

A Message from the President



Dear Friends:

I am very pleased that the League of Women Voters of Chester County is again able to publish our Voter. It is more important than ever to inform our membership. Many thanks to Barbara Lathroum our Managing Editor!

Our schedule for debates and forums is filling up rapidly. We are once again co- sponsoring a candidate forum for October 22nd at St. Paul's Baptist Church with the West Chester Branch of the NAACP. On September 28th we will present "Our Government in Action" at Crosslands. Our Chester County League has been asked to be part of the "American Creed" series at the Chester County Library on September 21st. In addition we are excited to offer a forum on Juvenile Justice at Westminster Presbyterian Church on October 5th. These are just a few of our activities!

Obviously we are continuing to hold voter registrations in many locations in the county. Please take a look at our schedule. Also note that we attend all naturalization ceremonies. If you can help with anything please let us know. We always need volunteers.

The League of Women Voters has adopted the theme of "Making Democracy Work". We must pay attention to voting rights, improving elections, campaign finance/money in politics, and redistricting. There is much work to be done!

Sincerely,

Dr. Pamela Gray

President, League of Women Voters of Chester County

SAVE THE DATES

- September 9, 2019: Community Conversations on Race and White Privilege, sponsored by Chester County NAACP at Stetson Middle School auditorium, 7:00 - 8:30 pm.
- September 12 Women's & Gender Studies Celebration at WCU: Keynote Speaker Rachel Cargle, "Understanding White Feminism" 6:00 PM. Phillips Autograph Library, WCU.
- September 19, 2019 American Creed: Community Conversations. LWVCC presents "Empowering Voters & Defending Democracy", 6:30-7:30PM.
- September 21, 2019 Board Meeting, West Chester Borough Hall, 10:00 PM-Noon
- September 24, 2019 National Voter Registration Day. Members will be at all Chester County libraries to register voters
- September 28, 2019 Our Government in Action at Crosslands William Penn Auditorium, Kennett Square, 9:00 AM - 3:00PM. (See flyer p.4)
- October 5, 2019 Juvenile Justice Forum, 8:30 AM-2:00 PM. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 10 W. Pleasant Grove Rd, West Chester, PA. Open to the Public. FREE
- October 22, 2019 Candidate Forum (hosted by NAACP & LWVCC) 6:00- 8:30 PM at St Paul's Baptist Church, 1 Hagerty Blvd., West Chester, PA.

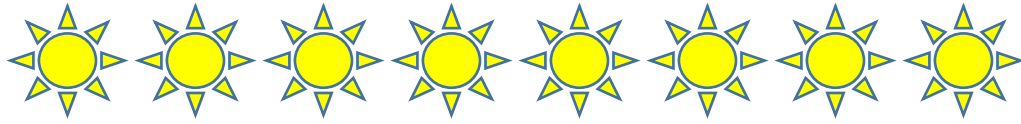
VOTER REGISTRATION

Voter Registration closes on Monday, October 7th

HELP! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Call Mary Lou Dondero (610) 692-3299

- August 18 Melton Center Community Day, West Chester
- August 22 VA Medical Center 10 AM- 1 PM, Coatesville
- August 24 "Veg "Fest, Phoenixville
- September 7 Blues Festival, Phoenixville
- September 15 Restaurant Festival, Noon – 5:30 PM, West Chester
- September 20 Ware Presbyterian Village: Judy Menzel & Melanie Ryan
- September 24 National Vote Registration Day, all Libraries
- September 28 Exton Mall, Exton

Get in touch with Mary Lou if materials are needed. It is legal to copy voter registration forms, absentee ballot applications, and all League publications



SPOTLIGHT ON A BUSY NEW MEMBER: BRETT DOLENTE

by Barbara Lathroum

One of LWVCC's newest members is Chester County native, Brett Dolente of Kennett Square. In June of 2018, Brett attended our Annual Meeting. As she listened to our members over lunch and heard Carol Kuniholm speak about Fair Districts, she thought, "These are my people!" She joined our branch at once!

Since then Brett has attended every board meeting and the State Convention in Reading last June. She has volunteered enthusiastically at countless voter registration drives. A number of her drives have been in the southern end of Chester County where the League hopes to become a more visible community organization. She has registered voters in Kennett Square and at the airshow in New Garden. Brett feels we need to put our voter registration efforts where voter turnout has been low. She has been registering voters at the CYWA Gateway Shelter in Coatesville, and she will hold drives at the Coatesville Public Library on Monday evenings, starting on September 9 through September 30. After working at the Turk Head's Festival, Brett emailed us these remarks about finding more venues to attract new voters:

"I did attend (only as a festival attendee) the Goshen Fair and the Coatesville Block Party. Attendance was much higher there. I hope to have a League table at both events next year. This year, I see the need for a table at the Restaurant Festival and the Chili cookout. Here in Kennett I plan to have a table at several events this fall."

If you would like to help Brett out, email her at: brettdolente@gmail.com Below are some photos of Brett's efforts at the Turk Head's Festival. Besides setting up and manning a Voter Registration table, Brett also obtains signatures on a Fair Districts petition.



Did you know that Brett was once a large animal veterinarian and that she worked at The Bolton Center? Brett now volunteers as part of a riding program for handicapped children and adults. What better person to help a handicapped child develop self-confidence by learning to ride a horse and to take care of it. Bret also stays busy as the campaign manager for Debbie Bookman who is running for the office of prothonotary on the Democratic ticket. The Chester County League is so fortunate to benefit from the very enthusiastic activism of Brett Dolente!

YOU GO, GIRL !



www.lwvccpa.org

Our Government in Action

Hosted by the League of Women Voters of Chester County

Saturday, September 28, 2019

9:00am – 3:00pm

CROSSLANDS – William Penn Auditorium

1660 East Street Road, Kennett Square, PA 19348

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

\$10 Registration Fee – Includes Box Lunch

(Must pre-register to ensure we have enough Box Lunches.)

Our Website to use PayPal www.lwvccpa.org

Or send \$10 check to LWVCC, Box 62, Exton, PA 19341

Meet our elected officials and learn about their journey into politics and how they impact our community.

(Hear from Members of Congress, Commissioners, Row Officers, WC Mayor, State Senators and Representatives and more.)

9am – 10am Registration, Coffee, Networking

10am – Noon Elected Officials

Noon – 1pm Box Lunch and Networking

1pm – 3pm Elected Officials, Q & A

Contact:

Dr. Pam Gray, President pag172@aol.com, 610-431-6850

Meryle Rothman, Membership Chair mgrothman@verizon.net, 610-505-5784



The 2019-2020 Board of LWVCC: Front row: Dr. Pam Gray (President); Meryl Rothman (Membership), Barbara Lathroum (VP)
Second Row: Valerie Thomas (Secretary), Lisa Forsythe*, Marian Schneider (Banquet Speaker & President of Verified Voting Foundation) Kimberly Byrd*, Sandy Schaal*, Lorraine Deisinger*, Gretchen Cole*, Susan Carty (former State League President & National League Board Member)
 *On the Board of Directors
 (Photo by Cathy Palmquist)

IMPRESSIONS FROM THE LWV-PA CONVENTION



The League of Women Voters of PA
53rd Biennial Convention
 “Celebrating the Past, Creating the Future”
 June 21-23, 2019

(Lynn Yeakel, *Vision 2020* spoke about plans for the Centennial of enacting the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote. She later presented Susan Carty with the Justice Bell Award. Photo by Lisa Forsyth.)

Ten members from the Chester County League attended all or parts of the convention. We all attended different sessions and saw events through different lenses. After I summarize Susan Carty’s remarks from Saturday morning, I thought I would just include the comments and takeaways of the members who attended to give our readers the “flavor” of the convention.

In Pennsylvania, the state league connects 32 branches. Representatives from 25 local leagues attended the convention, or 70 delegates altogether. Susan Carty noted that the number of at-large members of the League has increased. The accomplishments of State league members include advances in redistricting, participation on the Governor’s Blue Ribbon Cyber Panel, membership on the Governor’s Committee on Voting Reform, and a League study of the environmental effects of extracting shale and the disposal of plastics. Fair Districts is one of the strongest grassroots efforts to resign a fair method by which legislative districts are drawn after each census. The lawsuit the League brought for the redrawing of the 2012 congressional districts set a precedent for disallowing gerrymandering on the basis of partisanship. The key has been informing the public. Fair Districts has conducted 720 information sessions state wide. The Cyber panel concluded that our voting systems over the Commonwealth are easily hackable and machines that produce a verifiable paper trail are best. The Committee on Voting Reform has made their report. One recommendation is to replace our closed primary system that excludes registered Independents to an Open Primary in which all registered voters may participate. Finally, the League from Tioga County has studied sustainable environmental strategies for the disposal of plastics in the state, especially in rural areas.

The National LWV is publishing a Transformation Road Map for gaining visibility at a time when volunteerism is up amid many competing organizations. The League embraces Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. The League faced some hard truths about itself; they wish to become more visible in the world to enhance who we are. The League wishes to create and communicate a more inclusive culture, develop healthier networks, and to increase its cultural capacity. (See our website for the full Road Map and Action Plan.)

Patricia Rooney's Report:

1) **Census 2020:** These folks have a *lot* on their plates and, if my newspaper reports are correct, they are not getting the proper funding. Therefore, they are reaching out to groups like ours who can comprehend the scope and importance of the mission and humbly ask us to pass on the message within our communities and in whatever groups we deal with throughout the year that it is important they are able to count *all* the individuals in a state or that state will suffer from lack of adequate funding.

2) **Digital Platforms for Advocacy & Impact:** Carol Kuniholm is an informative speaker because she goes beneath the surface capabilities of digital platforms to wonder about their impact laterally, rather than simply down throughout the organization. She spoke mainly about Facebook, and though many of us may have used FB, it is entirely possible we did not know about "creating events" and "boosting" and asking collaborating organizations to "share." She goes through Facebook's power to create groups and followers, then explains Twitter's ability to reach out and "touch" influencers--very powerful and very easy to overdo--and finishes with a pitch to have all LWVPA and LWVCC and other chapters to use Slack, the collaborative software that went public in an innovative and profitable way last week.

3) **Climate Change and Health Impacts of Plastic:** Nice to see someone take this on, even though in PA it seems like no one ever heard of the problem. Surrounding states appear to me to be *way* ahead of us here. She's sort of teaching to the choir among us, but it is interesting to see the rap and how we can modify the message to use in our own presentations.

This was the first time I've ever been to a LWV function. Was impressed with the dedication to the organization across the state & their desire, if not the energy, to see the organization continue to flourish. Was surprised on the last day to hear some resistance to under-35 (yr old) members having a reduced- or no-fee package to join. My feeling is "whatever it takes" because WE NEED THESE FOLKS, their energy, their ideas, their skills.

Brett Dolente's comments on Plastics:

Lisa Ann Hamilton from the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) spoke at this session. She has spoken to the Bucks County LWV, and I think it would be great if she spoke to us in Chester County. These are the facts I gleaned from her talk.

1. The USA extracts and burns more fossil fuels than any other country in the world.
2. The costs of using fossil fuels are two-fold. One cost is direct, that is the air we breathe, the things we touch and eat. The second cost is indirect impacting our environment.
3. As citizens, we need to voice our concerns repeatedly and LOUDLY, not just to our politicians and policy makers, but to corporations as well.
4. South East Asia has informed the world: "We will not take your trash!" Now our trash is probably wandering the world or it has been dumped in the ocean, undoubtedly illegally! This should lead to a new industry in the US: taking care of our own trash.
5. Sanitation companies in many places in the US have resorted to burning trash; for some mostly rural and poor areas, incinerating trash is their only option. But that uses fossil fuels and releases toxins into the environment.
6. Paper in our landfills actually helps other forms of waste to break down.
7. The problem is much worse in other countries. These countries have the waste products but they do not have our waste management technology.

Sarah Caspar's comments on Plastics:

Speaker: Lisa Anne Hamilton, Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)

In brief, Lisa pointed out the health impacts from improper plastics disposal, the mass accumulations in our oceans, and more important, the lack of proper recycling. Most relevant, former buyers of our recycled plastics (primarily China) are no longer accepting plastics from the USA. They arrived not properly cleaned and mixed in with non-recyclables.

Our landfills are accumulating plastics that cannot be recycled because there is not a market for them. Plastics do not decompose in the landfills which results in the release of more methane into the air.

Another solution, the burning of plastics, releases toxins that may cause more cases of cancer and asthma, as well as other illnesses related to air pollution and water contamination.

As a follow up, I listened to and read the document supporting the webinar presented by a group of research scientists from CIEL tracing the emissions from well drilling at fracking sites and during transmission of natural and liquid gas to ports and

the manufacturers of plastics. In every instance, the EPA has documented that these emissions contain toxins that cause cancer, that act as endocrine disrupters, that cause respiratory problems such as asthma in the young and the elderly, and that pollute both air and water. Per-fluorinated organic chemicals are emitted from every stage. The more we learn about these ubiquitous chemicals the more we learn of their negative health impact.

Sarah Caspar's comments on the Mariner East Pipeline: and Fracking

At this time Mariner East or portions of it are on hold because of violations, incomplete permit applications and resistance from communities impacted by the installation of the pipelines. There have already been incidents of contamination of the drinking water, sink holes, and releases. Senator Dinniman and other PA legislators have banded together to propose bills that would protect communities from harm and the potential risks from leaks. Lynda Farrell of the Pipeline Safety Coalition is heading a group and gathering support to encourage townships to say NO to pipelines in their communities. It has worked in East Brandywine and can work elsewhere but communities need to stand up and say NO. I am part of this group if you would like more information. My email is scaspar@comcast.net

Meanwhile, research continues to find more evidence for the harm caused by emissions from fracking:

- Cancers: liver, kidney
- Gastrointestinal disease (e.g., Amity and Prosperity); studies from Colo., NY (PSR)
- Respiratory illnesses
- Low birth Weight
- Possible congenital heart defects
- Diseases from endocrine disrupters: thyroid disease, arthritis

These are just some of health problems or potential problems linked to fracking emissions.

More of Sarah's impressions of the convention:

1. I viewed a film: "Line in the Street ", by filmmaker Bob Millman with Fair Districts PA director Carol Kuniholm . "The Line in The Street" attempts to define the issues created by gerrymandering and is well done. I purchased the video so that we can show it at one of our meetings. Perhaps we could turn showing it to the public into a fundraiser for Fair Districts Carol's talk on redistricting was cram packed with information as usual. As a result there was too little time for questions. It would be a good thing to pin her down to just a time for questions about redistricting and what we can do.
2. The LWVPA Budget: Preston Shimer who has been treasurer of the Pittsburgh League for years "volunteered to take over the State budget until a new treasurer can be found. He is a kind and jolly gentleman and good at his job. Olivia Thornton, past state president, Dr. Donald Naragon (Pitts.), amember at large (Lehigh maybe), another female, a new member (I think) and myself reviewed the budget. From the first moment, it was clear that the State needs to raise money in order to accomplish its many tasks. A significant area is the funding required to pursue Redistricting, pay for litigation involved and for educating the public about the need for it. Olivia's comments were more than helpful. She has a great understanding of numbers and how they relate to budgets. Local Leagues will need to work together with the state in order to achieve a good fiscal result. Working together would be a good thing for everyone.
3. Last but not least: In addition to the recommended items for adoption, there were also a number of items not recommended. One proposal was to reduce the membership fee for students to \$35. A lower fee was also discussed but the major issue to some was payment of the PMP. This discussion was lively and much of it involved semantics. As a result several of us took positions at the pro and anti mics. The outgoing president wanted to shut the discussion down. It was decided that we needed to decide on this proposal now or it would end up in the circular file. It was resolved and should appear in a report from the State. There were other items I would like to have included as well..... but you cannot win everything. I enjoyed the discussion.



- Website usage is up and continues to increase!
 - In 2011 there were 63 leagues in 8 States using Vote411.org.
 - As of 2018 there were 317 leagues in 34 States using Vote411.org.
 - The Vote411.org website is being redesigned.
 - Phase 1 of redesign will go live in August 2019.
 - New Logo.
 - New colors – adding purple from the suffragette colors.
 - More user friendly.
- Spanish version of Vote411 is planned to be released in 2020.
 - MORE details on the new features and future phases of the website redesign will be communicated.

Barb Lathroum on FAIR DISTRICTS: A Timeline for TWO BILLS/ ONE COMMISSION

2019: Introduced HB 22 a constitutional amendment to create an independent citizens commission to draw state legislative districts.

Introduced HB23, a bill to create an independent citizens commission to draw federal congressional districts, including rules for public input, transparency and standards for minimizing splits in legislative districts.

2020: HB 22 must be passed by both legislative house *by early summer* to allow three-month advertising requirement before the November election.

HB 23 must be passed by both houses and signed into law by governor *before the end of the session*. Once passed ...
COMMISSION CREATED!

2021: Introduce and pass HB 22 (exactly as passed in previous session) *by the end of February* to allow three-month advertising before **MAY 21 Primary & ballot referendum**.

Early in 2021, census data will be released to states. Commission begins holding public hearings to gather input and begins work on federal congressional districts. When HB 22 Passes, commission begins to work on state legislative districts as well. **All maps must be complete by the November deadline!**

Many members ask me what can we do as individuals to promote the passage of HB 22 & HB 23. See below.



Ten Ways to Support the Fight for Fair Districts

1. Follow and share posts and events on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram (@FairDistrictsPA).
2. Print a petition (there's one on the back!), gather signatures, then scan and send the scan to voteroutreach@fairdistrictspa.com (or mail to LWVPA, 226 Forster St., Harrisburg, PA 17102).
3. Print a poster or tear-sheet poster and post it on a bulletin board- library, cleaners, college, township building. (Find posters here: <https://www.fairdistrictspa.com/take-action/materials>.)
4. Keep a rack of rack cards stocked at your local library, coffee shop or township building. (You can order those for free online at [fairdistrictspa.com/take-action/materials](https://www.fairdistrictspa.com/take-action/materials)).
5. Host a viewing and discussion of Justice and Gerrymandering (Available here: <https://tinyurl.com/Justice-Gerrymandering>) or other video from the FDPA Youtube channel: <https://tinyurl.com/fdpayoutube>
6. Put a short paragraph and link to FairDistrictsPA.com in your newsletter. (Find ideas for information on our website pages or regular web updates- [FairDistrictsPA.com/updates](https://www.fairdistrictspa.com/updates)
7. Write an op-ed or letter to the editor in support of redistricting reform. Find ideas and submission links at [fairdistrictspa.com/take-action/write-an-op-ed](https://www.fairdistrictspa.com/take-action/write-an-op-ed).
8. Invite a Fair District PA speaker to an informational meeting or panel cohosted by other groups in your area. (Schedule one here: [fairdistrictspa.com/events/request-a-speaker](https://www.fairdistrictspa.com/events/request-a-speaker))
9. Contact your legislators to ask them to support an independent citizens redistricting commission. Find more details here: [fairdistrictspa.com/take-action/contact-your-legislator](https://www.fairdistrictspa.com/take-action/contact-your-legislator).
10. Attend legislator town halls with friends and neighbors and let them know and others are paying attention to this issue.

For more information, check [FairDistrictsPA.com](https://www.fairdistrictspa.com) or email info@fairdistrictspa.com



Loraine Deisinger's Notes: JUVENILE JUSTICE SESSION

The presenter of this session was Michael Sontchi, Chief Public Defender in the Office of the Public Defender from Montgomery County.

1. Carson Valley Children's Aid is a non-profit in Flourtown, PA, just outside Philadelphia. This non-profit offers a wide variety of interventions and supports for children, youth, and families who have experienced trauma. Carson Valley has a site at 1314 DeKalb St. in Norristown. Here, law enforcement officers can learn to work with children acting out in schools. Carson Valley directs 30 programs to provide a continuum of services in the areas of behavioral health, residential education, early childhood education, family support, in-home prevention, substance abuse prevention and intervention, plus out-of-home services.
2. Because police officers are in the schools, children can be arrested inappropriately and charged with crimes that land them in the criminal justice system. This is not necessary. (Note: Philadelphia does not provide police officers in the schools.)
3. Community Youth Aid Panels have been developed in some communities in conjunction with the DA's Office. This is the case in Montgomery County. These panels serve as an alternative to Juvenile Court or the Magisterial District Court. Only juveniles who admit to involvement in eligible summary or misdemeanor offenses may participate in the Youth Aid Panel program. Juveniles must also pass a screening process, receive approval from the Police Department, and admit to involvement in the underlying criminal offense. The Youth Aid Panel reviews the case details, decides what conditions

are appropriate to resolve the matter, and hold each juvenile accountable for his/her actions. The juvenile offender along with his parents/guardians meet with the panel and sign a contract containing the specific terms decided on by the panel. The conditions may include completing educational requirements, doing community service, making restitution payments, writing a letter of apology, and participating in the Victim Offender Conferencing program. Juveniles successfully completing the program avoid having a criminal record and learn personal responsibility. All participants are made aware of community resources and needs relating to juveniles.

Thank you to all LWVCC members who contributed to this report on the Convention.



A Call to Action

A month or two ago, new member Patricia Rooney had some ideas about how we, as individuals, can influence the public by writing letters to the editor. Letter writing is one of the action ideas of groups like Fair Districts, Indivisible, and other progressive groups. Not everyone, no matter how well-informed, has the practice or confidence to write letters. Patricia would like to form a group in which we can practice composing letters and op-eds that may influence the public. What follows here are some of her ideas from an email she sent some of us.

From Patricia Rooney:

"My intention was to empower League members to speak up, speak out, and discover the power of words. There is no guarantee letters would be published. But it was my intent that at least a few of them would be published because we would work to get them in shape so that they would be interesting and informative and would be the third or fourth offering the editor had received that week. Eventually a few of them will see the light of day. And [in writing them] we will share information, share arguments so that everyone can see what succeeds and what doesn't, which papers accept the letters and which don't. We will continue because each of us has only a small part to play and everyone has a part. We can keep it up a long time if everyone participates.

I am not really interested in speaking to the converted, and *I wasn't expecting that League members would attempt to represent the League in these letters. They would be individuals who could bear witness to the meaning of the League and its power of group action.* I know your membership is talented and experienced, well-educated and... busy. Most of us do not have time to spend writing for people who already agree with us. We may have time to work together, without criticism and in the spirit of putting out the best possible work, to get a few brilliant pieces written that will have editors clamoring for more. If they succeed, we can share with other chapters in other parts of the state what we have done and hope they top it.

In the best of all possible worlds, we would be writing for the 50% of women in Pennsylvania who have reservations about the League of Women Voters, or like myself, never thought it important or relevant enough to support. Now, at this time most of all, do we see a serious retrenchment in the voting rights of all citizens, but most egregiously in attempts to curtail voting rights for our citizens of color. This is why I sent in my membership fee. It is necessary to support the organization that has been instrumental in preserving voting rights for all Pennsylvanians by taking on Pennsylvania itself in the redistricting case won last year. That and worse is continuing to happen in every district, in our own state house, in our own White House. We must work together to encourage women around the state to engage with us on these important issues.

I do think it is necessary to share chapter news, plans, thoughts, and leadership in a monthly newsletter. Very few people can attend board meetings and for most of us it would not be a fruitful way to spend time. How else can we have any sense of what is happening unless we get your leadership news? I can tell you are all exceptionally experienced --years of experience-- and probably would not find it difficult to put together a few sentences to keep us thinking about important issues, and to lead us to accomplish things we did not realize we were capable of

doing, like writing Letters to the Editor of local newspapers. The question then becomes, "does anyone actually read newspapers anymore?" I'd have to say in southeastern PA, they do."

Thank you, Patricia, for your ideas and enthusiasm. Members: Can we rise to the challenge?

Please consider Pat's ideas and if anyone is interested in joining her, please contact Pam Gray at pag172@aol.com , Patricia Rooney at patroon3@gmail.com or Barb Lathroum at blathroum@gmail.com .



A VISITOR FROM FLORIDA: Paulette Burdick of Palm Beach

A member of the Palm Beach FL League attended the Board Meeting on June 10th. The Palm Beach League boasts over 400 members. Younger members compose about half of the membership. This League hosts monthly Hot Topic Luncheons, open to the public, at various area restaurants. Several of our members jumped on this idea and spoke of adopting this idea in Chester County. It would take a lot of organization, but it might be a way of raising our visibility in the community and of keeping the voting public informed. That we might try Hot Topic luncheons (or happy hours) every other month to test their popularity was another idea. One advantage is that more of our members may participate and will become more familiar with what we do. Of course, everyone is welcome to attend Board Meetings, but many members are reluctant (and a bit intimidated) to attend what is labeled a "Board Meeting".

If anyone would like to explore this idea, please contact Pam Gray at pag172@aol.com



AMERICAN CREED: Empowering Voters & Defending Democracy

Thursday, September 19, 2019, 6:30-7:30 PM Chester County Library

Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Pulitzer Prize-winning historian David M. Kennedy come together from remarkably different backgrounds, life experiences, and points of view to explore the idea of a unifying American creed. Their spirited inquiry frames the stories of a range of citizen-activists striving to realize their own visions of America's promise across deep divides. Facilitated community conversations, classroom screenings and storytelling labs are being held in cities and towns across the country, inviting the American public to engage with the idea of a unifying national identity based on shared ideas and ideals.

The American Creed borrows its title from a phrase in Nobel Prize-winning economist Gunnar Myrdal's landmark study of American attitudes and beliefs during the Great Depression. Myrdal wrote: "Americans of all national origins, classes, regions, creeds, and colors, have something in common: a social ethos, a political creed. It is difficult to avoid the judgment that this 'American Creed' is the cement in the structure of this great and disparate nation." Myrdal defined that creed as an abiding sense that every individual, regardless of circumstances, deserves fairness and the opportunity to realize unlimited potential. He called the gap between that creed and the reality of American life "an American dilemma."

This program is based on the premise that in every generation, a re-commitment to the realization of the American creed is urgently needed. Today, Americans find themselves caught up in an increasingly divisive political culture. Yet, wherever one stands, there is an implicit if not always expressed article of faith that the American Creed remains foundational to our identity, history and culture. Every generation of Americans must wrestle with what it means to have an American national creed, understand the ideals embodied within it and commit to expressing those ideals in their lives as citizens. Hope is that the stories in American Creed — which speak to our dilemmas, yet offer hope that our shared ideals can prove more powerful than our differences — will engage

viewers in a bold conversation about what it will take to uphold American democracy. To register for this program, please visit our [online event calendar](#). [Chester Co. Library]

Pam Marquette at Chester County Library contacted Pam Gray to ask LWVCC to design and present one of the one-hour programs. Pam Gray, Lisa Forsyth, and Barb Lathroum met and discussed our ideas for a one-hour program on September 19, 2019, 6:30 – 7:30 PM at Chester County Library. Our theme will be Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy. Pam and Barb will speak on the history and importance of registering and voting in America and women's suffrage. Carol Kuniholm will address ending gerrymandering in our state. There will be time for questions from the public, since the goal of the American Creed program is to encourage community conversations.

*****JUST IN*****

Celebrating 50 Years
Of
Women's & Gender Studies
At WCU

Featuring a conversation with former WGS Directors

Keynote: Rachel Cargle "Unpacking White Feminism"

Philips Autograph Library
Thursday, September 12, 2019 6 p.m.

Open to the Public. Check out the Calendar of Events on WCU's webpage.

LWVCC BUDGET FOR 2019-2020

Dear Members,

As we have reported since 2016, our membership has grown yet again. Currently, we are proud of having 145 members, many of them are new to the League. Remember we now offer free membership to students.

Contributions to the League continue to grow and support our efforts. Many members make an extra contribution when they renew their membership in June. Contributions are important to us because our expenses continue to go up every year. This month we sent eight members to the state convention in Reading. In 2020 we will be sending representatives to the national convention. It will be a big year for us! Can you believe our 100 year celebration is almost here?

Last fall we were able to pay for printing copies of our Voters' Guide through a \$1500 donation from the Chester County Women's Commission. Copies were delivered to all libraries and

Senior Centers in Chester County, in addition to Senior Living Communities. Many of our members helped to deliver these. Thank you, all! We just spent \$2000 for two pages in the Daily Local to highlight county candidates in the primary. We need to re-evaluate how we get the Voters' Guide to the voters. The State League's VOTE411 website is easily available to most voters but we need to reach those voters who are non-tech yet to vote in higher percentages.

Out of our \$75 dues we pay \$20 to the state organization and \$32 to the national organization. That leaves us with only \$23 per full member.

We are so grateful for all of our members who volunteer to serve on a committee, register voters, help with an event, or work at a debate!

Pamela Gray (President & Budget Committee Chair)

Carole Mackrell (Treasurer)

Barb Lathroum (Vice-President)

Val Thomas (Secretary)

Sandy Schaal

LWVCC BUDGET REPORT FOR 2019-2020

INCOME			
		Budget	Budget
	Year to Date	2018-2019	2019-2020
A. Dues			
1. Full Members @ \$75	7,565.68	7,275.00	8,100.00
2. Household 2nd member @\$37.50	376.97	337.50	375.00
3. Student Members Free			
B. Contributions			
1. Member			
a. Cash	1,602.50	500.00	500.00
b. In-Kind	750.33		
c. Restricted use—educational			
2. Non-member	75.00		
a. Donation for Legislative Directory & Bookmarks		775.00	775.00
3. Memorial Gifts			
C. Other Sources			
1. Fund Raisers		1,500.00	1,500.00
a. Boscov's	100.00		
b. General			

c. Signature Fund Raiser	510.32		
d. Restricted	1,500.00		
2. Interest +A25Income	1.78	2.00	2.00
3. Education Fund from PA004			
4. Ads (VOTER, Directory, etc.)			
5. Savings needed to balance budget		2,664.50	2,924.00
6. Other	0.67		
Total Income	12,483.25	13,054.00	14,176.00

Assets As of Dates Shown	
Checking Account 4/30/2019	5,905.37
Less Uncleared Checks 4/30/2019	-106.00
Savings Account 4/30/2019	7,136.08
Total	12,935.45

EXPENDITURES			
		Budget	Budget
	Year to Date	2018-2019	2019-2020
A. Operating Costs			
1. Liability Insurance	325.00	169.00	325.00
2. LWVCC Phone	400.48	432.00	500.00
B. Board/Administrative Expenses			
1. Board Tools/Expenses	606.00	300.00	300.00
2. Administrative Committees			
a. Membership			
1) Directory Printing & Mailing			500.00
2) Recruiting/Retention	193.63	100.00	100.00
b. Public Relations			
c. Meeting Expenses	325.00		500.00
C. Fund Raising	879.91		
D. Delegates/Travel/Affiliations			
1. State/National Conventions	1,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
E. Financial Support LWV			
1. PMP LWVPA 18-19 : 97 full @ \$20 + 9 halves @ \$10			

19-20: 108 full @ \$20 + 10 halves @ \$10	1,522.50	2,030.00	2,260.00
2. PMP LWVUS 18-19: 97 full@ \$32.00 + 9 halves @ \$16.00			
19-20: 108 full@ \$32.00 + 10 Halves @ \$16.00	2,436.00	3,248.00	3,616.00
F. VOTER Printing & Mailing		350.00	
G. Educational Activities			
1. Publications Purchased			
2. Legislative Directory, Bookmarks	172.78	775.00	775.00
3. Local Programs/Study Committees		400.00	400.00
4. Web Site		250.00	
5. Other			
6. Voters Service			
a. Printing & Materials	266.30	350.00	350.00
b. Postage	209.28	550.00	550.00
7. Voters Guide/Smart Voter/VOTE411.org	1,828.95	2,000.00	2,000.00
I. Sales Tax			
J. Miscellaneous	325.00		
Total Expenditures	10,490.83	12,954.00	14,176.00

EDUCATION FUND			
		Budget	Budget
	Year to Date	2018-2019	2019-2020
Income			
Phonathon			
Member Contributions – Unrestricted	200.00		
Member Contributions – Restricted			
Member- Election Work			
Unrestricted NonMember			
Restricted NonMember			
Memorial Contribution			
Total	200.00		

Expenses			
Up to 50% PMP to LWVUS			
Legislative Directory			
Bookmarks			
Other Voter Service Activities - Voters Guide			
Educational Activities - Grand Jury Report Public Meeting			
Total			

Education Fund Assets		
LWVUS Education Fund PA004 as of 4/30/19		
Restricted to Civil Liberties		
General Restricted		
Unrestricted (available for PMP)		2,426.86
K W Rauschenberger Memorial Fund		
Total		2,426.86