



August 2022

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A Message from the President

Remember ...People over party.....not party over people! We the people are being tested as a voting public and as a nation to protect all the conditions of the voting process. Efforts have been made in many states to manipulate the peoples right to vote, specifically Who votes, When they vote and How they vote.

It is our duty as well as our elected officials' duty to actively protect our voting rights.

Any elected official who verbally or legislatively attempts to impinge upon those rights has failed you the voter as well as failed their sworn oath of office.

Yes, voting matters. Absolutely yes it matters who wins those elections. Character, honesty and truth of purpose in seeking office could not be more critical in the preservation of our Democracy.

We encourage voters to thoughtfully watch, listen to and learn as much as possible about candidates before voting. At the same time we understand that there continues to be a critical need to sustain our party system and not fall prey to any suggestion of single party autocracy. The danger of that threat is real and looming not just over our country but across the globe.

As we vote this fall we must vote with the vision of protecting while strengthening our system. It could not be more important!

Be well, be safe and be present for your vote!

Susan Carty

President

LWVCC

Annual Meeting

Immigration is topic of League of Women Voters meeting

At their recent annual meeting, the League of Women Voters of Chester County (LWVCC) President, Susan Carty, said “these challenging times mean individuals need to make a commitment to stay on top of everything, and be vigilant to what is going on.” Immigration is an area that is included in National LWV Policy Issues. “Promoting the reunification of immediate families, being responsible to those families facing political persecution or humanitarian crises,” prompted the LWVCC to look at immigration.

“The need to protect our democracy means we need to become more informed voters,” added Carty, calling on Sandy Schaal to introduce immigration lawyers, Anna Paciorek, Esq. and Pablo Quintanilla, associate attorney, to speak about “Current Issues Relating to Immigration.”

Ms. Paciorek, a native of Warsaw, Poland who immigrated in 1988, is a graduate of Temple Law School, and adjunct professor at Temple. She was named a Top Immigration Lawyer in the *2018 Main Line Today* listing of *Top Lawyers*. She worked with immigration issues and violence against women for 20 years, before starting Sweet and Paciorek with Lindsey Sweet.

Quintanilla, whose parents emigrated from El Salvador, is a graduate of Widener University Delaware Law School. Fluent in Spanish and English, he began working as a summer intern with Sweet & Paciorek in 2019.

The attorneys discussed three areas of their work: a brief update on what’s happening at the border, Afghan refugees, and persons from Ukraine, before opening the floor to questions from League members.

“Immigration is always changing with each new administration that comes into office,” said Paciorek. “President Biden has worked to get rid of the previous administration’s immigration programs, which cited COVID as a reason for the poor treatment of immigrants. It’s become political, and we’re in a gray area. Changes were supposed to happen in mid-May until a judge stopped them,” she added.

“Also, there is not the media coverage of unescorted minors crossing the border, and caravans of people escaping violence in their home countries, as there was during the previous administration,” she said. “So people are not as aware of immigration issues.”

“The courts are still clogged up, but applications have become more streamlined for asylum seekers. These immigrants, who come to the United States to live permanently, are mostly from El Salvador, Honduras and other Central American countries. Most are not professional

people; many don't even have a 6th grade education." Many of them work here in jobs such as landscaping and construction. They have family based green cards, employment based green cards, humanitarian green cards, lottery green cards. Some are longtime residents.

In response to a question, Paciorek said everyone coming into the U.S. goes to a COVID detention center. Many changes have been made following treatment by the previous administration, and conditions have improved because of COVID.

Another change is that local law enforcement does not automatically contact Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) when they find immigrants in their communities. The Obama administration, and now the Biden administration, have created criteria for removing certain immigrants. For example, those who are terrorists or come from terrorist countries, and those with serious convictions, are not allowed in.

The second group of immigrants, Afghans who come to this country, are given temporary status, and want to settle here permanently. They are refugees, a legal term that enables an individual to receive some benefits, such as housing and employment. Some have families here, and some have worked with the U.S. government in Afghanistan.

"The third group of individuals coming to the United States are the Ukrainians, who have fled their country due to lack of safety and fear, and are given refugee status," explained Paciorek. "They do not want permanent status, but only seek asylum until they can return to their homes in Ukraine. There are two programs for them: receiving temporary protective status and obtaining permission to work, and working with non-related sponsors who want to help the Ukrainians. We're not seeing a lot of Ukrainians," said Paciorek, "but we do see a lot of Afghans."

During the brief business portion of the meeting, Carty acknowledged the contributions of LWVCC members Mary Lou Dondero, Cathy Palmquist, Carole Mackrell, Deb Galleck, Meryle Rothman, Valerie Thomas and others.

Submitted by Cathy Palmquist





Attendees at the Annual Meeting: Front row from left to right board members Kay Sharp, Susan Carty, Val Thomas, Carol Mackrell; second row from left to right speakers Pablo Quintanilla and Anna Paciorek, board members Sandy Schaal, Ellen Richardson, Elaine Friedlander and Lisa Forsyth. Photo by Cathy Palmquist.

From Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The Next Generation of the League is Here—Webinar August 22

One focus of our DEI efforts is on youth—bringing young new voters to the Chester County League of Women Voters. The LVWPA Equity Team is offering a webinar that will give us ideas about how to make this initiative succeed. See the information from the LVWPA to learn more and register.

“We resume EQUITY PUBLIC PROGRAMMING on August 22, 2022 at 6 pm. Topic: The next generation of the League is here! To register, go to this page <https://www.palwv.org/events>.

This program will focus on Inclusive youth engagement and is being co-facilitated by Giselle Concepcion, LVWPA Equity Fellow and founding Co-President of the PSU Campus LWV.

“We will address the opportunities and challenges for intergenerational League membership with a panel of youth leaders across the Commonwealth. It’s so easy for established members to dismiss ideas and experiences of youth. Yet we know new generations entering adulthood ARE the key stakeholders in building and sustaining LWV.

“How do we build capacity to succeed at intergenerational inclusion? What can we learn by listening to different perspectives from all ages? What about the intersectionality of age and race, culture, or other factors? How are we welcoming new ideas and energy? Join us.”

FACEBOOK NEEDS YOU!

Our Facebook page is a way to keep members and the general public informed about our offerings and activities and to deliver voter education. I need all the help I can get to stay on track with nonpartisan voter information, photos of recent activity, and information about upcoming events! Email everything to gretchen.cole@gmail.com, and if you are a Facebook user, find us, like us, comment, like and share posts! Thanks for your help!

Membership

Thank you for your support and commitment to the League and our mission of education and empowering our voters. We could not do what we do without members like you. Keep up your great work and pass on information about elections, candidates, resources and events to family, friends and neighbors. League membership is open to all (a gift membership is a great idea) and students are FREE.

Our chapter's success is measured by the positive impact that we make in our community. Thank you for helping to keep us informative, relevant, visible, encouraging and connected to our voters. We need each and everyone of you, new members and supporters to continue to make a difference.

Meryle Rothman, Roster Manager

Upcoming Dates:

August 20 LWVCC board meeting, in person only, at the East Goshen township building

August 22 Equity Initiative Webinar

Voter Registration Deadlines: Online must be done by October 24, 2022; by mail must be received by October 24, 2022; In person by October 24, 2022

November 1 last day to request mail-in or absentee ballot

General Election: Tuesday November 8, 2022

Voter Registration Events

Voter Registration Event – West Chester NAACP – June 12, 2022

The West Chester NAACP invited the League to host a table at their Annual Juneteenth Poetry Contest. Val Thomas of Coatesville, Mary Winters of West Chester and Ellen Richardson, of Exton staffed the table where they provided voter information and registration materials. The event was held at the Melton Center in West Chester and included a review of the Emancipation Proclamation, entertainment, and the awarding of prizes to the poetry contest winners.

Voter Registration Event – Coatesville NAACP – June 19, 2022

The Coatesville NAACP invited the League to set up a table at their Juneteenth Celebration that was held in Ash Park. Val Thomas of Coatesville, Sandy Schaal, of West Chester and Kay Sharp of Kennett hosted the table where they provided voter information and registration materials. The weather was warm and heavy winds presented challenges, but they survived. It was a fun event that allowed us to engage with registered voters by going over our Legislative Directory with them. The members were able to catch up with each other and they appreciated the visits from other members who were there with other organizations



Ellen Richardson, Val Thomas and Mary Winters register voters at the Juneteenth Celebration at the Melton Arts and Education Center in West Chester.