



LWV LEHIGH COUNTY VOTER

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

October

6	Mon		Voter Registration Deadline
9	Thurs	4:00 p.m.	Board Meeting, Sunrise Senior Living
9	Thurs		Deadline for !Hot Topics! Reservations
13	Mon	Noon	Hot Topics! Dr. Chris Borick Public Opinion Perspective
23	Thurs		Bundling Day

November

4	Tues	7a.m to 4p.m	ELECTION DAY!!! DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!!
10	Mon	Noon	!Hot Topics! Lunch Speaker, Bill White
13	Thurs	4:00 P.m.	Board Meeting, Sunrise Assisted Living

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The election campaigns seem to be gearing up for the final thirty or so days that remain before Election Day. The first Presidential Debate is set up for Friday, September 26, 2008, or is it? You will know by the time you are reading the following opinionated statement. I don't believe that there has been a situation in which a presidential candidate skipped the chance to present his views to the public in this impartial forum. It is my hope that the debates will progress as scheduled. It would be helpful to hear the candidates' views in a non party forum, especially in these troubled times.

The Morning Call will continue to work with the LWVLC and LWVNC to pub-

lish the Voters Guide this fall. The Guide will be published a week farther ahead of the election date than it has been in previous years. Voters will have more time to review the document and make informed choices. Incidentally, if you do not subscribe to The Morning Call you can get the Voter's Guide at our website or request it to be mailed to your home. Congratulations to Molly Faust, the committee, and The Morning Call for a job well done.

The Hot Topics Lunches are off to a great start this year. I think there are a few dates that are open for speakers. If you have a topic and/or someone you would like to invite to speak to our League, please let Pat Swan or one of the

board members know. We are listed in your member directory. This is a great venue for keeping abreast of the issues which are affecting our community. I encourage you to attend one of these luncheons and take a friend.

The last thing I want to mention is that the LWVUS will be conducting a study on Popular Vote Elections for the Presidency and all other government offices. The materials will be available soon. The consensus is about June of 2009.

See you at the next League event,

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Rood,
President, LWVLC

VOTERS GUIDE CHAIR REPORT

The Morning Call will print the Voters Guide again for us and it will give us the printing date we requested. Printing will be October 23—a day which will also be “bundling day.”

I have met with Jessica Dreistadt of the Northamp-

ton LWV about the Guide. She will handle information for the 15th Congressional race, as was done in the primary. Our League has 18 local candidates to send questionnaires to this fall. Letters will go out by September 19th.

National League has e-mailed an advertisement for LWV membership that we can include with our guide. I would like to offer it to the Call for inclusion.

Molly Faust

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

SEPTEMBER 11, 2008

Activities

To Be Announced – Details for the debates with candidates in races for the 15th Congressional District and the 187th PA House District are still being developed.

Guide. Contact Molly Faust.

Official Business

Treasurer's Report: The Board reviewed the August balance sheet presented by Pat Hoffman and filed the report for audit.

Barbara Williams is preparing for several voter registration information sessions at the State Hospital and local scout troops. If you'd like to help with these types of presentations, contact Barbara.

October 9, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. – LWVLC Board meeting at Sunrise Senior Living. Members are invited to attend.

Mary Anne Stinner, Action Board member, circulated a copy of the letter sent to Lehigh County Executive, Don Cunningham, asking him to update the League on his commitment to the preservation of South Mountain.

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

October 13, 2008 at noon – Hot Topics luncheon at Ruffino's with guest speaker, Chris Borick, who will discuss pre-election polls.

Jeanette Seaman
Secretary

October 23, 2008 – Bundling day for the Voters'

Margie Dunn announced that renewal letters will be mailed in October.

Dr. Borick will speak on public opinion and pre-election polls.

!HOT TOPICS! LUNCH! - ELECTION '08 PUBLIC OPINION PERSPECTIVE

Monday, October 13
Noon
Ruffino's
19th & Allen Streets

*Chris Borick
Associate Professor
Political Science
Muhlenberg College*

Dr. Borick will discuss pre-election polls. He is Director of the Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion. Previously, he held positions with the IRS and Monroe County Pennsylvania Planning

Commission. Dr. Borick has published and presented over twenty articles in the area of public policy and public opinion; he teaches Political Science Research Methods, Political Parties & Elections, Public Health Policy, and Environmental Politics & Policy-making. He received the Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching in 2006.

Under his direction, the institute has entered into long-standing partnerships with governmental, media and research organizations

throughout the state and region.

The cost is **\$14** for members and guests.

Make your reservation by calling or e-mailing **Sue Phillips at 610-821-1118, or suep@entermail.net by Thursday, October 9.**

Bring a friend!!

Pat Swan

SEPTEMBER !HOT TOPICS! RECAP

(continued on page 5)

“To help citizens understand how the City of Allentown works, a new program called Inside Allentown has been started...”

Joyce Marin came to speak instead of the Mayor who was called out of town. Appointed by Mayor Pawlowski in April, she began her official duties this past June. She began by praising the work of the League, including the Voters Guide. She spoke of her own background – her two terms on the Emmaus Borough Council and her work as Main Street Manager when she helped to rehab downtown Emmaus. She has served as Co-Chair of Renew Lehigh Valley which, among other things, focuses on preserving farmland and revitalizing cities. She emphasized that Allentown must be a healthy, thriving city for the Lehigh Valley region to prosper.

She is involved in a variety of programs in connection with other city departments. The Bureau of Building Standards and Safety is involved in an inspections program to be sure that buildings in Allentown meet the building code. The importance of this work for Marin relates to the Back to Prosperity Brookings Report which detailed the dismal state of building stock in Pennsylvania's cities. (http://www.brookings.edu/reports/2003/12metropolitan-policy_pennsylvania.aspx).

The City's Planning Department is developing the comprehensive plan for the City of Allentown. The plan is in draft form and available on the city website and at City Hall. Citizens may contact Mike Hefe, Planning Director, at 610-437-7611 to make comments. Citizen

comments will be attached to the comprehensive plan.

A question arose about the east side of Allentown which is represented in the Comprehensive Plan under the American Parkway Corridor in the Strategic Plan Areas section. Joyce Marin spoke about the area around the new ballpark which is now an industrial zone but should possibly be re-zoned, perhaps as an entertainment area. Attention now is on the strategic areas designated in the plan such as the waterfront area and sections of 19th Street. Last month the Mayor began a series of neighborhood walks in cooperation with community groups. These walks involve as many as 30 officials and citizens walking and identifying what needs repair, from broken windows to larger problems. To inquire about scheduling a walk, contact Jean Brossman in the Department of Community and Economic Development at 610-437-7610.

Joyce Marin described Allentown as a big city with an administration that is a mystery to many. To help citizens understand how the City of Allentown works, a new program called Inside Allentown has been started which is a series of classes on Thursday evenings that are open to the public. Information about the program is online at: <http://www.allentownpa.gov/Government/InsideAllentown/tabid/61/Default.aspx>

Joyce Marin described the Allentown Advisory Council, a group of citizens chaired by Dan Poresky who meet to recommend actions on environmental issues in the city. In answer to a question, Marin said that all such meetings are advertised in The Morning Call and listed on the City of Allentown website: (<http://www.allentownpa.gov/Government/PublicMeetingCalendar/tabid/161/Default.aspx>) There is also a calendar of cultural events, such as the Celebrate Allentown event, on the website: <http://www.allentownpa.gov/Community/EventsCalendar/tabid/56/Default.aspx>

Another city program involves the police captains involved in community policing. The captains will function like mini-police chiefs in their areas. One concern raised was that when certain city areas are depicted as bad, there can be the unintended negative consequences of depressing house values and raising car insurance rates. In response to a report of citizens being treated poorly when filing complaints, Marin agreed there needs to be a “change of culture” so that all citizens are treated respectfully.

With a background in real estate lending in New York City, Marin emphasized that she is especially interested in refurbishing existing real estate. When asked what obstacles she faces in the effort, Marin said it was primarily resources. There are good people working on

HOLDING POWER ACCOUNTABLE

As election officials brace for record-breaking voter turnout on Election Day, a close examination of voting preparedness in ten swing states shows that Pennsylvania has some areas of concern in the basic functions of its election administration system, a new report by Common Cause and The Century Foundation shows. While the secretary of state and election administrators are making admirable efforts, gaps in the laws leave Pennsylvania susceptible to problems.

The report, "Voting in 2008: 10 Swing States," examines the potential for election administration difficulties in ten swing states, including Pennsylvania, focusing on: voter registration, voter identification, caging and challenges, deceptive practices, provisional ballots, voting machine allocation, poll worker recruitment and training, voter education and student voting rights.

Pennsylvania got mixed reviews.

Despite the well-documented use of "deceptive practices"—intentional dissemination of misinformation about the election process—during the 2004 election to suppress voting rights and skew the election, particularly in minority areas, Pennsylvania failed to pass laws to criminalize such behavior or mandate certain actions be taken to ensure accurate information is provided in the affected communities.

Similarly, although chal-

lenges to a voter's registration eligibility and right to vote at the polls on Election Day were unquestionably one of the biggest problems during the 2004 election, Pennsylvania has no rules around voter challenges, making it unclear how such disenfranchising practices might be dealt with should they arise.

Although well trained poll workers are at the center of a well-run election, state law requires that counties "instruct election officers in their duties," but does not specifically require that each election officer be trained before he or she serves.

"Pennsylvania's election system gets a mixed review," said Pennsylvania Common Cause Executive Director Barry Kaufman. "We have seen a lot of voter suppression in the past through misinformation campaigns and frivolous challenges to Pennsylvania voters, and the state could be doing more to stop that.

On the positive side, however, the report found that Pennsylvania has a relatively fair voter identification requirement. Strict voter identification laws can potentially disenfranchise hundreds of thousands of voters, and disproportionately take the vote away from minorities, young people, the elderly, poor people, and voters with disabilities.

Although many problems on Election Day are the result of poor voter education, in most states the extent of voter

education falls to the individual counties with varying degrees of support and oversight provided by the State. By contrast, Pennsylvania gets high marks for its voter education efforts regarding registration and voting machines, as well as for providing voter information in numerous different languages.

How does Pennsylvania compare to other states? Among the other states in the report, **Georgia, Florida and Virginia** stand out as states with the most problematic voting administration on a variety of criteria. **Wisconsin** gets the most positive review overall for its good poll worker training standards, excellent machine allocation standards, a solid deceptive practices law and clear student voting rights. **Ohio**, which in 2004 was the poster child for problems such as hours-long lines to vote and voter challenges, is much improved, according to the report, with a policy now to better handle challenges to voters, excellent poll worker training standards and good information provided to voters. **New Mexico** also got mixed reviews for still having shortcomings such as no deceptive practices law, but good poll worker training standards. **Colorado, Michigan and Missouri** fall somewhere in the middle.

Barry Kauffman
Common Cause

Provided to the Voter by
member Ann Bartholomew

"...Pennsylvania has some areas of concern in the basic functions of its election administration system, a new report by Common Cause and The Century Foundation shows."

SEPTEMBER !HOT TOPICS! RECAP

(continued from page 3)

these projects but they are always in need of funds. Here she referred to her experiences in Emmaus where even though a few people involved in the visioning process gave up on the work that needed to be done, others pitched in and saw their dreams through to create, for example, the Remembrance Garden and the Growers Market. She said that the decline of cities and boroughs in Pennsylvania and across the country is due to poor land use policies and poor

transportation priorities of the Federal government. She promotes a good rail system. It's much easier to keep a good community than to bring one back after decline, she noted. Concerning façade improvement, she said that design review is an important part of the process and such improvements have increased business revenue by 1 ½ times.

Joyce Marin jotted down notes throughout the discussion to relay concerns back

to the Mayor, or to attend to later herself. She concluded by urging everyone to voice concerns and get involved in making Allentown a better place for everyone to live. She invited all to read the new blog at: <http://www.AllentownGoodNews.blogspot.com/>

Elizabeth Bodien
September 8, 2008

"... the decline of cities and boroughs in Pennsylvania and across the country is due to poor land use policies and poor transportation priorities of the Federal government. "

THE NATIONAL VOTER IS ONLINE

The October Issue of *The National Voter* is in the Mail and Online: Paper and Digital (NEW)

The LWVUS announced the successful launch of the digital edition of *The National Voter*, which helps in "greening" efforts and in cutting postage and printing costs. All members with e-mail addresses in the LWVUS database received notification of the launch. If they registered at www.lwv.org and subscribed (by September 18) by checking the subscription box ("Update Profile") on their individual League pages, they could access the entire issue. If they had not subscribed by that date, they could view the preview and decide whether or not they wished to replace their paper copy with the digital copy in the future. Those who wish to receive the paper copy will receive it in the mail later this month. In addition, [pdfs of current and past issues of *The National Voter*](#) are archived as usual at www.lwv.org.

!HOT TOPICS! SPEAKERS

Check out our !Hot Topics! lunches. The cost of the lunch is \$14 per member. The lunches are held at Rufino's, 19th and Allen Streets in Allentown.

The November lunch will feature Bill White of The Morn-

ing Call. And at December's luncheon we will discuss our League's positions on local issues, including water resources and transportation.

If there is anyone you would like to see featured at our luncheons in February,

March and April, call me at 610-435-4148 or e-mail me at burkeswan@rcn.com with your suggestions.

Pat Swan

League of Women Voters
of Lehigh County

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STATE & WBENC Certification Workshop

Get certified today!!! The County of Bucks and the Bucks County Satellite group of the Greater Philadelphia Chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners present a FREE State and WBENC

(Women Business Enterprise National Council) Certification Workshop on Wednesday, October 15 from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

Having your business certified qualifies you to bid on government contracts as a primary or secondary vendor and to take advantage of a network of free resources and information. Basic requirements for

attendance are that your business must be:

- * 51% minimum owned and controlled by qualified minorities and/or women. (A women/minority must hold highest position in company)
- * A small business concern (no more than 100 employees)
- * Owned by US citizen or citizens
- * In business for 1 year minimum
- * Independent of any other business entity/entities
- * A for-profit business
- * Headquartered in Pennsylvania (out of state businesses can

get certified, but they must obtain their home-state certification first)

- * Woman/minority owners must have both management control and operational control of business

The event will be held at the Pennsylvania Biotechnology Center of Bucks County.

For information on registration, contact Liz Ferry in State Senator Rob Wonderling's office at 610-965-1466.



NATURALIZATION

Naturalization ceremonies were held at the Old Lehigh County Courthouse on Thursday, September 4. Seventy-eight candidates were naturalized, one of the largest classes in recent years.

The ceremony was presided over by The Honorable Edward D. Reibman. Among those organizations congratulating the new citizens were: Andrea E. Naugle,

Lehigh County Clerk of Judicial Records; Joshua Fink, Mary Klimek, Kenneth Earp, Joe Zeller, Ann Wertman, Matt Gutman, and Arlene Gutman, of the Allentown Flag Day Association; Doris Glaessmann and LoisAnn Oakes of Quota International of Allentown; Joan Breinig and Ann Banks of the Liberty Bell Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution; me and my husband, Jim, for the Lehigh



County LWV; and Joshua Fink of the Liberty Bell Museum.

This is a very uplifting ceremony to witness. The next ceremony will be held on Tuesday, November 25 at 4:00 p.m., and it is open to anyone who wishes to attend.

Caryn Shoenthal

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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