

A Message from the President

Dear League Members and Friends:

I write to you today as the newly elected president of the Chester County League of Women Voters. Replacing Jennifer Levy-Tatum is a daunting task! Under Jennifer's leadership we have accomplished a great deal. All of our work on criminal justice reform, immigration, and gerrymandering has been recognized across the state and beyond. We still have much to do, and we need everyone's help. I intend to continue holding forums on immigration and criminal justice partnering with JusticeRain Inc.

At present, we are busily registering voters. Scheduling debates and forums for the fall has already started. Interest in elections has certainly increased! *Watch for opportunities to help out.*

We hold many social activities throughout the year. Our "Celebrating and Protecting the Right to Vote" event is planned for Saturday, September 22 at the Government Services Center on Westtown Road from 9AM until 2PM in the 3rd floor cafeteria. *Save the date!*

One of my favorite sayings is from Leonardo Da Vinci who said, "I have been impressed with the urgency of doing. Knowing is not enough, we must apply, being willing is not enough we must do."

Best regards,

Pam

Dr. Pamela Gray, President

League of Women Voters of Chester County

Telephone: (610) 431-6850 Email: pag172@aol.com

REMEMBER TO PAY DUES: \$75

PAYABLE TO League of Women Voters of Chester Co.

SEND to Carole Mackrell, 21 Lexington Manor, Glenmoore, PA 19343

OR use PAYPAL by going to www.lwvccpa.org. Click on "Become a Member" to renew.

Fall Calendar

Note: All Members Welcome to attend Board Meetings

Sept. 15, 10am - Noon	Board Meeting, East Goshen Township Building	
Sept. 22, 10-2pm	“Celebrating the Right to Vote”	[See page 8]
Oct 8	Candidate Forum	[See page 9]
Oct. 9	LAST DAY to Register to Vote for Nov. 6 Election	
Oct 15	Candidate Forum	[See page 9]
Oct 21, 10 am-Noon	Board Meeting	
Nov. 6	Election Day: VOTE!!	
Nov 18, 10am- Noon	Board Meeting	
Dec 8	Holiday Party	[Time & Place TBA]

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 and works to eliminate barriers to those exercising their right to vote. Mary Lou Dondero, chairperson of the Voters Service Committee in the Chester County League, and 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: Call Mary Lou Dondero to Volunteer: (610) 692-3229

DATE	LOCATION	VOLUNTEERS
Friday, Sept 7	Car Show in Oxford	Judy Menzel, Fran Pierce
Saturday, Sept 8	“Blues Festival” in Phoenixville (Reeves Park) Noon-10 PM	Ingrid Deckman MORE HELP NEEDED
Friday, Sept 21	Acme in Devon	Joan Berquist, Margaret Delasandro, Jane Lamotte, Judy Wilson, Jean Magargee, Ingrid Deckman
Saturday, Sept 22	Girl Scouts	Karen Gorgonzola, Anne Crowley, Kathryn

		Lewis
Tuesday, Sept 25	National Voter Registration Day All Libraries	Judy Menzel- Oxford MORE HELP NEEDED
Thursday, Sept 27	Bellingham Retirement Community 1615 E. Boot Rd, West Chester 10 AM-3 PM	HELP NEEDED
Saturday, Sept 29	Exton Square Mall, Noon -3 PM	Barbara Nicholson, Shirley Warren, Suzi Harris MORE HELP NEEDED
Saturday, Sept 29	Apple Festival, Oxford, Memorial Park 9:30 AM- 3:30 PM	Judy Menzel HELP NEEDED
Monday, October 8 and October 15	St Paul's Baptist Church NAACP Candidates' Forum	Pam Gray, Moderator HELP NEEDED
Tuesday, October 9	LAST DAY TO REGISTER	
Wednesday, October 10	Great Valley Senior Group	Pam Gray
Tuesday, November 6	ELECTION DAY 7 AM – 8 PM	VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

Other League Voter Services:

- The Legislative Directory: This trifold lists contact information for the state and national legislators. These directories are distributed to the legislators, libraries, township buildings, and all League members. Exelon Generation has continued to support the Directory's publication. A new Legislative Directory will appear soon after the election November 8. The new Directory will reflect the newly drawn congressional districts.
- 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.
- The Voters' Guide lists the candidates for election and their stands on issues in response to a questionnaire submitted to them by the Voters' Guide editors; Judy Menzel and Lisa Forsyth. It will appear about two weeks before the election on November 8.

THE VOTERS' GUIDE: An Essential Tool

For decades, the public has relied on the League Voters' Guide for non-partisan information regarding the platforms and positions of candidates for office. When our former League President was a newly minted U.S. Citizen, she relied on the League's Voters' Guide to help her figure out who to vote for. In those days, the League published the Voters' Guide in the Daily Local News for free. In this age of technology, it has become significantly less expensive to publish information on the internet than to use traditional print media. In lieu of publishing the guide in the newspaper, we will publish a large ad in the Daily Local that will supply the website addresses where the guide may be found. However, we are mindful that there are significant numbers of potential voters who do not have access to the internet. The internet is accessible in every public library. In addition, we will furnish printed copies to retirement communities and libraries and on request.

HELP NEEDED ---HELP NEEDED

Help us prepare the Voter's Guide.

Call or Email Pam Gray: (610) 431-6850 or pag172@aol.com

BOSCOV'S "FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS" SHOPPING PASSES

**Each pass costs \$5 and entitles the bearer to 25% off on all Boscov's merchandise all day
Tuesday, October 16th**

For each pass you buy, the League keeps the full \$5.00

Buy NOW! Sell them to your friends. Call Mary Lou Dondero, (610) 692-3299



SPOTLIGHT ON PAM GRAY

By Gretchen Cole

Pam Gray has only been President of the Chester County LWV since July, but regular attenders of monthly board meetings are long accustomed to her leadership. She joined the League about 10 years ago at the invitation of Susan Carty, and has served as a Vice President with Susan and then with Jennifer Levy-Tatum for six years. Her experience and her knowledge, especially in the areas of the environment and criminal justice, were important qualifications for the role of League President, but it was her willingness to take on this task that really landed her the job.

Pam's special interest in the environment may have started with her birth on a farm in Avon Grove. The area was so rural that she attended a one-room schoolhouse and had to ride a horse to play with neighbors. Pam acquired degrees and credentials through the doctorate level in elementary education, ESL, and the sciences, and went on to teach every age group K-college. When living in Florida, she spent her summers doing environmental impact studies to clear the way for new state roads. She also learned to fly a Tomahawk (small plane) and flew in the cockpit of a C-130 transport while she took NASA classes to enhance her expertise as a science educator. Back on earth, she returned to West Chester to help her parents and to work at Stetson Middle School. There, she had that fateful meeting with Susan Carty, who invited her to attend an education committee meeting. The rest is LWV history!

Pam has a beloved hobby: genealogy. She got interested through her grandmother. In night school, she learned that genealogy is much more than a string of dry "begats." As a birthright Quaker from both sides of the family, she could trace her Southern Chester County heritage right back to the William Penn land grants. Her 4-times-great-grandfather was also known as the "Father of West Grove." She has a treasure trove of family letters dating from 1822, before stamps and before envelopes, including love letters from her forebears. She has also used her genealogy skills to help others with real estate and inheritance matters.

Pam has a habit and form of self-expression that attenders of LWV events appreciate: baking! Since she likes to bake more than she likes to eat sweets, not only the League but also Cornerstone Christian Fellowship's Wednesday night dinner have been the beneficiaries of this talent. *Fun fact:* she also likes to iron. Is there anything this woman can't do?

Pam reports that as President, she spends a couple of hours a day on League matters. Her commitment to the position runs through June of 2020. The League appreciates her service and recognizes the need to plan for her successor, so we are looking for one or more members who would like to train with her for the role. This was how she worked with Jennifer: supporting, pitching in, shadowing and preparing to step into the presidential role, and this is why we are experiencing great continuity even with this big transition.

We are certainly lucky to have Pam and all her talents and energies, and so are the voters of Chester County!

When the League held their second Immigration Forum on May 24, the public outcry against the separation of families at our southern borders was just beginning. What we learned at this well-attended forum was that for-profit immigration detention centers are growing rapidly. Two documentary films: “Immigrant Prisons” and “Immigrants for Sale” revealed that detention centers have become *de facto* immigrant prisons largely run by two private corporations. Conditions in these detention centers are comparable to those in the worst U.S. prisons. The administrators skimp on food, clothing, and sanitation to increase their bottom line. The more immigrants detained the greater the corporations’ profits.

The forum’s keynote speaker was Timothy Phiri, an immigrant from South Africa who has resided in the U.S. for twenty years. Phiri told a harrowing tale of being imprisoned in 1975 and then finally released in 1990 with Nelson Mandela who led the overthrow of the South African government and became its president in 1994. Phiri was elected to the South African parliament in 1994. Because he came to oppose the corruption rampant in the new government, his life was threatened. He applied for asylum in the U.S. but since his government labeled him a “terrorist”, his application was rejected. In 1997, he applied for immigration to the U.S. After many struggles as a recent immigrant, he became a citizen of the U.S in 2014. At the end of Phiri’s speech, Annie Pascarella related the plight of Salvadorans desperate to escape the violence and gangs in their villages and who are denied refuge by U.S. immigration. These applicants scrape together and pay the money which must accompany their appeals and wait hours for an interview to be summarily dismissed in a few minutes. Pascarella herself experienced this treatment before the intercession of a relative who had attained U.S. citizenship.

The LWVCC forum was cohosted by Cornerstone Christian Church and JusticeRains Inc. The League’s official position on immigration is to:

- *Promote the 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;*
- *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.*

In the forum’s audience were representatives from the Berks County League who are participating in a drive to close the privately run immigrant detention center in Berks. Some of its inmates have been detained for months and even years.

(NOTE: The article appearing in The Daily Local provided me with some of the information in this article. The rest came from notes I took at the forum.)

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WHAT CAN ONE PERSON DO??

Susan Carty wrote an email to Pennsylvania’s LWV members recently: “Where is Paul Revere?” At least 10 bills are before the legislature that endanger the environment to the detriment of the health and welfare of all Pennsylvanians. We need a Paul Revere or someone to spread the alarm ---- someone like Susan --- like YOU! What can YOU do? You can contact your legislators and plead with them not to support these bills. Here is Susan’s full email!!

Where is Pennsylvania's Paul Revere?

By Susan Carty, President LWVPA, Board Member LWVUS

PENNSYLVANIA'S ENVIRONMENT IS UNDER ASSAULT, AGAIN... IT IS UNDER ATTACK. THERE IS NO SIMPLER WAY TO PUT IT. PENNSYLVANIA NEEDS PAUL REVERE MORE THAN EVER. AND WE NEED HIM NOW!

IT IS HAPPENING TO US. ALL OF US. OUR FAMILIES, OUR CHILDREN. OUR GRANDCHILDREN, OUR ELDERLY, OUR DISABLED, AND THE YET TO BE BORN FUTURE GENERATIONS.

WHAT IS "IT"?? IT IS THE CURRENT AND MASSIVE LEGISLATIVE ASSAULT ON OUR ENVIRONMENT! THE ASSAULT ON THE INTEGRITY OF OUR ENVIRONMENT. THE ASSAULT ON FUTURE HEALTH OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL PENNSYLVANIA RESIDENTS AND GENERATIONS TO COME! ALARMS SHOULD BE TOLLING ACROSS PENNSYLVANIA AT THIS VERY MOMENT. *BUT, NOTICE THE SILENCE. THE DEAFENING SILENCE. NO HOOF BEATS. NO PAUL REVERE.*

LOOK FOR YOURSELVES. LOOK AT THE OMINOUS LIST OF LEGISLATION FROM BOTH THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE. TEN BILLS! YES, TEN! (10)

1. ***SB 561: Grants the Legislature veto power over any environmental regulation that costs more than \$1 million to the state, to cities, or to private industry. This action would put the legislature in control of virtually all environmental protections (PASSED IN THE SENATE, 29-20)***
2. ***SB 652: This bill makes protesting pipelines a FELONY. It imposes severe penalties for trespassing and in many cases, what are currently summary or misdemeanors offenses are enhanced to second and first degree felonies. (PASSED IN THE SENATE 28-20)***
3. ***SB 977: This bill surrenders the executive power to issue regulations to legislative committees, allowing small groups of legislators to unilaterally block or indefinitely delay any proposed environmental protection.***
4. ***SB 624: Creates a loophole in the Clean Streams Act to allow mining companies to damage or pollute streams based on a promise "to clean them up later", instead of preventing the damage in the first place. This bill was designed to allow Consol Mining to destroy a vital stream in Ryerson Station State Park in Greene County. The bill PASSED without the Governors' signature.***
5. ***HB 2154: Rolls back protections for shallow oil and gas wells to 1980's standards.***
6. ***HB 209: Creates Office of "The Repealer" to decide which protections for our air, water and health should be removed. This bill has the potential to weaken protections for our health and environment.***
7. ***HB 1960: Lets polluters off the hook for violations by appointing a compliance officer to establish guidelines for waiving fines or penalties.***
8. ***HB 1959: Allows industry to pick their own third parties to review and approve their permit instead of DEP. (PASSED in the HOUSE)***
9. ***HB 1792: Weakens the permitting and rulemaking authority of agencies subject to the Regulatory Review Act by prohibiting them from reissuing the same regulation or making a regulation that is similar. This bill interferes with these agencies' abilities to protect our environment. (PASSED IN THE HOUSE)***
10. ***HB 1237: Gives each chamber an effective veto over new environmental protections, skewing the balance of powers among our branches of government (PASSED IN THE HOUSE)***

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND THE PENNSYLVANIA CONSTITUTION ARE NOT SEPARATE, INDIVIDUALLY FUNCTIONING ENTITIES. THEY ARE HISTORICALLY AND DEEPLY INTERTWINED.

HAVE OUR LEGISLATORS FORGOTTEN? ARE THEY SIMPLY SHORTSIGHTED? OR, ARE WE SEEING THE DEGREE OF

POLITICAL PRESSURE AND INFLUENCE THAT BLATANTLY NEGATES AND NEGLECTS THE VALUE OF EACH AND EVERY ONE OF PENNSYLVANIA'S CITIZENS?

WHERE IS PAUL?

* *Individual bills may be further reviewed at* WWW.LEGIS.STATE.PA.US *Enter the bill number in the upper right corner**

PICK UP THE PHONE OR GO KNOCK ON DOORS OF YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS!

The Maritime II Pipeline Controversy

by Barbara Lathroum

On August 28, over 200 concerned Chester and Delaware County citizens filled the auditorium at Fugett Middle School on a Tuesday evening. They awaited the results of an independent risk assessment of the controversial Maritime II Pipeline stretching 350 miles across the state and ending in densely populated Chester and Delaware Counties. A citizens group, Del-Chesco United for Pipeline Safety, raised \$50,000 to pay Quest Consultants to conduct the study. Now Jeff Marx of Quest stood in front of the citizens to outline the risks the pipeline represents to the community.

These risks were summarized in the blog "Dragonpipe Diary" (<https://dragonpipediary.com>)

- Heightened risk exists in the vicinity of valve sites.
- Heightened risk exists near HDD entry and exit points.
- Two pipelines produce approximately double the risk of a single pipeline. Three pipelines approximately triple the risk, and so on.
- These pipelines (based on industry-wide failures of HVLs, and not considering Sunoco's industry-worst leak record) are likely to average a leak every 2 or 3 years, statewide.
- Even the smallest possible leak in an HVL transmission pipeline can result in fatal fire or explosion.
- For the three specific locations studied in detail, the study shows exactly which homes and buildings are in harm's way, and how serious their risks are.

The study shows that, for those in the immediate vicinity of these pipelines, death from a pipeline accident is about 10%, or as likely as death from a car accident, and about 150 times more likely than death from a lightning strike.

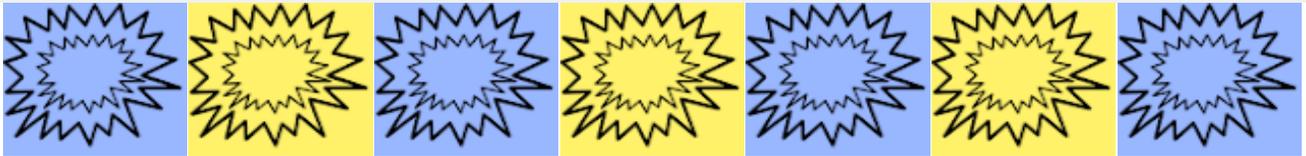
The blog author cited three recent accidents in Follansbee, WV, in Brenham, TX, and in San Bruno, CA. In Follansbee, a similar pipeline carrying ethane gas erupted incinerating seven acres of trees and melting the siding on a house 2000 feet away. In Brenham, TX, a NGL storage facility developed leaks and emitted gas vapor. When a car drove into the vapor cloud it ignited an explosion, killing 3 and injuring 21 people. In San Bruno, CA which is a densely populated suburb of San Francisco, a pipeline carrying methane exploded killing 8, injuring many more, and destroying dozens of houses.

Sunoco's Maritime II pipeline contains more volatile gases than methane.

Sunoco's overall safety record is poor. The installation of the pipeline has caused the despoiling of wells and water from drilling has polluted streams. No other major NGL pipeline goes through suburbs as densely populated as in Delaware and Chester Counties. According to the study, Sunoco's track record as a pipeline operator is troublesome. Some recently installed pipeline parts in Maritime II have turned out to be defective and have had to be replaced. The blogger ends his report asking: "So where does this leave us? We are still looking at a pipeline that is:

- being built to carry the most explosive possible materials,
- installed along a route that maximizes the risk to homes and schools,
- being rushed through the construction process that has featured hundreds of permit violations, sections of bad pipe, and welding anomalies,
- installed by an operator with the industry's worst record for leaks."

Del-Chesco United summarizes the Quest findings with this comment: "It's important to remember that the initial findings of this study did not take into account the fact that Sunoco has the worst accident record in the industry, but rather uses publicly-available industry-wide data. It doesn't take into account our unique geology, nor the population density in our area." (Check out the Del-Chesco United Facebook page for updates. Quest Consultants' complete report is to be posted soon on this page . <http://www.facebook.com/DelChescoUnited>.)



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

CELEBRATING AND PROTECTING

THE RIGHT TO VOTE!!

Saturday, September 22, 2018 – 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Chester County Government Center

601 Westtown Road, West Chester, PA 19382

Speaker Collin Clark: "Understanding Cyber Security"

Author & Speaker FRANKLIN KURY: "GERRYMANDERING: A Guide to Congressional Redistricting, Dark Money and the U.S. Supreme Court"



MUSIC BY Terri & Friends



SUPPORT THE LEAGUE - \$15 includes boxed LUNCH from Dixie Picnic

Register and pre-pay online at www.lwvccpa.org OR

Mail your check to LWVCC, P.O. Box 62, Exton, PA 19341. For questions and RSVPs: email Pam Gray at pag72@aol.com

ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS:

VOTER REGISTRATION ALL DAY!

With the discovery that Russia and Iran are hacking voter records, the term “cyber security” is on everyone’s lips these days. We are told that the voter data in many states is woefully insecure. Indeed, an eleven-year old student in Florida hacked into her state’s voter records in a matter of minutes! Moreover, social media sites are plagued with dummy accounts through which “fake news” is disseminated. Collin Clark will fill us in on what cyber security is all about. Hacking may have interfered with who is able to vote and possibly with voting results in places dependent on electronic voting machines. Perhaps Mr Clark can explain what states should do to counteract such interference.

The second speaker, Franklin Kury, will also address security as it pertains to voter registration, technology and election day processes. Mr Kury has just published a new book, “Gerrymandering: A Guides to Congressional Redistricting, Dark Money and the U.S. Supreme Court. Gerrymandering is another method of interfering with fair elections by stacking the deck in favor of one party---or one race as in North Carolina or one ethnicity as in Texas.

Mr Kury is a native of Sunbury, PA and is a lifelong resident of the Commonwealth. He graduated from Sunbury High School and then earned a B.A. from Trinity College and his J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School. He served in the PA House of Representatives for five years, first from the Northumberland County district (1967-1968) and then from the 108th district (1969-1972). In 1973, he became Senator Kury from the 27th senatorial district, and he served in the Senate for 7 years. He has remained a keen observer of Commonwealth politics.

Besides the new book on gerrymandering, Mr Kury has written two other books:

- (1) *Clean Politics, Clean Streams: A Legislative Autobiography and Reflections (2011)*
- (2) *Why Are You Here? A Primer for State Legislators (2014)*

* * * * *

WHO IS RUNNING FOR OFFICE?

The Chester County NAACP, MLK 365, and the Chester County LWV have planned two Candidate Forums: one on October 8 and the other on October 15 at St Paul’s Baptist Church, 1 Hagerty Blvd, West Chester, PA 19382. The candidates will include those running for Governor, Lt. Governor, U.S. Senator, U.S. House of Representatives, the PA House of Representatives, and the PA Senate. Forty-five letters were sent out to the candidates asking them to participate on either October 8th or October 15th. Dr. Pam Gray, our CCLWV President, will serve as moderator at both forums. Watch your email for more information on these events and perhaps a plea for help.

OFFICERS

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What you will need:

1. *Download the Absentee Ballot Application Form and print copies for your table.*
2. *Download the 2018 PA Important Election Dates Form and print copies for your table.*
3. *Pick up Voter Registration Forms at Chester County Voter Services.*

After you are finished for the day:

Any Voter Registration forms or Absentee Ballot Applications that are filled out should be mailed or dropped off at Chester County Voter Services ASAP.

Call or email Meryle Rothman, LWVCC Membership Chair, with any further inquiries.

Phone: 610-505-5784 and email: mgrothman@verizon.net

Other resources for volunteers

- **Absentee Ballot Application**

<http://www.dosimages.pa.gov/pdf/AbsenteeBallotApplication.pdf>

- **PA Important Election Dates**

<http://www.dos.pa.gov/VotingElections/CandidatesCommittees/RunningforOffice/Documents/2018%20important%20dates.pdf>

- **Most helpful site to Register online**, Check registration and polling place, etc.

www.votespa.com

- **Chester County Voter Services to see sample ballot (October) and other helpful information.**

www.chesco.org

- **LWV Voters Guide (October)**

www.vote411.org

- **Voter Services Address:** 601 Westtown Road Suite 150, West Chester, PA 19380
Phone: 610-344-6410