



LWV LEHIGH COUNTY VOTER

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

October

Thurs 8	7:00 p.m.	Lower Macungie Township Candi- dates Forum
Thurs 8	4:00 p.m.	Board Meeting Sunrise Senior Living
Thurs 8		Deadline for !Hot Topics! reservations
Thurs 8	10:00 a.m.	Bundling Day Pat Swan's Home
Mon 12	Noon	!Hot Topics! Lunch Transportation Is- sues, Steven Bliss, Renew LV
Thurs 27	4:00 p.m.	Naturalization Cere- monies, Old Lehigh County Courthouse

November

Thurs 12	4:00 p.m.	Board Meeting, Sun- rise Senior Living
Thurs. 12		Deadline for !Hot Topics! reservations
Mon 16	Noon	!Hot Topics! Lunch Bill White, Speaker
Thurs 19	4:00 P.m.	Naturalization Cere- monies, Old Lehigh County Courthouse

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear League Friends,

The year is going into full swing with the start of !Hot Topics! Luncheons and the preparation of a fall *Voters Guide*. I would like to thank Sue Phillips, Ann Bartholomew, Barbara Williams and Pat Swan for stepping in to get the *Voters Guide* preparations started, and to Molly Faust for connecting us with the *Morning Call* staff who arrange to print this information for local citizens. If you are interested in helping proofread or distribute the *Voter's Guide*, please contact any board member.

The state and national Leagues are still monitoring

the issues of water quality, transparency in government, health care and other issues. Unfortunately, it has been reported that information is being distributed which calls itself, "*The League of American Voters*" and has caused some confusion by seeming to represent our League. They present some extreme and inaccurate information. They are a one issue group which does not have a public list of funding sources or of their board of directors. There is still a lot of dangerously inaccurate material affecting our citizens. Please be aware of this and keep presenting accurate information.

There are several contested local races this fall. There will be information on our website as soon as we receive it. The *Voters Guide* will also be available, in print. Some League members are participating in a candidates event for local commissioners at the Lower Macungie Community building on October 8th. Please plan to attend if you would like to help out or if you are a resident of the relevant area.

See you at the next League event!

Mary Anne Rood
President, LWVLC

JOINT REGIONAL HEALTH BOARD

The meeting convened at the Lehigh County Government Center. The Health board meets alternately at Northampton and Lehigh County sites.

They are in the process of obtaining space for the Board from Northampton Community College in downtown Bethlehem. Their attorney is applying for an application for tax

exempt status under the 501 codes. They are hampered from proceeding with many of their activities because of the state funding freeze. A representative of Senator Pat Browne stated that he would let the group know how the budget was developing and how the allocation of health dollars might be effected.

There were a few questions from the floor but the meeting was sparsely attended and seemed to be largely a general business meeting. There was no discussion of the actual allocation or nature of health services that will be provided to residents of the two county region.

Mary Anne Rood

NEWS FROM THE BOARD—SEPTEMBER

Activities

- 10/8 - Board Meeting, Sunrise Senior Living – 4:00-5:30 p.m. – All members welcome
- 10/8 - Lower Macungie Candidates Forum, Lower Macungie Township Building – 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- 10/12 – Hot Topics Luncheon, Steven Bliss on Valley Transportation, Perkins Restaurant, Lehigh Street – 12:00-1:30 p.m.

Official Business

Treasurer's Report: The Board reviewed the August 2009 balance sheet presented by Pat Hoffman and filed the report for audit.

Committees & General Business:

Candidates' Forum: A Candidates' Forum has been organized by Ann Bartholomew for Lower Macungie Township. Members are invited to attend and may volunteer to assist

with collecting and sorting questions. Contact Ann for further information.

Membership: In October, watch for membership renewal notices and updated membership directories. Three new members have joined the League this fall.

!Hot Topics! Lunch: Two locations are being tried this fall for !Hot Topics! luncheons. Twenty- eight people are expected at the September meeting at City View Diner. The October 12 luncheon will be held at Perkins Restaurant on Lehigh Street with Steven Bliss reviewing local transportation issues. In November one of these restaurants will be chosen as the regular meeting place. After the October meeting, your comments about the locations would be welcome by Pat Swan.

Voters' Guide: Molly Faust has been replaced by a team of members who will carry on the work she so capably did to gather and type information from candidates into required

formats, retrieve the printed editions from the Morning Call, and organize crews to bundle packets and deliver them to community locations such as libraries, senior centers, and government offices. Pat and Burke Swan will be organizing bundling crews at their home. Contact Pat Swan or Ann Bartholomew to volunteer to help in assuring this valuable community service is continued. In the interest of preserving financial resources and since the Guide will be included with the Morning Call shortly before November elections, the Guide will not be mailed to the homes of members. It will be available on the LWVLC website.

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

Respectfully,

Jan Seaman, Secretary

MUNICIPAL ELECTION 2009

Important dates for voters:

- October 5 – Last day to register to vote
- October 27 – Last day to apply for an absentee ballot
- October 30 – Last day for Board of Election to receive absentee ballots
- November 3 – Municipal Election

VOTERS GUIDE

The **Voters Guide** will be published on Thursday, October 22, in The Morning Call. It will be online at www.lwvlv.org. Bundling of extra copies will be at Pat and Burke Swan's home, 3946 Ravenswood Road (call 610-432-1456 for directions), on October 22, starting at 10 a.m. If you can help bundle or deliver Guides, please come.

Proofreaders are needed for the Voters Guide before it is published. Call Ann Bartholomew at 610-967-3653.

!HOT TOPICS! LUNCHEON—TRANSPORTATION IN THE LEHIGH VALLEY

Speaker: Steven Bliss, Executive Director, Renew Lehigh Valley

**Monday, October 12th, Noon
Perkins Restaurant
3400 Lehigh Street
(not Dorneyville)**

Just south of the South Mall

**Transportation in the Lehigh Valley:
Where We've Been,
Where We Go From Here**

Steven is a member of the LANTA Advisory Council, as well as the transportation committees of the Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation and the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce. As we discussed transportation last year, we realized that we needed more information to update our

LWVLC position. This is an educational opportunity! Come and bring a friend!

Please make your reservations by calling Sue Phillips at 610-821-1118 or by e-mail to: suep@entermail.net.

Pat Swan

!HOT TOPICS! LUNCHEON—HOW WOMEN ARE CHANGING THE WORLD

September 14

City View Diner

MacArthur Road, Whitehall

Speaker: **Pamela Varkony**

(See her full biography at <http://www.powerofwomen.net/pamelavarkony>)

Pamela Varkony, a writer, speaker, and commentator, spoke about the empowerment and leadership of women, and specifically about the women of Afghanistan where she has visited twice. She referred to the brain research that has found that when men think to solve a problem, they think in direct, linear, and specific ways, whereas women, arriving at the same solution in about the same time, consider several options before solving the problem at hand.

Our workforce is changing, she continued. Fifty-three per cent of the US work force is now women but they are not the majority in board rooms and executive suites, even in the Fortune 500 companies. Nevertheless, with the increase of women in business, the business model has changed from a top-down, military-like model to a more team-oriented approach, which Varkony favors. She believes that women are more focused on ethics than men, and gave as examples the three women whistleblowers who tried to warn about calamities, including the attacks of September 11, 2001. They were featured as women of the year on a Time magazine cover

in 2002 (<http://www.time.com/time/covers/0,16641,20021230,00.html>). She referred to the gender socialization of girls and boys, stating that the old gender stereotypes are limiting and should be gotten rid of. The United States lags behind in being one of the few industrial nations without having had a woman as leader and Pennsylvania is in 43rd place (although up from 47th) in the number of women elected to public office. Because of the two wars and the need for troops, women have been able to move into many military roles, including in combat, not just as cooks, secretaries or in supply units.

Pamela Varkony, having worked in other countries, insists that the United States is the best country to be a woman, in terms of rights. In Afghanistan, in connection with the Business Council for Peace (<http://www.bpeace.org/index.html>), she has helped women in business. The Business Council for Peace, formed in 2002, believes that “people who have jobs, hope, and opportunity do not drive airplanes into buildings.” Many developing countries have young populations with a high percentage under 30 years of age. In Afghanistan which has seen war for 30 years, there are many widows and orphans, and as a predominantly Muslim country, women need to be under the protection of a male or they are left “outcasts from society.” She noted that the majority of the people in the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) who are helping rebuild

the country are women. She spoke of an Afghan-American woman who returned to Afghanistan to build schools for girls. Although half of the schools she built have been burned or attacked in the last five years, this brave woman continues to rebuild. In spite of the setbacks of recent years, Varkony says she is hopeful about the future of Afghanistan.

She ended by saying that many of the important positive changes in her own life have been due to the help of women. She urged everyone to ask of themselves: Is there a woman I can mentor or promote? Have I contributed to another woman’s welfare? If the answer is yes, then we have contributed to make the world a better place.

Questions concerned the assertiveness training Pamela Varkony did in Australia, the role of the United States in Iraq and Afghanistan, the problem of American dominance in the world, and the need for child care so that women can be more active in other areas of life. She was also asked whether she would run for political office again to which she said: “I know never to say never but right now I am about as close to never as I can be.”

Pamela Varkony founded The Power of Women (<http://www.powerofwomen.net>), which is hosting a cocktail networking party at the Banana Factory on October 20th.

Elizabeth Bodien

NATURALIZATION CEREMONY

Naturalization will be held on Thursday, October 27th at 4:00 p.m. in the Old Lehigh County Courthouse. This ceremony is one of the more inspiring ceremonies you will see held in the Courthouse.

Anyone who wishes to experience this ceremony is welcome to attend.

Caryn Shoenthal

!HOT TOPICS! LUNCH SERIES

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Second Mondays for !HOT TOPICS!. Call or e-mail Sue Phillips for reservations by the Thursday preceding the lunch. We haven't decided on a permanent location, but hope to settle on the City View Diner or Perkins. Let us know your preference or if you have any other ideas. In November, Bill White will be our speaker, and in December, Lehigh County Executive, Don Cunningham.

Pat Swan
610 435-4148
burkeswan@rcn.com

League of Women Voters
of Lehigh County

P. O. Box 3275
Allentown, PA 18106
610-432-1456
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President: Mary Anne Rood,
610-395-3464
Membership: Margie Dunn,
610-298-8946

Caryn Shoenthal, Editor
Email: CarynCW@yahoo.com
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NEW MEMBERS

We had two new members this month.

They are:

Joanne Ackerman
2572 Green Acres Drive
Allentown, PA 18103
610-432-3067
jcackerman@rcn.com

Margaret (Maggie) Kernan
2603 Green Acres Drive
Allentown, PA 18103
610-437-1329
jameskernan@rcn.com

Joanne is running for commissioner in Salisbury. At a recent strategy meeting I

suggested that Joanne and Maggie join our League and they were very enthusiastic about joining.

Maggie grew up in New York and New Jersey and is a graduate of East Orange Hospital School of Nursing. She moved here with her husband and four children in 1965. Maggie is employed at Sacred Heart Hospital, and was employed at LVHC for 25 years, 22 years as Head Nurse. She currently volunteers at Meals on Wheels, and has volunteered in political campaigns since 2000.

Mary Anne Stinner

CANDIDATES NIGHT

We are planning a forum for Thursday, October 8, to help voters choose candidates in a historic election in Lower Macungie Township. The entire board of five commissioners is to be elected, three for four-year terms and two for two-year terms. This is because Lower Macungie voters chose to convert to a Township of the First Class in 2007, and the current board was appointed by the Lehigh County Court. If you can help, please contact Ann Bartholomew at 610-967-3653 or annbart@rcn.com.

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.

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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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