



LWV LEHIGH COUNTY VOTER

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

September

Thurs 10	4:00 p.m.	Board Meeting Sunrise Senior Living
Mon 14	Noon	!Hot Topics! Lunch How Woman Are Changing the World. Speaker: Pam Varkony City View Diner

October

Thurs 8	7:00 p.m.	Lower Macungie Township Candi- dates Forum
Thurs 8	4:00 p.m.	Board Meeting Sunrise Senior Living
Mon 12	Noon	!Hot Topics! Lunch Transportation Is- sues, Steve Bliss, Renew LV
Thurs 27	4:00 p.m.	Naturalization Cere- monies, Old Lehigh County Courthouse

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear League Friends,

We had an interesting and productive Program Brunch at the home of Margie Dunn this July – good food and good company. There is a great line up of speakers for the Hot Topics Luncheons this year. It includes some new speakers, some old standbys, and the topics this year will include transportation, local government and water quality. We are kicking off the year with internationally known speaker Pam Varkony on September 14th. We will also welcome our new members; so please bring a friend with you to enjoy this event.

There will be a LWVPA study about the *Marcellus Shale Gas Extraction* and

its specific effects on ground water in our state. A web seminar on this topic was conducted in July and it may be available on the LWVPA website. I have not tried to track it down so I cannot state this with absolute certainty. There is information available on the website and I have an outline of the study.

The state and national Leagues are still monitoring the issues of transparency in government and health care. It is important to become informed so we can provide accurate information to the voters. There seems to be plenty of dangerously inaccurate material roaring down the airwaves and throughout the media.

There several heavily contested races this fall. We will participating in an candidates event at the Macungie Community building in October. There will a lot of interesting discussion this fall.

If you are interested in working with a League activity such as voter registration, legislative interviews or the *Voters Guide* please, contact any board member and we will help you find a league job.

See you at the next League event!

Mary Anne Rood
President LWVLC

WEBSITE, WWW.LWVLV.ORG

A new page that has information on healthcare issues from a non-partisan viewpoint has been added to the LWV website. If you have suggestions for additions, please send them to lwvlehigh@yahoo.com.

The Government Directory pages need some revisions due to resignations. If you know of a change (school board, city or borough council, township board), please send the updated information to lwvlehigh@yahoo.com.

We need the name of the person who has left the board and the name of the replacement.

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

NOTES FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING — MAY 2009

The LWVLC Annual Meeting was held on May 20, 2009 at Mangoes Restaurant with nineteen members present.

Business:

- A balanced budget was adopted. The fiscal records for 2008-2009 received a positive audit.
- The revision of the Local Water Position was accepted.
- The decision was made to continue the Hot Topics Luncheons.
- The slate of officers and board members presented by the nominating committee was approved. Mary Anne Stinner, Action Chairwoman; and Molly Faust, Voters' Guide Coordinator, have resigned and those positions remain vacant.

Your interest and involvement is needed —

- Suggestions for Hot Topics Luncheon topics can be sent to Pat Swan along with ideas for a new location with adequate parking and reasonable lunch prices. Vote to continue these informative events with your attendance in September.
- Members who would consider undertaking the Action and Voters' Guide positions on the Board are encouraged to speak with Mary Anne and Molly.
- The Board anticipates organizing a Candidates' Night for Lower Macungie Township. Anyone, especially those living in Lower Macungie Township, interested in developing questions and assisting should contact Ann Bartholomew.
- The Board will explore working with Common Cause in their effort to

implement campaign finance reform for the U.S. House and Senate. Watch for updates online and in the Voter.

- The LWVLC position on Transportation Needs in the Lehigh Valley will be reviewed and updated this year under the leadership of Mary Anne Rood and Barbara Williams. Watch for opportunities to have your voice heard.

Board Meetings – Open to all members

NEXT MEETING – June 11 at 4:00 pm

Meetings will continue to be held at Sunrise Senior Living on the second Thursday of each month from 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Jan Seaman

NEWS FROM THE BOARD, AUGUST 13, 2009

Activities

Next Board Meeting – All members welcome, Thursday September 10, 2009 Sunrise Senior Living – 4:00-5:30 pm

Hot Topics Luncheon – September 14, noon-1:30 pm @ City View Diner

Lower Macungie Candidate Forum – October 8, 2009, 7-9 pm

Official Business

Treasurer's Report: The Board reviewed the July 2009 balance sheet presented by Pat Hoffman and filed the report for audit. A review of phone and Voter expenses will be undertaken by members of the Board in an effort to reduce costs while preserving good communication.

Barbara Benson will continue as LWVLC lesion to the LC Conservation district.
Committees & General Business

Membership – Members joining in the last year will be guests of the Board at the September Hot Topics Luncheon. We are pleased to welcome Lisa Adams. (See contact details elsewhere in the Voter).

Members enjoyed a tasty brunch at the home of Margie Dunn in July. Beata Bujalska from Renew Lehigh Valley was our guest and brought us information about the status of the regional Health Department initiative.

Community Outreach -

Ann Bartholomew will need everyone's help in keeping the online Government Directory up-to-date. Please contact her with any changes of County, City, Township, etc. officials.

Contact Ann Bartholomew to offer your assistance with the Lower Macungie Candidates night.

HELP IS NEEDED – Molly Faust did a terrific job collecting and collating information for the Voter's Guide. For this upcoming year, a small team will collaborate to accomplish the gathering and collating job. Molly will provide guidance and other members will continue to assist with proof reading, bundling and distribution. For more information and to volunteer to help contact: Mary Anne Rood, Ann Bartholomew.

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

Jeanette Seaman
Secretary

!Hot Topics! The Power To Lead...How Women are Changing the World

Speaker: Pam Varkony

**September 14 at noon
City View Diner, MacArthur Road,
Whitehall**

There seems to be turmoil everywhere, from town meetings in America to increased bombings in Afghanistan. Is it therefore the right time to ask, "Would we be in this situation if women ruled the world?"

Research continues to show the real differences in how men and women think, reason, and problem solve. Many of those differences are hard-wired in the brain, so it seems safe to say that the more opportunities women have to lead, the more we will see the results of their leadership style...an outcome that could change the world.

Nationally recognized writer and commentator, Pamela Varkony, is known for her keen insights on politics and current affairs. As a freelance op-ed columnist for The Morning Call, a Trib-

une Publishing newspaper, her stories cover subjects from business ethics to the status of women in the third world.

A "citizen of the world", Pamela Varkony not only travels the globe, she has helped to change it through both her writing and her advocacy. As the iron curtain was falling across Central Europe, Pam worked closely with the Hungarian government to develop a cross-cultural communications course for their officials. She has taught management techniques to female entrepreneurs in emerging markets, assertiveness skills to business-women in Australia, established a leadership program for one of the Czech Republic's largest corporations, and assisted Afghan women in becoming entrepreneurs. Her columns from overseas have brought home such stories as the accidental wounding of Afghan children by American troops and the deplorable lack of medical care for Afghan women.

A pioneer in women's empowerment, Pam writes and speaks frequently on

the subjects of gender, diversity, and their impact on business and government cultures. She is the founder of "Power Of Women", an all-volunteer networking, mentoring and education initiative that provides support for women to reach their goals. She is a recipient of the Athena Award for business achievement; the American Association of University Women's "Gateway Award" for leadership in women's issues; a "Woman of Distinction" award from the Girl Scouts, as well as the Business Council for Peace, VERA Award for her work in Afghanistan

Come to our !Hot Topics! luncheon and hear about Pam's experiences in Afghanistan and her thoughts on how women can change the world.

Please call or e-mail Sue Phillips at 610-821-1118 or suep@entermail.net. The cost for this month's lunch is \$13, and the deadline for making reservations is Thursday, September 10th.

MEMBERSHIP

September is new member month! The LWVLC had seven new members join last year: Caroline Dobrowolski, L Sydney Davis, Judith Murphy, Maryann Barone, Jane Bedell who joined as a national member, Bev Hensler and Lisa Adams. We have invited our new members to attend our Hot Topics Luncheon on September 14th, as our guests.

Lisa Adams joined over the summer. Please add her name to your membership list.

Lisa Adams
104 Lone Lane
Allentown, PA 18104
610 366-0128
Adamsl2@airproducts.com

We need new members to keep our League strong! Please invite any prospective member to this luncheon. We will be having a short meeting before the luncheon to inform our new and prospective members of our League and answer any questions. If they can't make it, ask them to re-

view our web page, www.lwvlv.org, so they can see what we are all about.

Come to the luncheon and welcome our new members to our League!

Margie Dunn

RENEW LEHIGH VALLEY

Renew Lehigh Valley (RenewLV) is a smart growth organization working to strengthen the region's core communities, preserve open space, and create a sustainable and equitable foundation for future growth. Strategic direction for RenewLV is provided by a Leadership Council made up of representatives from community organizations, business, government, environmental groups, education, foundations, and agriculture. This broad coalition of leaders is dedicated to creating a region characterized by strong, sustainable communities and a vibrant economy. RenewLV is leading a set of regional initiatives that include efforts to:

- Build support for regional passenger rail in the Lehigh Valley;
- Strengthen our water/wastewater infrastructure through regional consolidation, with the potential to save almost \$60 million dollars each year by 2020;
- Drive investment into older core communities and find ways to fund regional collaboration;
- Establish a bi-county health department that fosters regional cooperation in disease prevention and disaster preparedness;
- Promote coordinated land-use and transportation.

Beata Bujalska
 Campaign Coordinator
 Renew Lehigh Valley
bbujalska@renewlv.org
 484-893-1062
[RenewLV Homepage](#)
[Crossroads](#) [RenewLV Blog](#)
[RenewLV@Twitter](#)

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION AWARDS DINNER

On behalf of the **City of Allentown Human Relations Commission**, I would like to invite you to join us as a sponsor of the 32nd Annual Human Relations Awards Dinner **Tuesday, October 20, 2009, 5:30 p.m.**

The Annual Awards Dinner has become tradition in the community. This special evening is a cause to celebrate the unique efforts and contributions individuals, organizations, and businesses within the community have made to promote respect and acceptance, and to bridge gaps across culture, language, race, age, background and ability so that all may participate fully in the community life of the city.

Some of the most respected companies in the area have already realized the benefits of being a sponsor. This is a unique opportunity to promote your business's support of the diversity & the city of Allentown. I would like to invite you to join this successful group of businesses. There are several levels of sponsorship in the program.

I hope you will decide to pursue a partnership with the City of Allentown in this unique community event. To receive your listing in the program as a Sponsor, we need your reply and a copy of your advertisement and logo by Tuesday, October 6, 2009. Please contact us if you would like us to design one for you.

Additional tickets for the dinner are available at \$40 per person or \$320 for a table of 8. Ticket requests are due by Tuesday, October 13, 2009.

For any questions about sponsorship, the Human Relations Awards, or the dinner, please call me at 610-216-2900 (e-mail allysondiane@hotmail.com) or Nicholas Butterfield, Human Relations Officer at 610-437-7616. We look forward to your support.

Sincerely,

Allyson Diane Hamm,
 Chair
 Allentown Human Relations Awards
 Dinner Committee

LWVLC MEMBER RECEIVES POETRY AWARD

Elizabeth Bodien, member of our Lehigh County League, was received honored as a featured poet by the Greater Lehigh Valley Writers Group and was the recipient of the group's Inaugural Award in Poetry. The award was made at a dinner on August 7th in Havertown. You might recognize her name as she writes the descriptions of presentations made at our !Hot Topics! lunches.

Elizabeth Bodien lives in the Ontelaunee River watershed near

Hawk Mountain in Kempton, PA. She studied cultural anthropology, later consciousness studies, and still later, the history and phenomenology of religions. She lived in Berkeley in the 60s and graduated from the University of California. Elizabeth has also worked as an instructor of English in Japan, an organic farmer in the mountains of Oregon, and a certified childbirth instructor in West Africa. She taught at Northampton Community College in Bethlehem, PA. Her poetry has appeared in Bear

Creek Haiku, red lights, bottle rockets, Frogpond, Ribbons, and many other small press magazines. Awards include first prize in the 2004 Pennsylvania Writers Conference. She is the author of a poetry chapbook, Plumb Lines, from Plan B Press.

Mary Anne Stinner

ALLENTOWN RECEIVES WREN GRANT FROM LWVPA-CEF

Bonita Hoke, Executive Director of LWVPA, recently announced that the City of Allentown was the recipient of a \$5,000 grant from the Citizen Education Fund's Water Resources Education Network.

The program that is receiving funding is "The Allentown Stream Bank Restoration and Riparian Buffer Education and Mobilization Project." It will include educational forums, technical trainings, field reviews, and a video that will educate and mobilize important stakeholders to reduce impacts of polluted stormwater runoff in streamside public park lands and the Little Lehigh River watershed, which

serves as the main source of drinking water for the City of Allentown. Partners in the project are the City of Allentown Bureau of Water Resources, Lehigh County Conservation District, Wildlands Conservancy, Allentown Shade Tree Commission, Allentown Environmental Advisory Council, and Friends of Allentown Parks.

The grant is one of eleven given for community-based water-resources education programs in the state. LWVPA (through WREN) has distributed more than \$1 million in small grants since 1991. The 2009-2010 WREN grants totaled \$49,805. Funding comes from EPA to the PA Depart-

ment of Environmental Protection, which passes it through the League's Citizen Education Fund. The grants go to activities designed to address non-point source pollution issues on a watershed basis. The "heavy lifting" of the program work is done by a very tiny WREN staff and dedicated League volunteers. Financial administration is carried out by the League state office staff.

Mary Anne Rood

!HOT TOPICS! LUNCH SERIES

League of Women Voters
of Lehigh County

P. O. Box 3275
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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



We have lined up several strong, interesting speakers for this year's **!Hot Topics!** lunches on the second Monday of each month.

The series begins on Monday, September 14, at the City View Diner with Pam Varkony* speaking about gender roles in a talk she calls "The Power To Lead ... How Women Are Changing the World." Pam is sure to present some very thought-provoking information for discussion. Consider inviting a friend to come with you.

On October 12, Steven Bliss of Renew Lehigh Valley will speak about transportation issues. Bill White will provide his perspectives on the November elections at the November 9 lunch meeting, and on December 14 we plan to meet to discuss the latest LWVUS initiative for consensus.

We have been looking for a suitable place to have the lunch meetings since Ruffino's closed the doors of its large restaurant. September's meeting will be at the City View Diner, Grape Street, at noon. The cost remains \$13. The menu choices are soup, sandwich, and pie or cake.

The October meeting will be at the Perkins restaurant on Lehigh Street. Both have rooms that are separated from the main restaurant. Help us decide which of these two will be selected for future lunch meetings by coming to both.

*Go to www.lwvlv.org to read the short biographical sketch Pam Varkony provided us.

Pat Swan
610-435-4148

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