



LWV LEHIGH COUNTY VOTER

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

December

5 Fri	6:00 p.m.	Green Valley Coalition Annual Meeting.
8 Mon	Noon	!Hot Topics! Lunch Local Transportation and Water Issues

January

8 Thurs		Last Day to Reserve for !Hot Topics! Lunch
8 Thurs	4:00 p.m.	Board Meeting, Sunrise Senior Living
11	Noon	!Hot Topics! Lunch Jennifer Mann, Speaker

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

November has been a busy month full of satisfying, successful activities for our League of Women Voters.

The Hot Topics Luncheon speakers Bill White from The Morning Call and Stephanie Lamb, a senior at William Allen high School who helped organize a mock Presidential Debate at the high school, were both excellent speakers. It is encouraging to see youth taking an interest in government. In addition, the biennial "How to Run for Office Workshop" was extremely successful. There were about 40 people who attended! Ken Mohr did a fabulous job as the emcee with great tips for novice campaigners.

The Voter's Guide was published as an insert by the

Morning Call. We have received numerous positive comments and, "Thank you" from citizens who take the "Guide" into the polling place to help with their choices. This has been a riveting and exciting national election; but, I am happy that we are finally finished with the process.

It seems (to me) to be a time to focus on actually governing the nation to quickly, realistically address needs of our citizens, our nation and, the international community.

Thanks to the Morning Call and the joint LWVNC/LWVLC Committees for the Voters Guide. Thanks to the, again Joint League committee for organizing and conducting the best "How to Run for Office

Workshop" so far. Thank you to the Leagues' Boards and volunteers who tirelessly serve the needs of our community.

This is just a reminder that the December "Hot Topics" Luncheon will be held at the home of Pat and Burke Swan. We will be reviewing the local positions on water and Transportation.

I HOPE YOU ALL HAD A HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!

See you at the next League event,

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Rood,
President, LWVLC

December !HOT TOPICS! LUNCH!

Monday, December 8, Noon

Pat Swan's home
3946 Ravenswood Road,
Allentown 18103

LWVLC Position Review:
Transportation and Water

Discussion will be led by Caryn Shoenthal and Mary Anne Stinner.

Directions: Cedar Crest Boulevard to Riverbend Road (traffic light south of Lehigh Country Club). West on Riverbend to Brookhaven Drive, right on Brookhaven to Ravenswood Road and

right on Ravenswood to third house on right.

Donation: Not more than \$5. **Make your reservations by Monday December 4th.**

Bring a new or gently used book for Cops 'N Kids!
Pat Swan, 610-435-4148

NEWS FROM THE BOARD —

NOVEMBER 20

Activities

November 22, 2008, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

– How to Run for Office Workshop in cooperation with LWVNC. Twenty-eight have registered.

December 8, 12:00 noon-1:30 p.m. –

Hot Topics Lunch. All members are invited to the home of Pat Swan. Program – Members of the Board will report on the League's positions on local Transportation and Water issues. Caryn Shoenthal and Mary Anne Stinner will lead the discussions.

January 8, 2009 – Board Meeting, 4:00-5:30 p.m. at Sunrise Senior Living. LWVLC policies will be reviewed and updated, if needed. Member input is encouraged.

January 12, 2009, 12 noon-1:30 PM –

Hot Topics Luncheon at Ruffinos. Jennifer Mann will report on what's happening in Harrisburg.

Official Business

Treasurer's Report: The Board reviewed the October balance sheet

presented by Pat Hoffman and filed the report for audit.

Committees & General Business

- * Advertising rates for "The Voter" were set for 2009. If they wish, advertisers may include web links to their businesses. Legislative interviews will be scheduled for early spring. Volunteers will be needed.
- * Annual Phone-a-thon—The Board made tentative plans to hold the annual LWVCPA phone-a-thon evening in early spring.
- * Membership –Membership renewals have been mailed. To date 25 renewed memberships and 3 new memberships have been received. Please welcome new LWVLC members: Maryanne Barone, Bev Henson and Judith Murphy

Community Outreach:

- * Advertising from companies and individuals to support it's publication, and accurate updated information from legislators at all levels is being solicited to begin preparation for the 2009

Government Directory.

- * The Board approved a request to place a free ad for Second Harvest Food Bank to help raise funds for desperately needed foods.
- * Government Directory –Information is kept updated on the League website. To assist in keeping it accurate, contact Ann Bartholomew with personnel changes in your township.

Note: The LWVLC Board does not meet in December.

Members may obtain a full copy of the minutes or the financial statement by e-mail from Jeanette Seaman and Pat Hoffman respectively.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Seaman,
Secretary

Running for Local Office Workshop

Our fifth workshop for potential candidates for local office took place on Saturday, November 22, with forty people attending. Many of them are planning to run for a municipal office next year, others plan to run for district justice. Some just wanted to know more before making the decision.

This workshop has been held jointly by the Leagues of Lehigh and Northampton counties since 2000. It's done in November before each municipal election year, and as in past years the attendees were very grateful for the advice offered. Our thanks go to presenters Ed Hozza, Pete Leffler, Joe Long, Dawn Berrigan, Stacy Sterner, Richard Kessler, Sal Panto, Peg Ferraro, Ann Thompson, and Larry Unger for the valuable information and insights they gave. Especially, we thank Ken Mohr for moderating the workshop and pulling all the details together.

Anyone interested in running next year who was unable to attend can purchase a copy of the workbook, put together by Doris Glaessmann, which includes all kinds of essential information for candidates. Call or email us to find out how to get a copy.

Ann Bartholomew
annbart@rcn.com
610-967-3653

!HOT TOPICS! LUNCHEON

NOVEMBER 2008

Speaker: Bill White, The Morning Call

Before Bill White spoke, Stephanie Lamb, a senior at William Allen High School and President of the National Honor Society there, gave a brief account of her activities in connection with the 2008 General Election. She watched the Democratic and Republican Conventions – an assignment for her AP Government class. She was inspired to start a student voter registration drive (with the help of the Obama campaign) even though she is not yet of age to vote herself. She helped organize a presidential debate on topics such as the economy, education, and foreign affairs. A mock election was held in which seniors voted. (Barack Obama was the landslide winner.) She reported that she found it difficult to talk about politics with students in her school, many of whom think government “hurts” them. But as a result of her efforts, she said she learned that her opinion does count and that she likes to think that maybe at least one person who might not have voted otherwise did so as a result of her call. Bill White’s talk was titled Post-Election Comments; but he also spoke about the state of journalism in general. In addition to his three columns each week for *The Morning Call*, he also posts to a blog (<http://blogs.mcall.com/billwhite/>), typically five times a week. He wrote that the negativity during this election season masked the fact that

we had some of the best candidates for President in many years. He praised John McCain’s concession speech and Barack Obama’s speech on Election Night in Chicago. As bad as the economic situation is, Bill White voiced optimism about the direction we’re going. He cautioned that the most liberal members of Congress are not likely to have their way, and predicted that as President, Obama is likely to rule from the center of the political spectrum. Concerning Pennsylvania politics, White said that the voter revolution seems to be over. Only a few incumbents lost “in spite of Bonusgate,” so any change will have to come from within state government now. White noted that people are typically more invested in presidential races than local ones but that local politicians hold much influence over our daily lives.

About general trends in journalism, White reported that a newspaper chain in Colorado stopped all political coverage a few weeks before the election so voters could decide for themselves without “media interference.” He says that *The Morning Call* tends to scale back political reporting a few days before the election when there wouldn’t be time for opposing sides to respond. Nevertheless, he is a strong believer that the press plays, or should play, an important role in a democracy, that it shouldn’t be viewed as “interference.”

The public often criticizes the press for what they see as

biased coverage; newspapers and TV stations do occasionally endorse candidates and take positions. He read from some letters that readers have written to him, some quite angry for one reason or another. A Gallup survey a few years ago about ethics in various professions found that newspaper journalists ranked way down the list. But he said journalists are supposed to be “the good guys” reporting what they see and hear, whether negative or positive. Some criticized that the coverage of the Obama campaign was biased, but the fact remains that it was a better run campaign so the reports were positive.

He spoke about a class in journalism that he teaches at Lehigh University. Of 17 students, only three read a daily newspaper. The rest got news from the Internet – a general trend especially among younger people. *The Morning Call* has changed its format to attract younger readers but Bill White worries that these changes may mean losing loyal readers of several decades. “Lively” is good but the paper should also have substance; it must maintain its watchdog function. Newspapers have faced decreased readership and have slashed jobs; for example, the Gannett chain which recently cut 1000 jobs. The human toll, he said, is undeniable but these trends are likely to affect content as well. He reiterated that “a vigilant press is one of the foundations of our democracy.”

(Continued on page 4)

“White ... bemoaned the fact that the editorial page has been cut from two pages to one. He would like to see a Letter from the Editor feature....”

!HOT TOPICS! LUNCHEON

NOVEMBER 2008

(continued from page 3)

A trend in TV that has crept over to newspapers is the attempt to make personalities out of news anchors and now columnists. Witness the larger photographs of *The Morning Call* columnists so that readers will identify through them to the newspaper. There were a number of questions, such as about the politically sponsored plastic-wrapped newspaper the day after the election which many readers were annoyed about and which Bill White speculated was probably counterproductive for the organization that paid for it. One person noted the poor placement of an article about the Holocaust between funnies and an ad. White himself bemoaned the fact that the editorial page has been cut from

two pages to one. He would like to see a Letter from the Editor feature. As for the impact of cutbacks in newspaper on schools of journalism, White said that many students do not expect to go into newspaper work but other forms of print journalism instead; although many of those, he noted, are facing similar challenges. There is still a great need for people to go out in person to meetings to write them up and "keep people honest," said White. In answer to a question, he said that the ratio of advertising to news in *The Morning Call* is now about 50:50. Concerning the website, *The Morning Call* has been "ahead of the curve" in providing what it does on the website (<http://www.mcall.com>).

Unfortunately comments from readers can turn nasty at times, but White appreciates the interactivity and often good dialogue there. By contrast, the print Letters to the Editor cannot all be printed for lack of space. On a typical Monday, about 125 letters, a weekend's worth, may come in but only about 12 are printed. On other days fewer letters come in. Throughout his talk, Bill White emphasized the vital role of the press in a democracy.

Elizabeth Bodien

Local Water Issues Addressed

The following letter was sent to the Lower Macungie Township Commissioners by Water Resources Chair, Mary Anne Stinner, addressing our League's concerns there.

Lower Macungie Township Commissioners
3400 Brookside Road
Macungie, PA 18062

Dear Commissioners:

The League of Women Voters of Lehigh County has a long-standing concern for the future of our drinking water resources, and is especially troubled by the recent proposal to put into service a high-volume well close to the Little Lehigh River.

We recommend that no water be pumped from new wells until a comprehensive hydrological assessment has been made of the water available for withdrawal without harming the aquifer or base flow of the Little Lehigh River.

Therefore, we oppose the current plan by the Lehigh County Authority to increase the capacity of wells within the watershed and respectfully ask you to reject this plan at least until a study has been completed.

Very truly yours,
Mary Anne Stinner
Action Chair

Copy: Delaware River Basin Commission
Ms. Carol Collier, Executive Director
P. O. Box 350
Trenton, NJ 08603

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEHIGH COUNTY

POSITIONS ON LOCAL ISSUES

- 2. LOCAL WATER CONSENSUS** (adopted May 1973; amended 1982, 1986, 1991, 1992, 1993, 2002, 1996, 2006)
The 1973 study indicated the ready availability of water makes the area vulnerable to uncontrolled growth, endangering our natural resources and quality of life. All decisions regarding water use should take into account both immediate and long-range environmental effects. The quantity and quality of groundwater should be protected.

Recommendations:

1. Preservation of watershed areas is a basic consideration in land use policies.
 - a. Preservation of South Mountain;
 - b. Adequate protection measures along streams;
 - c. Protection of wetlands.
2. Existing laws governing water quality should be adequately enforced. Therefore we urge:
 - a. The Allentown area require compliance with industrial waste ordinances;
 - b. All local municipalities strictly enforce flood-plain zoning;
 - c. Citizen inspection to supplement government inspection;
 - d. Prompt attention by local government and agencies to citizen complaints about pollution.
3. If protective long-range planning is adopted and our water resources are not overtaxed, it should be possible to avoid future projects that may have negative environmental effects.
We urge:
 - a. Conservation of water resources and protection of the Little Lehigh Creek and its tributaries;
 - b. Use of the Lehigh River as a backup source of water supply;
 - c. Closer cooperation among municipalities with planning policies;
 - d. Local governments to seek greater citizen participation in all planning;
 - e. Continued monitoring of activities of the Delaware River Basin Commission concerning impacts on the Lehigh River and its tributaries, including any basin transfer proposals.

3. TRANSPORTATION NEEDS IN THE LEHIGH VALLEY CONSENSUS

(adopted July 1982; amended 1986, 1988, 1993, 1996, 2006)

1. We support a commitment to safety and convenience in transportation at the local, state, and regional levels. We recommend that transportation services and systems be integrated. Impacts on energy and resources conservation, land use, health, and social and economic well-being should be considered in transportation decisions. We support a viable urban and inter-urban mass transit system. We recommend that public transportation services be integrated. Regional planning is required, including tax incentives and disincentives.
2. We retain concerns about negative economic and environmental effects that result from the construction of highway corridors.
3. Since Route 22 is an essential east-west route through the Lehigh Valley, we urge the upgrading and maintaining of Route 22, arterial and local road systems and infrastructure.
4. We support accommodations for cyclists and pedestrians for transportation as well as for recreation.

Further recommendations are:

- \$ A flexible system for transportation for the handicapped or disabled.
- \$ Encouraging businesses to subsidize fares and carpooling rather than building larger parking lots.
- \$ Possible development of light rail line east and west through the valley, or other such innovative plans.
- \$ Education in the use of local public transportation.

Green Valley Coalition Annual Meeting

LWV Lehigh County is a member of the Green Valley Coalition. League members and guests are invited to the GVC Annual Meeting on Friday, December 5. Reception begins at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$25 per person. The meeting will be held at the Quaker Meetinghouse on Route 512 just north of Rt. 22.

Ann Bartholomew

LIGHTING THE WAY TO A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

By Eleanor Revelle (LWVIL and LWVUS Climate Change Task Force Member)

It's on every Top Ten list of things-to-do to save energy and help fight global climate change: Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent lights (CFLs).

The benefits are compelling. CFLs use roughly one-quarter of the electricity of an incandescent bulb to produce the same amount of light. This means savings for consumers through reduced electric bills. And by reducing the demand for electricity, it means less global warming pollution from coal-fired power plants.

About one-third of global warming pollution in the United States is caused by coal plants generating electricity. And lighting accounts for 20 percent of the electricity used. For consumers whose electricity is produced from coal, replacing a single incandescent bulb with a CFL will keep over half a ton of carbon dioxide (CO₂) out of the atmosphere over the life of the bulb.

Those consumers whose electricity is supplied primarily by nuclear power can make an impact as well. Nuclear power plants typically sell their considerable excess base-load capacity to electrical distributors in nearby regions which otherwise depend on coal-fired power. Reducing demand for electricity in such cases, therefore, makes more emissions-free nuclear power available to replace carbon-intensive coal-fired power elsewhere.

Is Mercury a Problem?

CFLs do contain a very small amount of mercury—about 5 milligrams, enough to cover the tip of a ballpoint pen. The mercury is safe while the bulb is intact or in use, and even if the CFL should break, it poses little risk.

Far more serious are the 50 tons of mercury emitted annually from coal-burning power plants in the United States. To generate the average 10,660 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity used by the typical household each year, a power plant will emit about 245 mg of mercury (roughly 0.023 mg of mercury/kWh of electricity produced). By using CFLs instead of incandescent bulbs, homeowners will reduce their electrical demand and cut mercury emissions as well.

Assessing the Impact

Let's compare a 23-watt CFL with an incandescent bulb that produces the same amount of light, namely a 100-watt bulb. Since ENERGY STAR-qualified CFLs last five to ten times longer than incandescent bulbs, this example compares one 23-watt CFL with five 100-watt incandescents, equivalent to the minimum expected lifetime of the one 23-watt CFL.

	1 23-watt CFL	5 100-watt incandescents
Cost of bulbs (Home Depot prices)	\$4.00	\$3.15
Lifespan of bulbs	5,000 hours	5 x 1,000 hours
Electricity used over bulbs' lifetime	115 kWh	500 kWh
Cost of electricity (at 10¢/kWh)	\$11.50	\$50.00
CO ₂ produced	230 lb	1,000 lb
Mercury (electrical generation)	2.6 mg	11.5 mg
Mercury (in the bulb) *	5.0 mg	0

* With proper disposal, the mercury in the CFL will not enter the environment.

Making the Switch

For those who haven't made the switch to CFLs yet or who were unhappy with fluorescent lights in the past, it's time to check out the nearest lighting display.

- CFLs now come in a variety of shapes and sizes—mini-spirals small enough to use in table lamps, sconces and ceiling fixtures; globes for bathroom vanity fixtures; chandelier bulbs; recessed downlights; and more.
- CFLs can replace incandescent bulbs in almost any fixture. Some are specifically designed for use with dimmers or in three-way fixtures.
- The amount of light that any bulb will put out is measured in lumens. A 100-watt incandescent bulb will put out about 1,600 lumens. Replacing that bulb with a 23-watt CFL will also produce 1,600 lumens, but it will require much less power.
- CFLs are available in a range of color temperatures. For a warm (yellowish) light, look for a CFL labeled *soft white*, with a color temperature of 2,700K (degrees Kelvin). CFLs labeled *bright white* and *daylight* will have a cooler (bluish) light and higher Kelvin numbers (e.g., 3,500K or 5,500K).
- Look for ENERGY STAR-qualified bulbs. These have been tested to meet stringent performance criteria; they will use 75 percent less energy than an incandescent bulb and last up to ten times longer.

Disposing of CFLs

Mercury is a potent neurotoxin, and proper disposal of CFLs is a must. The U.S. EPA is working with CFL manufacturers and major retailers to expand recycling and disposal options. Ikea, Home Depot and some hardware stores already accept used CFLs, and many states and municipalities sponsor regular household hazardous waste collection programs that include CFLs.

State and local recycling options can be found online at www.epa.gov/bulbrecycling/ and at www.earth911.org.

If a CFL should break, scoop up the glass fragments and fine particles with stiff paper or cardboard and put them in a plastic bag. Do not use a vacuum or broom. Wipe the area with a damp paper towel and place that in the bag, too. Seal the bag, place it in a second plastic bag, and dispose of it properly. If weather permits, open windows to allow the room to ventilate.

Online Resources for Additional Information

ENERGY STAR comprehensive CFL web page: www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=cfls.pr_cfls

Environmental Defense detailed guide to finding energy-saving light bulbs that work for you:
www.environmentaldefense.org/page.cfm?tagid=632

Earth 911 Web site with extensive information about recycling: <http://earth911.org/recycling/>

State-by-state listing of disposal and recycling options: www.epa.gov/bulbrecycling/

U.S. EPA information on cleaning up mercury spills: www.epa.gov/mercury/spills/index.htm

Produced by the LWVUS Climate Change Task Force

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MEMBERSHIP

League of Women Voters
of Lehigh County

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President: Mary Anne Rood,
610-395-3464
Membership: Margie Dunn,
610-298-8946

Caryn Shoenthal, Editor
Email: CarynCW@yahoo.com
Phone: 610-261-0596

National members who
have now joined our local
League are: Maryanne
Barone and Beverly Hensler.

Beverly Hensler
717 Dorset Road
Allentown, PA 18104
610 530-4491
hensler.gw@verizon.net

New e-mails:
Pat Helm -
pbhelm@muhlenburg.edu
Martha Lebovitz -
mlebovtz@ptd.net

Bookmarks will be
distributed with your
membership payment. The
bookmarks will list each
month's luncheons and

other activities.
If you've changed your e-
mail address or you have
given us your address and
are not receiving our letters,
please send your current e-
mail address to
lwvlehigh@yahoo.com.

Margie Dunn

LWVLC CALENDAR

February 9, 2009

Row Office Reform, Andrea Naugle, Lehigh County
Clerk of Judicial Records

March 9, 2009

Immigration, Will Miller, Program Administrator,
Refugee and Immigration Services, Catholic Charities,
Diocese of Allentown

April 13, 2009

Renewable Energy and Sustainability, Archie
Follweiler, President, Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy
Association.

All meetings will be held at Ruffino's, 1840 Allen Street, Allentown.

Pat Swan



JANUARY !HOT TOPICS!

Add this to your calendar.

January 12, Noon
What's Happening in
Harrisburg
Ruffino's
19th & Allen Streets

State Representative
Jennifer Mann,

first elected in 1998, has
held the 132nd District with
overwhelming support from
her constituents.

Although there is high
anticipation over the
Washington Inaugural, we
keep in mind the
importance of our state and
local legislators whose
actions affect our daily lives

more immediately.

Make your reservation for
this lunch **no later than**
Monday, January 8th by
calling Sue Phillips at **610-**
821-1118, or
suep@entermail.net

Pat Swan

**WHEN PATRONIZING OUR SPONSORS, PLEASE REMEMBER TO
LET THEM KNOW YOU SAW THEIR ADVERTISEMENT IN
THE LEHIGH COUNTY VOTER**

Dan's Camera helps non-profit organizations with fund raising by offering a fifty cent rebate to the organizations for each roll of film members bring in to be developed. Members must sign a logbook for LWV. This is a very easy way to help raise funds for the League. Please see Dan's advertisement.

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*of Lehigh Valley
& Northeast
Pennsylvania*

Please remember Second Harvest in your holiday giving.
Donations may be sent to 2045 Harvest Way, Allentown PA 18104

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LET THEM KNOW YOU SAW THEIR ADVERTISEMENT IN
THE LEHIGH COUNTY VOTER**

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

League of Women Voters of Lehigh County
P.O. Box 3275
Allentown PA 18106



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEHIGH COUNTY

Name _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone, E-mail _____

Membership dues include membership in the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) and the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania (LWVPA) and a subscription to the local, state and national *Voter*.

League dues and contributions are not tax-deductible as a charitable donation.

Contributions to the LWV Education Fund (LWVEF) are tax-deductible.

Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to all citizens of voting age. Associate membership is available for non-citizens and for those under age eighteen.

ANNUAL DUES \$55.00 individual
2009 \$82.50 household
\$25.00 full-time student

Contact membership secretary for details of pro-rated dues amounts.

Please make check payable to
LWVLC and mail to:
LWVLC
c/o Margie Dunn
8411 Carpet Road
New Tripoli, PA 18066