

### A Message from the President



Dear Friends:

I am delighted that the League of Women Voters of Chester County is once again able to publish our Quarterly Voter Newsletter, which we have not been able to do since 2016. Kudos to our Second Vice President, Barbara Lathroum, who has assumed the duties of Managing Editor.

Here at the League of Women Voters, we are called to speak truth to power. Immigration is one of the hottest topics of the day. In January 2017, the president of the National League of Women Voters, **Chris Carson**, issued the following statement in response to President Trump's immigration ban:

*"The League of Women Voters is opposed to deportation of non-criminal undocumented immigrants.*

*The League supports cities, towns, counties and states that make a decision not to cooperate with federal deportation and enforcement actions that include non-criminal undocumented immigrants. Moreover, the Trump Administration's orders are of dubious legality.*

*It is simply wrong, and a perversion of the American system of justice, for the Executive Branch to refuse to obey federal court orders.*

*The LWV is opposed to discrimination, including discrimination in immigration, based on religion. The Trump Administration's orders appear to be targeted at Muslims and immigrants from majority-Muslim nations."*

It's a strong statement, but it is in keeping with the League's Position on Immigration. We need to keep this in mind as the Immigration cases work their way through the courts and as we continue our Education series on Immigration. This world should be a better place. It is up to us to change the culture.

God bless you all,

Jennifer W. Levy-Tatum, Esquire

President, League of Women Voters of Chester County



## **SPOTLIGHT ON DEBRA GALLEK**

**By Gretchen Cole**

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Debra Gallek is a 25-year member of the League of Women Voters. Debra joined the League at the invitation of Pat Horrocks. She was proud to belong to a group that once moderated and organized the Presidential debates. Since then she has been involved in some of our local Meet the Candidates and Voter Registration events. Ten years ago Debra stepped up her involvement in the Chester County League when she designed our first website (<http://lwvccpa.org/>). She has continued to update and maintain the website. I sat down with Debra recently to learn about her journey and how our members can help her improve our online presence.

Debra brings a wealth of design and technical capabilities to the League. Even as a child, she demonstrated a lively interest in the printing industry. Her formal career began when she worked as an Editorial Assistant for a marketing agency. In this position she learned graphic design and typesetting for commercial printing. Debra also assumed the lead in transitioning from paste-up mechanicals to fully digital layouts. Later, she joined an Internet Service Provider and managed web design and posting. Eventually, looking for new challenges and more flexibility, she became her own boss, starting her own business, DG Design (<http://www.dgdesignonline.com/>). She has freelanced now for almost a decade, designing websites for small businesses, nonprofits and entrepreneurs.

Debra's contributions to the Chester County League go far beyond the time she donates to our website. She is the point person for any words that need to be formatted and published, whether online, in the media or through our own literature. Debra describes her role as behind the scenes performing "technical chores." She says, "I don't want to lead a revolution, but I'd be happy to move a couple of bricks for you." Her modesty belies all the many contributions she makes to the League. Her contributions include producing the Legislative Directory and the LWVCC Bookmark. In addition, she formats the beloved Voters' Guide every year for publication on our website and in the newspaper.

Debra is part of the Voters' Guide Committee assisting its Chairwomen Lisa Forsyth and Judy Menzel in that endeavor. The publication of the Voters' Guide is a costly project. Besides budgetary concerns, another obstacle to publication was insufficient manpower to produce a comprehensive Chester County guide. Debra has developed a system whereby candidates may access and enter their candidate survey responses securely on our website. This online capability saves hours of CCLWV volunteer time and largely eliminates the need for envelopes and postage. Debra's streamlined process for collecting candidate information will greatly assist Lisa and Judy in producing the Voters Guide.

As the Chester County League webmaster, Debra invites our help with website content. The website is most effective when it's up to date, so she needs timely contributions from our members. She is able to publish any information relevant to League events, activities or active issues. She particularly appreciates receiving photos with short captions and descriptions of the League's events. The Internet is a competitive and visual medium, so if you are at an event and have a phone, take a few snaps, caption them, and send them to us. If you have any documents, reports or links that you think may be useful, please send those to our President for review, and Debra will post those as she is able!

Clearly the League is "leagues" ahead because of her expertise, and we thank her for her faithful and selfless service!

## VOTER REGISTRATION – A CORE VALUE



The League of Women Voters is an illustrious national organization with a history of securing for women the right to vote. The League facilitates voter registration for countless American citizens of *both* sexes. Mary Lou Dondero, chairperson of the Voters Service Committee in the Chester County League, along with the volunteers she recruits, do a stellar job of registering voters. These volunteers appear in high schools, shopping malls, libraries, community festivals and other locations that attract foot traffic. After naturalization ceremonies at the Chester County Courthouse, new citizens may register to vote at a table manned by League members.

### Voter Registration Events

Voter registrations were held on March 15 (Technical College High School), March 16 (after the Naturalization Ceremony at the Chester County Justice Center), March 24 (Courthouse on High Street during the March for Our Lives), March 28 (Ashbridge Manor, Downingtown), and March 30 (Arbor Square in West Chester). Many thanks to Barbara DeWilde, Barbara Lathroum, Nancy & Bob DeHaven, Lorraine & Jim Gessinger, Anita Nolan, Tammie Dowling, Pat Horrocks, Gretchen Cole, Lorraine & Jim Derringer, Alma Forsyth, Sandy Schael, Diane Maguire, Pat Miles, and Susan Carty for manning the Registration tables. Registrations also took place: April 6 at Ware Presbyterian Village in Oxford with the help of Steve Roberts and Judy Menzel; April 14 at Exton Square Mall with the help of Mary Lou Dondero, Barbara Nicholson, and Shirley Warren; April 10 at Owen J Roberts High School with the help of Susan Leasure and Cindy Casey.

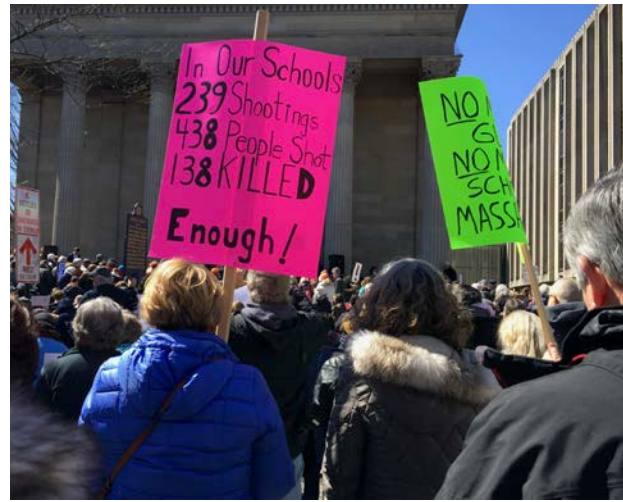
### Other League Voter Services:

- Updated the Legislative Directory which lists gerrymandered Congressional Districts in Chester County. These directories are distributed to the legislators, libraries, township buildings, and all League members. Exelon Generation has continued to support the Directory's publication.
- The League Bookmark: Debra Gallek (our webmaster) prepared and sponsored the bookmark on which is printed useful resources for voting information as well as an Election Calendar. The bookmarks are also distributed to libraries and are a mainstay at the Chester County Voter Services office.

## REPORT FROM THE "MARCH FOR OUR LIVES"

by Gretchen Cole & Barb Lathroum

The League of Women Voters stands with **#MarchForOurLives**, so we were delighted to be asked to support our local students by registering them to vote. We took 10 forms for new voters, shared the online voter registration URL with many others, distributed about 75 legislative guides and pocket Constitutions, and answered many questions about absentee ballots, voting on campus, registration for 17-year-olds, redistricting, and, finally, that vital issue: "Do you know where there's a trash can?"



Local high school students organized the rally in front of the Chester County Courthouse on High Street. So many citizens turned out for the March that they overflowed onto High Street itself. The West Chester Police placed barricades at each end of the block and stood by to direct traffic away from a crowd of about 3,000.

The students provided most of the speeches as well as original songs and poetry. The crowd stood quietly listening to these students earnestly seeking a safe school environment but joined in with chants of “Vote them out!” and “This is what democracy looks like.” The students emphasized that 18 year-olds should register to vote and turn their protest into votes for candidates seeking sensible gun control. West Chester’s mayor, Diane Herrin, spoke along with state representative Carolyn Comitta and a few other politicians. Jay Leno and his wife happened by and expressed their support for the students. But the stars of the rally were the students using their First Amendment rights to speak out for safety in our schools. *This is what democracy looks like!*

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## **VOTER INFORMATION COMMITTEE, LWVCC:**

### **VOTE411**

**by Judy Menzel**

The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania has once again purchased **Vote411** for the entire state, which means we have the ability to cover every statewide and national race. Here at the Chester County League of Women Voters, we are working with the State League to make **Vote411** the only LWV branded voter’s guide in PA. A single voter’s guide allows us to use our collective resources and provide the nonpartisan voter education for which the League is known. It will reduce the amount of confusion by the candidates and allow them to reach the greatest number of people by answering a single questionnaire. Additionally, it will promote the **Vote411** and League brand by directing everyone to the same consistent resource.

In early April email invitations were sent to candidates. **Vote411** allows candidates to post replies themselves, in their own words, to provide a clearer impression of who they are and the platform on which they stand. The **Vote411** statewide voter’s guide became available the week of April 9. Candidates are able to enter responses until May 14, the day before the Primary Election. Locally, in addition to encouraging voters to access **Vote411**, we will be publishing local candidate information prior to the Primary Election in one or more local *print* news outlets.



At our November 2017 Board Meeting, we discussed the general public's unfamiliarity with how our government works. We spoke about the low numbers of voters on Election Day in the "off" years ----years in which voters are *not* voting for President. Instead, candidates in the "off" years run for the less glamorous local, state, and federal offices that most affect people's everyday lives ---- offices like School Board Director, Township Supervisor, or State Delegate. Voter participation is even lower in Primary Elections. In our hectic lives, citizens take for granted that the government will carry on whether they participate or not. Being of a certain age, I remember taking a year-long civics course in 9th grade and Problems of Democracy in the 12th grade. At present, most high school students have the option of taking Government in the 12th grade but there is no course dedicated to Civics. I feel strongly that the League should educate the public about how our government works and why our roles as voters are important.

Toward that end, I wrote a little lesson about Primary Elections and the importance of voting in them. I included some web resources for voters to use in finding out about candidates. The result is a single sheet printed on both sides about Primaries. We want to make it available where we register to vote and perhaps in libraries as well. Check it out and let me know what you think. My email address: [http://blathroum@gmail.com](mailto:blathroum@gmail.com).



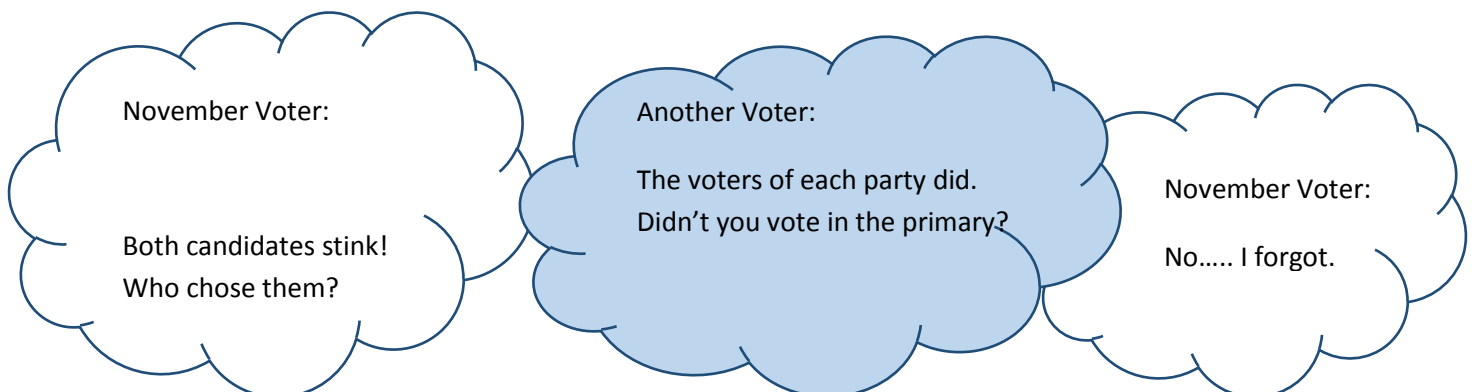
## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CHESTER COUNTY

# EVERY VOTE COUNTS --- ESPECIALLY IN A PRIMARY!

### What is a PRIMARY? Why should I vote in one?

A Primary Election is held in advance of November's General Election. Its purpose is to select candidates to run for office on a party ticket. Primary voters narrow down the choices for the November election.

In Pennsylvania, our primary elections are closed primaries. This means that only voters who register as Democrats or as Republicans can vote to choose their party's candidates. Independents are excluded from voting in primaries in Pennsylvania, except when there is a statewide referendum on the ballot. Non-affiliated voters may then vote on that question only.



Did you know that the Democratic and Republican candidates vying for office in the November 2017 election were selected by only 14 % of the electorate in the May 2017 primary? This means that 86% of registered voters did not exercise their right to choose who would be running for their party in November. To find more representative candidates for whom to vote in the General Election, more people must vote in the primaries. The greater the number of primary voters the more likely the winning candidate's positions will reflect those of his/her constituents. **So VOTE in the primary!**

## How will my one vote change anything?

Ask the constituents of Legislative District #156. Their state representative, Carolyn Comitta, won her seat by only 25 votes. *What if those 25 voters had stayed home?*

## Primary Elections: a 20th Century Development

The United States did not always hold primary elections. In the 1800's, party bosses chose candidates in smoky backrooms making questionable deals to protect their power and that of their political machines. Tired of decades of corruption and cronyism, progressive reformers wanted voters to have a greater voice in choosing candidates for office. Starting in 1900, they worked hard to persuade state legislators to enact primary election laws. By 1913, 25 states had adopted some form of the primary. Since 1948, most states now hold party primaries.

### Preparing to Vote:

1. Inform yourself about the candidates and the offices they are running for. For example, find out what an official like the Prothonotary does. Or find out the backgrounds of all candidates running for judge in the Court of Common Pleas.
- Consult [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org). This non-partisan website is a project of the League of Women Voters Education Fund and is a "one-stop-shop" for election related information, including biographies of state candidates.
- The site <http://www.chesco.org/> offers information about every aspect of voting in Chester County and Pennsylvania, including sample ballots, registration rules, absentee ballot procedures, an election calendar, and official election statistics.
- The non-partisan website <http://www.lwvccpa.org> contains information about local candidates in Chester County. Last year, the Chester County League assembled a voter's guide that was published in *The Daily Local* as well as on the League's website.
2. Based on your research, make yourself a "*cheat sheet*" to consult while in the voting booth.
3. Pennsylvania's primary elections are scheduled to take place this year on **Tuesday, May 15**. Make a plan to VOTE in the primary election.

# YOUR VOTE COUNTS --- ESPECIALLY IN PRIMARIES!

**FAIR DISTRICTS UPDATE: April 2018**

**by Carol Kuniholm**

**April 13, 2018:** Yesterday morning, we witnessed a blatant demonstration of unaccountable government and disrespect for voters and for legislative process.

In a half-hour committee meeting, announced late the day before on the House floor, the House State Government Committee amended House Bill 722 without comment from the bill's sponsors, debate among committee members, or time for committee members to read the gut-and-replace changes to the amendment.

We were alerted by legislators concerned that the meeting was happening without public notice. A quick action alert on social media brought supporters from around the state, who filled the room and hallway beyond. A request for live-streaming and an overflow room were ignored by Chairman Daryl Metcalfe.

His opening remarks asserted that our PA legislature is the most accountable citizen commission possible. His behavior, and that of the committee, demonstrated the exact opposite.

One question, from Minority Chair Matt Bradford about a specific provision of the bill, was ignored completely. A motion to delay so a proper hearing and debate could be scheduled, also from Minority Chair Bradford, was summarily voted down.

You can hear Fair Districts PA Chair Carol Kuniholm explain what happened [here](#).

The amended bill would put in place a redistricting process even more partisan and less accountable than the current process. You can read the Metcalfe amendment [here](#).

We are disappointed at the actions of Committee Chair Daryl Metcalfe, who has ignored constituent and colleague many requests for meetings and hearings. We are also disappointed at the members of the committee who voted for such an amendment without demanding appropriate deliberation.

This does not mean House Bill 722 is dead. Once it's voted out onto the House floor it can be amended again. And progress on Senate Bill 22 continues, with a Senate State Government hearing scheduled for 10 AM, April 24.

While many of us are angry, disappointed and alarmed at this demonstration of legislative dysfunction, **we need to maintain our nonpartisan approach, our insistence on positive civic engagement, and our commitment to genuine, nonpartisan reform.**

At the same time, we need to make clear to all who voted for that amendment that we expect and deserve better, and that we will be voting on this issue in both primary and November election.

FOR MORE ON THIS:

[Committee of Seventy Statement](#)

[City and State: PA House Republicans Gut and Replace Redistricting Bill](#)

[WITF: GOP Guts Proposal for Independent Redistricting Commission in PA](#)

# TAKE ACTION!

1. If you are on social media, do use this as an occasion to point to the need for nonpartisan solutions. You can use these hashtags: #FixHB722 #SupportSB22 #ReclaimingOurDemocracy #PAFlightsBack #EndGerrymandering
2. Consider an op-ed! Write your local paper and express your concern and frustration.
3. Call the State Government Committee Majority Members

Below are the names of the 15 committee members who voted in favor of Metcalfe's unscrupulous, stealthy gutting of HB 722. Their party-line vote recasts the bill in a way that not only validates, but strengthens the state's current hyper-partisan redistricting process. In so doing, the amendment turns HB 722 on its head, reversing the goals of impartiality and transparency of the original version that FDPA supported.

Remind them HB 722 in its original form had 110 co-sponsors - a clear majority of House members and the most of any bill introduced this session - with 38 Republican co-sponsors. And remind them that we have discussed HB 722 in over 400 public meetings, with almost 20,000 PA voters. Those voters expect their legislators to at least give this reform a hearing.

- [Metcalfe, Daryl D.](#) - Chair — (717) 783-1707
- [Barrar, Stephen](#) — (717) 783-30
- [Dush, Cris](#) — (717) 787-3845
- [Grove, Seth M.](#) — (717) 783-2655
- [Hill, Kristin](#) — (717) 783-8389
- [Knowles, Jerry](#) — (717) 787-9029
- [Miller, Brett R.](#) — (717) 705-7161
- [Roae, Brad](#) — (717) 787-2353
- [Ryan, Francis X.](#) — (717) 783-1815
- [Saccone, Rick](#) — (717) 260-6122
- [Sankey, Tommy](#) — (717) 787-7099
- [Staats, Craig T.](#) — (717) 783-3154
- [Walsh, Justin M.](#) — (717) 783-3825
- [Ward, Judy](#) — (717) 787-9020
- [Wheeland, Jeff C.](#) — (717) 787-2885

## Carol's Letter on April 19th: Rally Day in Harrisburg

Dear Friend,

As you read this, buses and cars filled with hundreds of Pennsylvanians who are passionate about the integrity of our representative democracy are making their way toward Harrisburg.





**Even if you cannot be with us in the Capitol today, I invite you to take action from wherever you are.** Collectively, let's send a resounding message to our state lawmakers: We, the people of Pennsylvania, have had enough of your gerrymandering and we want an independent citizens redistricting commission.

[Will you take a moment to use our quick and easy template to email your legislators?](#)

[Will you also email Majority party leaders and members of the House and Senate State Government Committee, where SB 22 and HB 722 are sitting?](#)

In just four weeks, there will be another opportunity to show your support for fair districts and increase our impact - all while close to home. [If you haven't done so already, consider signing up to volunteer as part of our polling place outreach effort on Tuesday, May 15.](#)

Nothing changes until this changes. NOW, LET'S RALLY!



## **From the Information Pipeline on the Pipeline:                   by Sarah Caspar**

### **Local Chester County Events:**

February 14, 2018 at West Whiteland township meeting:

State Senator Andrew Dinniman spoke to township and council members about the need for a Safety Plan for Mariner East 1 and 2 because of incidents occurring in several townships. Such incidents include:

1. Ruptured water lines
2. Contaminations of individual drinking water wells
3. Giant sinkholes emerging due to the karst topography where pipeline drilling has occurred.
4. Lack of safety plans (evacuation plans) for residences, schools, libraries, retirement homes and hospitals in the proximity of the pipelines.

P.K. Ditty, our roving videographer of the pipelines in Uwchlan and adjacent areas, has caught on film the spills and other accidents occurring as well as violations made by Sunoco's crews in laying the pipeline.

There is a new bill in the State legislature that would not allow for the accumulation or accruing of violations but instead each violation would be counted separately (if I understand this correctly). Local Facebook updates come from Tracy Shultz in Wallace township. Reports from Uwchlan township come from Rebecca Brinton, Susan Britton and S. Eyler.

East Goshen township has an active group of pipeline watchdogs. The township's new Democratic supervisor is much concerned with protecting the township from pipeline mishaps.

Friday April 13 there was a rally in Harrisburg to confront Governor Wolf with a "Better Path". The purpose of the rally was to point out to Governor Wolf his failure to protect citizens. The rally participants recommended a "better path" that supports sustainable energy thus creating jobs in PA and that improves infrastructure and schools.

**WATCH OUT FOR BILLS EITHER DILUTING OR ELIMINATING the Department of Environmental Protections in the Commonwealth. Contact your state legislatorsI will try to keep you up to date.**

### **Other News:**

*"What Lies Upstream"*, produced by investigative journalist Cullen Hoback , tells the incredible story of how a vast array of toxic chemicals, including carcinogens and neurotoxins , routinely discharged into West Virginia's Elk River, got into the drinking water of thousands

of residents. This documentary premiered on PBS's *Independent Lens* on April 16 at 10 PM but is available for streaming through [www.pbs.org/IndependentLens](http://www.pbs.org/IndependentLens).

Scott Pruitt continues to weaken the EPA's authority to enforce the Clean Water Act. His actions have seriously impacted the states' abilities to ameliorate the pipeline's negative effects on the water supply. See [https://insideclimatenews.org/news/04042018/pruitt-memo-strips-clean-water-act-regional-epa-authority-streams-wetlands-leverage?utm\\_source=InsideClimate+News&utm\\_campaign=49b5936bfe-Weekly+Newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_29c928ffb5-49b5936bfe-327529533](https://insideclimatenews.org/news/04042018/pruitt-memo-strips-clean-water-act-regional-epa-authority-streams-wetlands-leverage?utm_source=InsideClimate+News&utm_campaign=49b5936bfe-Weekly+Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_29c928ffb5-49b5936bfe-327529533)

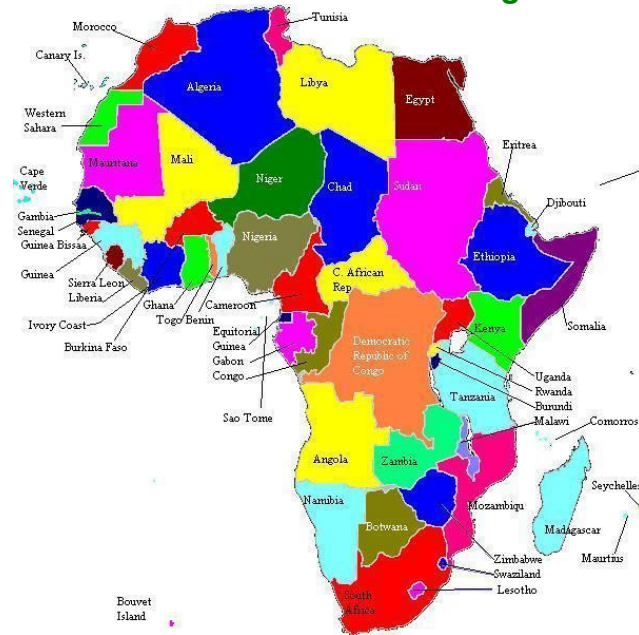
# SAVE THE DATES

## Flyers for some events follow

<u>APRIL 17 &amp; 19, 2018</u>	<u>Africa --- Not Just for Safaris</u>	<u>LWV of Delaware Co.</u>
<u>APRIL 28, 2018</u>	<u>TWO-FOR-ONE LUNCHEON</u>	
<u>MAY 24, 2018</u>	<u>EDUCATION: Second Forum on Immigration</u>	
<u>JUNE</u>	<u>Annual Luncheon at the West Chester Country Club</u>	
<u>JULY 15, 2018</u>	<u>DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES IN NEWSLETTER</u>	

APRIL 17 & 19, 2018  
League of Women Voters of Central Delaware County  
Presents

## ***Africa - A Continent of Fascinating Diversity***



Africa is a continent of fifty-four diverse relatively underdeveloped countries that are attracting more interest and investment from wealthier countries. We import diamonds from South Africa, coffee from Kenya, cocoa from West Africa, go on safaris in east Africa, visit Islamic architecture and Roman remains in Arab north Africa. Our International Study group has spent months looking at different countries and some of the issues common to most of Africa, from Chinese and other foreign investment, solar energy, terrorism and tribalism, and the American presence in Africa. Come and listen to some of our conclusions.

***Our International Study Group will present the same program twice:  
Tuesday, April 17, at 7 PM and Thursday, April 19, at 11:45 AM (bring a brown bag lunch)  
Choose the day and time that fits your schedule best!  
The program will be held in the Parlor Room of Media Borough Hall, 301 N. Jackson St., Media***

Joanna Nealon, President



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CHESTER COUNTY**

# **EDUCATION**



## **SECOND FORUM ON IMMIGRATION**

Documentaries on Immigrant Detention

Special Speaker from South Africa

Thursday, May 24, 2018: 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Justice Rain Conference Center

426 West Gay Street, West Chester, PA 19380



**Refreshments will be served**



*Join us for our*

## **TWO FOR ONE LUNCHEON**

**Bring a prospective member and enjoy lunch  
as we acquaint them with the benefits of membership  
in the League of Women Voters of Chester County**

**Saturday, April 28, 2018, 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.**

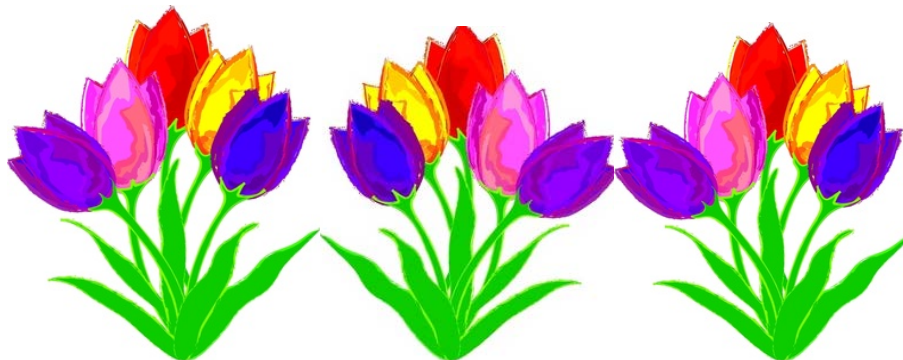
**At the home of Carole Mackrell**

**21 Lexington Manor**

**Glenmoore, PA 19343**

**RSVP** by April 21, 2018 to Carole Mackrell

610-942-9476 or [ckmackrell@aol.com](mailto:ckmackrell@aol.com)



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## **2018 LWVCC NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT – APRIL 19, 2018**

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE \* PRESENTS THE FOLLOWING SLATE OF CANDIDATES:

### OFFICERS

President	Dr. Pamela Grey
First Vice President	Barbara Lathroum
Second Vice President	Vacant
Treasurer	Carole Mackrell
Assistant Treasurer	Vacant
Secretary	Valerie Thomas
Assistant Secretary	Vacant

Directors: Sandra Schaal and Judy Menzel

The following directors were elected at the 2017 Annual Meeting:

Gretchen Cole	Maria Selke
Loraine Deisinger	Mary Lou Dondero

\*Nominating Committee: Alma Forsyth, Loraine Deisinger and Meryle Rothman