

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY voter

League of Women Voters of Northampton County | www.lwvlv.org | l wvnorco@yahoo.com | April 2009

calendar of events:

Mon., April 13; 6 p.m.

LEHIGH VALLEY BOARD OF HEALTH, Northampton County Council chambers, Northampton County Courthouse, 669 Washington St., Easton

Mon., April 20; 7-9 p.m.

NPV CONSENSUS MEETING, St. Andrews Lutheran Church, Freemansburg Ave. and Stones Crossing, Palmer Twp.

Weds., April 29; 6:30 p.m.

PREPARE QUESTIONS for Candidates Forum, 6:30 p.m. at the home of Clare Polanki, 17 Brentwood Ave, Palmer Twp., (610) 258-2232.

Tues., May 5, 7 p.m.

CANDIDATES FORUM for Northampton County Executive in Northampton County Government Center.

Wed. May 6; 7:15 p.m.

BOARD MEETING, St. Andrews Lutheran Church. Members invited to attend.

Thrs., May 7,

VOTERS' GUIDE published in the *Morning Call*

Fri., May 8, 1 p.m.

BUNDLING of *Voters' Guide*. Home of Jessica Dreistadt, 134 E Madison St., Easton. Call for directions, (610) 252-5362

Wed., May 13; 5:15 p.m.

ANNUAL DINNER Meeting, Candlelight Reception and Conference Center. See details page 3.

Weds., June 3; 7:15 p.m.

BOARD MEETING, St. Andrews Lutheran Church. Members invited to attend.

June 5 - 7

LWVPA Convention, Clarion, Pa.

Tues., June 23; 1:30 p.m.

Naturalization Ceremonies, Northampton County Courthouse.

President's Message

Dear Members, It has been a pleasure to serve as president of the LWVNC for the past two years and as secretary the previous two. I will step aside as president so that I may spend more time caring for family (especially my granddaughter, Giovanna), our four rescued Greyhounds/Italian Greyhounds, working and volunteering. We on the nominating committee have tapped **Joan Dean** to take the reigns of this fine organization so it will be in good hands.

I was hoping that I would be off board completely however as of yesterday I agreed to accept a director position that we have been unable to fill. We all just get recycled I guess. I feel like Michael Corleone in the *Godfather* when he said, "I tried to get out, but they pulled me back in"! So director of fundraising it is.

Although I didn't accomplish everything I intended, one thing I am most excited about is our step forward in the realm of technology. Some examples are: *Voter* is available on our website for anyone to read—not only members—we have a blog, a fan page on Facebook, a social networking site, and we will begin accepting PayPal/electronic payments for dues and donations online in the next few weeks. All of these things are important to move our League forward and to keep it dynamic.

Three things that I have harped on and haven't achieved much success in are membership, money and volunteers. However we have new plans to address these issues.

What is new for '09 is membership committee. **Pam Kistler** and **Kay Browne** will be co-directors and head-up this effort and will require your help to achieve their goals.

Another new idea to address our lack of funds is the development of the director of fundraising portfolio. The focus will be to find business and organizations (not members) to donate money (always preferred) but also in-kind services, products, meals, whatever. We can either use the items in programs and/or raffle some to raise funds or raffle as part of a membership recruitment drive.

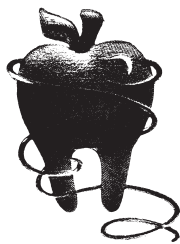
The last of the three things I mentioned previously is volunteers. I think that if we achieve our first goal, membership, then the volunteers will follow. We are pursuing offers from local organizations for help if needed.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to meet so many inspirational and impressive women. It has been a privilege to get to know you; I respect your integrity and value your dedication to the League mission. Your time and talents have been a tremendous help and I was rarely turned down when I called (even at the last minute) for assistance. Know that your cumulative efforts are instrument to our group success. We still have so much work to do...but I shall leave that to our new president—she'll thank us later! *Buona fortuna*, Joan!

Looking forward to seeing you all Wednesday, May 13, at our annual membership meeting!

Grazie a tutti

—Santa



Louis J. Tencza, DDS
Angela S. Tencza, DDS

We take your smile to heart

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PROFILE—Joan Dean

Julie Swan offered to do a profile for Joan Dean. She sent a series of questions to Joan and below are Joan's answers.

I was born in Brooklyn, New York; grew up in Plainfield, New Jersey; raised my family in little Bloomsbury, New Jersey; and moved to Palmer Township in 1998. I guess I just keep moving westward.

For over 25 years I worked for a medical device firm in the Somerville area, a company of Johnson and Johnson Corporation, where I became a Supervisor in the Operations Division and a Compliance Auditor, before retiring in 2004. We produced tests for typing people's blood group (A, B, O, AB) and antibody detection, and also test kits for AIDs and Hepatitis.

I graduated from an all-girls, private, high school and was fairly quiet and compliant until I had a watershed experience in college. I took a course called 'Roles of Women in History'. It both excited and exasperated me! What I didn't know at that time, was that this course would become the catalyst that caused me to question much of what I had learned (and a lot that was never even taught) in my earlier history classes. My perspective changed, along with my attitude. And, yes, I even took part in on-campus demonstrations that questioned prominent issues in the early 1970s.

I have been both humbled and awe-struck by generations of women whose courage, dedication, and sometimes sheer tenacity have accomplished so much for all who followed them.

Since the LWV had its roots in the social reform movement, and remains peerless in its endeavors, I became a member, proudly, in 2004. (later than a lot of members, but better late than never).

As a member, I have attended a national convention, a state convention, worked on phonathons, Naturalization ceremonies, legislative dinners, chaired the National Immigration Study, and

am currently vice president of the Northampton County League.

I love to travel and learn. In addition to traveling in the United States, I have set my feet outside the U.S. at least 18 times. I have seen the aurora borealis, gone through the Panama Canal, and stood on the Great Wall of China. But you don't have to go to these places to realize that most people want the same things the world over; healthy families, safe communities, and equality under the law.

I am also a Red Cross volunteer worker, currently taking courses in Shelter Operation for mass care.

I am so proud to be a member of the League of Women Voters; but, the work, started by others so long ago, is not finished, yet. One of our biggest challenges now, is the need to grow our membership. Members are the life-blood of any organization! It should be a focus effort. I'm thinking 'the more, the merrier', for next year's birthday bash. How about it?

Best to all,

—Joan

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Voter Editor: Joyce Losee,
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MISSION STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

The Annual Dinner Meeting is scheduled for Wed., May 13. **Information regarding the budget, local program, and nominating committee report will be mailed separately.** Please bring it with you to the meeting before the dinner. A reservation form has been included in this *Voter* for your convenience.

Our guest speaker will be Chuck Penacchio, executive director of Healthcare For All PA. Penacchio is history program director at The University of the Arts in Philadelphia, founder of Citizen Solutions for Pennsylvania, and a 2006 candidate for the United States Senate.

Penacchio is longtime advocate of publicly-financed, privately-provided universal healthcare, Penacchio took the lead in negotiating comprehensive health benefits for thousands of working graduate students while at the University of Colorado. He sees the state-level, single-payer healthcare question as an “opportunity to achieve a dramatic turnaround on numerous fronts (social, economic, legal) and at all levels (local, national, and international).”

A native of Delaware County, Penacchio is a resident of Bucks County, a husband of 16 years and a father of two school-age children.

NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE COMPACT

The second discussion meeting on the National Popular Vote Compact was well attended. **Julie Swan**, our hostess, provided an abundance of delicious refreshments and we enjoyed a lively discussion on the issues pro and con. Before breaking up we reviewed the consensus questions and agreed they were well thought out and that we should be able to reach consensus on them.

The study has been interesting and we welcome everyone’s opinions. We hope to have a large

representation of LWV members at the final meeting, the Consensus Meeting, April 20, 7–9 p.m. at St. Andrews Lutheran Church, Freemansburg Ave. and Stones Crossing, Palmer Township. Please bring the consensus questions, printed in last month’s *Voter*, with you. The national NPV committee has prepared a 15-minute video discussing some of the problems people seem to be having with the consensus questions. The video will be shown at this meeting.

—*Marlou Belyea, Chairperson*

CANDIDATES PROGRAMS

The League of Women Voters of Northampton County is holding public forums for candidates running for Northampton County Executive and County Council on Tuesday, May 5 at 7 p.m. in Northampton County Government Center, 669 Washington St., Easton.

The forum for the two Democratic candidates for Executive (John Stoffa and Anne McHale) and the six Democratic candidates for County Council will be held in Council Chambers. Council candidates are Charles M. Dertinger, Walter Gavin, Deborah L. Hunter, Lorraine M. Pasquali, Will Power and William E. Wallace.

The forum for the Republican candidates for County Council will be held in the Council Meeting Room, #3116, third floor of the Courthouse. Republicans are John Cusick, Tom Dietrich, Peg Ferraro, Bruce A. Gilbert, Jane Mellert and Barbara A. Thierry.

The Republican candidate for County Executive is running unopposed so will not be participating.

We need your help to prepare questions on April 29, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, at the home of Clare Polanki, 17 Brentwood Ave., Palmer Twp. Please call Clare if you can attend, (610) 258-2232 and for directions to her home.

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OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY voter

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VOTER'S GUIDE

Voters' Guide editor, Jessica Dreistadt reports that the *Voters' Guide* will be published in the *Morning Call* on Thurs., May 7. **A bundling party will be held** the following afternoon, **May 8, 1 p.m.** at Jessica's home, **134 E. Madison St. Easton**. For our new members a bundling party consists of getting together to address the guide to be mailed to our members, the candidates, and contributors. The remaining guides are "bundled" into groups to be delivered to libraries, agencies, and those business/corporations that contributed to the *Government Directory*. We need volunteers to help with this process so if you can help please call Jessica at (610) 252-5362 to let her know. Also call Jessica for directions to her house.

GOVERNMENT DIRECTORY

Publishing and distribution of 2009 *Government Directory Update* is complete. They are now available at libraries, municipalities, contributors, agencies, and other organizations. Members can pick up their copies at the annual meeting, or from **Clare Polanki**, (610) 258-2232.

IRONED JAWED ANGELS

Nine people attended the movie, *Ironed Jawed Angels*, March 16. Six were League members and three were outside the League. The movie was excellent and if you haven't seen it arrange to do so. If it weren't two hours long, the movie should be shown in the schools. The refreshments were delicious and there was plenty left over to take home and freeze for the NPV Consensus meeting. I thank **Margaret Krawiec** and **Joan Dean** for their help and Santa for the movie.

—Joyce Losee

PHONATHON

The LWVPA Citizen Education Fund phonathon has ended. We raised over \$1,000 in pledges. In addition, a number of members said they would contribute but did not know how much. We should receive well over \$200 as our share if everyone sends their pledge in before the cut-off date of April 22, not April 6 reported first. Many thanks to my callers: **Marlou Belyea**, **Joan Carson**, **Joan Dean**, **Shirley Lindgren**, **Leslie Morneweck**, **Clare Polanki** and **Lou Shade** but more important, thanks to those members who made a pledge.

—Joyce Losee

Annual Dinner Meeting

Wednesday May 13, 2009

Candlelight Reception and Conference Center

4431 Easton Ave., (William Penn Hwy) adjacent to Blue Grillhouse, about 1/2 mile west of Rt. 33

5:15 p.m. – Business Meeting

6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Dinner

7:30 p.m. – Program

Menu:

TOSSED SALAD

Choice of:

CHICKEN BRUCHETTA,: Chicken breast with a Balsamic & Port wine glaze, with green beans amandine, herb roasted red bliss potatoes.

Or

VEGETARIAN NAPOLEON: Layered grilled vegetables, Portobello mushroom, zucchini and summer squash, spinach, roasted red pepper, tomato, mozzarella cheese. Finished with roasted red pepper coulis.

LEMON CRÈME CAKE for dessert.

Coffee, hot tea and water included. All other beverages additional

Cost \$30 per person, gratuity and tax included

Guest Speaker: Chuck Pennacchio, PhD. Executive Director of Healthcare For All PA

Spouses and Friends invited

Please fill out the form below and return it with your check for \$30 per person made out to LWVNC to Donna Reemsnyder, Treasurer, League of Women Voters, P.O. Box 523 Bethlehem, PA 18018 by May 3

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Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____ Number attending _____

Entrée Choice: Chicken Vegetarian Total enclosed \$ _____