



Chester County VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Chester County, PA

610-644-5960

www.lwvccpa.org

Spring 2016

Keep up to date with the League! Sign up for updates at: www.lwvccpa.org

Connect with us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/LWVofChesterCounty

President's Message

Susan Carty

sc51446@aol.com

PART 1 – ELECTION CYCLE “CHECK”!

PART 2 – ELECTION CYCLE – BUMPY ROAD AHEAD!

Happy Spring and thank you for voting! The good news is that precincts across Chester County experienced almost no concerning issues as was also the case across Pennsylvania. What has become a commonly accepted condition though is the serious matter of turnout. And although that turnout rate was comparatively higher to previous Presidential primaries, it continues to be concerning for its long term impact on our democracy. For many voters, it truly is a challenge to vote when they believe they have no candidate exciting enough to register their choice. That is and could be unfortunate. As we like to say in the League, “Democracy is not a Spectator Sport!”

A note of interest for the League: at both the local and the state levels, we experienced a high degree of inquiry regarding the topic of “delegates” with focus on their impact and influence in the outcome of elections. The notable difference in the governing rules and number of delegates between the two major political parties led to many discussions and many more unanswered questions. The delegate systems are complex at minimum and lead many to consider the value of their individual vote.

As the **Part 2** Election Cycle advances we can be assured that there will be additional topics introduced via the media that in the past would have been considered to be insignificant or un-noteworthy. But now today we are in full- fledged discovery mode.

One topic that has been quickly elevated for our review is the concept of: ***What it means to be “Presidential”***? The results of a survey on this question might reveal a series of distinguishing characteristics for review, such as: Style? Manner? Tone? Dress? Face? Body type? Gender? Voice? You get the picture. What about those important features we call “issues”? Will they be lost in the battle? There is much talk about the bumpy road ahead for this **Part 2** phase. Voters want to hear candidates’ views on issues and also candidates’ solutions to current and future issues. They truly want to make a wise and informed decision.

It will be our job to maneuver those bumpy roads and to encourage our voters to hold strong and do the same. We owe it to ourselves and to the integrity of our democratic system! Buckle up!!

In League,

Susan Carty, President

Save the Date for the League’s Annual Luncheon!

June 28 at the Elks Club in West Chester Cost: \$25 – more details to come!

Budget Committee News

Dear Members,

As usual we are dealing with a very tight budget. More goes out than comes in so we continue to go into our savings to balance the budget. We do lots of volunteer work in the community. Much of our copying and printing is contributed as a gift in kind. Raising our membership dues was a help. Unfortunately, it is not enough to cover our financial needs.

We used our current paying membership of 61 full and 6 halves to estimate dues income and PMP expenses. Much work has been done this year to check on exactly how many members we have.

We have a shortfall of \$2316.50. We must decide how to cover it through fund raising, our Education Fund, or savings. For Fund Raising this past year we got \$195 from Boscov’s and \$297.43 from our Signature Fund Raiser in September. Our goal this year is \$2500. We already have a Fundraiser letter out with our annual dues notice. We are also seeking information on corporate sponsorship. If you can help please let us know.

Our annual meeting will be held at noon, June 28 at The Elks Club in West Chester again. The cost is \$25. Our theme is the “Criminal Justice System” and our speaker is Judge Sprecher who authored Justice or Just This. More information is coming!

Our signature fund raiser will be held in September. Stay tuned!

Pamela Gray, Budget Chair

Carole Mackrell, Treasurer

	A	D	E	F
1	LWVCC Budget Worksheet for 2016-2017			
2				
3	INCOME			
4			Budget	Budget
5		Year to Date	2015-2016	2016-2017
6	A. Dues			
7	1. Full Members @ \$75 (Est. current at 61)	3,523.34	6,600.00	4,575.00
8	2. Household 2nd member @\$37.50 (Est. current at 6)	180.33	337.50	225.00
9	3. Student Members @ \$20	58.24		
10	B. Contributions			
11	1. Member			
12	a. Cash	528.97	500.00	500.00
13	b. Election Work			
14	c. In-Kind	309.76		
15	d. Restricted use--educational			
16	2. Non-member	50.00		
17	a. Donation for Legislative Directory & Bookmarks	761.17	600.00	775.00
18	3. Memorial Gifts	150.00		
19	C. Other Sources			
20	1. Fund Raisers		2,500.00	2,500.00
21	a. Boscov's	195.00		
22	b. General			
23	c. Signature Fund Raiser	696.91		
24	d. Restricted			
25	2. Interest Income	1.62	3.00	1.50
26	3. Education Fund from PA004		850.00	?
27	4. Ads (VOTER, Directory, etc.)			
28	5. Savings needed to balance budget		142.00	?
29	6. Other	100.00		
30	Total Income	6,555.34	11,532.50	6,076.50
31				
32	Assets As of Dates Shown			
33				
34	Checking Account 3/31/2016	1,589.59		
35	Less Uncleared Checks 3/31/2016			
36	Savings Account 3/31/2016	7,129.49		
37	Total	8,719.08		
38				
39				

	A	D	E	F
40	EXPENDITURES			
41			Budget	Budget
42		Year to Date	2015-2016	2016-2017
43	A. Operating Costs			
44	1. Liability Insurance	140.00	140.00	140.00
45	2. LWVCC Phone	279.11	375.00	400.00
46	B. Board/Administrative Expenses			
47	1. Board Tools/Expenses	115.28	300.00	300.00
48	2. Administrative Committees			
49	a. Membership			
50	1) Directory Printing & Mailing		500.00	
51	2) Recruiting/Retention		200.00	100.00
52	b. Public Relations		100.00	
53	c. Meeting Expenses			
54	1) Meet The Commisioners Event		250.00	
55	2) Other	301.32	100.00	100.00
56	C. Fund Raising	399.48		
57	D. Delegates/Travel/Affiliations			
58	1. State/National Conventions		1,500.00	1,500.00
59	E. Financial Support LWV			
60	1. PMP LWVPA 15-16: 88 full @ \$20 + 9 halves @ \$10			
61	16-17: 61 full @ \$20 + 6 halves @ \$10	1,387.50	1,850.00	1,280.00
62	2. PMP LWVUS 15-16: 88 full@ \$32.00 + 9 Halves @\$16.00			
63	16-17: 61 full@ \$32.00 + 6 Halves @\$16.00	2,220.00	2,960.00	2,048.00
64	3. SEPR (estimated Jan. 2014 membership x \$0.40)		50.00	
65	F. VOTER Printing & Mailing	97.74	350.00	350.00
66	G. Educational Activities			
67	1. Publications Purchased			
68	2. Legislative Directory, Bookmarks	761.17	600.00	775.00
69	3. Local Programs/Study Committees	345.04	400.00	400.00
70	4. Web Site		250.00	250.00
71	5. Other			
72	6. Voters Service			
73	a. Printing & Materials	291.32	400.00	350.00
74	b. Postage	353.08	350.00	400.00
75	7. Voters Guide/Smart Voter/VOTE411.org		450.00	
76	I. Sales Tax			
77	J. Miscellaneous		500.00	
78	Total Expenditures	6,691.04	11,625.00	8,393.00

	A	D	E	F
79				
80				
81	EDUCATION FUND			
82			Budget	Budget
83		Year to Date	2015-2016	2016-2017
84	Income			
85				
86	Phonathon			
87	Member Contributions - Unrestricted	150.00	500.00	
88	Member Contributions - Restricted			
89	Member- Election Work			
90	Unrestricted NonMember			
91	Restricted NonMember			
92	Memorial Contribution			
93	Total	150.00	500.00	
94				
95				
96	Expense			
97				
98	Up to 50% PMP to LWVUS		500.00	
99	Legislative Directory			
100	Bookmarks			
101	Other Voter Service Activities - Voters Guide		500.00	
102	Educational Activities - Grand Jury Report Public Meeting			
103	Total		1,000.00	
104				
105	Education Fund Assets			
106				
107	LWVUS Education Fund PA004 as of 3/31/16			
108	Restricted to Civil Liberties			
109	General Restricted	6.98		
110	Unrestricted (available for PMP)	1,028.38		
111	K W Rauschenberger Memorial Fund			
112	Total	1,035.36		
113				

Membership: Your League Needs Your Help

Patricia Schultz

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610-436-9752

Membership in the League Makes a Great Graduation Gift!

Graduation season is around the corner and a League membership makes a unique and empowering gift to any high school or college graduate! Forego the greeting card and share a personal note with your gift of membership, providing details of how membership in the League has helped you become a more informed and involved citizen. Add a LWV bookmark and a copy of our 2016 Legislative Directory to the mix and send the graduate in your life on his/her way to creating true change in the world!

Annual membership is \$75. You can join by filling out the below form and return by mail to LWVCC at 1442 Pottstown Pike, #238, West Chester 19380 or join and pay online at www.lwvccpa.org

YOUR LEAGUE NEEDS YOUR HELP

VOTER SERVICES

VOTER EDUCATION

GRASS ROOTS ADVOCACY

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

CELEBRATING THE RIGHT TO VOTE

Voter Registration Events
Candidate Forums and Debates
Public Information Forums

OUR GOVERNMENT IN ACTION

Criminal Justice Reform
Redistricting Reform
Campaign Finance Reform

Annual Luncheon
Holiday Open House
State Convention
National Convention

Can you support the league above and beyond your annual dues?

Yes. I want to support my local league above and beyond my annual dues.

Annual Membership Dues: \$75.00. Due on or before July 1, 2016.

Additional Support: \$25.00 \$50.00 \$75.00 \$100.00 Other _____

NAME: _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED _____ Thank you.

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

ADDRESS: _____

Please make checks payable to:

LWVCC

Mail checks to:

1442 Pottstown Pike, Box # 238, West Chester, PA 19380

Voters Service

Mary Lou Dondero
610-692-3299

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION SITES

The timing for all of these sites is 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

May 21 – Owen J. Roberts School, Ridge Road (Rte. 23 & Rte. 100)

June 24 – Coatesville Learning Center, 1425 E. Lincoln Hwy., Coatesville (across from Dairy Queen)

September 10 – Oxford School Administration Bldg., 125 Bell Town Lane (Rte. 10)

October 8 – Gov't Services Bldg., Westtown Rd., West Chester

2016 Election Calendar

October 11: Last day to register before November election

November 1: Last day to apply for civilian absentee ballot

November 4: Last day for County Board of Elections to receive voted civilian absentee ballots

November 8: GENERAL ELECTION

November 9: First day to register after election

November 15: Last day for County Board of Elections to receive voted military/overseas absentee ballots

Chester County Voter Services

610-344-6410 or <http://www.chesco.org/156/Voter-Services>

Education

Toni Keg
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House and Senate Education Committees Hold Hearings on Every Student Succeeds Act

On April 12, PA Secretary of Education Pedro Rivera provided testimony to both House and Senate Education Committees on the implementation of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in PA. The April hearing was the second joint Education Committee hearing concerning ESSA. The first, held on March 14, featured Lee Posey, Education Federal Affairs Counsel for the National Conference of State Legislatures, who provided an overview of Pennsylvania's responsibilities under the new federal law. A third hearing is scheduled for May 18.

Link to March 14 hearing: <http://education.pasenategop.com/031416/>

Link to April 12 hearing: <http://education.pasenategop.com/041216/>

Link to PA Department of Education ESSA timeline/resources:

http://www.education.pa.gov/Pages/Every-Student-Succeeds-Act.aspx#.VzMF2_krl2w

HB 805, “Protecting Excellent Teachers” Passes House and Senate, Governor Vows to Veto

The bill would end seniority-based teacher layoffs (“last in, first out”) and utilize only performance-based layoffs. Governor Wolf has stated he will veto the bill, citing numerous reasons, including its reliance on ineffective teacher evaluation system. For more: <https://www.governor.pa.gov/memo-why-governor-wolf-will-veto-house-bill-805/>

2015-16 Fiscal Code Becomes Law Without Governor’s Signature

On April 24, Governor Wolf allowed HB 1589, the Fiscal Code bill, to become law without his signature. The legislation implements the Basic Education Funding Commission’s recommended funding formula for 2015-16 and provides reimbursement to districts for school construction projects (PlanCon). For more details on this and current 2016-17 education budget discussions, sign up for updates from the Campaign for Fair Education Funding: <http://fairfundingpa.org/>. *The PA LWV is a proud member of the Campaign!*

Environmental & Conservation Issues

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A New Strategy to Address Climate Change: Suing for Community Rights

By Dana Drugmand Truthout/OP-Ed March 8, 2016 (Excerpts)

“If recent headlines are any indication, environmental woes are mounting despite decades of attempts to reverse ecological devastation. A proliferation of environmental statutes, regulations and advocacy campaigns has fallen short of securing a clean and healthy environment for all.

Environmental issues, to be fair, are complex and difficult to remedy effectively. In one sense, they are a symptom of an underlying conflict of a continuously growing global economy pushing up against physical planetary boundaries. Endless pursuit of profit and economic growth has driven us to the brink of ecosystem collapse, whereby various interdependent components of the biosphere - oceans, atmosphere, wetlands, forests, etc.– begin to break down simultaneously. Trying to remedy one of these symptoms – passing a law to ban logging in old growth forests, for example – is almost pointless given the scale of the current ecological crisis.

Indeed, we’ve already tried this approach, creating laws addressing a plethora of environmental issues from endangered species and wilderness protection to air and water pollution. While there have been some improvements, the overall outcome is quite bleak. The United States ranks well below other wealthy nations in terms of environmental protection. A third of our plant and animal species are threatened with extinction, half of our wetlands and 90 percent of our old growth forests have been destroyed; and nearly half of our rivers, streams and lakes fail to meet the quality set by law.

These environmental indicators pointing to colossal ecological decline suggest, that modern environmental law has largely been a failure. The roots of our environmental and social problems are deeply systemic and thus require transformational change. A new system of political economy is needed. A new legal framework based on the ancient principle of the public trust doctrine. It is clear that environmental problems cannot be fixed using traditional legal or political tools. Deeper, structural changes are necessary – ones that address root causes of ecological ills rather than merely treat the symptoms.

The Public Trust Principle

Under this ancient legal concept, governments are trustees with a fiduciary obligation to safeguard natural resources on behalf of public beneficiaries, including present and future generations. The public trust is an inherent element of sovereignty, an unalienable right to sustaining natural resources essential to human survival. It provides a fiduciary frame that gives meaning to environmental law and invigorates it –unseating corruptible political discretion and installing in its place firm property-based obligations to manage natural resources for the long-term security of citizens.”

League Board Meetings occur on the third Saturday of the month. ALL members are welcome and encouraged to bring a friend. Board meetings are a great forum to introduce prospective members to the positive work of the League.

Location: West Chester Borough Hall, 401 East Gay Street, West Chester Time: 10 AM – noon

League of Women Voters of PA: www.palwv.org 717-234-1576

League of Women Voters United States: www.lwv.org 202-429-1965

The Chester County League of Women Voters thanks DG Design for their generosity in designing and publishing our LWV bookmarks. The bookmarks are a handy way of providing useful voter information and election dates and are a big hit at our voter registration events.



*A monthly Update from the Water Resources Education Network
a project of the League of Women Voters of PA - Citizen Education Fund*

<http://wren.palwv.org/wren/index.html>

DISCLAIMER – The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates running for office or political parties.

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