



January, 2024

lwvccpa.org

A Message from the President

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

This New Year will be filled with purpose, commitment and
service to the voters!

We look forward to a new year of redefinition and
expansion of our League Programs. We are also committed
to strengthening our new alliances while expanding our
relationships with community non-profit organizations.

We plan on developing educational opportunities and
interactions with new as well as young voters as the
preparation for the voting experience is as critical as taking
that first step to vote.

Join us this year in our endeavors. You are welcome as well
as needed!

And, as always, we will keep our eyes on new legislation as
it appears. Our right to vote is a fragile right that will always
need all our attention.

Be well.... Be safe.... Be aware!

Susan Carty, President

League of Women Voters Chester County

Notice

Annual Planning Meeting

The Annual Planning Meeting will be held this coming Saturday, 1/20/24
at the Crosslands in the William Penn Room near Kennett Square.

Time: 10:00 - 12:00

All are welcome! Coffee and pastries will be provided. Please bring your ideas and your enthusiasm for the coming year! Our work will be cut out for us.

Stay turned for any potential last minute adjustments due to the possible inclement weather!!

Word of the Month

Co-sponsor: Any organization that works with the League to put on an event.

In 2024 the LWVCC anticipates working with to co-sponsors. Stay tuned.



LWVPA is thrilled to announce the hire of Dr. Amy Widestrom as our new Executive Director. [Click here to read more about Amy.](#)

The League urges the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee to take action on critical gun safety bills. [Read our statement here.](#)

LWVPA Board Member Kathy Cook has written an article on hydrogen hubs in PA. [Click here to read.](#)

As we head into 2024, it's time to update your League's membership roster! Visit the LWVUS Roster Manager Portal to update your membership list by January 31, 2024. On February 1st, 2024, LWVUS will take its yearly count of active members from each League. The count is then used by LWVUS and LWVPA to bill PMP to each League for the next fiscal year. Email samantha.anthony@palwv.org with any questions.

Need help writing a Letter to the Editor? LWVPA Board Member Kathy Cook is here to help! Whether it's concept, editing, or ghost writing, send Kathy an email at kathy.cook@palwv.org to brush up on your LTE skills.

Holiday Party



Here are some views of the Holiday Party. At the top is a photo of Susan Carty with the two student interns we had from the Downingtown School District. On the left is Paige Haltom and on the right is Brady Warrington. They assisted with the candidate forums for school board in Downingtown.



After all our challenging and important work throughout the year, it was fun to relax and spend time with League friends during the holidays. Susan Carty is not only our capable president, she also knows how to host a great party!



Shortly before Christmas, Susan hosted a lovely holiday brunch at her comfortable, festively decorated home, and invited all members. However among the attendees who enjoyed her hospitality in second photo were (pictured from left) Carole Mackrell, Pam Gray, Ellen Richardson, Susan, and Elaine Friedlander. Other members stopping by included Cathy Palmquist, Val Thomas, Judy Curtin, Gretchen Cole, Tam Williams, Carol Lorah Bland and several newer members



It's that time again!

2023/2024 DUES REMINDER

League of Women Voters of Chester County

Happy New Year!!!!

Hope you all had a wonderful holiday with your family. It's another new year and two important elections as always. Thank you for the generous donations that we received. We continue to accept donations to help our efforts going forward. Don't forget—League memberships and donations are great gift ideas all year. Stay safe and stay healthy

**WE ARE ACCEPTING DUES AND DONATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR
2023/2024**

We hope you will renew your LWVCC membership. You are welcome to email me to double check on your dues status,

mgrothman@verizon.net. Thank you if you are up to date.

(so we can see you in person again at League events and meetings.)

Our new League year (2023-2024) began on July 1, 2023. You are welcome to pay your dues using PayPal or mail a check, made out to LWVCC, to PO Box 62, Exton, PA 19341. As always, your support is greatly appreciated. Thank you. We could not do what we do without members like you.

Annual Membership Dues: \$75.00. For additional household mem-



Criminal Justice

Solidarity Not Solitary Coalition is a group of individuals and organizations working to eliminate the use of solitary confinement in Pennsylvania. The coalition lobbied in Harrisburg on December 12; advocates from across PA met with state lawmakers to gain support of legislation to end this torture in PA jails and prisons. A press conference and rally were held in addition to the lobbying activities. Those attending heard from solitary survivors, legislators and leaders in the movement against solitary.

Research has shown that solitary confinement causes irreversible psychological damage, increases risk of suicide, and decreases safety in prisons, for both incarcerated individuals and prison staff. Certain populations, including people of color, pregnant individuals, youth and those with disabilities or pre-existing mental illnesses, are disproportionately affected by solitary confinement. This practice is inhumane, expensive, and presents serious challenges to people rehabilitating and improving their mental and physical health, which in turn makes it harder for communities to reintegrate them safely.

To learn more about this campaign and to connect if you want to be part of this important work, go to <https://www.hrcoalition.org/stop-solitary>. Contact your representative and senator and demand ceasing this inhumane and harmful treatment of prisoners.

Environment

LWV The Straight Scoop on Shale

A Project of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen Education Fund

Videos Now Available

11th Annual Shale & Public Health Conference

We thank those of you who helped organize and run the conference program, who were our speakers, and who attended the 11th annual Shale & Public Health 2023 conference.

The videos of all sessions are now available.

You can watch any of the sessions you missed, re-watch a presentation, or share it with colleagues.

[View All Sessions](#)

If you attended the conference online and have not filled out the survey, yet, we would love to [hear your feedback!](#)

Visit our Website:
www.ShalePalwv.org