



A Message from the President

Dear League Members and Friends:

I write to you today as the newly elected president of the League of Women Voters of Chester County. I am honored to take the baton from Susan Carty, who for the past four years headed up both our Local League and the State League – a remarkable job. Susan has been a tremendous ambassador for us at the State and the National level. She is still the president of the State League and a director of this Local League, and we know she will continue to be our ambassador. We are fortunate to have her.

So what is my vision for the League? Some things are tried and true. Others may need tweaking.

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, and facilitating voter registration for countless American citizens, both women and men. Because this is a Presidential Election Year, numerous organizations are mobilizing volunteers to register voters, but Mary Lou Dondero, chairperson of the Voters Service Committee, and the volunteers she recruits, have been doing a stellar job of registering votes every year for decades. In addition, earlier this year, the Chester County League (under the guidance of Susan Carty) joined “YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE” a Chester County Coalition of local organizations and individuals dedicated to registering voters and getting out the vote. Chester County League member, Tam Williams, is a founding member of the Coalition. Tam attended our August 20 Board meeting and gave the board a very insightful overview of the goals and planned activities of the Coalition. We are reminded that National Voter Registration Day is Tuesday, September 27.

THE VOTERS’ GUIDE – AN ESSENTIAL TOOL

For decades, the public has relied on the League’s Voters’ Guide for non-partisan information regarding the platforms and positions of candidates for office. When I was a newly minted United States Citizen I relied on the League’s Voters’ Guide to help me figure out who to vote for. In those days, the League published the Voters’ Guide in the Daily Local News. In recent years, our budget has not allowed us to publish the Voters’ Guide in the Daily Local, and in this age of technology it has become significantly less expensive to publish information on the internet than to use traditional print media, so we have tended to move in that direction. However, we are mindful that there are significant numbers of potential voters who do not have access to the internet. We also know that there is a large number of voters who will not seek out information, but who will read the Voters’ Guide if it is made readily available to them. We must make the Voters’ Guide readily

available to them. To that end, we are working on collecting information from our local candidates, which we will then self-publish as flyers for placement in our local post offices and libraries – flyers which potential voters can take home with them and read at their leisure. League member Pat Horrocks is heading up the Voter's Guide Project.

POLITICAL DISCOURSE – MOVING DEMOCRACY FORWARD

The League provides political discourse by way of public forums, candidate debates and grassroots advocacy. Advocacy for the League frequently begins at the local level and works its way up through the State League to the National level. A good example of this is the Criminal Justice Position Statement which our State League formulated earlier this year. It began right here in Chester County. When the Chester County Program Planning Committee met in January 2015, we realized that we had no position statement on Criminal Justice. To that end, we formed a Criminal Justice Committee to prepare a Criminal Justice Presentation for caucus at the State Convention in June 2015. The caucus was remarkably well received and the State Convention voted unanimously to undertake the state-wide study of Pennsylvania's Criminal Justice System, which led to the adoption of our newly minted Criminal Justice Position:

LWVPA Criminal Justice Position in Brief

LWVPA 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.

In the meantime, having headed up the Chester County Criminal Justice Committee, I was asked to prepare a similar presentation for caucus at the National Convention, which took place in Washington DC in June 2016. The presentation was equally well received at National. Many State and Local Leagues have adopted criminal justice positions and have been working diligently for criminal justice reform. There is a lot of synergy there. We are a little late to the party, but we are working diligently to catch up. To that end, the Chester County League has joined with Justice Rain, Inc., Cornerstone Christian Fellowship Church, and St. Paul's Baptist Church to sponsor a **Criminal Justice Conference, which will take place on Thursday, October 27, 2016 in West Chester.** The Keynote Speaker at that event will be renowned national speaker, Carol Kent (more at: <http://www.carolkent.org/>). The goal of the Conference is to educate the public regarding the issues faced by inmates and their families, and to give inmates and their families the tools to deal effectively with their new normal.

SIGNATURE EVENTS – RAISING THE PROFILE OF THE LEAGUE

Since joining the League in 2012, I have made it my mission to raise the profile of the League within our local community. Two years ago in September we had our first Signature Event – “*CELEBRATING THE RIGHT TO VOTE*”. Last year in September we had our second Signature Event – “*OUR GOVERNMENT IN ACTION*”. The plan is to rotate these two types of events. In the even years we celebrate the right to vote. In the odd years, we ask our elected officials to tell us what's going on in our government. This year's “*Celebrating The Right to Vote*” event will be held at West Chester Borough Hall on Saturday, September 24, 2016 (more information below). Please invite your friends and relatives. We're looking forward to an enjoyable day.

Every year, we have a *Holiday Open House*. This is a free event for League members and friends, and is an excellent opportunity to introduce potential members to the League. We each bring a dish to share. **This year's Holiday Open House will be held at Windon Hall, 803 West Market Street, East Bradford Township, December 18, 2016, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** Entertainment will be provided.

Last, but not least, there is the *Commissioners' Forum*. In 2015 we had some scheduling difficulties, so we collapsed the Commissioner's Forum into the "Our Government in Action" event in September. Those who attended the "Our Government in Action" event will agree the Commissioners Panel was very successful. The Commissioners did a stellar job of bringing us up to date with reliable information about our County. **We plan to hold the Commissioners' Forum in March 2017.**

EXPANDING AND STRENGTHENING STANDING COMMITTEES

I am a firm believer in working by committee. It is impossible for anyone person to get everything done. Therefore, I am pleased to announce that we now have a Media Committee. We are also working on establishing a Membership Committee. Our beloved and hard-working Meryle Rothman will be moving to Philadelphia in the fall, and we will need several people to replace her! Also, in light of the frenetic activity surrounding voter registration and voter turn-out in this Presidential Election Year, we are also expanding our Voters Service Committee. Please let me know if you are interested in becoming a member of either the Membership Committee or the Voters' Service Committee.

That's all for now, friends. Best regards to you and yours.

Jennifer

Jennifer W. Levy-Tatum, Esquire

President

League of Women Voters of Chester County

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

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



About Jennifer W. Levy-Tatum: Jennifer entered Widener University School of Law as a Widener Scholar in 1994. While at Widener, she was selected as a Redding Fellow by the Delaware State Bar Association. She won the Judge G. Fred DiBona oral argument competition in 1995 and graduated *cum laude* in 1997. Thereafter, she joined the law firm of Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP, in Philadelphia, where she practiced general real estate law. She is presently a partner with the law firm of Binder & Canno, LLC in West Chester, Pennsylvania.

As a partner at Binder & Canno, Ms. Levy-Tatum concentrates her practice in real estate, probate and estate matters. She has handled multi-million-dollar real estate transactions in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. She has appeared before zoning hearing boards, planning commissions, city councils and taxing authorities in various municipalities. She has litigated cases in Orphans' Court, the Court of Common Pleas, and the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania. She has served as an arbitrator in the Chester County Court of Common Pleas since 1999. She has provided legal review for the office of the general counsel of American Water Enterprises in Voorhees, New Jersey. She has served as general counsel for the DeBaptiste Organization in West Chester, and board counsel for Phoenixville Homes in Phoenixville. From 2003 to 2006, she taught paralegal studies at The PJA School in Upper Darby, and from 2006 to 2011 she was an adjunct professor at Eastern University, teaching Business Law and Business Ethics. She is presently adjunct professor of Law at Temple University Beasley School of Law, where she teaches Contract Law and Professional Responsibility in the International LLM program.

As an undergraduate, Ms. Levy-Tatum was named Jamaica Scholar by the Jamaica Department of Education. She graduated with Honors from the University of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica, where she was named the Lincoln Juarez Scholar. Thereafter, she obtained a Graduate Diploma in Education, with distinction in the theory and practice of Education. A fluent speaker of Spanish, she taught Spanish and English in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. She joined the Prudential Insurance Company in Wayne, Pennsylvania in 1987. While at the Prudential, she became a Fellow of the Life Underwriter Training Council, a Chartered Life Underwriter, and was named Agent of the Year for 1988 by the General Managers and Agents Association of Philadelphia.

Ms. Levy-Tatum served on the Zoning Hearing Board of West Bradford Township from 2001 to 2009. In 2007 she was the endorsed Democratic Party candidate for Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Chester County. She is presently Judge of Elections for West Bradford Township Precinct Two. Ms. Levy-Tatum has been a member of the League of Women Voters of Chester County since 2012. She served as First Vice President from 2014 to 2016. In 2015 she was instrumental in encouraging the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania to initiate a study of Pennsylvania's Criminal Justice system. She is one of two Criminal Justice Specialists for the State League. She was elected President of the League of Women Voters of Chester County at the Annual Meeting in June 2016.

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.

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, September 17, 2016

Location: West Chester Borough Hall, 401 East Gay Street, West Chester

Time: 10 AM –noon

Voter Services

In this important pre-election season, League members throughout Chester County are busy making sure that all eligible residents are registered to vote. Many events have taken place and many more are planned, but new ideas are always welcome. If you have suggestions for new registration venues, please give me a call. Volunteers will also be needed for future events, so if you have an hour or two to give, please let me know. Many thanks to everyone who makes League activities possible!

Voter Registration Events

July 1	Shop Rite of West Chester Mary Lou Dondero, Pat Miles, and Ginnie Newlin
July 1 & 2	Sam's Club Tam Williams
July 7	Uwchlan Community Day Jean Goerth, Barbara Nicholson, Dianne Maguire
July 28	Bellingham Senior Living Susan Carty
July 30	Healthy Families Block Party – Coatesville Barbara De Wilde, Valerie Thomas, Terri Whiteford
August 5	Naturalization Ceremony Mary Lou Dondero and Valerie Thomas
August 19	Back to School Block Party – Coatesville Valerie Thomas and Rosanne Bennett
August 23	Friends Home – Kennett Square Pam Gray
August 25	VA Medical Center – Coatesville Barbara De Wilde and Betty Leifer

August 27 & 28	Move In Days – West Chester University Susan Carty
September 20	Owen J. Roberts High School Susan Leasure and P.J. Zalewski
September 27	National Voter Registration Day Phoenixville Public Library Susan Leasure and P.J. Zalewski
October 1	Exton Square Mall (volunteers needed)
November 4	Naturalization Ceremony (volunteers needed)

A voter registration table will be part of our League event on September 24. Additional dates will be added as they are arranged.



Candidates' Debate

October 23 – Borough Hall, West Chester
Senator Andy Dinniman and Jack London (19th Senatorial District)
2:00 pm – 3: 30 pm
(volunteers needed)

“Friends Helping Friends”

This year on October 18, the Boscov Department Store will mark the 20th anniversary of “Friends Helping Friends,” an annual event in support of non-profit organizations. A “Shopping Pass” costing \$5.00, which stays with the League, provides a 25% discount on merchandise throughout the store along with a chance to win a \$100 or \$500 shopping spree. This day is the perfect opportunity to shop for not only personal and household needs, but also to purchase birthday and holiday gifts. Please give me a call if you would like a “Shopping Pass” for yourself or friends and family.

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.

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

SAVE THE DATE!!!



Celebrating the Right to Vote!!

**Saturday, September 24, 2016 -11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Borough of West Chester, Municipal Building**

Featuring:

Historic Guest Appearance (Inez Milholland)
Entertainment
Lunch catered by Arianna's of West Chester
Meet the Candidates (after lunch)
Feature film: "Swing Vote" (Kevin Costner, 2008)
Historic Displays throughout the day
Voter Registration throughout the day

SUPPORT THE LEAGUE - \$30.00 PREPAID or AT THE DOOR

Mail check to LWVCC, 1442 Pottstown Pike #238, West Chester, PA 19380

To give us an accurate count for lunch, email: pag172@aol.com

Education

PDE Recommends Options to Replace Keystone Exams as Graduation Requirements

Per provisions of Act 1 of 2016 (SB 880), the PA Department of Education released its report regarding high school graduation requirements. PDE recommends four options to replace the mandate for students to pass Keystone Exams:

- **Option 1:** Achieve an identified composite score, based on the combined performance across all three Keystone exams
- **Option 2:** Achieve equivalent score(s) in standards-based subject matter content area(s) on one of the alternate assessments approved by PDE (such as an SAT, PSAT, ACT, AP and/or IB exam)
- **Option 3:** For students who are identified as Career and Technical Education Concentrators, demonstrate evidence of readiness for postsecondary success through National Occupancy Competency Testing Institute (NOCTI)/National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) Skills assessments or Competency Certificates
- **Option 4:** Demonstrate competency in standards-based subject matter content through course grades or assessments plus evidence related to postsecondary plans that demonstrate readiness to meaningfully engage in those plans.

Further, the Department recommends the discontinuance of project-based assessments and the ability for schools to decide if they want to include Keystone Exam scores on student transcripts. Full report can be viewed on PDE website: <http://www.education.pa.gov/Documents/K-12/PDE%20Act%201%20Report.pdf>

Environmental Committee Report

LWVCC Environmental Committee Annual Report 2015-2016

The LWVCC Environmental Committee continues to promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems: resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.

Pennsylvania courts have acknowledged that citizens of Pennsylvania have constitutional rights as stated in Article I Section 27: The people have a right to clean air, pure water and to the preservation of natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people.

A fair reading of Section 27 is that it created a public trust in the state government to ensure the preservation of the state's natural resources.

Pennsylvania courts have ruled that local governments have the right and responsibility to strengthen ordinances to protect the environmental quality for the health, welfare, and safety of its citizens.

Under the public trust principle, governments are trustees with a fiduciary obligation to safeguard natural resources on behalf of public beneficiaries, including present and future generations. It provides a fiduciary frame that gives meaning to environmental law and places firm property-based obligations to manage natural resources for the long term security for citizens.

Another attempt at addressing the failure of the current legal/regulatory system is emerging at the local level. The community rights movement shifts the legal framework to assert the rights of communities and nature. Pioneered by the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund, this approach, involves communities enacting “community bills of rights” – ordinances or other resolutions claiming their rights to local self-governance with commitment to safeguarding the health of residents and the environment.

Alma Forsyth, LWVCC Environmental Committee Chair

More Environmental News from Sarah Caspar, Committee Member:

July and August have been active months both in regard to politics and the environment. On Sunday, July 25, sponsored by the Chester County Chapter of the Sierra Club, a group of us greeted and guided people to the March in Philadelphia at train stations along the Paoli/ Thorndale line.

My post was at the Malvern station. Marchers came from Reading and all the way from Athens, Georgia. We rode the train to Suburban Station and walked to the Court House where we met hundreds of people from all over the country, even the world. I talked to a group of Union workers from Iowa protesting fracking. We were there supporting clean energy.

I did not march all the way to Independence Mall. But the experience in the courtyard of the Court House was so amazing and well worth putting up with the over 90-degree heat.

Wednesday August 10, 6:30 PM-9:30 PM at Sykes Student Union, testimony was heard regarding Sunoco Logistic’s proposed pipeline, Mariner East II. Many of us there had attended other hearings lead by PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). We had provided relative evidence at preceding events which PA DEP had disregarded. In addition, we have asked for the SHAPE documents, relating to Chapters 102 and 105 of the permit process and have not received them. They are critical to decision making regarding the final approval of the pipeline.

Roberta Winters, President of the Radnor League gave an excellent presentation as she always does. One amusing incident occurred when the power went out during Sarah Caspar’s presentation. Fortunately, the power did not go off on the microphone. Undeterred, she continued to the end. (Some things are better in the dark).

On September 11th in Head House Square in Philadelphia, the Green Fest takes place. Many environmental groups will table including the Chester County Chapter of the Sierra Club. It should be interesting and fun. More information at: <http://cleanair.org/greenfest/>

DISCLAIMER – The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates running for office or political parties. Any use of the League of Women Voters’ name in campaign advertising or literature has not been authorized by the League



Celebrate Equality Day August 26th!

August 26th is the anniversary of national woman suffrage. Across the seventy-two years between the first major women's rights conference at Seneca Falls, New York, in 1848, and the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment, thousands of people participated in marches through cities like New York and Washington DC, wrote editorials and pamphlets, gave speeches all over the nation, lobbied political organizations, and held demonstrations with the goal of achieving voting rights for women. Women also picketed the White House with questions like, "Mr. President, what are you going to do about woman's suffrage?" "Mr. President, how long must women wait for liberty?" This was the first time in history that a group of people picketed the White House. Find resources at National Women's History Project: <http://www.nwhp.org/>

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.



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 congratulates our new officers and directors for 2016-17!

Front row (left to right): Suzanne Almeida, Esquire (PALWV Executive Director), Sarah Caspar (Director), Alma Forsyth (Director), Jennifer Levy-Tatum, Esquire (President), Dr. Pamela Gray (First Vice-President), Carole Mackrell (Treasurer).

Back row (left to right): Patricia Horrocks (Director), Susan Carty (Director, Immediate Past President), Valerie Thomas (Secretary), Carol Kuniholm (Director)



Thanks to our Voter sponsors – please consider supporting their businesses!



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

Annual Luncheon
Holiday Open House
State Convention
National Convention

OUR GOVERNMENT IN ACTION

Criminal Justice Reform
Redistricting Reform
Campaign Finance Reform

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

Thanks to all of you who have already paid your dues for fiscal year 2016-2017 – and a very special thank you to those who sent in something extra! Already a member? Memberships make great gifts in this presidential election year, especially for first time voters!

CHESTER COUNTY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
THAT HELPS CITIZENS UNDERSTAND AND PARTICIPATE IN THEIR GOVERNMENT.

Horrocks

194 Phillips Mill Road
Cochranville PA 19330