



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF WARREN COUNTY



61st League of Women Voters of Warren County Annual Meeting
May 31, 2023, 11:30 AM, Conewango Club, Warren Pa.

11:30 Noon Buffet Lunch

**12:00 PM Wendy Andersen, Allegheny National Forest, Bradford Ranger District Natural Resources Planner presentation;
Allegheny National Forest Centennial Program Recovery to Resilience.**

12:45 PM Business Meeting

Annual Meeting Agenda

Call to Order
Introduction of Board
Adoption of Order of Business
Introduce Secretary – Susan Stout
Adoption of Rules
Approve minutes from last Annual Meeting
Request 2 volunteers to review minutes.
Report of Nominating Committee/Election
Select new member for Nominating Committee
Treasurer's Report/Budget – Christa Williams
Vote on the Budget
Request 2 volunteers to do audit
President's Report – Susan Swab
VP Membership Report –Michelle Gray
VP Programs Report – Jennifer Bliss
VP Communication Report – Phyllis Wright
VP Voter Services – Sally Beckerink
Acknowledgements & Thank Yours
Directions from the floor
Adjournment

Board of Directors

President: Susan Swab
Secretary: Susan Stout
Treasurer: Christa Williams
Membership VP Michelle Gray:
Communications VP: Phyllis Wright
Programs VP: Jennifer Bliss
Voter Services VP Sally Beckerink

Nominating Committee

Neil Himber
Paula Massa

Government Directory Committee

Sally Eaton

Meeting Rules

In order that the meeting may proceed in an orderly manner, it is recommended that the following rules be adopted;

1. Those presenting local programs items have 5 minutes to speak, including a brief explanation.
2. Discussion on the program items will occur after all times have been presented and moved for adoption. There will be a ten minute discussion period for each item enabling the members to give direction of scope, focus, and emphasis.
3. Speakers from the floor are to limit their remarks to two minutes.
4. No member may speak more than once on any item until all those wishing to speak have had an opportunity to do so.

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee; Neil Himber, Nominating Committee Chair and, Paula Massa, Nominating Committee Member, have submitted the following slate to the Board and Membership;

President	Susan Swab - Two Years
Vice President Communications	Phyllis Wright – Two Years
Treasurer	Christa Williams: –Two Years

Nominating Committee: Paula Massa – One year will chair in 2024

Need volunteer for Nominating Committee - Two years will chair in 2025

Government Directory Committee Sally Eaton

Presidents Report - Susan Swab

Our League has been very active due to the exceptional, dedicated Board; VP Communication, Phyllis Wright, VP Program, Jennifer Bliss, VP Membership, Michelle Gray, and VP Voter Services Sally Beckerink. Our Secretary, Susan Stout has kept us on track with her efficient note taking, work on Election Reform and Voting Study, the Forum, and keeping us up to date on legislative activities. Christa Williams, Treasurer, pays our state dues, national dues, insurances and continues to keep our books in order.

At this time we need to consider the future of our Warren County League. As with many other groups, recruiting new members, and having members participate, has been harder and harder. I would like to encourage members to attend our board meetings. We meet the first Monday of the month @ 4:30 at the Library. We have no meeting in July. So we are only asking members to commit to 11 days out of the year. I feel this would be a way for members to have more involvement in League activities. Also by brainstorming with members we will be able to develop, and present, more programs/activities that hopefully will provoke interest and enthusiasm. Discussion; perhaps non Board members meet every other Month.

This year we presented The Election Reform and Voting study to the public, offered a Sunshine Week program, the Commissioner’s Candidate Forum,

Distribution of Government Directory as well as continuing work on registering voters. See reports below.

Membership VP - Michelle Gray

Michelle Gray has been active maintaining our web site, lwvwc.org., organizing the Membership meeting, collecting dues, and informing members of events and posting notifications of events and programs to our Face book page.

As of May 27, 2023, the Warren County League of Women Voters membership count is at 30.

For 61 years, the League membership has devoted time and effort to the fulfillment of the organization's mission. The league is committed to actively participating in our government as a nonpartisan politically informed entity serving as educators to the public on the topics that matter. We continue to reinforce our footing as a nonpartisan, community-oriented organization.

Please acknowledge Ellen Ruffolo, who passed in March 1, 2023, for her 58 years of service to the league. Ellen Ruffolo was one of my first contacts with the league; we distributed information at the Sugar Grove Abolitionist Convention Sally Holley program. Ellen was involved with organizing many of our candidate forums. She was always focused on the task at hand and served the community well. She will be missed!

Please recognize our newest dedicated life member Mary Conarro. Mary always has her ear to ground and inspires us all to serve and educate as is our mission.

Please welcome our newest members Alice Pedersen and Marilla Norton. Both ladies participated in the Warren County Commissioners Candidate Forum and did an excellent job.

A special thank you to Barbara McGuinness for serving as moderator at the forum. Barbara has a longtime association with the league.

Keep up the good work, you do make a difference!

Program Planning VP – Jennifer Bliss

LWV WC focused a great deal on the Election Reform and Voting study and #fix Harrisburg this past year. In addition - we held our first sunshine week since the beginning of covid. This was presented on March 15th with Andrea Stapleford,

esquire, as our speaker. She spoke on the sunshine laws and changes that have occurred the last few years. It was a great turn out.

The Warren County Pride Event will be held in June. The LWV of Warren County will be manning a table and passing out voter registration forms and LWV applications. Our visibility throughout the day is as a way to promote “inclusiveness” as part of our mission.

Communication VP - Phyllis Wright

LWV 2023 Annual Meeting Communications report

The “Election Reform and Voting Study” was compiled by thirteen LWV members in May 2022 and members reached consensus statements. An updated study was presented to the public Feb. 2023. The study was also submitted to the PA LWV to be shared with other leagues. The members continue to study issues that would encourage voting such as - early and mail in voting, ease of voter registration and the use of drop boxes in our rural area. Another issue considered was how Voter ID may inhibit citizens to vote.

Gerrymandered Pennsylvania voting districts continues to be studied by state wide Fair District PA.

Phyllis Wright presented a public power point presentation In December titled “Making PA Legislature more Effective.” She explained #Fix Harrisburg’s purpose is to help citizens and legislators to be aware of legislative rules that lead to power and partisan legislation. For a more effective legislature, many nonpartisan bills could be studied and brought to vote. Emphasis was on reaching new legislators to be aware of rules voted upon the January opening day of Senate and House that affect future legislation and voting for House and Senate leadership. Letters to the Editor were prepared by league members on effective legislations.

Warren League members received monthly updates on PA House and Senate bills in progress for study and voting.

Member Sally Eaton prepared the information for a “2023 Government Directory” listing Warren County officials, courthouse officials, school directors, Warren municipalities, boroughs and townships officials, plus contacts for Pennsylvania legislators and federal officials. Financial support was provided by the Sally Sokolski Memorial Fund of the Community Foundation of Warren County. Two thousand copies have been distributed.

A Commissioners Candidate Forum was conducted May 10 at the Warren Public Library with six candidates attended. They answered questions from the league, and public, on local issues. They offered their goals and visions, if elected. Questions included county budget, law enforcement concerns, providing fair elections for voters, broadband, tax re assessment, prison costs, providing mental health needs, public transportation, library funding, conservation of natural resources, leadership development for county boards, work force development, etc.

Voters Services VP – Sally Beckerink

This past year voter services continued to reach out to the 4 public and 2 private high schools with classroom presentations or support for teachers. Our registration tally in the high schools prior to the general election was over thirty. We also attended three festivals and the Farmers Market to t registration applications.

Because of on-line registrations and people asking to complete their applications at home, we estimate that an additional 20 people had the opportunity to register.

I wish to thank all those who made this a productive year.

Sally Eaton for her work on Directory and sound system for the forum. All those who helped with the forum, Marilla Norton, Alice Pedersen, Sherry Albrecht, Karen Black, Barbara McGuinness and the Board.

Respectfully
Susan Swab, President

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.