



LWVCCPA.org

## *Upcoming Events*



**YOUR INVITATION HAS ARRIVED!**

**PLEASE JOIN US**

**CHESTER COUNTY LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**

**JUNE 23, 2022 ANNUAL MEETING DINNER**

**THE HILTON GARDEN INN 720 EAGLEVIEW BLVD, EXTON, PA**

**TIME: 6:00pm - 9:00pm**

**Terrific food! Friends! Beverages! Speaker! \$35 per person**

**Speaker Anna Pacioreki, Esq**

**\*Current Issues Relating to Immigration\***

**RSVP by June 17, 2022**

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.

General Inquiries:  
LWVCC  
P.O. Box 62  
Exton, PA 19341

June 2022

## PRESIDENT' S MESSAGE

Periodically I remind myself of the oath of office that elected officials swear to with hand on Bible upon taking their new role. The oath is a promise. Did you know that "technically" the oath must be taken every time a new term of service begins?

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, obey and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity."

Fidelity to whom and what and for how long?

My question to you for consideration is: ***Does the evidence appear to show you that PA legislators have been acting contrary to their oath? Or do they appear to be completely on target? How do we measure their actions?***

Upon reviewing the definition of fidelity one can note the inclusion of the words "***allegiance, fealty, loyalty, devotion, piety, duty, strict and continuing faithfulness to the obligation.***"

Quite a task for any of us in today's world!

In addition to considering the promised oath, one must also consider the fact that this group of elected people have the power and the ability to prevent and to block the passage of hundreds of pieces of legislation that their own constituents prefer them to pass.

Millions of Pennsylvanians wishes can be blocked, arbitrarily.

Never fall for the idea that your vote does not count. That statement could not be more wrong.

We have too many voters that believe their votes do not count. Believing their votes do not count can and will prevent many voters from acting and from voting.

We as League of Women Voters of Chester County have a huge job ahead! That job is just beginning when we help register voters.

In League, Susan Carty

## **News on Voting**

### **Senate Recount**

The Acting Secretary of State ordered a legally required recount in the May 17 Republican primary race for the U.S. Senate seat. Mehmet C. Oz and David H. McCormick, the first and second place finishers respectively, have vote totals within one-half of one percent that triggers a mandatory recount under state law. As of May 25, the unofficial returns for the U.S. Senate race showed the following results:

Mehmet C. Oz – 419,365 (31.21%)

David H. McCormick – 418,463 (31.14%)

Counties were able to begin their recount as early as May 27 but must begin no later than June 1. They must complete the recount by noon on June 7, and must submit recount results to the Department of State by noon on June 8.

The Department of State estimates the recount will exceed \$1 million of taxpayer funds.

### **Voter Registration Event – Partnered with LWVPA**

Re the Coventry Woods Festival tabling event:

Coventry Woods Festival: Coventry Woods is a series of trails through fields and woods on 668 acres in NW Chester County. An annual festival is held for the community on this site, and features tables of various churches and news about their good works, political outreach by legislators, animal talents, puppet shows, etc.

Fair Districts PA hosted a #FixHarrisburg table with LWVCC, which was staffed by NW residents Patricia Rooney from Honey Brook and Eileen Skidmore of North Coventry. The day was extraordinarily hot and then it stormed, but most people stopped by at the very start, before the kids games began. Our message was well received by people of all parties.

## **From Criminal Justice**

### **Aging in Prison**

There are currently 62,000 incarcerated people in Pennsylvania. The statewide average cost for one healthy person is \$115 a day. For prisoners who are 55 years or older who require personal care or skilled nursing care the average cost is \$500/day or \$182,625 per year. Total annual cost spent on incarcerated people who are 55 years or older is approximately 3 billion dollars every year.

There is a strong precedent and growing awareness among legislators about the costs of housing people who are no longer a threat to society. In the Senate, there is a bill that addresses this issue.

Senate Bill 835 is styled after the federal compassionate release. The Bill has two components: medical parole and geriatric parole. In the medical component, a person who has a qualifying serious health issue and a weakened ability to function in prison because of it may be paroled and returned to their community for care. The cost of care in the community, at a personal or skilled nursing facility is approximately \$300 per day. Indigent paroled 55 year olds, or individuals who would require Medicaid, would cost the taxpayers less money if the seriously ill were cared for in the community.

The geriatric component focuses on 55 year olds who have served half of their minimum sentence or 25 years, whichever is the lesser amount of time. It is parole with compassion for a human being who is no longer a threat to the community.

Of course, the parole board does not have to grant parole. Only those people who are no longer a threat to their communities would be considered for parole.

This is a Senate Bill that is still in committee. There is not at this time a companion Bill in the House.

The League Criminal Justice Committee has gathered information about the Senate Bill and has decided to lobby for a companion Bill in the House. Members will meet with legislators who represent our county.

There are three members on the Committee at this time. We invite you to join us. Whether you join the Committee or not, we ask that you send a postcard expressing you belief that a companion Bill in the House should be introduced.

Kay Sharp, Robin Garrett, Anton Andrew

## Diversity Equity and Inclusion Learning Modules—Coming this Fall

The League of Women Voters of the US, Pennsylvania, and of Chester County all include the following statement about Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in their by-laws:

“LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization’s current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.” ( <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/policies-guidelines/diversity-equity-and-inclusion-policy> )

The Chester County League of Women Voters formally added this language to the by-laws this winter. Like Leagues across the state and nation, we will be involved in a process of discussion and study to determine what this means for our practices and activities as a LWV chapter.

Since January a group of PA LWV Equity Team members has been developing a series of Learning Modules focusing on the LWV’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policies and programs. The five modules will be available for local Leagues to present to members in September. Beginning with an introductory overview, the modules focus on each of the key areas of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, with a final module that walks local Leagues through a process of designing an implementation plan for their own group.

Look for more information and when and how the Chester County League is implementing both these DEI Learning Modules and the LWV commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion!

## Diversity Equity and Inclusion Learning Modules—Coming this Fall

The League of Women Voters of the US, Pennsylvania, and of Chester County all include the following statement about Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in their by-laws:

“LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization’s current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.”( <https://www.lwv.org/league-management/policies-guidelines/diversity-equity-and-inclusion-policy> )

The Chester County League of Women Voters formally added this language to the by-laws this winter. Like Leagues across the state and nation, we will be involved in a process of discussion and study to determine what this means for our practices and activities as a LWV chapter.

Since January a group of PA LWV Equity Team members has been developing a series of Learning Modules focusing on the LWV’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policies and programs. The five modules will be available for local Leagues to present to members in September. Beginning with an introductory overview, the modules focus on each of the key areas of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, with a final module that walks local Leagues through a process of designing an implementation plan for their own group.

Look for more information and when and how the Chester County League is implementing both these DEI Learning Modules and the LWV commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion!





Judy Curtin, Diane Hatcher and Janice Shreffler (from left) were among the League volunteers who "womaned" the League of Women Voters of Chester County table at the Turk's Head Music Festival on Sunday at Everhart Park in West Chester Borough. Diane, a brand new member, was enthusiastic about the event, which found thousands of music lovers, as well as many families with children and dogs, who were enjoying the music, food, art, vendors and an opportunity to register to vote on this almost perfect weather day.

# ImplementingZeroWaste:Virtual Webinar Series

*A three part-series hosted by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania and Chester County Planning Commission*

Monday, June 6, 7-8 PM: [Register Here to Attend https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_etOXgf2-QWWFMA5qi8OLRg](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_etOXgf2-QWWFMA5qi8OLRg)

## Overview of the Zero Waste Initiative

Presented by Ruth Abbe

Ruth Abbe is a Zero Waste practitioner with more than 25 years of experience in recycling and composting program and facility development and outreach and technical assistance. As president of Zero Waste USA, she is working with municipalities across the U.S. to develop the social and physical infrastructure to achieve Zero Waste. She is currently supporting Delaware County, PA to update its 10-Year Municipal Waste Management Plan. The plan will guide the County's transition to sustainable methods of materials management using Zero Waste practices.

Monday, June 13, 7-8 PM

## Curbside Compost: Media Borough's Residential Composting Program Presented by Karen Taussig-Lux

Karen Taussig-Lux is Grants Administrator and Project Manager for Media Borough. She worked with the Media Borough EAC, Transition Town Media and Borough Council and Staff to plan and launch a three-year residential food compost pilot program. In 2021 the Borough expanded the pilot to all residents, combining food waste and yard waste into one collection program, "Curbside Compost."

Monday, June 20, 7-8 PM

## Zero Waste Hierarchy - Best Practices Presented by Patti Lynn

Patti Lynn is the recycling resources manager for Chester County, working at the Solid Waste Authority. Patti is a certified recycling professional and has an M.A. in teaching and a B.S. in Human Ecology from Rutgers University. Patti has spent 30+ years in the educational, environmental health, and recycling professions. She has managed recycling programs on local and county levels for 18+ years. In 2021, she was elected to the board of the Professional Recyclers of PA and co-chairs the new membership committee.

