

# LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF LANCASTER COUNTY

## 2022: A Year in Review

Dear Members,

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Upon the reemergence of the League in Lancaster County, I am delighted to send you this newsletter highlighting our 2022 accomplishments, introduce your LWV of Lancaster County leadership team, and provide a 2023 outlook. At the start of the year, a small working group of like-minded individuals convened to discuss the history of the LWV of Lancaster County and lay plans for the future. There was so much work to do! I was inspired by each contribution. In all of our efforts, we sought guidance from past League Leaders – Molly Henderson, Jennifer Mann, Jennifer Engle, Cheryl Desmond, and Kathy Schmick. They have graciously provided League history, protocol, training, and encouragement.

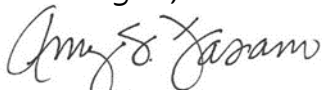
Creating a new webpage, engaging a social media presence, and reaching out to legacy members were priorities. We hosted a fun picnic in Long's Park, many voter education and registration events, and one candidate debate. We participated in the United Way's Conversations about OUR Community series online forum focused on informed voting and community engagement. We marched in the Millersville Parade and put up a fantastic VOTE tree in the Barnstormers stadium – read on for details!

Our leadership was present for Board of Elections meetings to voice concerns when the Board decided to remove the County's single voter drop box and again when they decided against allowing voters to cure their undated or misdated absentee or mail in ballot envelopes.

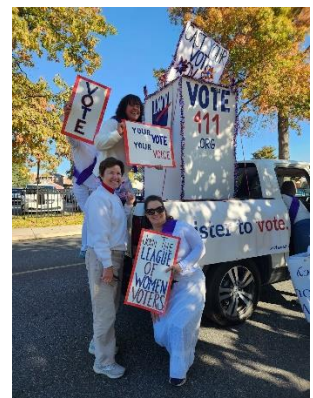
For the November election, our team was out and about volunteering as ballot pre-canvassers, Voter Protection volunteers and other volunteer roles. Our experiences will shape our efforts going forward.

A priority for 2023 is to increase our membership and participation! Please consider your social network and encourage your friends to join us in protecting democracy and promoting civic engagement.

In League,



LWV of Lancaster County Chapter Chairperson



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## MATTERS OF FINANCE by Tori Shank

The Treasurer torch was officially passed in September of this year. The main goal right now is to develop a new budget while looking for new and creative ways to fundraise and recruit for our chapter. We've started using monthly treasurer's reports to turn data into information. We will strive to improve processes and maintain fiscal responsibility.

We're also working on realistic goal setting to ensure we're always moving towards our mission. We've developed a strategic system so that membership and finance is working hand in hand to maximize opportunities in a timely manner.



## Membership Report by Michelle Toro

Last August the LWVLC celebrated their 75th anniversary at Long's Park. The event was an opportunity to reconnect with former League members. In December we sent renewal letters to all inactive members via email, and mail for those without an email address. The LWV US announced exciting plans to launch a nationwide membership registration page to streamline efforts in 2023. Currently, our League is working on a welcome package for new members.

## IT'S TIME FOR DEBATE by Jenny Engle

On Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> the League hosted a Candidates Night at the East Donegal Township Building in Marietta. Democratic candidate Mark Temons and Libertarian candidate Josh Gerber, both running for the 98<sup>th</sup> District Representative, participated. Republican Tom Jones did not participate. League members Meg Titter and Michelle Toro, as well Felicia Bookman, a student from Elizabethtown High School, questioned the candidates on a variety of issues including education, abortion, the environment, taxes, the minimum wage, and infrastructure. Our League tried to organize several other candidate forums, however many candidates running either declined to participate or did not respond.



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### 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Summer Gathering

by Carolyn Hernandez

On a bright, sunny August Saturday, the LWV of Lancaster County celebrated its' 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a Membership Reunion and New Member Reception at Long's Park.

Cheryl Desmond shared a brief history of the local league, while Amy Fasano outlined plans for the future. Members old and new had the chance to chat and network and make plans for their civic involvement for the November 2022 election.

We hope to make this an annual event for our chapter. Please let us know if you'd like to be on this planning committee.



1947-2022



### MARCHING ON! by Carolyn Hernandez

On October 22, 2022, the League of Women Voters of Lancaster County participated in the annual Millersville University Homecoming Parade. It was a beautiful, crisp fall morning when Chapter Members along with students from F&M marched the 3-mile parade route handing out candy and over 800 VOTE411 flyers. Our float consisted of a Vote411.com ballot box and walkers wore purple suffragist sashes. We were encouraged by the positive feedback that spectators showed us. A great time was had by all!



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### Voter Services in Action

by Sarah Zeiders



**VOTE 411**

Voter Education and Registration events were held at most Sunday Concerts in the Park at Long's Park over the summer. Over the fall, focus was provided at at the Rockford neighborhood in Mountville and the Aster neighborhood in Lititz in coordination with HDC. Both events went well & the communities will happily partner with us in the future. Everyone was lovely to work with, and I received positive feedback all the way around.

F&M requested to host a table on campus to chat with people about what we do/what we're about. We also used this as an opportunity to promote "Plan Your Vote" to ensure the students knew where their polling locations were, in addition to promoting Vote411.

Our League joined a committee for the statewide LWV Voter Services crew focusing on Ballot Box Basics. More on that and how we can implement it here in the New Year.

In December, our League was awarded a grant for \$600.00 for a Youth Voter Education project to engage youth in the process!



### RECLAIMING OUR DEMOCRACY CONFERENCE

by Paula Koda

On Saturday, December 3rd a group of 'Good Government' aficionados from Lancaster led by Amy Ruffo attended the Fair Districts "Reclaiming our Democracy" conference. Fair Districts is an off-shoot of the Pennsylvania League of Women Voters who have been advocating for Independent Citizens groups to draw Congressional and State legislative lines. It was founded in 2016 and is dedicated to a more representative, efficient and accountable government. The conference was packed with speakers from Fair Districts and various other non-profits from within PA and other states with the same goals in mind.

The participants left with a renewed commitment to making our State and Local government work better by partnering with different groups and forming coalitions of like-minded organizations to apply pressure on Harrisburg. We have been lobbying our local legislative Senators and Representatives to start by changing the rules that govern each entity. There are links to presentations for those who might be interested in learning more, or becoming involved in this worthwhile effort, ensuring the will of the people is heard and respected.

A sampling of the speakers:

Carol Kuniholm – Fair Districts  
Anthony Eid – Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC)  
Aizaz Gill – Business for America  
John Dromer – Univ of Pennsylvania, Urban Studies  
Nick Pressley – All Voting is Local  
Susan Spicka – Education Voters of PA  
Justin Villere - Committee of Seventy

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### Social Media ~

by Shannon Taggert

Over the last six months we have expanded our social media presence focusing on Facebook and Twitter. Before the election we shared about registering, how to vote and other information pertaining to voters in Lancaster County. We promoted our events including the debate, parade and registration tables.

Our Facebook page currently has 173 followers and in the last 28 days our posts have reached over 1,600 people through shares. Our Twitter has 61 followers currently and is continuing to grow. Our tweets concerning the election board and the debates gained traction throughout the county. We plan to continue to grow our social media presence especially using the time before the next elections to become more engaged with Instagram and TikTok.

*Keep your eyes open for our upcoming posts and tweets!*

Find, Like, Follow, Share!



<https://www.facebook.com/LWVLancasterPA>



<https://twitter.com/LWVLancasterPA>

Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/lwvlancasterpa/>



### CHRISTMAS TREE LANE AT THE BARNSTORMER STADIUM

by Carolyn Hernandez

The League of Women Voters of Lancaster County was generously sponsored by Hillcrest Pharmacy & Compounding of Lancaster to participate in the Christmas Tree Lane display at the Barnstormers Clipper Stadium.

One-hundred decorated Christmas trees were set up in the stadium concourse in a dazzling display. Chapter members decorated a VOTE themed red, white, and blue tree with handmade LWV and Hillcrest ornaments. Visitors were invited to buy \$1 votes and cast them for their favorite tree. All voting proceeds went directly back to the tree's charity.

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### ~ Meet Your Team ~

I am **Amy Fasano**. I reside with my husband, and two teens in West Lampeter Township. I teach as an adjunct instructor at several universities and I recently completed my 200-hour yoga teacher training. There are many issues I care passionately about, but nothing else matters without secure voting rights. I was driven to make sure the LWV resume its place in Lancaster County as a leader in promoting and protecting voting rights, encouraging civic engagement, educating voters on candidates running for office as well as holding elected officials accountable. I am enjoying working with an enthusiastic, committed, and talented team, past and present.

In 2023, my hope is to see our membership grow so that we can mentor others to take on this important work going forward.



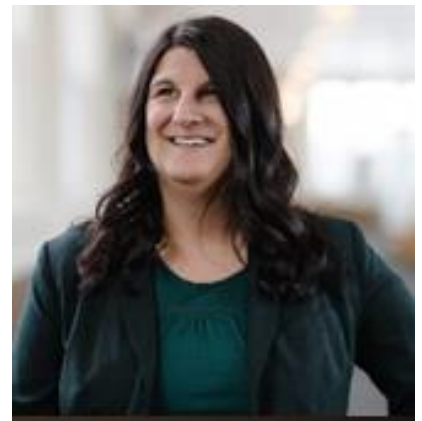
### VICE CHAIR

I'm **Carolyn Hernandez**, married Mom of 2 teen boys and IT Staffing Director by day. The opportunity to be involved in the LWV came at the perfect time. I'd been frustrated watching our democracy for a while and was compelled to "do something". Being part of the revitalization committee has been exciting and eye-opening.

I can't wait to see where we take the league that is filled with smart members that are ready to take action to make our country better.

### FINANCE

My name is **Tori Shank** and I am the new Treasurer of the League of Women Voters – Lancaster Chapter. I joined the league about a year ago because I was looking a way to streamline my efforts in educating and helping members of the community regarding voting and voting rights. I hold a business degree from Elizabethtown college and spent most of my career as an account manager. I live with my 2 boys and husband in northern Lancaster County.



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### VOTER SERVICES

I'm **Sarah Zeiders**, married mama of 4 (3 bio, 1 bonus) awesome kiddos. I'm a therapist with the forensic population by day, with a background in social work. I joined the LWV at the encouragement of my dear friend, Carolyn & was so excited by the first meeting, I agreed to jump in as Voter Services Chair. I strongly believe in the League's values of defending democracy by promoting voting rights, education, and representation across all communities.

### MEMBERSHIP

I am **Michelle Toro**. I joined the LWCLC after a friend invited me to join her efforts to restart the League. I am passionate about philanthropy, and organizations that work to improve the human condition. I am most inspired by how the League empowers others to get involved in the election process.

#### Note to members!

Please make sure we have your email address on file so that we can reach you in the most cost-effective way with League news, happenings, and dues reminders. Email: [info@LWVLANCASTER.org](mailto:info@LWVLANCASTER.org)



### SOCIAL MEDIA

My name is **Shannon Taggart** and I am a Lancaster Country native who after years of moving around has settled back into Lancaster with my three kids, three dogs, and one husband. I currently work in the non-profit world and I am thrilled to be volunteering with the League. It is often hard for me to get out to events but as Social Media Coordinator, I can still help spread the word about the importance of voting.

### WEBPAGE MANAGEMENT

We thank **Erin Gibson** for joining our team to transfer and update our webpage. Her expertise is a huge help!

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We also appreciate **Paula Koda**, a retired business leader and consultant, who is actively engaged in numerous Lancaster civic groups. Paula's work with Lancaster Votes and insight to community voting resources and needs is invaluable!



### What are our plans for 2023?....

In 2023, our focus, as an executive committee, will be revising our by-laws, streamlining our website functionality, and increasing a diverse membership. As an organization, we will continue to engage residents of Lancaster County in voter education and registration events. We will host candidate forum opportunities.

We will plan for coalition building with other community organizations to best meet the needs of our community members. We will use outreach and networking to gain support from business and industry as we seek civic engagement opportunities.

Your contribution of time is very meaningful. Participating in planning meetings or sub-committee level work is important and helpful. Our monthly "executive committee" planning meetings will be at 6:00 PM on the 2nd Wednesdays of each month at the Friends Meeting House. Smaller working groups and sub-committees will plan meetings as needed. All are welcome to attend the monthly meetings to observe and see where your talents might meet the needs of the organization. Maybe as the secretary or newsletter editor?! 😊

Remember to find us on our social media sites and encourage your friends to do so!

**2023 REGULAR MEETINGS WILL BE AT 6:00 PM ON THE 2ND WEDNESDAYS OF EACH MONTH AT:  
FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE  
110 TULANE TERRACE  
LANCASTER, PA.**