

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF LANCASTER COUNTY

Serving our community for over 75 years!

December 2023

Dear Members,

After our first full year of League activities around Lancaster County, I am pleased to present our 2023 year-end newsletter.

This year, our team members embraced making “Democracy their Side Hustle” and made progress working with other organizations and the community. Our efforts to register voters was strong and our outreach about the LWV mission flourished. We welcomed many new members and diligently met once a month to iron out program, policy, and event planning.

In June, I enjoyed attending the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Biennial Convention in June with members Mary Grill and Tressa Monkman (photo). Tressa was elected Treasurer for the LWVPA Board of Directors. At this convention delegates, chosen from each local League ahead of time, voted using Parliamentary Procedures and Robert's Rules of Order that involved debate, discussion, and clarification. If there was a dissent, there was a vote. Some might find this a tedious process but I was immediately captivated by the intelligence and thoughtfulness of each contribution.



This Fall, our local League attempted to host several candidate forums, we wrote Letters to the Editor to clarify the importance of friendly debates, and we created and shared a tutorial video that explained to voters how to properly complete mail in ballots in the general election. Again, members attended the Board of Elections meeting and we made statements concerning the fourth consecutive error on mail-in ballots for our voters. We will continue to be informed and present to hold elected officials accountable.

In closing, I hope you are as excited about our future in Lancaster County as civic engagement motivators as I am. Our 2024 Plan & Path will be strategic, focused, and full of potential. Stay tuned for details about our partnerships and projects as we continually seek to enlarge our general membership, volunteer pool, and committee level workers all while using the LWVUS and LWVPA resources to guide us.

In League,

LWVLC Chair



WE STARTED THE 2ND HALF OF 2023 WITH OUR ANNUAL PICNIC

Under bright sunny skies, the LWVLC gathered for its' annual picnic and membership meeting at Overlook Park on July 16, 2023. Members shared their ideas for defending democracy and a bountiful spread of potluck dishes. We encourage all members to attend this gathering as it will serve as a voting meeting for League Officers and Programs.



LANCASTER PRIDE

The LWVLC had a fabulous day at the 15th Annual Lancaster Pride Festival on Jun 17, 2023. Members were on hand to register voters, share upcoming election information and celebrate our LGBTQ+ pride. Visitors were welcomed to participate in a voting trivia game, make origami fortune tellers and register to vote! The League was welcomed enthusiastically and enjoyed the positive energy shared by all that attended. Student volunteers practiced civic engagement skills!



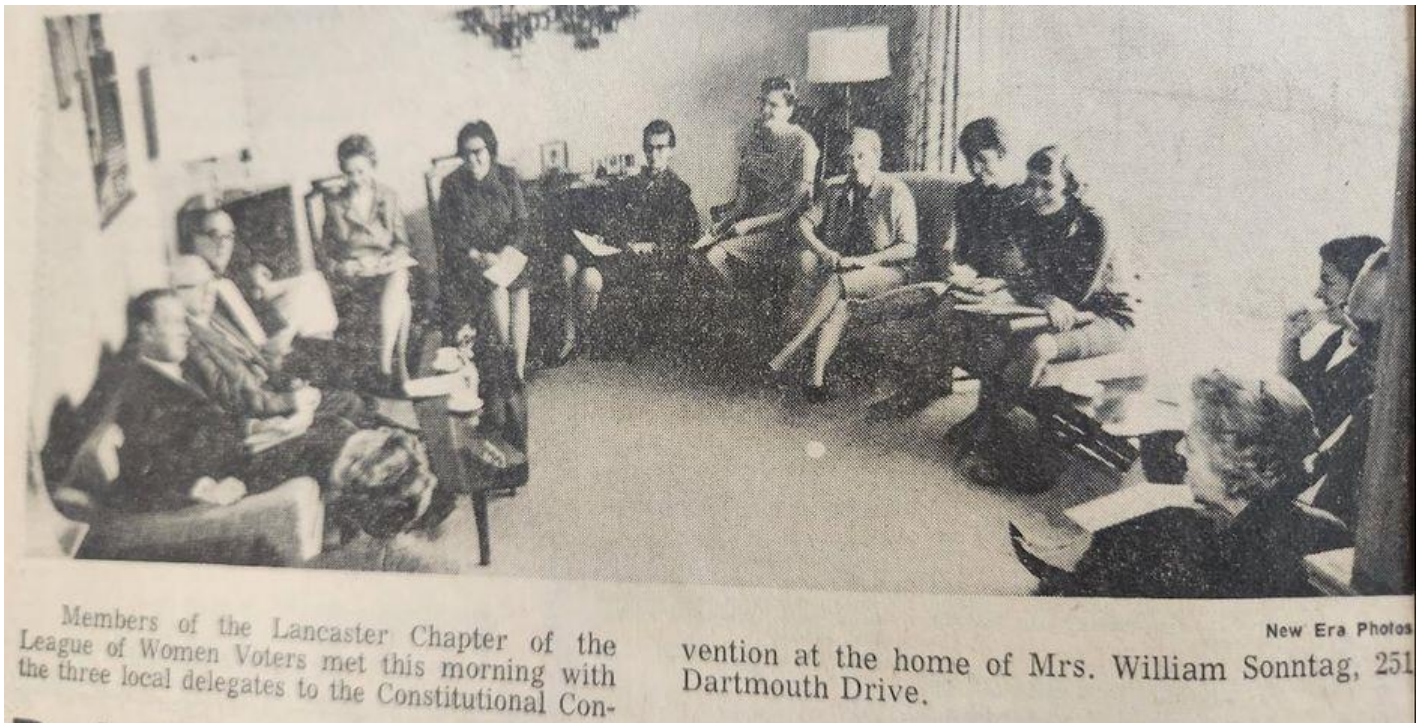
Kenderdine Lectures by Amy Fasano

Harriet Webb Kenderdine (1899 - 1982)

Harriet was an active member of the League of Women Voters at the local, state, *and* national levels and she had a deep interest in international affairs, serving as the Chair of the LWVUS Study on the United Nations in 1965. When Mrs. Kenderdine died in September 1982, she left a bequest to the local league. She set aside funds for lecturers for public events on behalf of the LWV, underwriting the costs as long as the speaker was representative of their ideals, which include educating voters and promoting the advancement of civil rights.

In September, talks resumed with Millersville University faculty and executives to revive the Kenderdine Lectures. A new committee was formed and the efforts will be maintained by the Center for Civic Responsibility and Leadership; including the help of our LWV member, Jill Craven. In the past, lecturers have included human and civil rights leaders and authors, leading congressional and legal affairs correspondents, and United Nations representatives. I am excited to foster this collaboration, engage with new partners and launch our next lecture in the Fall, 2024!

Membership Report by Carolyn Hernandez



Members of the Lancaster Chapter of the League of Women Voters met this morning with the three local delegates to the Constitutional Con-

vention at the home of Mrs. William Sonntag, 251 Dartmouth Drive.

New Era Photos

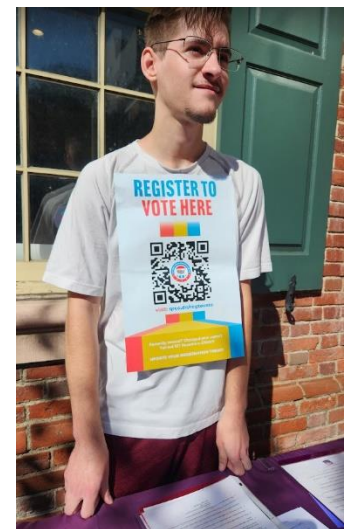
With lifetime members and new members, our membership is at: 50 Active: 24 New 2023; and 5 Lifetime. In 2024 we hope to double our membership and secure active committee members to learn the ropes!

Speaking of life-long members, we were saddened to hear that one of our members died. Jean Sonntag was a lifetime member of our local League, beginning in 1962. The League of Women Voters Lancaster County shares a deep gratitude for Jean's years of service and continued support. The Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention (Con-Con) of 1967-68 was an important time for the LWVLC. In this photo is Jean Sonntag (*at that time, it was still the social norm was to identify married women by their husband: Mrs. William Sonntag*). We extend our sincere condolences to her family and friends.

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY ACTIVITIES

by Amy Fasano

Since 2012, National Voter Registration Day is a **nonpartisan civic holiday celebrating our democracy!** The LWV partners with NVRD.org as a way to attract eligible voters and promote the importance of voting. Our events included a voter registration table in Penn Square, where WNEP Fox43 interviewed us! Later in the day, we gathered at Zoetropolis to talk about our efforts and engage new members!



Ian helping to register voters in Penn Square!

NVRD 2024 is September 17!

CANDIDATE FORUMS... ~ by Carolyn Hernandez

Invitations to participate in candidate forums, otherwise known as debates, were sent to the Warwick and Elizabethtown School Boards and the Magisterial District Judge candidates (In partnership with the Bail Reform Coalition) in September. In accordance with our No Empty Chair policy, we were not able to hold the debates due to lack of participation from some candidates. Carolyn Hernandez, Vice Chairperson, wrote a Letter to the Editor at LNP on October 2nd, stressing the importance of candidate participation in these types of election activities so increase transparency and voter trust.

On October 11th, in collaboration with the Center for Civic Responsibility and Leadership at Millersville University, the LWVLC sent invitations to the four candidates on the ballot for judge on the Court of Common Pleas. The RSVP for the event was October 20th. Due to a lack of response, the forum could not be held.

The LWVLC looks forward to working with the Center for Civic Responsibility and Leadership at Millersville University, F&M's Ware Institute for Civic Engagement, and other nonpartisan partners on future forums on the importance of democracy and hopefully, candidate debates. The LWVLC remains committed to helping voters get to know their candidates, and will gladly work with candidates interested in participating in forums. We are transparent in our work to host professional debates with experienced moderators, identifying a diverse group of questioners and crafting job function specific questions for the candidates.

Conservation District Follow Up by Jenny Engle

The League is a nominating organization for the board of the Lancaster County Conservation District. Last year our League nominated me for a board seat. I completed an application, which then went to the County Commissioners, who voted to approve my nomination. I became an associate board member and have been learning about all the things the staff of the LCCD do on their own, in partnership with other conservation districts, and with the state and federal governments. In addition, I attend monthly board meetings, serve on the marketing and communications committee, help with strategic planning, and attend reciprocal training and social events as I am able. This has been a terrific learning opportunity and I hope League members will consider volunteering with some of the LCCD's future conservation projects.



LWVLC Merch for SALE!

Looking for a League of Women Voters t-shirt to wear to events? We've got you covered! Check out our shop that features products with designs that were developed through our partnership with PCAD students at the 2023 Design-a-Thon. More items will be added.

Note: The LWV LC does not profit from the sales.
<https://www.bravuragraphics.com/league-of-women-voters-shop>



STUDENT VIDEO CONTEST

by Sarah Zeider



<https://www.lwvlancaster.org/video-contest>

In October, LWVLC launched a student video contest to Lancaster/Lebanon County High School students to engage youth in the voting process. Students are invited to produce 30-90 second videos highlighting the theme of “Make a Game Plan to Vote”. Winners will be selected in February by a panel of Millersville University students and announced as a red-carpet premier event on **Friday March, 8, 2024 at Zoetropolis in Lancaster**. Cash prizes are being offered so please encourage students you know to participate. Please join us to celebrate these students and International Women’s Day at the event!

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALLGAME



In an effort to continue to promote the League and attract new members, the LWVLC attended the Lancaster Barnstormers game on August 13th.

Members spoke with the community about the upcoming municipal election, our mission of protecting democracy and voting registration. The League sold tennis balls as a fundraiser and contestants had their chance to win prizes following the Barnstormers win over the Long Island Ducks.



**Remember:
DEMOCRACY IS NOT A
SPECTATOR SPORT!**

MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY PARADE & SUSTAINABILITY GRANT

by Carolyn Hernandez

Back for the second year, League members marched in the Millersville University homecoming Parade on October 14, 2023. Despite a rainy morning, members enjoyed interacting with the community and spreading the word about Vote411.org as the premiere voting guide. The parade also coincided with the LWVPA Reimagine Sustainability Week. Lauren Shaw applied for a grant and we utilized the funds provided by LWVPA, to hand out LWVLC logo reusable shopping bags and battery recycling bags along the parade route.





STAY TUNED FOR DETAILS AND SIGN-UPS:

1. Volunteers to pair with experienced members to schedule and conduct Legislative Interviews in February / March.
2. Voter Registration events prior to the April Primary Election in collaboration with Lancaster Votes / YWCA sign ups!
3. And we hope to see you: **Friday March, 8, 2024 at Zoetropolis in Lancaster!**

And finally, in lieu of a regular meeting, we gathered at Cartel Brewing for some seasonal cheer. So many joined in that we moved our group upstairs. We discussed many of the opportunities for the new members that joined us!



~ UPCOMING ~

Your contribution of time is very necessary for the sustainability of our League. We need you to participate in planning meetings, sub-committee, or volunteer level work! All members are welcome to attend the monthly meetings to observe and see where your talents might meet the needs of our organization.

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

2024 REGULAR MEETINGS:

Friends Meeting House
110 Tulane Terrance
Lancaster, PA

3rd Wednesdays at 6 PM 😊



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

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

Coffee & Conversations – to meet YOUR League:

If you know people concerned about our democracy - they should seek us out!

1. **January 8** from 9 -10 AM *with Sarah*
Starbucks -1576 Strickler Road, Manheim
2. **January 15** from 6:30-7:30 PM *with Carolyn*
Starbucks - The Crossing 1300 Christopher Place, Lancaster
3. **January 22** from 6:30-7:30 PM *with Amy*
Starbucks - 2412 Willow Valley Drive, Willow Street
4. **January 29** from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM *with Shannon*
Starbucks - Shoppes at Kissel Village, 988-A Lititz Pike, Lititz