

LWW LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF THE PENNSYLVANIA CAPITAL REGION Newsletter

On December 9, League members met for an update on our 2023 activities and to enjoy snacks and conversation. It was a great way to end our very busy year. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard during the year. We look forward to our 2024 projects. Welcome to our three new members!



The Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Team News

Interested in joining this team? Email Patty at President@lwvpacapreg.org or Lillian at Lilliangrieco@verizon.net.

November's special observance is **Native American Indian Heritage Month**. *Killers of the Flower Moon* is November's recommended reading and movie.



December is host to multiple cultural events and celebrations: **Bodhi Day, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Hanukkah, Yule, Christmas, Boxing Day, and Kwanzaa.** If you are unfamiliar with any

of these celebrations, we welcome you to check them out online or in a library. Recommended reading is *"The December Dozen: A Celebration of Holidays,"* by Cristina Smith. This book addresses questions such as, "What the 12 days of Christmas are and why they're important," "What the profound principles of Kwanzaa are that support a better life," "How North American indigenous Hopis welcomed winter," and "Why

Hannukah was established and the secret messages in spinning a dreidel." Various other December holidays are explored by the author. Our next virtual team meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 8, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

If interested in attending, please email Patty at President@lwvpacapreg.org or Lillian at Lilliangrieco@verizon.net.

Save the date!

Kevin Wagner, a Social Studies teacher at Carlisle Area School District, was instrumental in working with students to obtain the Governor's Award for **registering young voters** 6 years in a row. He will be joining us on **Thursday, January 11 at 6:30** on Zoom to discuss his experience with the Governor's Civic Engagement Award and high school voter registration. The PA Department of State has been asked to join and talk about the program from their side as well. Questions to jessica.myers@palwv.org. Registration will be available on our website, www.lwvpacapreg.org.



The bilingual English/Spanish children's book, "Voting is Your Superpower," authored by our own award-winning Mary Ellen B., is based on the true story of taking her daughter to the polls, even the part where the character's dog peeks out from the voting booth. To purchase a copy, email

President@lwvpacapreg.org

Team Updates and Opportunities

Communications Team Check out our Instagram and Facebook accounts. They can be accessed through our website at www.lwvpacapreg.org. Krysta P. is the lead person (PavascoK@gmail.com).

Events & Programs Team The Program committee holds regular, monthly meetings on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. We will discuss areas of interest that we should focus on this year and welcome any and all ideas. Right now, we are thinking through presentations on: the role of school directors, sustainability, storm water management, observation corps, and BallotPA report. If you have other ideas or recommendations, please contact Jess Myers at jessica.myers@palwv.org.

Membership Team This team aims to grow membership and engagement. Our League currently has more than 100 members. If interested in joining this team, please contact Rae N. at Raeneubaum@aol.com.

Nominations Team This team seeks nominees for the Steering Committee and board of officers. If interested in joining this team, please contact Deb E. at Debendres6@gmail.com.

Voter Services & Registration Team This team coordinates and staffs voter registration drives in various local settings. If interested in joining this team, please contact Deb E. at Debendres6@gmail.com or Iris I. at iozzia@comcast.net.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Team If interested in joining this team, please contact Patty L. at President@lwvpacapreg.org.

Your League at work - Guide to Voting

Through a grant from the Patricia L. Murray Fund, a charitable fund of the Greater Harrisburg Community Foundation, a regional foundation of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities, we had our Guide to Voting translated into six languages. We met with several groups and identified the six languages to be translated: Arabic, Nepalese, Somali, Spanish, Urdu, and Vietnamese. We are also having our videos—The Importance of Voting, Voting Rights, and Walk Through Voting that were created by our former intern, Gabe Pinsker, subtitled into these six languages as well.

Our next big step will be distribution of the translated materials into the hands of the immigrant populations.

What's happening in the State Legislature?

Legis.state.pa.us is the website where the public can see and track bills going through the Senate or House. You may sign up to get daily updates. Election-related bills go through the State Government House and Senate committees. Interesting bills include HB 1857, which moves the date of the primary election from the third Tuesday in May to the third Tuesday in March in presidential election years. This is an effort to make Pennsylvania more relevant in presidential elections.

Naturalization Ceremonies

The naturalization ceremony 11/05/23 at the Sylvia H. Rambo Federal US Courthouse was attended by May Z and Michele E.

We were granted permission to set up a voter registration table outside the courtroom doors by the presiding Judge, the Honorable Jennifer P. Wilson. 38 people received their hard earned citizenship and naturalization papers from Judge Wilson.

We were able to hand out our packet of information including a voter registration form, welcome from the LWV of the PA Capital Region, and our newly revised *Guide to Voting* intended for new citizens. We were able to meet and talk with many of the new citizens very interested and excited about registering to vote as they left the courtroom. May provided a basket of snacks, and copies of an article about her own parents Naturalization in 1962. All were advised of the next opportunity to vote in the April and November 2024 elections once they registered to vote.

It is such an honor to attend and perhaps our greatest opportunity to reach eager people wanting to register. We will continue attending naturalization ceremonies in Cumberland, Dauphin, and York counties with opportunities as follows:

Dauphin County: spring, summer, fall

Cumberland County: spring

Federal Courthouse: spring, summer, fall

York County: fall

Some months ago we were asked to provide a letter of support for Lower Allen Township (Cumberland County) in order for them to submit a grant to create a **Pollinator Garden**. The Steering committee at that time voted to do so. Here is a depiction of the plaque that will be displayed. Our new name and logo were provided to the township.



Voter Registration

Deb and Iris wanted to say thanks for all you have done to help with Voter Registrations this year. A lot has been accomplished and we could not have done it without you. Great job!

We are planning a Zoom meeting for the Voter Services and Registration team on Saturday, January 13, at 1 p.m. Happy holidays, Iris and Deb

In League,

Sherry R, President, LWVAPREG,

President@lwvpacapreg.org

Visit our website at www.lwvpacapreg.org.

Joanne B. and Janette M., Newsletter Editors

**If interested in joining a team, please
email President@lwvpacapreg.org**