



VOTER

LWV-CDC Officers 2015

- Joanna Nealon President
(610) 543-6647
- Marita Green 1st V. Pres.
(610) 724-1376
- Helen Klussman 2nd V.Pres.
(610) 876-6586
- Diana Bastable Secretary
(610) 544-0648
- Olivia Thorne Treasurer
(610) 566-5474

Board Members

- Barbara Amstutz
(610) 544-0728
- Jane Brennan
(610) 353-4757
- Patricia Cimino
(610) 328-1375
- Joyce Ellis
(610) 566-8674
- Rose Marie Lord
(610-544-7648)
- Jodine Mayberry, Voter
(610) 299-2838
- Katherine Miller
(610) 566-5964
- Anne Mosakowski
(610) 558-4924
- Dora Preston
(610) 348-6347
- Gloria Rabinowitz
(610) 565-0146
- John Shaw
(610) 565-0804

Toss Your Hat in the Ring

Now that the excitement of the presidential election has subsided, you may be thinking about running for office yourself. School board, borough councils, township boards and county offices are just as im-



portant, in some respects more important, than national offices in making decisions that affect your neighbors' lives. The Penn State Extension, in conjunction with the League of Women Voters of Delaware County, is conducting a workshop Feb. 1, 7 p.m.—9 p.m. at the Media Borough Hall Parlor Room for those who want

an overview of local government and want to learn about the nuts and bolts of how to run. Snow date will be Feb. 8.

The workshop will cover how to file a nominating petition, how to prepare and file campaign expenses, financial reports and other practical and important tasks. It includes a panel discussion with recently elected officials who will talk about why they decided to run for office and some of their experiences since they've been elected.

If the workshop is cancelled due to inclement weather, it will be rescheduled for Feb. 8 at the same time and place. For those who can't make the workshop, online workshops are scheduled for Jan. 17 and Feb. 13. Learn more about the workshops [here](#).

You can also preregister for the Feb. 1 workshop online at this [link](#). Preregistration is required and the workshop will cost \$25. Penn State Extension Director Peter Wulfhorst will be hosting the workshop.

Election Law Consensus Work Nearly Done

Hopefully many of our members made it to Part 1 of the PA League's Election Law and Update consensus session held Jan. 12, which covered voter registration and election day issues. This issue of the Voter may not have gotten to you in time to tell you about that, but you should have gotten an email.

Please plan to join us for Part II Feb. 9 in the Media Borough Hall Parlor Room, 301 N. Jackson St., Media, at 11:45 a.m., which will cover alternative voting systems and alternatives to closed primaries. This will be a brown bag lunch. Bring your own sandwich and drink.

The study materials and consensus questions are available here on our [website](#). It's not too late to bone up.



President's Message

Greetings and Best Wishes for the New Year!

On Jan. 5, the Board met at Pendle Hill in Wallingford for a retreat. There were so many ideas to discuss that we could have been there for many more hours. Gloria Rabinowitz did a wonderful job presenting and moderating the first part of our program: Our Mission and our Branding. She was aided and abetted very effectively by Jane Brennan who kept track of the ideas by writing notes on an easel.

Roberta Winters from the Radnor League was the moderator for the second part: Membership, Leadership Development, and Action. A former teacher, Roberta also made great use of the easel with diagrams etc.

A special thanks to Barbara Amstutz for organizing the retreat and to Jodine Mayberry, our Voter Newsletter Editor, for coming up with the idea of a retreat (on the train from D.C. after the National LWV Convention in June). For more details, read Barbara Amstutz's article on Page 3.

Our Consensus meeting on PA Election Laws, Part I, focusing on Voter Registration and Election Day Issues on Jan. 12 will probably be over by the time you are reading this, but on Feb. 9 we will meet for Part II, Alternative Election Systems and Alternatives to Closed Primaries.

On Thursday, Jan. 19, join us for State Program Planning at the Helen Furness Library in Wallingford on the lower level at 1 pm.

In February, we will also be holding our annual lunch with the Delaware County Council. And in March, once the snow is over (hopefully), we'll resume our Hot Topics Luncheons, starting with a speaker on Behavioral Health Services in Delaware County on Friday March 10. We'll also have our Jeanette Ross environmental lecture on March 22 in the evening; our speaker will be Aurora Winslade, director of Sustainability at Swarthmore College.

Hope to see you at one or more of our events!

Joanna Nealon

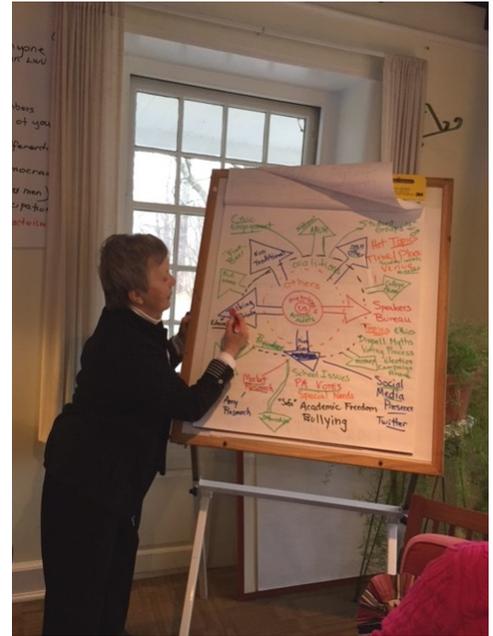
The Board 'Retreats' to Move Forward

On Thursday, Jan. 5, 2017, at Pendle Hill Conference Center, Wallingford, Pa, the League of Central Delaware County Board of Directors held a strategic planning retreat to discuss our chapter's mission and branding, to find strategies to sustain and grow membership, and to review different techniques to encourage leadership and activism among our members.

Participants at the meeting were members of the Board of Directors: Joanna Nealon, Olivia Thorne, Pat Cimino, Jane Brennan, Barbara Amstutz, Rose Marie Lord, Dora Preston, Anne Mosakowski, Katherine Miller, Marita Green, Jodine Mayberry, Diana Bastable, John Shaw, Gloria Robinowitz and Joyce Ellis.

Gloria Robinowitz served as moderator for the morning session on mission and branding. A special Guest: Roberta Winters from the Radnor League of Women Voters served as moderator for the afternoon session on growing membership and building leadership.

We started with a discussion of our current Mission of the LWV of Central Delaware Valley: The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. A Voice for Citizens – A Force for Change. ~~ Barbara Amstutz



Roberta Winters works the whiteboard

January-March Events

Jan. 19 (Thursday) State Program Planning Meeting: Furness Library, lower level, 1 p.m.

Feb. 1 (Wednesday) Toss Your Hat in the Ring—How to Run for Public Office: Media Hall Borough Hall Parlor Room, 7 p.m.-9 p.m. Exploring running for local office. Snow Date Feb. 8.

Feb. 9 (Thursday) LWV Citizens Birthday Luncheon: Media Hall Borough Hall Parlor Room --11:45 a.m. Election Laws Study, Part 2, Committee Presentation and Consensus. See Page 1.

Feb. 15 (Wednesday) County Council Luncheon: Hosted by LWV Delaware County. Have lunch with the members of County Council and hear what they're doing. Noon, at Fellini Café, 106 W. State St., State St., Media, \$25.

March 10 (Friday) Hot Topics Luncheon: Community Room, Media Borough Hall, 11:45 AM- Behavioral/ Mental Health Services in Delaware County. Donna Holiday from the Delaware County Office of Behavioral Health.

March 22, 2017 (Wednesday) Jeanette Ross Lecture: 7:30 pm, Media Borough Hall, Jeanette Ross Lecture. Aurora Winslade of Swarthmore College will speak on "Sustainability and the Environment."

April 7, 2017 (Friday) Hot Topics Luncheon: Community Room, Media Borough Hall, 11:45 AM - Carol Nackenoff, Professor of Political Science at Swarthmore College will speak about the Supreme Court.

The League's Stand on the Electoral College

What is the League's position on keeping or abolishing the Electoral College? I have been asking everyone and searching our websites for the answer to this question ever since Nov. 8. when Democrat Hillary Clinton won the popular vote by 2.9 million votes but lost the Electoral College vote very badly.

The Pennsylvania LWV recently published our stand on its site. Briefly stated, we favor abolishing the Electoral College and support the [national popular vote initiative](#). Here is our position:

Statement of Position on Selection of the President, as Announced by National Board, January 1970, Revised March 1982, Updated June 2004 and Revised by the 2010 Convention:

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice-President is essential to representative government. The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished. We support the use of the Na-

tional Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for election of the president until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished. The League also supports uniform voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. The League supports changes in the presidential election system – from the candidate selection process to the general election. We support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates and their positions, public policy issues and the selection process itself. The League supports action to ensure that the media, political parties, candidates, and all levels of government achieve these goals and provide that information.

It should be noted that the League emphatically does not support the proposal to allow voting by electors based on proportional representation by congressional districts in lieu of the present "winner-takes-all" method. Such a system would apportion the electoral votes of a state based on the popular vote in in each district. To do that would merely "nationalize" and accelerate the gerrymandering that now exists in many states for the election of congressmen and women.

~ Jodine Mayberry



We're Going to the March and Other Actions

Sometimes League members wonder what the League's stand is on important and urgent public issues and whether the League is broadcasting its stand on those issues in a timely manner. It does, both at the national and state levels — our advocacy/lobbying entities — and often those responses are very rapid. For example, LWV-US President Chris Carson sent out an action alert via email Jan. 12 that the National Board had voted unanimously to participate in the Women's March on Washington Jan. 21.

She had a statement up on the LWV-US website about the new Congress' misguided and unsuccessful effort to abolish the Office of Congressional Ethics on the front page the day it happened. You can read it [here](#). Now she has a new statement opposing the [REINS Act](#), just passed by the House of Representatives that would shut down virtually all executive branch rule making.

Or you can hear Chris talk about the League's support for the Affordable Care Act on the Union Edge, Labor's Talk Radio, on Jan. 3 at this [site](#).

If you have been feeling left out of the loop, go to <http://lww.org/> and fill out the very simple form on the right hand side of the page and get ready to have you mailbox filled up with LWV releases and information. You do the same thing at the state website, [PALWV.org](#), and sign up for the state newsletter and releases. Both sites have search features and contact information to get more information. These are your Leagues too so don't feel shy about visiting them.

Another good way to find information about the League, its studies and its policy positions is to go to <http://forum.lww.org>. Scroll over the list at the top from "Our Work" to "Policies and Publications" and search for your issue, check out the conference reports. This site also has a search feature at the top right. Rest assured, we are there.

~ Jodine Mayberry

Fun Holiday Brunch Explored Political Visionaries, Rogues and Lunatics

Our League held the annual Holiday Brunch on Saturday, December 3, 2016 at the Springhaven Country Club in Wallingford, PA. The speaker at the event was Dr. Sarah N. Roth, Associate Professor History and Coordinator of the African and African American Studies program at Widener University. Dr. Roth's presentation was titled, Visionaries, Rogues and Lunatics in American History. Her informative and entertaining presentation gave an overview of a variety of Americans that were polarizing figures for their time in history.



Dr. Sarah Ross

The list included [Anne Hutchinson](#) (1591-1643), [Nat Turner](#) (1800-1831), [John Brown](#) (1800-1859), [Huey Long](#) (1893-1935), [Marcus Garvey](#) (1887-1940), and [Dr. Jack Kevorkian](#) (1928-2011). The main portion of her talk focused on [Victoria Woodhull](#) (1838-1927) who many historians acknowledge as the first woman to run for US President. Victoria had a lot of firsts such as the first female stockbroker on Wall Street, first women to speak in front of a congressional committee, and the first women to publish a Communist manifesto.

~ Anne Mosakowski

March 10 — We start our Behavioral Health Study

We will launch our behavioral health study with a Hot Topics luncheon presentation by Donna Holiday from the Delaware County Office of Behavioral Health. We would like her to answer questions such as:

- What services are available to deal with key behavioral, mental health and substance abuse issues?
- What services are most frequently utilized? Do we have sufficient services for those in need? What gaps exist?
- What policy issues govern or constrain the delivery of behavioral health services?
- How are such services funded? Is the funding adequate?
- Do Pennsylvania and Delaware County benefit from the federal Helping Families in Mental Hrisis Act and the Excellence in Mental Health Act. If not, why not?

Please be prepared to bring your own questions as well. March 10, Media Borough Hall Community Room, 12 p.m.

You can visit these sites to get a leg up on the subject matter. The National Alliance on Mental Illness: <http://www.nami.org/>, Delaware County NAMI site <http://namipadelco.org>, or declohas.org.

State Program Planning

All members are welcome to come help LWV-CDC plan our part in the LWV-PA state programs for this year. Planning meeting, Thursday, Jan. 19, 1 p.m., Helen Furness Library, Wallingford, Lower Level.

Membership List Needs to Be Finalized

After, sadly, taking out Sally Christensen, we have 129 members. A few of those have not renewed, but we must finalize our list with the National by the end of the month so if you neglected to renew , please do it now. We need every single one of you.

The good news is, we have several new members who have joined us since September. They are: Marianne Armstrong, Haverford, Diane Bastable, Springfield, Amy Binder and John Greenstine, Middletown, Ellen Fisher, Haverford, Melissa Mandos, Nether Providence, Mary Payne, Wallingford and Nancy Philippi, Thornbury. Welcome aboard!

How to Tell If It's Fake News

In our instant news social media world, the proliferation of FAKE NEWS is widespread. What can you do to recognize and stop the spread of fake news? How can you believe or not believe what you read, hear, and see? To help with this growing dilemma that is fast becoming a threat to our democracy our League is sharing **10 tips** from a Huffington Post article titled, [How to Recognize A Fake News Story](#) written by Nick Robins-Early on how to become a better informed citizen in spotting fake news.

1. Read past the headline
2. Check what news outlet or advocacy group published it
3. Check the publish date and time
4. Who is the author?
5. Look at what links and sources are used
6. Look out for questionable quotes and photos
7. Beware confirmation bias — believing a story because it comports with what you want to believe
8. Search if other news outlets are reporting it
9. Think before you share

Use resources for spotting fake news such as; [Snopes.com](#), [FactCheck.org](#), [Washington Post Fact Checker](#), [Melissa Zimdars' List of Fake News sites](#).

Thanks to Board Member Anne Mosakowski for this compilation. The internet is a fast and easy way to spread fake news, but it also a powerful tool for debunking fake news. Don't spread lies and conspiracy theories. When others are repeating these things to you, suggest they may be "fake news" and that they should check them out on fact-checking websites. This is all part of the League's ongoing mission to educate voters.

The League Remembers Sally Christensen



Sally Christensen

Another sad loss for the League of Women Voters as Sally Christensen, a long-time member, died Dec. 14, 2016, at the age of 87. She was a mentor to many of us and was part of the famous 8 who sat around Marita Green's kitchen table and helped to rebuild the League of Nether Providence/Rose Valley. Her other accomplishments included: founding the Grace Lutheran Nursery School in Broomall, Girl Scout leader, Boy Scout den mother, longtime volunteer at Helen Kate Furness Library.

She embraced her husband Ivar's Norwegian heritage and became active in the Sons of Norway as well as the Leif Erickson Society, founded by Ivar. She even got a chance to accompany the Norwegian Foreign Minister and Ivar when they were invited to the White House to meet the president. A dedicated wife and mother, volunteer, community organizer and mentor to many of us, she will be sadly missed.

Dorothy Rodney, another long-time League member who died in October bequeathed \$1,000 to the LWV-CDC Education Fund and we have been told to expect another memorial gift from the Rodney family. We are very grateful and will put that money to good use educating voters and publishing legislative directories and voters' guides.