



## League of Women Voters of Warren County The Voter: Spring 2018

Spring is here (some of the time) and so it is time for the **League Annual Meeting**. Your LWV Board truly hopes that you will come to the meeting this year as we review what we have done over the past year and look to the future.

<b>Where:</b>	1413 Pennsylvania Ave. West, Warren			
<b>When:</b>	May 24, 2018 Gather 5:30, Dinner 6:00, Speaker 7:00			
<b>RSVP:</b>	<b>TODAY</b> to Phyllis Wright, <a href="mailto:wrightplace8@atlanticbb.net">wrightplace8@atlanticbb.net</a> or 726-1198. Choose honey mustard chicken, baked haddock, lasagne or vegan. Bring check for 20.00 made out to Chiodos or 20.00 cash, except for vegan choice, cost to be determined. Beverages extra.			
<b>Speaker:</b>	Attorney Rene Johnson			
<b>Topic:</b>	Juvenile Justice System			

**Attorney Johnson contributed an overview of her talk and a brief biography as follows:**

### Intersections between the Juvenile Justice and the Juvenile Dependency Systems: Collaborations and Challenges

This talk will provide an introduction to the two components of the local judicial system closed to the public. The Juvenile Justice system addresses children who have offended criminally and the Juvenile Dependency system addresses children who are in need of home placement and court supervision typically because of inadequate care and control by their family. I will discuss current intersections between these two systems, including shared case management, dual adjudication, and other collaborative programs, as well as local challenges we face in effectively addressing at risk children and youth in our community.

Rene Johnson has practiced law in Warren County, beginning in 1988, in various capacities, as an assistant district attorney, private practitioner handling cases involving children, and since 2010 as solicitor for Warren County Children and Youth Services. She has served on the boards of directors of the former Companions for Kids of Warren County, A Safe Place, Habitat for Humanity of Warren County, and most recently the Warren County Children's Advocacy Center.

Phyllis Wright submitted the Annual Program Report in case you would like to review the year's activities before you come to the meeting. You can find it at the end of this newsletter.

### Redistricting Update

On February 7, 2018, there was a good turnout of League members and others at the Commissioners meeting to encourage them to sign the RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A CITIZENS COMMISSION FOR LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING which was printed in the winter Voter. The Commissioners did sign the resolution.

On April 16 four Warren League members attended the Rally in Harrisburg to End Gerrymandering sponsored by Fair Districts PA. Fair Districts and LWVPA had been encouraging support for House Bill 722 and Senate Bill 22 which called for an independent, nonpartisan citizens' commission that would redraw congressional and state district lines every 10 years after the census. However on April 11, 2018 Rep Daryl Metcalfe (R-Butler) and 14 other House Republicans unexpectedly voted to amend HB722 in a more partisan direction causing Fair Districts to withdraw support for the bill. To date Senate Bill 22 remains intact. Most recently House Majority Leader, Dave Reed (R-Indiana) has announced his intention to introduce redistricting reform legislation. Some are encouraged that he may be able to work around Rep Metcalfe so this is viewed as positive news.

### Sunshine Week Follow-up

Jennifer Bliss organized a very successful event to spotlight Sunshine Week. On March 12 a large group of League members and others met downstairs in the municipal building for a thorough tour of the police and jail area and an informative talk given by Brandon Deppen, Warren Chief of Police. After this we were taken upstairs and seated in the very spacious and comfortable meeting room used by Warren City Council. Mayor Cashman welcomed us and then turned the meeting over to Teena Leary, who is in charge of the City's Open Records/Freedom of Information Act responsibilities. She distributed a Citizen's Guide from the PA Office of Open Records that details the Right

to Know Law. The Guide discusses records covered by the Law, how to file a request, what you can expect from agency involved and appeals. She discussed how the City implements the Law.



Sue Swab and Chief Deppen

Teena Leary

### Refugees 101 Update

The Refugees 101 Coffee and Conversation event was held in February as planned, with speaker Paul Jericho from the Erie Multicultural Resource Center as speaker. It is very special when an event such as this one in February has unexpected wonderful consequences in May! If you read the Warren Times Observer for Monday, May 14 you could not miss the front page article, “WELCOME GUESTS, Community group gives refugees living in Erie a guided tour of Warren County” Bill Massa had attended our Refugees 101 event which sparked his idea for a hike at Hearts Content and visit to Kinzua Dam for refugee children. The children from Erie were from Ukraine, Syria, Somalia, Eritrea and Nepal; together with their chaperones and local volunteers, they braved a cool, rainy Saturday in the woods and by all accounts enjoyed themselves. League members helped coordinate the event and packed lunch bags for all participants.

### Pine Grove Days Celebration/League Participation

The League has reserved a space at the Celebration on May 26. Volunteers are needed to help people register to vote and to represent/promote the League and hand out brochures. If you (and a friend?) can spare a couple hours, you can call Michelle and she will explain time slots and answer any questions. 688-4276. At present only Phyllis has signed up for the 11:00-1:00 slot.

## Voter Registration in the High Schools

Michelle Gray has been working on high school voter registration for the fall. She needs and welcomes volunteers. Contact her at 688-4276 and save the date(s)!

Monday, Sept. 17 -- WAHS -- tentative

Tuesday, Sept. 18 -- YHS -- date approved, no time determined yet

Wednesday, Sept. 19 -- EHS -- tentative

Thursday, Sept. 20 -- TCCS -- tentative

Friday, Sept. 21 at noon - SAMHS -- date & time approved

## Nominating committee needs your help!

The League needs one volunteer to step forward to serve as secretary for the Board. It is not a difficult job. There are 10 board meetings/year, usually held the first Monday of the month at 4:30 at the Warren Library. The meetings last 1-1 ½ hours and the talk is generally lively and interesting. The secretary need only catch the high points, organize them to a degree, type them and email them before or bring them to the next Board meeting. The upside is that you get to figure out what our League is all about, what our goals are and how we try to reach those goals. And the truth is, it is also fun to spend the time with involved, interesting members of the greater Warren community. So think about it, take a chance and step up! We need you. Please call Mark Davis at 723-1347. Thank you!

## Election Information

August 8, 2018 - Candidate Withdrawal Deadline: Last day for withdrawal by candidates nominated at the primary

October 9, 2018 - Voter Registration Ends: Last Day to REGISTER before the NOVEMBER election

October 30, 2018 - Absentee Ballot Request deadline: Last Day to Apply for a Civilian Absentee Ballot

November 2, 2018 - Absentee Ballot return deadline : Last Day for County Board of Elections to Receive voted Civilian Absentee Ballots

November 13, 2018 - Absentee Ballot return deadline- UOCAVA citizens: Last day for County Board of Elections to receive voted military and overseas absentee ballots  
(submitted for delivery no later than 11:59 P.M. on November 5)

**November 6, 2018 - MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION**

**League of Women Voters of Warren County**  
**2017-18 Annual Program Report May 24<sup>th</sup> , 2018 DRAFT**  
*Phyllis Wright and Jennifer Bliss co chairs*

PA Fair Legislative Districts – Stop Gerrymandering was the focus of 2018 program work. The May 2017 Annual Meeting speaker was Marnie Sullivan – professor at Mercyhurst representing PA Fair Legislative Districts, at Warren Library Slater Room. She provided voting statistics relating to House and Senate representations, and visuals on voting districts. A written survey for “Coffee & Conversations” was taken to determine interests in future league programming and activities.

The Fall Membership meeting speaker was Dr. Stephen Robar – Assoc. Dean of Academic Affairs and Assoc. Professor of Political Science at University Pittsburgh / Bradford providing history and current information on gerrymandering in PA and legislative proposals.

In the Fall 2017, four league members Debbie Haines, Susan Stout, Susan Swab, and Phyllis Wright interviewed Representative Kathy Rapp for her opinions on legislative issues and local concerns. Fair Legislative Districts was not included due to litigation of legislators. Twice, letters regarding support for Fair Districts were sent to Senators Hutchinson and Brooks to support Senate Bill 22 on redistricting.

April 16, 2018, six persons participating in the PA Fair Districts – “Rally to End Gerrymandering” at the Capitol in Harrisburg. From Warren LWV – Jennifer Bliss, Jane Dunshie, Dr. Karen Black and Phyllis Wright. Other Warren citizens were Sally Eaton and Neil Humber.

Following three meetings with the Warren County Commissioners, they signed a “Resolution in Support of a Citizens Commission for Legislative and Congressional Redistricting”. Other groups had the Warren City Council also sign a resolution.

A Reader’s Speak article was published regarding redistricting legislation for fair voting by member Phyllis Wright.

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Movie matinee social time was held in January, 2018 at the Warren Public library with movie ”Ironed Jawed Angels”. This activity was beginning of recognition of our National LWV 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019.

Registering voters ---- Michelle Gray – VP-Voter Registration, organized league members to participate in the Disability Act/Voter Registration, in cooperation with Warren Public Library at

the Allegany Community Center and the Library. Spring and Fall 2018 Voter registrations were held at 5 high schools in cooperation with Lisa Rivett – Director of Elections

Warren High Schools were contacted to participate in the PA Video Contest to promote registering and voting. At this writing there were no entries from Warren County.

“Coffee and Conversation” style meeting was held at the Jefferson DeFrees Family Center with Paul Jericho, Assoc Director of Programs at the Multicultural Community Resource Center of Erie, speaking on “Refugees 101 – Facts You Need to Know”. The topic was of interest due to national immigration policies. A follow-up activity was helping to host a group of Erie area refugees hiking in the Allegheny National Forest.

Sunshine Week activity was held March 12, 2018 at the Municipal / City Buildings with Chief of Police - Brandon Deppen, City Manager – Nancy Freenoch, Mayor- Maurice Cashman, Freedom of Information Act – Teena Leary, and City Council member - Gregory Frasier. They provided information on their work for a transparent government.

Warren LWV “Bylaws”, and the following Policies were updated and placed on our web site- “Candidate Participation”, “Fiscal”, “Non Partisan Guidelines for Board Members”

The 2018 Annual Meeting to be held May 26<sup>th</sup> at Chiodos Restaurant with Attorney Rene Johnson speaking on Juvenile Justice system concerns.

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## **2018 program planning –**

PA LWV and Warren League

- Equal pay legislation
- Legislative redistricting/ gerrymandering
- Vote 411
- 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of National LWV in 2020
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Warren League –

- Pending survey of members’ interests.....
- Voter registration information
- 2018 Government Directory
- Sunshine Week awareness
- Candidate forums when appropriate
- Encourage persons to be members