



LWW LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

2017 ANNUAL
MEETING
JUNE 20, 2017

WEST CHESTER COUNTRY CLUB





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's been an interesting year. It started on June 23, 2016 when the United Kingdom rocked the world by voting to exit from the European Union. Stock markets tumbled. Here in the United States, we were in the height of the Presidential Primary Season. At the time, it seemed highly likely that Hillary Clinton would be our president. The United States rocked the world in November 2016 when Donald Trump won the presidential election. Stock markets soared! Life under President Trump has certainly not been boring! Quite the opposite! Some have said that the entire United States is experiencing a nervous breakdown! And in the U.K. on June 23, 2017, Prime Minister Theresa May lost her majority in Parliament. The British pound plummeted. The Financial Times Stock Exchange (FTSE) 100 Index rose sharply. Here at the League of Women Voters, we are holding to our Mission Statement: "The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization whose purpose is to serve the local community by promoting informed active citizen participation in government and by acting on selected governmental issues. The League does not support any candidate or Political Party." The League of Women Voters is almost one hundred years old. We will be celebrating our centennial in two years. Today, we are recognizing and honoring women who have served in the League for fifty plus years. That is an amazing accomplishment, and a testimony to the fact that the League holds steady through political crisis after political crisis! I joined the League in 2012, so it is unlikely that I will live to serve for fifty plus years! However, it has been a tremendously fulfilling five years, and this past year (as tumultuous as it's been) in which I have been your president, has been remarkably fulfilling. We have seen a surge in our numbers this year (due some say to an awakening caused by the unexpected victory of President Trump) and I am delighted that a number of our new members are taking an active part in this organization. We have had several successful events this year - our Signature Event in September - Celebrating the Right to Vote - at which we introduced a number of political candidates to the public; Criminal Justice Conference II in October in conjunction with Justice Rain, Inc. and St. Paul's Baptist Church; Various Candidate Forums; our Meet The Members Holiday Gathering in December; Program Planning in January; Election Law Consensus Meetings; and in April, our first Immigration Forum (in coalition with the Chester County Women's Commission). In fact this entire Booklet is devoted to our Year in Review - And what a year it's been!



God bless you all,

Jennifer W. Levy-Tatum, Esquire

President League of Women Voters of Chester Country





BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

- CALL TO ORDER
- WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
- READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM
2016 ANNUAL MEETING
- TREASURER'S REPORT - CAROLE MACKRELL
 - APPROVAL OF BUDGET
 - STATE CONVENTION REPORT
 - COMMITTEE REPORTS
- ELECTION OF NEW DIRECTORS/OFFICERS
- ELECTION OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE
- LOCAL PROGRAMS - UPCOMING EVENTS
 - ANNOUNCEMENTS/ NEW BUSINESS
 - DIRECTIONS TO THE BOARD



MINUTES OF 2016 ANNUAL MEETING

MINUTES OF THE CHESTER COUNTY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS' ANNUAL MEETING/LUNCHEON - JUNE 28, 2016

Present: Susan Carty, Jennifer Levy-Tatum, Pamela Gray, Carole Mackrell, Val Jean Thomas, Mary Lou Dondero, Alma Forsyth, Jean Goerth, Barbara DeWilde, Sarah Caspar; Pat Horrocks; Catherine Palmquist; Carol Kuniholm.

- The business meeting was called to order by out-going President Susan Carty who welcomed the group. Susan acknowledged the Treasurer's Report in the program booklet. Approval not required, only acknowledgement.
- Jennifer Levy-Tatum spoke on Local Programs. She noted that there have not been many changes over the year. However the LWVPA was instrumental in developing a criminal justice position and that the work began at the LWVCC 2015 program planning meeting. Jennifer read a brief review of the new Criminal Justice Position. Jennifer also mentioned that last year's speaker, Mr. Tom Hogan, reported that Chester County has been relatively flat on drug overdose statistics. Chester County Social Services has done a great job and that prescription for drugs is down.
- Susan Carty spoke on the need for continuing reform for Pennsylvania's Election Law. She noted that Pennsylvania still has a backward policy in the way it votes. In Pennsylvania, we face a strong need to keep watch on how, when, where, and who can vote - this is why the League of Women's Voters is still very vigilant. Susan Carty reported on the changes to the By-Laws, which were made at the National Convention in D.C. earlier in the month: Membership age was lowered to 16 ; Citizen - wording has been changed to "Person".
- Susan Almeida, newly appointed Executive Director of the State Board, was invited to say a few words regarding the league's goals. She made the following points: Strengthen the League. Honor the legacy of work already done over the last 96 years. Embrace relevance and sustainability. Increase communication between local leagues and the state leagues. Raise the profile of the League. Focus on great work we do. Press releases should go out broadcasting our work and explaining why we do it. This is critical to our success. We help everyone know they have a voice.
- Election of Officers and Directors – Carol Kuniholm made a motion to accept the slate presented by the Board. Alma seconded. The vote was unanimous.

MINUTES OF 2016 ANNUAL MEETING

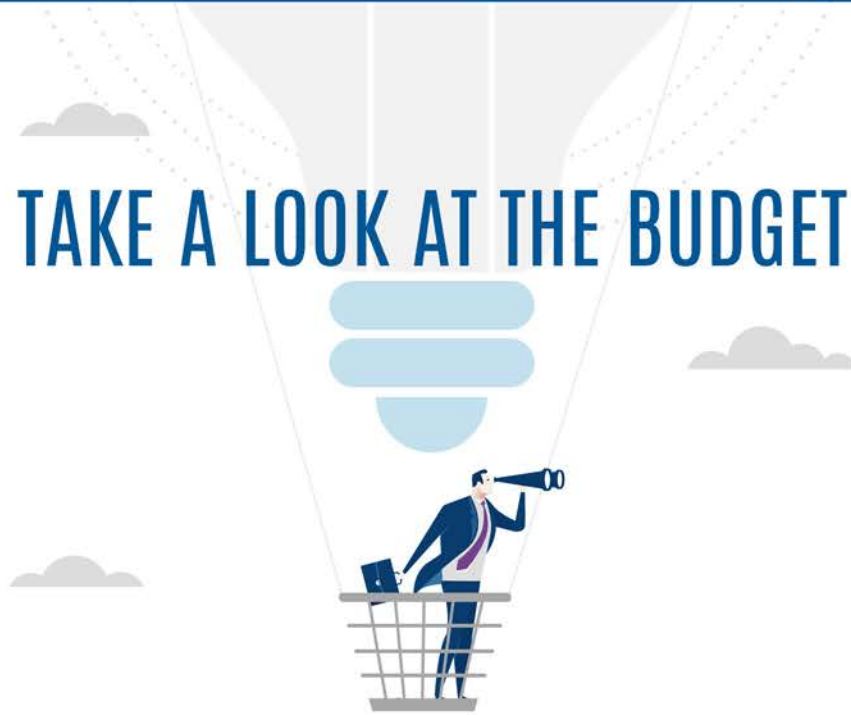
- Luncheon Speaker - Judge Jeffrey K. Sprecher made a lively and interactive presentation about mandatory sentences and sentencing guidelines from a Judge's perspective. He is the author of the book "Justice or Just This" and is not in favor of either mandatory sentences or sentencing guidelines.
- Jennifer thanked everyone for attending and made a plea for additional members. She reiterated what we do and described our four signature events: Annual Luncheon; September Event - Celebrating the Right to Vote OR Our Government in Action; December Holiday Open House; and Commissioner's Forum
- The meeting was adjourned by newly elected president, Jennifer Levy- Tatum.

• Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie Jean Thomas

Secretary

TAKE A LOOK AT THE BUDGET



May 20, 2017

Dear Members,

.....>

There are not many changes in our budget for 2017-2018. With the renewed interest in politics and voting this year our dues income is up because we have many new members. The amount reflects our members as of January 31. Currently we have 81 full, 7 half, and 14 honorary members.

We are checking into the possibility of selling flower bulbs in the fall to raise funds.

Most expenditures this last year were what we expected so we kept the numbers the same, except for what we put in for the national convention. It will probably be farther away, which will be more expensive.

Our biggest challenge for the next year will be engaging all of our members. We are desperately in need of people willing to work and serve on committees. Please let us know what areas interest you!

Pamela Gray (Budget Committee Chair)

Carole Mackrell (Treasurer)

Lorrie Maples



MESSAGE FROM MARY LOU DONDERO, VOTERS SERVICE CHAIR

Dear League Members:

The past League year has been a busy and exciting one with a Presidential election, Congressional and State Legislative seats to fill and then a spring Primary for all our local officials. I am so grateful to all of our League members who were definitely up to the task - our long-time members and all our "newbies" anxious to get started.

Please continue to share your ideas and keep up that enthusiasm! There will be much to do in the year ahead!

Thank you for all your wonderful help and support.

Mary Lou Dondero

Voters Service Chair

West Chester Mayoral Candidates

League Debate, Saturday, May 13, 2017



LEAGUE MEMBERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN VOTERS SERVICE ACTIVITIES 2016-17

MARY LOU DONDERO
PAT MILES
GINNIE NEWLIN
TAM WILLIAMS
JEAN GOERTH
BARBARA NICHOLSON
DIANE MAGUIRE
SUSAN CARTY
BARBARA DEWILDE
VALERIE THOMAS
TERRI WHITEFORD
ROSANNE BENNETT
PAM GRAY
BETTY LEIFER
KRISTIN DORMUTH
JAYNE YOCKEY
DR. BARBARA KNICKERBOCKER
JIM DEISINGER
SUSAN LEASURE
P.J. ZALEWSKI
MARY ANN TWAROG
GRETCHEN COLE
DEBRA GALLEK
KATE YOUNG

MARGARET
DALESANDRO
GERI JOSEPH
BARBARA LATHROUM
SUSAN NORRIS
MARILYN KINCAID
CATHY PALMQUIST
JENNIFER LEVY-TATUM
JUDY BELL
CAROL KUNIHOLM
MARGARET WALTON
CAROLE MACKRELL
DIANE LEBOLD
CAROLE RUBLEY
FRAN PIERCE
LORAIN DEISINGER
SUZI HARRIS
STEVE ROBERTS
ANN HILLER
SALLY HILLYER
MARGARET WALTON
CAROL BOSSERT

Voter Registration Events
Naturalization Ceremonies

Candidate Forums/Debates
Talking with Students



COMMITTEE CHAIRS

AGRICULTURE: VACANT

BUDGET: PAMELA GRAY

CIVIL LIBERTIES: VACANT

CRIMINAL JUSTICE: VACANT

FUNDRAISING: VACANT

ENERGY/ENVIRONMENT:

ALMA FORSYTHE

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS: VACANT

MEMBERSHIP: VACANT

VOTERS SERVICES:

MARY LOU DONDERO



OFFICIAL BALLOT - 2017 SLATE OF CANDIDATES

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE* PRESENTS THE FOLLOWING SLATE OF CANDIDATES:

OFFICERS

Second Vice President
Assistant Treasurer
Assistant Secretary

Barbara Lathroum
Loretta ("Lorrie") Maples
Vacant

Officers will be limited to serving a maximum of three (3) consecutive two (2) year terms.

DIRECTORS

Mary Lou Dondero
Gretchen Cole
Maria Selke
Loretta ("Lorrie") Maples
Lorraine Deisinger

*Directors will be limited to serving a maximum of two (2) consecutive two (2) year terms.
Nominations May Be Taken From the Floor*

The following officers and directors were elected at the 2016 Annual Meeting:

President
First Vice President
Treasurer
Secretary
Susan Carty
Antonia Keg**
Alma Forsyth

Jennifer W. Levy-Tatum, Esquire
Dr. Pamela Gray
Carole Mackrell
Valerie Thomas
Carol Kuniholm
Sarah Caspar
Patricia Horrocks**

****Indicates Directors who have resigned**

***Nominating Committee:**

**Sarah Caspar; Alma Forsyth;
Lorraine Deisinger; Kate Young**





CELEBRATING THE RIGHT TO VOTE





REGISTERING VOTERS



LUNCHEON PROGRAM

- PRESIDENT'S WELCOMING REMARKS
- INTRODUCTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS
- INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS
- HONORING OUR FIFTY YEAR MEMBERS
- LUNCH
- NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION
 - LEAGUE 101
- OLIVIA THORNE (DELAWARE COUNTY) AND HEIDI GOLD
- ANNOUNCEMENTS
- WRAP-UP



HONORING OUR 50 YEAR MEMBERS

Frances Beer

Penny Caccavo Mary Lou Donder

Alma Forsyth*

Suzanne Lamborn

Lucinda Lohr

Barbara Marshall

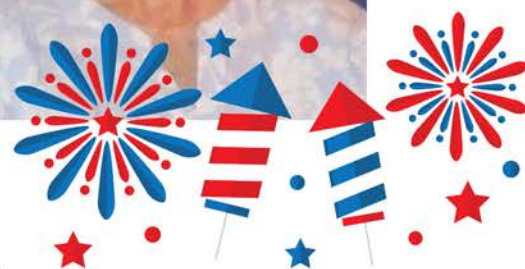
Marjorie Miller

Joan Safford

Karen Satterthwaite

Ruth Vaurio

Ginger Whittingham



Message from 60 year member, Marjorie Miller:

The League has been a mainstay of my civic and community life, and besides being a powerful teaching tool into the governmental process, it has also taught me the rigors of diplomatic cooperation and problem-solving as no other organization could. My 60+ years of LWV membership and activity have developed skills and understanding that have been valuable assets in the professional working world. I wish I could join you for the annual meeting on June 20, however, a three-way conflict on the same day dictates otherwise. With best wishes for a successful annual meeting and best of wishes for a productive year ahead.

With many thanks.

Marge Miller

*Alma Forsyth turns 50 this year!

Congratulations, Alma!



LEAGUE RESUME OF ALMA FORSYTH

I joined the League in Murfreesboro, Tennessee in July 1967. The Murfreesboro League was very progressive. The Murfreesboro Government was democratic with a thriving economy. Home of the Middle Tennessee State University. The Public School system was successfully integrated. There was a great amount of Interfaith Church Intervention. Within the first six months, I was asked to serve on the Board and chaired the LWVUS Electoral College Study.

I transferred to the York Pennsylvania League in July 1970- served on the Board. Co-chaired the LWVUS Congress and the Presidency study. In 1971 the York League hosted the LWVPA State Convention – I served on the Convention Steering Committee.

I transferred to the Southern Chester County League in 1972 – served on the Board as Education Director, Land Use Director, Local League President - 1977-79, County Council Chair – 1980-82. Served on PA State Board as MTS (Management Training Services) Off-Board Director for Chester County and Delaware County Leagues. Also served as Consumer Advocate and Children & Youth Advocate.

1982 to Present:

- In 1984, Chester County Council sponsored a Children and Youth Conference at West Chester University. Topics: Delinquent/Dependent Youth Services, Child Abuse Mentoring Program, Drug & Alcohol Addiction, and Truancy.*
- In 1989 – Chester County Council sponsored an Environmental /Preservation Conference at the Holiday Inn on Route 100/Route 113*
- 1995 – Chester County Council (Southern Chester County, Central Chester County, Main Line Chester County) merged to form Chester County LWV. I served as Southern Chester County Unit Chair and have served as Land Use Director.*
- 1996 – Chester County LWV- supported Landscapes 1996-2020 Comprehensive Plan, which was adopted July 12, 1996*



2016 ANNUAL LUNCHEON



CRIMINAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE II



On October 24, 1999, Gene and Carol Kent's only child, Jason P. Kent, was arrested and charged with first-degree murder. An Annapolis Naval Academy graduate with an exemplary record, and a source of pride and joy to his parents, he was convicted and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. "Our eyes are open to a whole new world—the prison system. We now see needs we weren't aware of before, and doors are opening to help some of the neediest people in our society." Carol and Gene have founded "Speak Up for Hope", a non-profit which will address prisoner family needs in a way that will compliment existing non-profit organizations.

Carol was the main speaker at the second Criminal Justice Conference organized by the League of Women Voters of Chester County in collaboration with Cornerstone Christian Fellowship, Justice Rain, Inc. and St. Paul's Baptist Church.

Criminal Justice Position of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania

The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania believes that our justice system should be fair to all and that everyone who becomes a part of the system should be treated with dignity. The system should be effective, cost efficient, and data driven. Persons should not be deprived of constitutional rights to reasonable bail or effective counsel because they are poor, because they live in a poor community or because it is politically or economically expedient. Barriers to successful reintegration into society, including damaging conditions in jails and prison, restrictions and requirements of reentrants, and legal financial obligations that realistically cannot be paid, should be minimized.



MEET THE MEMBERS HOLIDAY GATHERING DECEMBER 2016



There was lots of delicious food and camaraderie at the LWVCC Holiday Gathering, held Sunday December 18, 2016 at WINDON HALL, home of Bret Binder, Esquire, law partner of LWVCC President Jennifer Levy-Tatum. Bret graciously offered his historic home for the party. Jennifer's homemade soup and Valerie Thomas' chili with cornbread were welcome on the chilly afternoon, as well as the delicious pies and cookies made by board and new members. A good time was had by all.



WOMEN'S MARCH ON D.C. JANUARY 21, 2017



Tam served as Women's March Co-Chair for the State of Pennsylvania, Founder and Co-Chair for the Women's March Diversity & Inclusion Committee which has now morphed into the Women's Diversity & Inclusion Activism Conversations Group with over 11,000 members. Tam also coordinated and sponsored several buses through her company, She's It LLC, to bring women to Washington, DC for the Women's March experience. League member Tam Williams gave a lively, animated report on the Women's March in Washington, D.C. to the LWVCC members attending the January 28, 2017 board meeting at West Chester Borough Hall. She talked about how inspiring and motivating it was to be among thousands of women, along with some men, children and young people, marching to show their support of women's issues as the new president and administration take over in the nation's capital. As one of the local organizers, Tammy stayed overnight and met with other women leaders to discuss future plans, of which she will keep LWVCC informed.

FIRST IMMIGRATION FORUM HELD

APRIL 29, 2017



From left – Jennifer Levy-Tatum, President LWVCC; Suzanne Murphy; Ted Murphy, Esquire; Annie Pascarella; and Pastor Evodia.

The Chester County Women's Commission and the League of Women Voters of Chester County co-sponsored a forum on immigration on April 29, 2017. Ted Murphy, an immigration attorney, was the guest speaker, addressing many issues surrounding immigration to over fifty people at Borough Hall in West Chester.

IMMIGRATION POSITION OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises; and provide for student visas. Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.

STATE CONVENTION, JUNE 2017



Gretchen Cole (left) and Jennifer Levy-Tatum share a moment with Secretary John Wetzel of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections at the 2017 Convention of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania. The Convention was held at the Inn at Pocono Manor, in Pennsylvania's famous Pocono Mountains, from Friday, June 2 through Sunday, June 4. Secretary Wetzel served with distinction under former Republican Governor Tom Corbett, and is now serving with equal distinction under Democratic Governor Tom Wolfe. He spoke eloquently and passionately about the social and economic conditions which have caused the United States to be the world leader in incarcerating its citizens; the need for reform in our criminal justice system; and recent accomplishments in prison reform. There has been a significant reduction in Pennsylvania's prison population under Secretary Wetzel's watch.



SUMMER/FALL 2017 LOOKING FORWARD

- July Second Immigration Forum (in conjunction with Berks County League)
(Date to be decided)
- August Regular Board Meeting (8/19/2017)* Fall Voter Registration Begins
- September Signature Event - Our Government In Action Commissioners' Forum
(9/23/2017)
- Oct/Nov Criminal Justice Conference III (Date to be decided) Candidate Forums
- November General Election (Tuesday 11/7/2017)
- December Holiday Gathering



DON'T LOOK BACK AND ASK WHY,
LOOK FORWARD AND ASK WHY NOT



**Board Meetings are held on the 3rd Saturday of each month except July.*



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

• Editor-in-Chief: Jennifer Levy-Tatum, Esquire

• Publisher: She's It LLC

She's It

• Contributors:

Cathy Palmquist

Debra Gallek

Carol Kuniholm

Tam Williams

• A special word of thanks to our Vice President, Dr. Pamela Gray, who master-minded the luncheon portion of this gathering, and to all who helped to make this a successful event.

Thank You



THE END

Move to adjourn...

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"Could we extend the annual meeting? I still
have a lot of complaining to do!"

