



# LWV LEHIGH COUNTY VOTER

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

### November

Tues 3		MUNICIPAL ELECTION
Thurs 5		Deadline for !Hot Topics! Reservations
Mon 9	Noon	!Hot Topics! Lunch Bill White, Speaker
Thurs 12	4:00 p.m.	Board Meeting, Sunrise Senior Living
Thurs 19	4:00 p.m.	Naturalization Ceremonies, Old Lehigh County Courthouse

### December

Thurs 10	4:00 p.m.	Board Meeting, Sunrise Assisted Living
Thurs 10		Deadline for !Hot Topics!
Mon 14	Noon	!Hot Topics! Lunch, Don Cunningham, Speaker

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear League Friends,

Election day is almost here! Actually we may already have the election results by the time you are reading this message.

Special thanks go to the *Morning Call* and their staff who work so diligently with the local Leagues to publish and provide the candidates' information to Lehigh Valley voters. Kudos to the "Ad Hoc' Committee," Sue Phillips, Ann Bartholomew, Barbara Williams and Pat Swan, for collecting the information for the *Voters Guide* and forwarding it to the *Morning Call*. Thanks to Molly Faust for her years of service with this portfolio and for taking the time to pro-

vide guidance in getting this *Voters Guide* prepared. We miss you as a part of our board and wish you good luck with your current endeavors.

The State League is offering speakers, and has provided information on their website about the proposed extraction of natural gas from the Marcellus Shale formation in western Pennsylvania. This procedure would have lasting and dramatic negative impact on ground water quality and the accessibility of water that is safe for human consumption and use. I urge you to check out the information and to contact your State legislators to express your con-

cerns. It is also important that we continue to address the issues relevant to health care reform and keep accurate information available to the public about this matter.

Congratulations and a round of applause to League member Sydney Davis. She received rave reviews in the *East Penn Press* and other local media for her outstanding performance in *Driving Miss Daisy*.

See you at the next League event!

Mary Anne Rood  
President, LWVLC

## !HOT TOPICS! LUNCHEON—NOVEMBER 9

**Monday, November 9th,  
Noon**

**Perkins Restaurant  
3400 Lehigh Street  
(not Dorneyville)  
Just south of the South  
Mall**

**Post Election Comments  
Bill White, Columnist  
The Morning Call**

Everyone seemed pleased with Perkins last month, so we shall continue to meet there on second Mondays. We will try to improve the ordering process to expedite the service.

Bill White, Morning Call Columnist and LWVLC favorite, will return with his usual witty, amusing and

insightful comments.

To make reservations for lunch call or e-mail Pat Swan at 610 435-4148 or burkeswan@rcn.com.

!Come and bring a friend!

Pat Swan

# NEWS FROM THE BOARD—OCTOBER

Government Directory: Ann Bartholomew reported that Mary Anne Stinner has sent two updates on municipal government for the Government Directory.

Membership: Margie Dunn reported the letters for membership renewal will be mailed as soon as the membership booklets are received.

Program: The committee will work on a speaker for our February Hot Topics Luncheon.

Voter's Guide: The Board decided to continue sharing the workload since it is too much for one person. Mary Anne Rood will send a letter to the Northampton League recommending listing polling places in the Voter's Guide if space permits.

League Website: Ann Bartholomew reported that Fat Cow.com will be our new host. The cost is approximately \$100.00 for two years, and will be shared with the Northampton County League.

Lynn Township Supervisor Candidate Event: Margie Dunn will be the moderator.

Hot Topic Luncheon Location: The committee will decide on either City View Diner or Perkins for our location.

Respectfully submitted,  
Margie Dunn

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

October is the kick-off month for our *membership drive*. You will be receiving a renewal letter in the mail shortly. Also included will be our new membership booklet which includes a calendar of all the events scheduled for the up coming year.

It would be great if we could reach the 100 member mark again. Last year we almost made it! Invite friends, neighbors and colleagues to our luncheon this month. If they could see all the programs, events and informational services we sponsor I'm sure they will join.

We had two new members join our League last month: Joanne Ackerman and Maggie Kernan. Their information will be included in our new membership booklet.

Margie Dunn

## VOTERS GUIDE

The Voters Guide for the 2009 municipal election has been distributed throughout the community. Thanks again to The Morning Call for publishing this valuable resource for voters, and for giving us extra copies to take to libraries, agencies, and supporters.

And a heartfelt thanks to Stacy Sterner and her staff in the Lehigh County Voter Registration Office for their outstanding efficiency and for providing the list of candidates to us in a very usable format.

The team that worked on contacting candidates and putting together the Voters Guide was Sue Phillips, Barbara Williams, and Ann Bartholomew. Pat and Burke Swan hosted bundling the extra copies. Doris Glaessmann, Molly Faust, Ann Bartholomew and the Swans took care of the distribution.

The Voters Guide is online at [www.lwvlv.org](http://www.lwvlv.org).

Ann Bartholomew

## NATURALIZATION

The next Naturalization Ceremony will be held on Thursday, November 19 in the Old Lehigh County Courthouse at 4:00 p.m. Please plan to attend. The ceremony is very inspiring.

In the October Voter there was an article which stated there was a Naturalization Ceremony on October 27. That date was incorrect. There was no Naturalization Ceremony on that date. Our apologies for the error.

Caryn Shoenthal

## !HOT TOPICS! LUNCHEON—TRANSPORTATION ISSUES

October 12, 2009

Speaker: Steven Bliss, Executive  
Director of RenewLV  
(<http://www.renewlv.org/>)

Steven Bliss explained that RenewLV, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization for urban revitalization of the Lehigh Valley, was founded in 2005 in response to the Brookings Institution's *Back to Prosperity* study ([http://www.brookings.edu/reports/2003/12metropolitanpolicy\\_pennsylvania.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/reports/2003/12metropolitanpolicy_pennsylvania.aspx)), a study that addressed issues of land use, open space, the drift of college graduates away from the state, and the need for more regional planning. Planning and governance is very fragmented in Pennsylvania with 2500 municipal governments. Historically, the Lehigh Valley benefited from some of the earliest and best planning models, such as those of the Moravians; but after World War II, with the development of the interstate highways and our local Route 22, growth shifted away from rail and other public transportation to car travel. Now the Route 78 corridor is developing in a similar but unsustainable way. One major factor is the fact that the rate of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) has been going up for 40 years. However, with the recent \$4 per gallon gas prices, people are now more willing to consider alternatives to car travel. A second major factor is that PennDOT has said that they do not have the funds to widen Route 22 any further. PennDOT wishes to work with municipalities on "smart trans-

portation," which means focusing on creating a stronger connection between transportation and land-use, in part through a focus on more compact forms of development (such as town centers).

The Lehigh Valley was once served by rail and trolley; and there is now a great interest in restoring rail service. In 2007 a RenewLV rail forum held at Hotel Bethlehem attracted more than 200 participants interested in reviving commuter rail. The Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation (LVEDC) and the two counties (Lehigh and Northampton) have funded a feasibility study for a rail system in the Lehigh Valley that would be an extension of New Jersey's Raritan Valley commuter line. The combined service would help to link the Lehigh Valley to northern New Jersey and New York City. He distributed a map courtesy of New Jersey transit and SYSTRA, consulting firm of the Pennsylvania component of the Raritan Valley Transit Study's proposed system. Steven Bliss indicated that this feasibility study will get at two key questions: Does the Lehigh Valley have the potential ridership levels to support passenger rail? And how could existing rights of way and rail lines be incorporated into this passenger rail system as a means of saving time and costs?

LANTA (Lehigh and Northampton Transportation Authority) has just finished a long-term strategic plan. An effective, although small system,

mostly used in urban areas, LANTA wants to attract more riders and be able to provide more frequent service. Bliss emphasized that "it's all about convenience." People want predictable, accessible, affordable transportation. He mentioned that LANTA recently received federal stimulus funds to provide "real time" travel information (bus arrival times, e.g.) on mobile devices.

As for funding, the Federal Government pays for start-up of rail systems but funds need to be matched by states and localities, and Pennsylvania has few such funds now as its recent funding for such projects had been based on Act 44 revenue from tolling Route 80, a plan that was nixed by the Federal Government. (The state has reapplied for federal approval.) The Federal Surface Transportation Funding Bill which comes up for renewal every five years expired in September and has not been extended as yet, but this is likely to be addressed in the next 6 to 12 months, so it is important to let Congressman Dent (<http://www.dent.house.gov>) and Senators Casey (<http://casey.senate.gov/>) and Specter (<http://specter.senate.gov/>) know of our concerns. Steven Bliss answered questions about feasibility studies, fuel-tax increases, the design of rail stations, and transit-oriented development (TOD) where communities are developed near rail.

Elizabeth Bodien

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW ADVERTISERS

In each of the last two months we had new advertisers. Last month the Elias Funeral Home began advertising and this month Total Home Improvements has begun advertising in the Voter. These two advertisers are in addition to Dan's Camera, Keystone Consulting Engineers, Inc., McNabb's Service & Repairs, and Scherline & Associates, who have been long-time advertisers in the Voter.

When you have a need for services such as those provided by these companies, please consider using them and let them know that you saw their ad in our newsletter so that they will continue advertising in the Lehigh County Voter.

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



The Pennsylvania Association of Regional Food Banks is working with other concerned organizations throughout Pennsylvania to ask Governor Rendell to recommend adequate funding for the **State Food Purchase Program** in the next state budget.

The League of Women Voters of Lehigh County has signed on to support this effort!

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## ***PROPOSED EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL AND STORMWATER REGULATIONS***

*A letter was sent to the Environmental Quality Board in Harrisburg by Mary Anne Stinner, Environmental Chair of our Lehigh County League on October 27. The text of that letter follows below. Ed.*

The League of Women Voters public policy on natural resources supports measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water.

We are strongly in favor of riparian buffers along our streams, especially for new development in Exceptional Value (EV) streams which are our highest quality streams and also for High Quality Cold Water Fisheries (HQCWF).

We are against the new "permit-by-rule" option. Any expedited permit review process puts our rivers and streams at risk and also violates the Clean Water Act. Our High Quality (HQ) watersheds need special protections and should not be subjected to an expedited review process. Sufficient time for public comment is important and thorough technical reviews are required by the Clean Water Act. Without these technical reviews DEP cannot ensure that the development will employ the necessary stormwater management practices.

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## **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. The ad year runs from July 1 to June 30. The rate for advertisers whose ads are received during the year will be pro-rated. Contact Gayle Getz at 610-398-9837, the *Voter* editor, or any board member for additional information or to arrange your advertising.

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WHEN PATRONIZING OUR SPONSORS, PLEASE REMEMBER TO  
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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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# 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
2009-2010	\$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