



LWV LEHIGH COUNTY VOTER

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

April

Wed 2:00 National Popular
29 p.m. Vote Compact

May

Thurs Bundling Day
7 (tentative)

Thurs 4:00 Board Meeting
14 p.m. CANCELLED

19 MUNICIPAL ELEC-
Tues TIONS

Wed 5:30 LWVLC Annual
20 p.m. Meeting, Mangoes

Thurs 4:00 Naturalization Cere-
28 p.m. monies

June

Thurs 4:00 Board Meeting
11 P.m. Sunrise Senior
Living

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear League Friends,

There is a meeting scheduled to explore and determine whether we support a consensus statement that the LWVUS should support a States Compact to award state Electoral College votes on the basis of the popular vote during presidential elections. This compact has been proposed to insure the election of the President of the United States by direct popular vote instead of at the discretion of the Electoral College. Among the stated reasons for LWV support of this multi-state agreement is the widely held belief that obtaining a change to direct popular election through a Constitutional Amendment would be time consuming, expensive and nearly impossible. Are you interested in more

information? Would you like to share your opinion? If so, please join us at the home of Pat and Burke Swan on April 29th to participate in the discussion. If you would like to read about this subject ahead of time there is an extensive file of material about the state compact and the issue of direct popular election available on the LWVUS website.

Please join us at the Annual meeting which will take place on May 20th, at Mangoes Restaurant on Hamilton Street. It is located across from Dorney Park. There is plenty of parking and the restaurant is handicapped accessible. In addition to the election of board members and budget approval, we will be considering the adoption of proposed changes to the local Water Policy. We will

also be planning meetings to review and update the Local Transportation Policy.

We will be planning the program for next year during the summer months. If you have an interesting speaker or a topic you want to hear more about this year, please bring your suggestions to the Annual Meeting, e-mail us or contact a board member. The luncheons are a way to keep up with local issues and stay in touch with friends.

See you at the next League event,

Mary Anne Rood, President
LWVLC

NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE COMPACT

Please help us reach consensus! The LWVUS needs our input to reach their action position.

Information and discussion meeting will be held on **Wednesday, April 29 at 2:00 p.m.**

This is a change from the previous schedule. There will be NO meeting on Wednesday, April 24th. That meeting has been cancelled.

The study group will provide background on the Electoral College and pros/cons on the Compact.

Join us at Pat and Burke Swan's home, 3946 Ravenswood Road, Allentown
RSVP to 610 435-4148, or e-mail: burkeswan@rcn.com

Pat and Burke Swan's
3946 Ravenswood
Road, Allentown (Cedar Crest to Riverbend Road, West on Riverbend to Brookhaven Road,

Right to Ravenswood, Right to third house on the right.)

Please let us know if you are coming. We need your participation! We must send our position to the National League by May 1.

Phone: 610 435-4148,
E-mail: burkeswan@rcn.com

Pat and Burke Swan

NEWS FROM THE BOARD —

APRIL 2009

Activities

Next Board Meeting -

May 20, 2009 - Annual Dinner
April 24, 2:00 p.m. - Popular Vote Informational Meeting
April 29, 3:00 p.m. - Popular Vote Consensus Meeting

Official Business

Treasurer's Report: The March 2009 report has been filed for audit.

Committees & General Business

- The Voter's Guide for the spring election prepared by LWVLC/NC will be published by the Morning Call. Guides will be bundled by our League on May 7 at 9 a.m. Contact

Molly Faust if you can assist with bundling and/or delivery.

- Voter's Guides will be available on the web site or in the Morning Call. Members will not receive copies in the mail.
- The April Hot Topics luncheon is the last one for this year. Pat Swan encourages members to suggest speakers and/or topics for next season's lunches.
- The annual Phone-a-thon in support of LWVPA was held on March 23. Additional donations can be arranged by contact Mary Anne Rood. LWVLC receives 20% of all funds raised.
- LWVLC will assist with a candidates' night for PACE of East Penn School District.

Community Outreach

Caryn Shoenthal will provide leadership to explore issues and consider a community meeting to highlight roadblocks and possibilities for improving transportation in the Lehigh Valley. Members willing to assist Caryn with this effort are encouraged to contact her.

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

Jan Seaman
Secretary

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominating committee has filled all but one position for the 2009 election year.

Mary Anne Stinner has decided to step down from her position as Action chair on the Board. Mary Anne did an excellent job informing the members by e-mail about action alerts from the national League and organizing the legislative interviews. If you are interested in volunteering for this position please call Margie Dunn at 610 298-8946.

The following slate will be voted on at the annual meeting:

President (2009-2010): Mary Anne Rood

Vice President, Voter Services (2008-2010): Barbara Williams

Vice President, Program (2009-2011): Pat Swan

Treasurer (2008-2010): Patricia Hoffman

Secretary (2009-2011): Jeanette Seaman

Board Members (2008-2010): Molly Faust, Ann Bartholomew

Board Members (2009-2011): Margie Dunn, Caryn Shoenthal

Margie Dunn

Primary Election 2009—Candidates Nights

To All League Members:

If you learn of a Candidates Night in your community or school district, please send details of the place, time,

group of candidates invited, and the name of the sponsoring organization so we can put it on our website.

E-mail any information you have to lwvlehigh@yahoo.com, or phone me at 610-967-3653.

Ann Bartholomew

!HOT TOPICS! LUNCHEON—APRIL 2009

Speaker: **Archie Follweiler, President, Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Association**

Pat Swan introduced Archie Follweiler who, among other things, ran a very close race for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from District 187. Archie Follweiler invited everyone to get involved in the non-profit, educational Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Association (MAREA), which sponsors the Pennsylvania Energy Festival. MAREA and the Energy Festival focus on renewable energy sources, sustainable agriculture and other ways of living more healthily on the planet. The September 2009 festival – September 18, 19, 20 at the Kempton Community Center – will be the fourth year of the festival. Meetings to help plan it are held on the last Tuesday of each month at Tech Park in Breinigsville. The April 28th speaker will talk about solar hot water.

Archie Follweiler explained, through his own life story, how he came to be involved in this educational organization. He grew up on a fruit farm near Kempton. When the family farm was lost, he worked in a gas station, and then attended Western Washington College in Bellingham, Washington. His high school sweetheart, Virginia Grim, followed him to Washington and worked in a

co-op there while he attended college. (She is now an audiologist.) They married, moved to Kansas where he worked as a sales manager in Wichita, and was involved in the drilling of oil and gas wells there. They moved back to this area for family reasons. He has been working as a realtor but about five years ago, with Sam and Annemarie Yoder, he founded MAREA which provides resources and educates the public about solar energy, wind energy, geothermal energy, hydro power, organic, healthy crops, renewable and sustainable agriculture and viable transportation systems, among other things. From their study of other successful models of energy fairs, they designed the Pennsylvania Energy Festival (<http://www.paenergyfest.com>.)

The states surrounding Pennsylvania are doing much better when it comes to renewable sources of energy. Currently in Pennsylvania, there are no state credits for solar or wind power installations for homes or businesses. MAREA and its Pennsylvania Energy Festival aim to encourage better use of energy in Pennsylvania.

Archie Follweiler described the September fair as a casual family event with 35 to 50 tents each seating 100

people. Speakers are brought in from across the country to talk about a wide range of topics, including how farmers can grow soybeans, switch grass and other crops, which are healthier to grow than just corn. One of the most popular sessions is how to collect rainwater from your roof. In addition vendors can buy space to promote other aspects of healthy living from toothbrushes to gardens.

In 2006, 3,500 people came to the two-day festival. In 2008 the fair ran for three days and 11,000 people attended. He passed out copies of the program from last year's festival and referred to the list of sponsors on the back cover, including Kutztown University, East Penn Manufacturing, Decca, Rodale, Bullfrog Films, and the Sierra Club. One purpose of the fair is to have an impact on children, so schools such as Parkland and Topton, have been involved. Students have been admitted free, thanks to a sponsorship by Air Products. Bill Hennessey, formerly of Air Products, is now the paid Executive Director of the fair. Muhlenberg College and Lehigh University are now also involved. At Muhlenberg, 40 students have signed on to install 15 to 20 solar panels at the college after classes end this spring.

The fair itself conducts itself as eco-friendly as possible, recycling all waste and using energy produced by a 10 kilowatt wind turbine installed at the Community Center. Even the music, though not a central part of the fair, will be solar-powered this year.

MAREA is now offering a speakers bureau and links from its website to other resources. For example, Phil Jones, who is in charge of transportation issues at MAREA, does energy audits by request.

Archie Follweiler kindly offered the League members tote bags, T-shirts, posters, and other Energy Fest articles that he brought with him. He invited everyone to the September festival, to make use of the resources MAREA offers and to get involved. He reminded us that the United States has only 5% of the world's population but uses 25% of the world's energy. For further information, MAREA's website is at: <http://www.themarea.org/>, and the Pennsylvania Energy Festival's website is at: <http://www.paenergyfest.com/index.shtml>.

Elizabeth Bodien

BUNDLING DAY

Bundling Day has been tentatively scheduled for Thursday, May 7th. Bundling has been

organized for many years by Molly Faust. However, Molly has resigned from that task,

and we need a coordinator for this task. If you are interested in doing something for

the League, call Molly or any board member. We need your help.

!HOLA! 2010 CENSUS

Many of you have responded to my "Habla Espanol?" and have indicated that you attend Naturalization Ceremonies. I am writing today in relation to the 2010 Census.

In the Leaders Update, the League is announcing that we are an official partner in the 2010 U.S. Census. We are in the process of creating a webpage at www.lwv.org that all Leagues can access and link to in order to be informed at all times. This is a year-long effort with lots of opportunities for Leagues to get involved.

We are having a second conversation with a national foundation to discuss possible funding. If they like our ideas of working nationwide to assist in reaching hard to count groups of individuals there will be grants for this year-long project. To this particular funder, the strength of the League is our ability to reach to communities in places far away from urban centers.

Many of you have indicated that you already work with different diverse communities doing the naturalization ceremonies, voting registration; working on the Census is the next step. This is the perfect opportunity to use our language. Are you ready?

There are many ways that we can be active:

Organize and/or serve as a member on a Complete Count Committee

- Sponsor a community event to promote participation in the 2010 Census
- Use and distribute educational materials – the census has created great materials – in different languages – for partner organizations, and we can all – working together – distribute these materials at local meetings, thru the partners or friends that we already work with
- Link to our website for up to the minute information
- Place 2010 articles in your newspapers/newsletters
- Engage with your local partners and friends to spread the word and reach out to communities of color, the disabled, the elderly

If we are able to offer you pass-thru grants that will make the work easier and you will feel that the incentive makes it worthwhile—we are trying hard.

We will keep you informed but we hope that you will work with us in all the Census efforts. Let me know if after this explanation you are interested in working with us.

Zaida Arguedas

Deputy Executive Director and Senior Director of Global Democracy Programs

League of Women Voters

zarguedas@lwv.org - 202-263-1351

NATURALIZATION CEREMONIES

Naturalization Ceremonies will be held on Thursday, May 28 at 4:00 p.m. in the Old Lehigh County Courthouse.

Anyone who would like to experience this ceremony is welcome to attend. You will see many happy faces in the courtroom—happy faces from many different countries.

The ceremonies are held approximately four times each year. The next ceremony will be held on August 27.

Caryn Shoenthal

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF PENNSYLVANIA
2009 QUESTIONS FOR LOCAL LEAGUE INTERVIEWS WITH STATE LEGISLATORS

REDISTRICTING REFORM In the 2008 session, 95 members of the PA House cosponsored a League backed proposal to amend the PA constitution to assign redistricting to a non-partisan bureau that would redraw lines using strict criteria to prevent gerrymandering. However, the bill died in committee. Passage of proposed constitutional amendment legislation by the end of June 2008 was necessary to meet the requirements for a constitutional amendment to take effect in time for the 2011 round of redrawing legislative and congressional district boundaries.

Since it is no longer possible to pass a constitutional amendment reforming the redistricting process in time to take effect in 2011, would you support an alternate proposal to reform the process through legislation that would take effect for 2011?

The proposed legislation would do the following:

- Provide that the Legislative Reapportionment Commission constituted under the Pennsylvania constitution would conduct congressional as well as legislative redistricting.
- Assign standards for meeting redistricting criteria already in the constitution to be applied to congressional as well as legislative district boundaries.

Set requirements for transparency and public input.

ELECTION REFORM Protecting the right of every qualified citizen to vote is a central tenant of our democratic system. But this right is often compromised by laws and practices that discourage voter participation.

Which of the following, if any, would you support to remove unnecessary barriers to voting?

- Provide that any eligible citizen can register and vote on Election Day.
- Establish a system for early voting to alleviate problems such as long lines and excessive waiting times associated with high voter turnout in some elections.

Remove the requirement that registered voters have an excuse in order to cast an absentee ballot (no excuse necessary absentee voting).

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION Pennsylvania last held a constitutional convention in 1967 – 1968.

Do you think the time is right for Pennsylvania to hold another constitutional convention?

Should such a convention be limited or open ended?

How do you think the delegates should be selected?

Should recommended amendments go directly to the voters or should they go to the legislature first which might or might not vote to send them to the voters for approval? What recourse should citizens have if the legislature fails to act?

What other recommendations do you have should a constitutional convention be held?

LEGISLATOR'S PRIORITIES

Do you have any legislative priorities related to the current economic crisis?

PHONATHON

The Phonathon for the benefit of the Pennsylvania League of Women Voters was held recently at the home of Pat Swan. Participating were Pat, Molly Faust, and Mary Anne Rood. The group contacted 45 people and raised \$550.

BUDGET NOTES—ANNUAL MEETING

The budget for our next budget year will be voted upon at the Annual Meeting on May 20th.

It was included with the April Voter for review by members prior to the Annual Meeting.

RESPONSES TO LEGISLATIVE QUESTIONS FROM REPRESENTATIVE PAT BROWNE PERSONAL INTERVIEW BY KEIM AND BENNING

Redistricting Reform – He supports all items listed under this question. He feels it is important to have the right people selected and that the most important person is the judge who would remain neutral. He would like to see access to maps on the internet so people can comment more freely.

Election Reform – Remove unnecessary barriers to voting – He supports all items under this question as well. The right of the majority cannot be eliminated due to the inappropriate actions of a few who might try to vote by fraudulent means. He feels most people are honest. Voting should be allowed on weekends or by mail using an absentee ballot with no excuse necessary.

Constitutional Convention – Again he supports all items listed. He has some concerns that if it is open ended we should have the same rights in the constitution as we have had in the past. Also, he is concerned about conflicts between the judiciary and legislature in rule making. Amendments should go directly to the voters. He recommends that specific provisions be made for Philadelphia and Pittsburgh as there has been a strong shift recently. The constitution should be opened to see if it still applies to the two cities. Again, he emphasized that constitutional rights should not change.

Legislative Priorities – Economic Crisis Recommendations – There should not be any additional costs imposed on business in the state as it already costs more to have a business in this state. Subsidies and tax cuts should be used to provide tax breaks to businesses.

Mary Anne Stinner
Action Chair

RESPONSES TO LEGISLATIVE QUESTIONS FROM REPRESENTATIVE JULIE HARHART

1. **With the 2010 Census around the corner, this issue is receiving a great deal of attention. Redrawing the legislative districts will take place in 2011, and therefore, this will be a major issue during our new session. Some have argued that the General Assembly configuring districts for the state House, Senate and Congress may lead to gerrymandering.**

I agree that the process could be improved in specific areas to make it less partisan in time for 2011. Although there is not enough time to change our constitution, there are other measures in place to take partisanship out of the process.

We expect to see legislation this session to make the process more open and transparent by strengthening the public comment process and requiring more statewide hearings at all stages of developing the redistricting map. It also would require data and information to be made available online.

Other key provisions in the legislation would include rules for making districts compact and keeping counties and municipalities intact where at all possible.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

2. Provide that any eligible citizen can register and vote on Election Day.

Experience has shown that Pennsylvania does not have a tremendous problem when it comes to ensuring that people have an opportunity to vote. We have many public awareness campaigns designed to educate people about the registration process. Meanwhile, I am not aware of a large number of voters turned away at the polls because they believed they could register the day of an election. This largely appears to be an issue with new state residents voting for the first time in Pennsylvania. I believe that the 30-day timeline is a good policy to help maintain the integrity of our elections and to deter fraud.

3. Establish a system for early voting to alleviate problems such as long lines and excessive waiting times associating with high voter turnout in some elections.

According to news reports by the Association Press on Election Day, voting in Pennsylvania ran smoothly. There were some reports of long lines at universities and a flood of first-time voters, but overall there were far fewer complaints than in 2004. I think the larger turnout in 2008 is a good exercise for our elections workers. I believe that early voting – and the resulting media coverage – could disenfranchise traditional voters. Some early voting lines were far longer than those at the precincts on November 4.

4. Remove the requirement that registered voters have an excuse in order to cast an absentee ballot (no excuse necessary through absentee voting).

Again, we must ensure that any measure we adopt to make voting easier does not lead to voter fraud.

Supporters of the constitutional convention in recent years view it as a mechanism for modernization of the constitution and reform of Pennsylvania government. Another advantage is that numerous issues may be tackled at once and the time can be more compact than the alternative process.

Proposals would need to be comprehensive and responsible because it would be unfair to move forward with the process if it will be challenged by the courts. Also, there is a definite process that needs to be followed in order for this idea to see the light of day. Voters must be asked whether they support the calling of a convention, and then be required to vote for delegates. Convention delegates would then debate designated issues with recommendations by the delegates being submitted to the voters for approval. Upon voter approval, the constitution would then be amended.

Legislation supporting different versions of a constitutional convention was authored last session. I expect similar legislation to be introduced this session and I will carefully review those proposals before adding my support.

At the beginning of this session, I was appointed Republican chairwoman of the House Local Government committee. This historically has been one of the most active committees, having sent more than 70 bills to the full House of Representatives last session. My goal with this committee is to promote legislation that strengthens municipalities and solidifies the bonds that they have with the people who make up their communities.

We also need to be agents for legislation that lessens the burden on our local municipalities. In these difficult financial times, cities, boroughs and townships are forced to do more with less. We as a legislature must be cognizant of the parameters under which they must operate.

Additionally, I will continue to be an advocate for children's and women's issues. In the past, I have authored bills that deal with the health and well-being of both, and will endeavor to do so again in the coming session.

Mary Anne Stinner

Annual Meeting Invitation to Dinner and Annual Meeting
Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mangoes Coastal Cuisine, 3750 Hamilton Boulevard
Allentown (across from Dorney Park)
(610-432-4420)

Wednesday, May 20th, 5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Appetizers
Domestic Cheese Tray
Vegetable Tray

Chicken in White Wine Sauce
Jail Island Salmon with mango ginger lime sauce or Dijon mustard sauce
Vegetarian To be selected from the menu that evening

Brown Butter Smashed Yukon Gold Potatoes
Garden Blend - broccoli, red pepper, onions, yellow squash and green zucchini

Price - \$ 25.00/person includes tax & gratuity

5:30 p.m. - Cash Bar
6:00 p.m. - Dinner Buffet

Cost: \$25.00

Program begins at 7:00 p.m.

League of Women Voters
of Lehigh County

P. O. Box 3275
Allentown, PA 18106
610-432-1456
LWVPA Hotline: 1-800-692-7281

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

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



Name: _____

Guest(s): _____

No. of Reservations @ \$25.00: _____ Total _____

Make checks payable to LWVLC—Deadline for reservations is Thursday, May 13

Mail to: Sue Phillips
2611 Walnut Street
Allentown PA 18104
E-mail: suep@entermail.net

ADVERTISING RATES

Advertising Rates for 2009 for The Lehigh County Voter are as follows:

Business Card Size - \$75 a year

Full page - \$100 for 1 month, \$500 for a year

Half Page - \$50 for 1 month, \$250 for a year.

Advertisers' web links will be publicized in The Voter, both on-line and in hard copy. Contact the editor of The Voter, or any board member for additional information or to arrange your advertising.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEHIGH COUNTY

POSITIONS ON LOCAL ISSUES

At the annual meeting, members will be asked to vote on adopting our positions on local issues. The board is recommending changes in the water position, based on discussion at a !Hot Topics! meeting in 2008. **Additions are in bold, underlined.** ~~Deletions are marked with strike-through.~~ No changes are recommended in any other positions.

1. SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT CONSENSUS (adopted December 1972; amended 1982, 1992)

Support source reduction, re-use and recycling of scrap and waste materials:

- a. Support expansion of local recycling programs;
- b. Agree that waste separation is essential;
- c. Strongly support projects for collection, storage and transportation of articles such as bottles, cans, paper, and other recyclables, and urge expansion of these projects;
- d. Alternatives to sanitary landfills should be encouraged. Consideration is recommended for alternate methods of solid waste management. Support recovery of energy or other useful products from solid wastes through such methods as composting, bio-conversion, pyrolysis, and incineration.

2. LOCAL WATER CONSENSUS (adopted May 1973; amended 1982, 1986, 1991, 1992, 1993, 2002, 1996, 2006, **2009**)

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 **and all recharge areas;**
 - b. Adequate protection measures along streams;
 - c. Protection of wetlands **and flood plains.**
2. Existing laws **in Lehigh County** governing water quality should be adequately enforced. Therefore we urge:
 - a. ~~The Allentown~~ **That the Lehigh County** area require compliance with industrial waste ordinances;
 - b. All local municipalities strictly enforce flood-plain zoning **and best management practices (BMPs) on stormwater management;**
 - c. **(new) All municipalities and agencies strictly enforce the Stormwater Management Act and use BMPs;**
 - d. *(no changes; formerly c.)* Citizen inspection to supplement government inspection;
 - e. *(formerly d.)* Prompt **attention action** by local government and agencies **in response** 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 **maximum** protection of ~~the Little Lehigh Creek and its~~ **all creeks in Lehigh County and their** tributaries;
 - b. ~~Use of the Lehigh River as a backup source of water supply;~~ *(deleted because this is being done)* **Mandatory accountability on all sewer and water allocations;**
 - c. Closer cooperation among municipalities **with planning policies and all governmental agencies delegated with responsibility to protect water resources;**

- d. Local governments **and responsible agencies** to seek greater citizen participation in all planning;
- e. Continued **diligence in monitoring** activities of the Delaware River Basin Commission concerning impacts on the Lehigh River and its tributaries, ~~including any basin transfer proposals~~ **and opposition to any basin transfers of water.**
- f. **(new) Practice of smart-growth concepts to revitalize inner cities and preserve open space.**
- g. **(new) Encourage educational programs that support watershed protection.**

3. TRANSPORTATION NEEDS IN THE LEHIGH VALLEY CONSENSUS (adopted July 1982; amended 1986, 1988, 1993, 1996, 2006)

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.

We retain concerns about negative economic and environmental effects that result from the construction of highway corridors.

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.

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.

4. TAX BASE SHARING CONSENSUS (adopted April 1986)

The League of Women Voters of Lehigh County believes it is desirable to preserve traditional historic and cultural values in the Lehigh Valley, while accommodating economic growth.

In the absence of regional government, we favor tax base sharing as a means of sharing the economic benefits of metropolitan area growth among many municipalities so their fiscal disparities can be reduced.

A tax base sharing system would share among all municipalities a portion of the taxes generated by new economic growth, because this kind of development is an activity dependent on the attributes of the region rather than any one municipality.

We believe that a tax base sharing system must offer benefits to all participating municipalities, as an incentive to enter into a compact. The benefits of an effective program should include:

1. Greater cooperation among municipalities in attracting new development.
2. Encouragement of good regional planning and increased sensitivity to appropriate uses of the land.
3. Potential for maintaining and improving the viability of the urban core.
4. Improved regional services.

We favor linking tax base sharing to the provision of services which are regional in nature. Such services may include water, wastewater, transportation, health, and cultural opportunities. Because of considerations of location and differing needs, all linked services need not necessarily be provided to all region members.

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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