



VOTER

September 2018

LWV-CDC Officers 2018-2019

- Barbara Amstutz President
(610) 544-0728
- Marita Green 1st V. Pres.
(610) 724-1376
- Jane Brennan 2nd V. Pres.
(610) 353-4757
- Becky Caracappa Secretary
(610) 353-1677
- Carol Smallwood Treasurer
(610) 565-2512

Board Members

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(610) 328-1375
- Joyce Ellis
(610) 566-8674
- Alicia Granor
(610) 356-3780
- Rose Marie Lord
(610) 544-7648
- Katherine Miller
(610) 566-5964

- Anne Mosakowski
(610) 558-4924
- Joanna Nealon
(610) 543-6647
- Nancy Philippi
(219) 229-9845
- Dora Preston
(610) 348-6347
- Gloria Rabinowitz
(610) 565-0146
- Olivia Thorne
(610) 566-5474

Voter Editor

- Jodine Mayberry
(610) 299-2838

Sept. 14 Hot Topic: How the Internet Is Shaping Our World

We kick off a very busy election season with a Hot Topics luncheon Sept. 14 featuring Villanova law professor Brett Frischmann who will speak on “How the Internet is Shaping the World We’re Building for Ourselves, Our Children and Future Generations.”

Frischmann, is the Villanova University, Charles Widger Endowed University Professor in Law, Business and Economics. He the author of a recently published book, Re-engineering Humanity (Cambridge University Press), which examines the question of whether the

digital age is draining our humanity and causing us to become more robotic ourselves.

Lunch will be at the Media Borough Hall Community Room, 301 N. Jackson St., Media, Pa., at 12 noon.

Cost is \$18 and reservations are required. Call Hank Thorne at 566-5474 or email hthorne@verizon.net.



Brett Frischmann

Sept. 26: Preventing School Gun Violence

A panel discussion on preventing gun violence in schools will be held Sept. 26, at 7 p.m. This free evening program will feature Lisa Palmer, superintendent of the Wallingford-Swarthmore School District and John



John Linder

Linder, chairman of Delaware County United for Sensible Gun Policy. Linder is a former mayor of Chester. A third panelist has been invited to provide additional perspective.

The discussion will be in the Media Borough Hall Community Room, 301 N. Jackson St., Media. It requires no reservations.

Explore with the League what we can do as citizens and parents to reduce and prevent gun violence in our schools.

First Ever LWV-CDC Civics Conference Oct. 13
See Page 3 for details



President's Message

Despite the summer heat, we been working on the Fall Civic Education Workshop, several candidate forums and joining the "Families Belong Together" rallies.

Several of our CDC League members joined the Pennsylvania delegation at the 53rd National Convention of the League of Women Voters in Chicago, June 28- July 1, 2018. The theme of the Convention was "Creating a More Perfect Democracy".

Over 865 voting delegates attended from 762 local League chapters representing 49 states and the District of Columbia. I had the privilege to be part of the Pennsylvania delegation. Significant progress has been achieved by focusing on key priorities: standing up to voter suppression, expanding voting rights, advocating for election reform, and building a more inclusive and diverse culture.

One of the most intriguing speakers at the Convention was Rosie Rios, the 43rd Treasurer of the United States. She spoke about how belief systems about gender are acquired early and reinforced by public images.

After arriving at Treasury, she noticed that there were no female images on U.S. currency, and few public monuments depicting women. Notably, she led initiatives to place women on the \$5, \$10 and \$20 bills and erect a statue in San Francisco's library of the late poet and civil rights activist Maya Angelou.

On Friday, Sept. 14, at noon., we will hold our first Hot Topics Luncheon with Brett Frischmann, the Charles Widger endowed university professor in Law, Business and Economics, Villanova University. His talk, How the Internet is Shaping the World We're Building for Ourselves, Our Children and Future Generations will address social impacts of the digital age.

On Wednesday, Sept. 26, at 7 p.m., a panel discussion will be held on the prevention of gun violence in schools. We believe that elevating the issue of gun violence in Pennsylvania is critical. As reported by Cease-FirePA, "gun violence is a critical public health issue in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania suffers more than 1,400 gun deaths every year, whether by homicide, suicide or unintentional shootings."

On Saturday, Oct. 13, a Civics Education Seminar will be held from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at Stage One, 101 Plush Mill Road, Wallingford, Pa. The seminar will focus on the state legislative and judicial processes and redistricting.

The Hot Topics Luncheon, Friday, Nov. 2, at noon, Media Borough Community Room, will feature Terry Madonna, director of the Franklin & Marshall College poll and director of the Center for Politics & Public Affairs. He will update us on the midterm polls and voter engagement.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and your participation in all League activities.

Barbara Amstutz

Oct. 13: Making Democracy Work Conference

The Central Delaware County League of Women Voters proudly presents its first-ever civics education half-day conference featuring Delaware County Court of Common Pleas Judge Dominic Pileggi as keynote speaker, Oct. 13, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Stage One, 101 Plush Mill Rd. in Wallingford.

Attendees may then attend two of three workshop sessions: (1) the structure and function of our judiciary system, (2) how the state legislature works and (3) legislative and congressional redistricting.

Judge Pileggi has served as mayor of Chester and three terms as a Pa. state senator.



Judge Dominic Pileggi

Charles Day, a volunteer with Fair Districts PA who has a wide range of experience with not-for-profit organizations will lead the sessions on legislative redistricting; Rosemarie Halt, the leader of the sessions on the State Legislature, is senior policy director for the Maternity Care Coalition. The sessions on our Judiciary system will be led by a representative of Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts.

Advance registration with a \$10 fee is required. Mail a check payable to LWV-CDC, P.O. Box 131, Wallingford, Pa., 19086, or pay on line at <http://www.lwvcdc.org/>

Call Marita Green at 610-724-1376 for questions or details.

September-October Events

September 14 (Friday) – Hot Topics luncheon: Brett Frischmann, how the internet is shaping our world: noon Media Borough Hall Community Room, 301 N. Jackson Street, Media. \$18

September 26 (Wednesday) – Hot Topics Evening panel discussion on preventing Gun Violence in Schools, 7 p.m., Media Borough Hall Community Room, 301 N. Jackson Street, Media. Free.

October 13 (Saturday) – Civics Education Conference, keynote speaker Judge Dominic Pileggi – 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. – Stage One, 101 Plush Mill Rd, Wallingford. \$10 preregistration required. See above.

October 16 (Tuesday) – Meeting on 2018 General Election Information, 7 p.m., Norwood Library, 513 Welcome Ave., Norwood.

October 17 (Wednesday) – Meeting on 2018 General Election Information, 7 p.m. Swarthmore Public Library, 121 Park Ave., Swarthmore.

October 25 (Thursday) – 5th (and 7th) Congressional District candidates' debate: – Mary Gay Scanlon (D) and Pearl Kim, 7 p.m. Delaware County Community College, 901 S. Media Line Rd., Media.

November 2 (Friday) – Hot Topics luncheon, political scientist and pollster G. Terry Madonna on the general election, noon, Media Borough Hall, Community Room, Media, \$18.

Note: please see article Page 5 for list of state legislature candidates' forums dates, times and places.

Creating a More Perfect Democracy: 53rd National LWV Convention

By Barbara Amstutz, Jane Brennan and Joanna Nealon

The recent 53rd League of Women Voter's Convention held June 28-July 1, 2018, in Chicago was an incredible opportunity to connect with and learn from LWV leaders who are actively working in their communities to empower voters and protect voting rights. The theme this year, *Creating a More Perfect Democracy*, continues to focus on voter protection and mobilizing, election reform and fair representation in the redistricting process. The five voting LWV-CDC delegates attending the conference were Barbara Amstutz, Jane Brennan, Lora Lavin, Jack Nagel and Joanne Nealon.

The LWV is truly at a crossroads with its 100-anniversary approaching in 2020. We are keenly focused on meeting 21st-century demands and responding to a new generation of leaders and activists. Most importantly, LWV is committed to building a more inclusive culture that is welcoming, accessible and trusting, and reaches racially, economically, socially and age diverse communities.

We devoted three hours at the Convention to participate in an interactive, hands-on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion workshop lead by Diversity Dimensions, a leading diversity consulting firm in Washington DC. After completing the session, we understood the critical importance of structurally incorporating diverse thinking into CDC's organization to strengthen social impact and collaboration.

We were inspired listening to Elaine Weiss, a award-winning journalist discuss her latest book, *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*, chronicles the fight to ratify the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, granting women the right to vote. The retelling of this political drama had us on the edge of seats as we followed the tumultuous journey

Important policy motions passed at convention:

- **Make gun safety lobbying a priority**
- **Support the ratification of ERA**
- **Reaffirm support for abolition of the Electoral College**
- **Support efforts to price carbon emissions**
- **Support a constitutional right of privacy to make reproductive choices**
- **Support a set of climate assessment criteria that ensures energy policies align with current climate science**

of the suffragists up to final ratification in Tennessee.

We attended four workshops during the convention.

We heard an excellent program on Gun Violence Prevention and this helped us in our planning our League program on September 26, 2018 on this subject.

We watched a screening of the *Age of Consequences* documentary by Jared Scott looking at present-day climate change impacts on food and water shortages, drought, extreme weather, sea level rise, migration and conflict through the lens of US national security. We are considering a screening of this film with a climate change speaker at the Jeanette Ross Lecture in the fall.

One of the most interesting workshops was a presentation relating to a successful civic education program in partnership with high schools using Harvard Business



Left to right: Jack Nagel, Joanna Nealon, Barbara Amstutz and Jane Brennan

School cases from Professor David Moss's recent book, *Democracy: A Case Study*.

The final information session addressed *Fostering Civility and Respect in our Divided Democracy* and provided tips, techniques and listening skills to improve the tone of our political discourse.

We congratulate Jack Nagel and Lora Lavin for their hard work sponsoring a motion to request a study to evaluate the method by which we elect members of the US House of Representatives. Lora's and Jack's motion supported using ranked choice voting to elect representatives in multi-member districts. Unfortunately, the motion did not pass because there were other resolutions relating to election reform that overshadowed it. We took a break from the National Convention to make signs and join the Families Belong Together march. Many passionate signs and creative banners expressed a heartfelt plea to change current immigration policy.

The opportunity to join more than 865 League members from 49 states and the District of Columbia to learn further about LWV's priorities and successful advocacy strategies proved to be a superb and stimulating experience and provided an effective roadmap for 2018-2020.

That's Debatable: Candidate Forums

Our extremely hard-working Voter Education Team led by Marita Green has arranged the following candidates' debates for the November general election. Clip and save these dates. And volunteer to help Marita at one or more of them. Call her at (610) 724-1376 or email her at maritagreen6@gmail.com.

- Oct. 23: 161st Pa. Legislative District — Leanne Krueger-Braneky (D) and Patti Rodgers Morrisette (R), 7 p.m., Brookhaven Borough Hall, 2 Cambridge Rd., Brookhaven.
- Oct. 24: 26th State Senatorial District — Tim Kearney (D) and Tom McGarrigle (R), 7 p.m., Springfield Township Building, 50 Powell Rd., Springfield.
- Oct. 25: 5th Congressional District — Mary Gay Scanlon (D) and Pearl Kim (R), 7 p.m. Delaware County Community College auditorium, 901 S. Media Line Rd., Media.

Editor's Note: Scanlon and Kim are also running against one another for the 7th District Special congressional election to fill the remainder of former Congressman Pat Meehan's term (November and December). The special election is being held in the former 7th District on Election Day, Nov. 6, so voters who were in the former 7th District and are now in the 5th can vote in both elections.

Important 2018 Election Dates

First day to apply for a civilian absentee ballot.....	September 17
Last day to REGISTER before the November election.....	October 9
Last day to apply for a civilian absentee ballot.....	October 30
Last day for County election board to receive voted civilian absentee ballots.....	November 2
GENERAL ELECTION.....	November 6
First day to REGISTER after November election	November 7
Last day for county board of elections to receive voted military and overseas absentee ballots (submitted for delivery no later than 11:59 P.M. on November 5)	November 13



Photos from the Families Belong Together March at the National Convention in Chicago

We Get by with a Little Help from our Friends (Registering Voters)

This is a special time in our history, and many people are interested in registering to vote. And LWV is just the organization to get the job done! The deadline for registering folks is October 9, that makes September a busy month.

If you are interested in helping bring along new voters, or if you have any ideas about companies or schools or events that might want us to register their people, give me a call (610) 724-1376, or send me an email! maritagreen6@gmail.com

~ Marita Green

Pa. League's Updated Election Law Position

By Jodine Mayberry

Remember all those tedious consensus meetings we held last year? All the local leagues sent the results to the LWVPA, which has issued updated state League positions based on the results.

Here are the highlights:

Primaries — LWVPA opposes the current system of closed primaries that excludes those voters who do not register with one of the two major parties and supports changing to an open primary system that would allow voters to register and vote in a party primary of their choice on primary election day or a semi-open system in which voters who are not already registered in a major party can register and vote in one of the major party primaries.

Electoral System — In single-seat elections, LWVPA supports adopting an instant runoff voting system in which voters rank their choices. If no candidate gets a majority vote, the candidate who gets the fewest votes is eliminated and his or her voters' second choice is added to the totals of the remaining candidates. The process is repeated until one candidate has a majority of all votes cast.

Multiple Winner Elections (legislatures, councils) — LWVPA favors allowing the party that gets the most votes to win the most seats but allowing minority parties with

significant vote shares to win a proportionate number of seats. This would level the playing field for women and minorities who have been consistently underrepresented.

General Assembly Elections — LWVPA supports a mixed member proportional system for elections to the Pa. General Assembly. In MMP elections, most legislators would be elected from single districts, but a significant number of members would be chosen from a statewide list of candidates nominated by the parties. The number of seats would be allocated according to a formula designed to establish proportionality between each party's statewide vote and its total number of legislators. This system would supplement, not replace the proposed reform of the current redistricting system as one means of discouraging gerrymandering.

Universal Registration — LWVPA supports election day registration, universal registration and allowing 17-year-olds to vote in primary elections if they will be 18 on general election day.

The state League also supports no-excuse absentee voting, participation by eligible prisoners and parolees, voting machines that provide verifiable paper ballots and election of the president by the National Popular Vote Compact between the states, which essentially bypasses the electoral college.

To read the LWVPA position and an explanation of MMP, ranked voting and instant runoffs, go to www.palwv.org.



Our vice president in charge of programming, Jane Brennan, poses as a suffragist in Chicago

Time to Renew or Join

As the League of Women Voters approaches its 100th birthday in 2020, please continue to support the League of Women Voters of Central Delaware County, by renewing your membership. If you're already a member, you should have gotten a renewal letter and form from our new president, Barbara Amstutz.

LWV-CDC depends on your support to do all of the things we do each year. Just look through this newsletter to see how many activities the League is doing in September and October.

Your membership fee also goes to support the work of the state and national Leagues and enables us to send delegates to their conferences. See the report on the National Conference in Chicago this summer on Page 4.

This year, we are trying something new to attract younger members, free memberships for students aged 16 and up. If your children or grandchildren might be interested, please tell them about the League and invite them to our school gun safety program, Sept. 26. See Page 1.

Thank you to our longtime members for your support over the years. ~ Jodine Mayberry