



November 2022

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A Message from the President

I hope you were successful and unscathed in fulfilling your Right to Vote!

What an unusual, thought provoking and disheartening Election Season 2022 has been. Emotions ran high. Fears were elevated and doubt was fueled. Untruths were rampant

So many of you committed to working at your polls either as poll workers or poll watchers. All done in good faith.

You acted upon your belief in your right to vote. You made your voices heard and you gave of your time as well as your heart. For many, the exercises of registering and voting were done under great duress.

We nationwide have experienced and observed horrendous behaviors at polling places. These bad as well as illegal behaviors caused harm to people, damage to government buildings and disruptions to our governmental processes. Many of those actions were promulgated by absolute, deliberate untruths. Truth and trust are at the basis of our nations' political process. The suggestions and accusations of the lack of truth or trust were put forth to all to discourage participation in our election system.

But... just seeing the increase in number of voter registrations during these troubling times has provided a degree of assurance that the underlying will of the people endures.

Thank you all for your efforts and your commitment to the election processes! Our work for the future

has not ended! Stay safe and as strong as you are...

In League,

Susan Carty

Notices

Naturalization Day

The next Naturalization Ceremony will take place on November 18 at the Justice Center in West Chester. It is always an exciting experience to welcome the new citizens and help them register to vote. Please let me know if you can help. Mary Lou Dondero (610) 692-3299.

Membership

We need your support to continue the work of the League of Women Voters. You are welcome to send in your \$75 annual dues today for fiscal year 2022/2023. PayPal on our website www.lwvccpa.org or mail your check to LWVCC, PO box 62, Exton, PA 19341. Thank you if your dues are up to date.

A donation and League membership make great gifts. (Holiday Season is coming up.) Think about someone that you know who you would like to honor.

Upcoming Dates:

LWVCC Board Meeting, Saturday November 19, 10:00, East Goshen Township Building, 1580 Paoli Pike, West Chester, 19380.

Meeting will be in person and on Zoom. Either use the numbers you already have or contact Susan Carty if you wish to attend on Zoom.

Holiday Gathering Saturday December 17, 1:00, home of Susan Carty, more to come

Fair Districts PA Events

Statewide Monthly Update and Volunteer Virtual Meeting Monday, November 14, 2022 at 7:00 PM

If you've been wanting to learn more about how Fair Districts PA is structured and interested in exploring volunteer opportunities, join us for a short update and introduction, then join a breakout to talk with team leaders about specific ways you can help. [Register here](#).

Interested in finding a local FDPA event near you? Check out the FDPA events page!

Criminal Justice Committee

Mark your calendars. We have a great speaker for November. K. Celeste Trusty is Secretary of the Pennsylvania Board of Pardons. She will present an overview of the past, present, and future of the criminal justice system.

The presentation will be at 6:30 pm on Monday November 14 . She will speak for 45 minutes and you will have 15-20 minutes to ask questions. This will be a zoom meeting. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81297809525?pwd=TVk5TFdER3FzM29CR3Q4TXpKcWF3Zz09>. The members of the Committee are looking forward to hearing more about the criminal justice system.

DEI in the League and in Our Community: Focus on Education

As we consider how best to exemplify Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Chester County League of Women Voters, it is important that we also look outside to issues in our local community. The West Chester Area School District has had a DEI program for many years, yet concerns about gaps in achievement, availability of resources for LGBTQ students, and curriculum that reflects the diversity of our history and is taught in a culturally proficient way persist. Last summer, the Director of Equity and Assessment resigned. There is currently an “Acting” Director of Equity in place. This is a crucial time for DEI in the WCASD because it is a time of transition. Conversations about the future of the position of Director of Equity and Assessment are on-going. School Board members tell us that they need to hear from supporters of DEI, especially in school board meetings. Engagement and vigilance are crucial if we hope to keep progress towards a truly equitable and inclusive education moving forward.

What can you do? Go to your local school district website. Look for the DEI policy for the school district. How does it compare with the standards set by the League of Women Voters in our DEI policy? Find out when the school board meets and attend as many meetings as you can—and bring your friends. You can check the agenda in advance to see what issues will be discussed. If you are comfortable doing so, speak out. The League of Women Voters is about political engagement—at all levels—the School District level included!!

The Equity Team of the LWV PA will be rolling out the DEI Training Modules on November 28, 2022 at 7:00pm via Zoom at the monthly Equity Team Meeting. The Chester County LWV board will be viewing portions of the modules and planning how to bring these Learning Modules to the members of the LWVCC in the new year. For information about the equity webinars and to register go to the LWVPA Equity webpage <https://www.palwv.org/equity-initiative>

Volleyball and Voting

How creative and inspiring! A new concept was developed and activated by a politically-minded young woman, Madisen Phonnathong in conjunction with a number of her friends from Downingtown West High School. Their organization is @theyoungvoters.org.

In mid- October, Madisen and TYV organized a competitive volleyball tournament in partnership with the LWVCC. We provided and manned a table for student voter registration. The event was held in a welcoming Exton neighborhood. The League answered student questions and enjoyed the opportunity and interactions.

The day was warm, sunny and filled with laughter and exercise. What a great idea! We anticipate more to come in the future.

Well done Madisen and all of her high school organization workers! They clearly care about their future.



AAUW website has voter information concerning candidate platforms. Go to https://wccc-pa.aauw.net/files/2022/10/AAUW_Newsletter_2022_October_final.pdf and scroll down.

LEAGUE pre-election work with WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY and LINCOLN UNIVERSITY

All news is not bad news for sure! Back in late August, Dr. Pam Gray and I began working on expanding our relationship with both colleges. We held regular zoom meetings to determine how best the League could support student education and engagement at both colleges in the upcoming elections. The conversations were very inciteful regarding student enthusiasm and concerns as well as viewpoints from a more youthful generation! They clearly have their issues to deal with (tuition costs, loan interest rates, health care, voting rights, criminal justice) while expanding their own education and opportunities. The student leaders were very impressive and quite open to learning from our League experiences. Open-minded, creative and “gung-ho! We too learned from them!

Look at this fantastic Bus for the Arc of Voter Justice Tour that travelled around colleges along the East Coast in October. It pulled up to Lincoln U. just as we arrived for their Get Out the Vote Rally organized by student leader Drake Smith. It had the most powerful impact on us all! We were clearly reinvigorated and look forward to our future encounters. Note the League logo!

More recently we participated as co-moderators with WCU student government leaders, Claire Shutack and Gabriella Trotman as they hosted visits to the college by U.S. Rep. Chrissy Houlahan PA-6 incumbant Democrat on October 25th and by challenger Guy Ciarrocchi , Republican on November 1, 2022. Student designed questions were put forth to the candidates. Both Houlahan and Ciarrocchi succeeded in providing respectful as well as informative opportunities for the students. We were very pleased to be part of these student hosted events.

