

# LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF THE PENNSYLVANIA CAPITAL REGION

# Newsletter

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

### Upcoming event:

**Thursday April 4 at 6:30 p.m.:** Our speaker will be **Dorene Wilbur**, who is the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging specialist at the PA Office of the Attorney General. We will hear what the PA Attorney General's office has implemented on DEIB and their expectations for various non-profit, non-partisan groups like LWV in our DEIB implementations. Ms. Wilbur has a master's in education and has worked in the DEIB area for several years. She is a former teacher at Carlisle Area School District and has been involved with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission where she has been a staunch advocate for children. She was the recipient of the Jim Washington Station of Hope Award on Feb. 25th, 2023. Recently she was the keynote speaker for the Carlisle Area 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration where she represented the Office of the PA Attorney General.



Register in advance for this meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYlcOGurTstE93aA5Y5yCNV\\_KRR830sVgjs](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYlcOGurTstE93aA5Y5yCNV_KRR830sVgjs)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. *Lillian G.*

Brenda Fernsler, East Shore library Volunteer Coordinator, and Maria Lagasca, East Shore library Manager, with our newly displayed voting materials.

Our translated Guide to Voting materials in 7 languages are sponsored from the Patricia L. Murray Fund, a charitable fund of the Greater Harrisburg Community Foundation, a regional foundation of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities. (TFEC) (See page 5)



Hold the date--Annual Meeting of LWVPACAPREG membership on Monday, May 13th, at 6:30 pm.

# ANNOUNCEMENT

## Naturalization Ceremony at the Dauphin County Courthouse on March 18, 2024

29 new US citizens from 12 countries were naturalized by Judge Royce Morris today. Each new citizen received our League welcome pack including a note, voter registration form and our English Guide to Voting brochure. We displayed our newly finished Guide to Voting brochure in 7 languages and 1 Spanish and 3 Nepali brochures were taken by new citizens.



League member Lillian with a family member of a new citizen.



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

### 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.

Hey there! Hope you caught our "Hey you" radio ad on Real 99.3 and Bob 94.9 FM (WHKF and WRBT) encouraging every eligible voter to VOTE! The ad runs in prime time daily the week of Mar 25-31. Thanks go to iHeart Radio.

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



The month of **March** was **National Women’s History Month, Irish American Heritage Month, Gender Equality Month** and **Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month**. March 1 was **Employee Appreciation Day**, March 8 **International Women’s Day**, **Ramadan** (Islam) began on **March 10**, which is also **Harriet Tubman Day**, March 14 was **Pi Day** and also **Equal Pay Day**. March 17 was **St. Patrick’s Day**, **Purim** (Jewish) was on March 23, and March 25 was the **International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade**. **Palm Sunday** was on March 24, **Holi** (Hindu) on March 25, Good Friday on March 29, and **Easter** on March 31.

We recommend [Iron Jawed Angels](#), starring Hilary Swank as Alice Paul, in a movie about women advocating for the right of American women to vote in 1912. Iron jawed angels is the nickname that suffragists were given by the press when the women were force fed with metal clamps and tubes during a prison hunger strike.

We recommend several books and a movie on Harriet Tubman. [The Road to Freedom](#) by Catherine Clinton is a biography on Tubman. Although she was a slave, she was married to a free black man. She left her husband and children and made her way alone to Philadelphia to claim her freedom. She was the first and only black woman to work as a conductor on the Underground Railway and made several trips back to the south to lead slaves out. In addition, she was the only woman to officially lead Union men into battle during the Civil War. In the book [Secret Agent](#) by Thomas B. Allen, her work as a spy for the Union, her role as second in command to Col. James Montgomery, her recruitment of 750 slaves as Union soldiers and their role in the burning of the Confederate Supply Depot is documented. Harriet Tubman received the Victoria Cross from Queen Victoria, but it took her 20 years to receive a pension from the U.S. government. [Bound for the Promised Land](#) by Kate Clifford Larson tells of the work she did later in life in support of women’s rights. The movie, [“Harriet”](#), was released in 2019 and is available on Netflix. It starred Cynthia Erivo as Harriet. Cynthia Erivo received an Oscar nomination for best performance and also received a nomination for best original song – Stand Up.

We also recommend the 2022 Irish movie [“The Banshees of Inisherin”](#). The movie stars Colin Farrell and Brenden Gleeson who had been lifelong friends and deals with a broken friendship. The movie was nominated for Academy Awards for Best Picture and Best Actor, and also Golden Globe awards for best screenplay and best motion picture.



**April is Arab-American Heritage Month, Autism Awareness Month, Celebrate Diversity Month, Earth Month, National Child Abuse Prevention Month and National Volunteer Month.**

April 1 is **April Fool's Day**, which dates back to 1582 when France switched from the Julian Calendar to the Gregorian Calendar. Previously under the

Julian Calendar the New Year started on 1 April.

April 2 is **World Autism Awareness Day**, April 7 is **World Health Day**, April 9 is **Eid-al-Fitr/End of Ramadan** for all Muslims.

April 12 is the **National Day of Silence** which is a student led movement to protest bullying and harassment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students and those who support them. Students don't speak all day.

The celebration of **Ridvan** (Baha'i) starts at sunset on April 20. **Passover**, which celebrates the Israelites' escape from slavery in Egypt, starts on April 22 and ends on April 30.



**Earth Day** is on April 22. The theme for Earth Day this year is "Planet vs. Plastics". The theme is for advocates to call attention to the health risk of plastics and to phase out all single use plastics and push for a UN Treaty on Plastics.

We recommend [In a Different Key](#) by John Donvan and Caren Zucker for the story of parents of autistic children who fought for the rights of their children for over 75 years. This was an often-misunderstood condition and entailed a civil rights battle by the families involved with autism. This story entails taking children out of institutions and providing them with help and an education. We also recommend [The Return: Fathers, Sons and the Land in Between](#) by Hisham Matar which won the Pulitzer Prize in 2017. This book is a memoir about fathers and sons, a father who is missing for years in the prison system of Libya under Muammar Gaddafi and the son who must create a new life in Great Britain knowing that he cannot return to see his homeland under Gaddafi. "[Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close](#)" is a movie about an autistic young boy who tries to find one last letter from his father after his death in the 9/11 attack. "[The Story of Luke](#)" is a film about an autistic man who has been raised by his grandparents. He has to find independence and confidence when his grandmother dies, and his grandfather can no longer take care of him. "[Rain Man](#)" starring Tom Cruise and Dustin Hoffman is a classic film which is definitely worth watching again.

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

### State League News

The State League would like to remind us:

April 8: Last date to register to vote

April 16: Last date to request mail in ballot

April 23: Election Day

Sign up to work at the polls on election day!

LWVPA provides an information form for you to sign up to be a poll worker on this PA primary election day. The form is located on the LWVPA website under the Getting Involved section. Check it out!

If you are already planning to be a poll worker, LWVPA has one hour informational sessions available to build on training provided by your county. Look for the dates and times under Events.

Joanne B.

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

As of March 2, 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: Camp Hill, East Shore, Camp Curtin, Friendship, and Northern Dauphin County, and to multiple libraries in Cumberland and Dauphin County.

### **Legislative News**

The federal lawsuit titled “Rep. Dawn Keefer et al vs. President Joseph Biden and Governor Josh Shapiro et al” (Keefer) remains active, according to its docket entries. The purpose of this suit is to restrain the ability of the executive branch of government to ease the voting registration process without the legislature’s express approval. The Plaintiffs bringing the lawsuit include Republican Pennsylvania legislators, mostly allied with the conservative Freedom Caucus. Many other state and federal officials are named as Defendants.

The Keefer case appears to be deep into motion practice. The Plaintiffs seek a preliminary injunction against the executive branch parties, while Defendants moved to dismiss the Complaint on both jurisdictional and substantive grounds. Interpretation of the Constitution may well be involved. A final decision could take some time, and then there’s always the appeal process. The litigation arc of this case is difficult to predict.

This is a case worth following, both for its potential impact on upcoming elections, and as a marker of where the Courts stand with respect to how a law’s validity is judged. We should observe how and when arbiters of Constitutional matters, ultimately the U.S Supreme Court, employ a strict “textual “ analysis to legal language or a more pragmatic one. The High Court’s movements among varying philosophies of judicial interpretation can have a big impact on a wide variety of cases, including the validity of supposedly well-settled landmark decisions. Sometimes cases get revisited by the Supreme Court and then analyzed differently. Stay tuned. *Joe M.*

### **Mail-in Ballot Update**

Pennsylvania mail-in ballots that are not dated on the outside envelope by the voter should not be counted even if they arrive at a county election office on time, a three-judge appeals court panel ruled on Wednesday March 27.

The 2-1 decision from the U.S. 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals strikes down a lower court ruling and sets up a potential Supreme Court battle over Pennsylvania’s mail-in ballots that began in 2020, and will almost certainly affect how the state’s ballots are handled in the upcoming presidential election.

We have been notified that Janis Ackerman passed away. Janis was President of the Carlisle League for a number of years.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Bosler Memorial Library children's reading programs, to Friends of the Letort, and Project Share.

## 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).

### National League News

LWV supports the Senate reintroduction of The John Lewis Voter Rights Advancement Act (JLVRAA). This law would restore many of the voting rights from the 1965 act. You are urged to contact your member of Congress and voice your support of this very important voting rights law. Letters of support to Congress from local Leagues can be sent from the LWV website.

### The 2024 National Convention

June 27 - June 30 2024 in Washington D.C.!

Virtual attendance is also offered for \$125.

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

*Joanne B.*

**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)