

**LWW** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF THE PENNSYLVANIA CAPITAL REGION

# Newsletter

[www.lwvpacapreg.org](http://www.lwvpacapreg.org)

## Important Information!

Our Annual Meeting will take place on **Zoom, Monday May 13th, at 6:30 p.m.** We welcome Dr. Sarah Niebler, Associate Professor of Political Science at Dickinson College, as our guest speaker.

Our business meeting will follow our speaker, and we ask that you plan to attend. **It is critical that we have a quorum of members** in order to proceed with the meeting. Remember why you joined the League and consider where you may wish to take part in one of the many areas in which we strive to make a difference.

You will have received a reminder via email from Rae Neubaum, our membership chair. It will have a Zoom link for you to click on to register. See you on May 13th on Zoom!

## LWV across the nation

MANCHESTER, NH – (April 30, 2024) The League of Women Voters of the United States, **the League of Women Voters of New Hampshire**, and several individual New Hampshire voters have filed a motion for preliminary injunction in the U.S. District Court of New Hampshire asking the court to stop the defendants from producing, generating, or distributing **AI-generated** robocalls, text messages or any form of spoofed communication impersonating any person, without that person's express consent.

April 18, 2024

ST LOUIS, MO — (April 18, 2024) **The League of Women Voters of Iowa** and One Iowa filed an amicus brief in the US Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit asking the court to uphold a lower court's injunction on an Iowa **ban on certain books in school libraries**.

LWV PA

The social season of spring and summer gatherings is approaching! LWVPA has a useful section regarding League talking points and explanation of our **nonpartisan stance** under **resources**. Check it out!

**Joanne B.** keeps us up to date on what is happening in our state League and across the nation.

## Rosie the Riveter Congressional Medal event

Kandy M. and Pat F. attended a wonderful event in Washington, D.C. - a Gold Medal presentation, long overdue, to the 6 million Rosies who served in the war effort. Two dozen of them were present, all 95 years old or older, some in wheelchairs. One of the Rosies spoke for the group (Mae Kruger, first photo). Other speakers included Rep Hakeem Jeffries, Rep Mike Johnson, Senator Susan Collins, Rep Fitzpatrick, and our own Senator Casey.



### Voter Registration - help needed!

The voter registration team would love more members to take part. We visit schools, drop off voting materials at other schools, and set up tables at various events and farmers' markets. Our trivia quiz wheel is always a success! Email [President@lwvpacapreg.org](mailto:President@lwvpacapreg.org) if you'd like to help.

## Voter registration at Central PA high schools

Darlene K. and Janette M. spent the lunch periods at **East Pennsboro High** and connected with many students and teachers. We registered five new voters. We are grateful to Principal Bianchi and Mr. Baker. We were delighted at the civics knowledge of the students. Most aced the questions on our quiz wheel!

Iris I. and Amber N. set up a table at the **John Harris High School** job fair and 38 QR codes were given out, as well as 15 youth encounters, 1 brochure was given out and 1 business card.

Michele E. and Theresa H. went to the **William Penn High School** Career Fair. 3 registration forms were given out, 23 QR codes were accessed and they made 56 youth contacts. 3 Spanish brochures were given out and too many other brochures to count were handed out!



Follow us on Facebook, Youtube and Instagram and tell all your friends! Anything you think we should feature on our page? Contact Krysta K. at [PavascoK@gmail.com](mailto:PavascoK@gmail.com). Find our Facebook and Instagram sites through our website at [www.lwvpacapreg.org](http://www.lwvpacapreg.org).

## The Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Team News



In May we honor Asian-Americans and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders. It is also Mental Health Awareness Month and Women's Health Care Month. May was either named for the Roman goddess Maia, the nurse, or the Roman goddess of fertility, Bona Dea, whose festival was held in May.

The entire month of May honors all military men and women who have died in military service. It is called Honor Your Hometown Fallen Hero month. The last Monday of May is designated as Memorial Day. It is reserved for military men and women who lost their lives fighting for our country.



May 1 is May Day, which is a European festival that marks the beginning of summer and is also known as Labor Day in many countries throughout the world. May Day traditions include dancing around a Maypole, crowning a May Queen, and giving flowers to loved ones. May 5 is the famous Cinco de Mayo Day which is a celebration of the Mexican Army's victory over France under Napoleon III at Puebla during the French/Mexican War. However, it is not Mexico's Independence Day which is September 16. May 12 is Mother's Day in the U.S., which is usually celebrated on the second Sunday of the month. In the United States, it was started by Anna Jarvis, who organized the first Mother's Day service in 1907 at Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in West Virginia. By 1911 all U. S. states celebrated it and in 1914 Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation designating the second Sunday in May as a national holiday to honor all mothers. May 21 is Multicultural Diversity Day and May 22 is Harvey Milk day. Milk was a gay rights activist who was assassinated in 1978.



The Last Emperor of Mexico by Edward Shawcross is the story of European hubris and imperialist aspirations clashing with revolutionary fervor and the old world breaking with the new. It is the story of a young Austrian Archduke Maxmillian, and a Belgian princess, Carlota, who were encouraged by Napoleon III to become the emperor and empress of Mexico, and were abandoned by the French Army when they withdrew.

Memorializing Motherhood by Katharine Lane Antolini is a book about why Anna Jarvis promoted a day to recognize "mothers" and then why she opposed the commercialization of Mother's Day by Hallmark and other businesses. "Mother's Day" is a romantic/comedy movie on HBO starring Julia Roberts, Jennifer Aniston and Kate Hudson with Jason Sudeikis about celebrating Mother's Day.

If interested in joining this team, please contact Patty L. at [President@lwvpacapreg.org](mailto:President@lwvpacapreg.org) or Lillian G. at [Liliangrieco@verizon.net](mailto:Liliangrieco@verizon.net).

## Update on The Foundation for Enhancing Communities, Patricia L. Murray Grant

We have distributed displays of translated materials (Guide to Voting) in 6 languages along with the English versions of Guide to Voting and Your Choice, Your Voice to the following YMCAs: West Shore, East Shore, Camp Curtin, Friendship, and Northern Dauphin County, and to multiple libraries in Cumberland and Dauphin County.

### Legislative Update

We are following legislation proposed by Rep. Scott Conklin of Centre County, **which aims to help counties provide quicker election returns.** According to Rep. Conklin: Under current law, pre-canvassing of absentee and mail-in ballots cannot begin until 7 a.m. on Election Day. "Pre-canvass" is defined in the Election Code as the inspection and opening of all envelopes containing official absentee ballots or mail-in ballots, the removal of such ballots from the envelopes and the counting, computing, and tallying of the votes reflected on the ballots. It does not include the recording or publishing of the votes reflected on the ballots.

With more and more people voting by mail-in ballot, tabulating ballots and releasing election results is taking county boards of elections much longer. In House State Government Committee hearings we heard from numerous experts, including county election officials from both parties, who testified that our state should allow counties to pre-canvass mail and absentee ballots much earlier than the morning of the election. Many believe that delays in tabulating election returns can lead to voter suspicion and unfounded conspiracies.

Allowing counties to pre-canvass mail ballots would significantly expedite the availability of election results. Legislative action is needed to give counties the time they need to address the enormous volume of mail-in ballots expected to be cast in future elections, especially the upcoming 2024 presidential election. We need to ensure that Pennsylvania does not become a national embarrassment on Election Day.

At the request of county commissioners, this legislation would also make the deadline to apply by mail for an absentee ballot or mail-in ballot earlier. Additionally, this legislation will increase transparency for viewing the pre-canvass and canvass of ballots. Finally, the bill would require the county boards to notify electors who had minor defects with ballots so that they can be corrected prior to the election.

**This legislation passed the Pennsylvania House on May 1, but its future in the Senate is uncertain as members of the Senate insist on voter ID requirements being added.**



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](mailto:President@lwvpacapreg.org). The price is \$15.00.

## Team Updates and Opportunities

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

**Membership Team** This team aims to grow membership and engagement. Our League currently has more than 80 members. If interested in joining this team, please contact Rae N. at [Raeneubaum@aol.com](mailto:Raeneubaum@aol.com).

**Nominations Team** This team seeks nominees for the Steering Committee. If interested in joining this team, please contact Deb E. at [Debendres6@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:Debendres6@gmail.com) or Iris I. at [iozzia@comcast.net](mailto:iozzia@comcast.net).

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

### The 2024 National Convention

June 27 - June 30 2024 in Washington D.C.! The registration deadline is June 10. Virtual attendance is also offered for \$125.

<https://www.lwv.org/league-management/council-convention/first-call-2024-national-convention>

*Joanne B.*

### LWV Observer Corps

One way LWV can effect positive change in a non-partisan way is to have a member volunteer attend public government meetings (County Commissioners, local school board, etc.). By observing the meetings in this way, local LWV can identify concerns, identify issues to be researched and reach conclusions for action beneficial to the community. This is a great way to get involved. Contact Lillian Grieco at [lilliangrieco@verizon.net](mailto:lilliangrieco@verizon.net) for advice and support.

**In League,**  
**Sherry R, President, LWVPACAPREG,**  
[President@lwvpacapreg.org](mailto:President@lwvpacapreg.org)  
**Visit our website at** [www.lwvpacapreg.org](http://www.lwvpacapreg.org).  
**Joanne B. and Janette M., Newsletter Editors**

**If interested in joining a team, please email** [President@lwvpacapreg.org](mailto:President@lwvpacapreg.org)