming months, the LWVLC will be studying what we can do to support climate change state legislation while our communities continue to grow. We will also be exploring ways that we, as individuals, can have a positive impact in our local communities, neighborhoods and our own backyards. We want to provide educational information on what we need to do now and how to protect ourselves and our environment from current issues as well as potential issues.
While the issue is vast, we want to share the information on how you as an individual can make a difference to have a positive impact on fighting climate change.

Please continue to look at The Voter and on our website, https://lwvlehighcounty.org/, for more information.

Ellen Iobst, Director, Environmental Policy

Ellen's backyard pollinator garden.

LWVLC Community Outreach Events

Event Date	Event Name/Location
Friday, Sept. 15 11 am -2 pm	**International Parking Day** Allentown Parking Authority 603 W. Linden Street
Friday, Sept. 15 TBD	**Presentation/ Interns** Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living
Saturday, Sept. 16 5 pm	**Movies in the Park** Arts Park
Saturday, Oct. 28 11 am - 2 pm	**Halloween Walking Parade** Hamilton Street
Saturday, Oct. 28 4 pm	**Movies in the Park** Midway Manor

Contact Barbara Connolly if you are interested in helping with any of these events. (610) 216-9448.

Naturalization Ceremonies September 26, 2023
December 6, 2023

Contact Caryn Shoenthal if you are interested in helping at any of these events. Her contact information is in the LWVLC Membeship Handbook.

Staff of Allentown Parking Authority (APA) at Block Party held at Sheridan Elementary, Allentown

Michelle Graupner and Caryn Shoenthal represent the league at recent Naturalization ceremony.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF LEHIGH COUNTY

League of Women Voters of Lehigh County
P.O. Box 3275
Allentown, PA 18106

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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 <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 2023

$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