



# LWV LEHIGH COUNTY VOTER

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**December**

Thurs 5		Reservation Dead- line For Hot Topics Lunch
Mon 9	11:45 a.m.	Hot Topics Lunch The Willows
Thurs 12	4:00 p.m.	Board Meeting Woodland Terrace

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***PRESIDENTS MESSAGE***

Dear League Members,

***SEASON'S GREETINGS AND  
WISHES FOR HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
TO ONE AND ALL!***

Our local League provides many services to local voters. As you know, our *Government Directory* and twice yearly *Voter's Guide* both receive accolades and expressions of appreciation from local citizens on a regular basis. The publication of these quality documents requires a tremendous amount of work and attention to detail. The *Voters' Guide* and *Government Directory* are important outreach tools that represent a large part of our public face in the Lehigh Valley. The board is asking for your help in preparing these documents for publication. If you have 'longings to publish,' or editing skills, or are just interested in working on one or both of these projects, please contact Ann Bartholomew at her email address, annbart@rcn.com. The work involved includes addressing and mailing letters, follow-up, checking in replies, typing and general clerical tasks.

There are many volunteer opportunities with your local League. Is anyone out there interested in working at the polls? If so, let a board member know.

Finally, on a personal note, I would like to thank everyone for their expressions of sympathy about the recent passing of my mother.

Mary Anne Rood, President  
League of Women Voters of Lehigh County

***REMEMBER THE MEANING OF THE HOLIDAYS***

During the holiday season when everyone is buying gifts for family and friends, and getting together with them to enjoy the season, let's not forget how fortunate we are to be living in this great country. Here, the poorest of the poor have more than many people in the world. Even in developed countries, people who might be called middle class have less than we have here.

Many of us take what we have for granted, so when you sit around the holiday dinner table for a sumptuous holiday meal, and when you open gifts from family and friends around the Christmas tree, remember that there are many people in the world who will never experience what you will on that day, or any day.

Caryn Shoenthal

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## ***NEWS FROM THE BOARD – NOVEMBER***

Government Directory – Ann Bartholomew will need help in January 2014 when the entire directory will need to be updated.

Community Outreach – There will be a League Workshop on Fracking and Public Health in Pittsburgh on November 23.

There will be a TAG Grant Forum in Berks County on November 14.

The next Hot Topics Lunch will be on November 11<sup>th</sup>, Veterans Day. The next lunch will be on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

Pipeline Forums – An Ounce of Prevention – on Pipeline Safety, will be held on January 19<sup>th</sup> at Northampton Community College.

There will be a Program Planning Meeting at Pat Swan's on January 11<sup>th</sup>

The primary election will be on May 20. The Annual Meeting will be held at Morgan's Restaurant on either May 17 or 31 at noon.

Respectfully submitted,  
Caryn Shoenthal

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## ***MEMBERSHIP NOVEMBER 2013***

By now you should have received your renewal letter and membership booklet. If you have not received them please let me know by calling me at 610 298-8946. So far, I have received 12 renewals which is a great start. The dues are needed by January 30<sup>th</sup>.

I am pleased to announce we had one new member join our League last month. Kathy Stagl has been attending our Hot Topics Luncheon for the past few months. She is interested in local politics and enjoyed the information she receives from our speakers. We welcome her to the League and hope she will become an active member. She has already been assisting with distribution of the Voters Guide. Her address has been included in your new membership booklet.

When you receive your 2013-2014 Member Handbook please note that Ruth Dex's phone number is incorrect. It should be 610-366-1144 and her email is [ruthrdex@yahoo.com](mailto:ruthrdex@yahoo.com).

Margie Dunn  
Membership Chair

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## ***HOT TOPICS! - NOVEMBER RECAP***

Bill White is a columnist for The Morning Call in Allentown, PA. His column appears in The Morning Call and themorningcall.com on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. For several years, Bill White has given a post-election summary at the Hot Topics Luncheon following Election Day. On November 11, he gave:

- An assessment of the outcome of the County Commissioners race on November 5.
- His opinion about why voters defeated the proposal to build an opulent and large Parkland Public Library building on land in the extreme southern portion of its service area.
- An overview about the pros and cons concerning the proposed location and financing of a shopping center and Costco at the intersection of Rt. 222 Bypass and Krock's Road in Lower Macungie Township.

Jan Little  
Action Chair

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## ***!HOT TOPICS! LUNCH MEETING, MONDAY, DECEMBER 9***

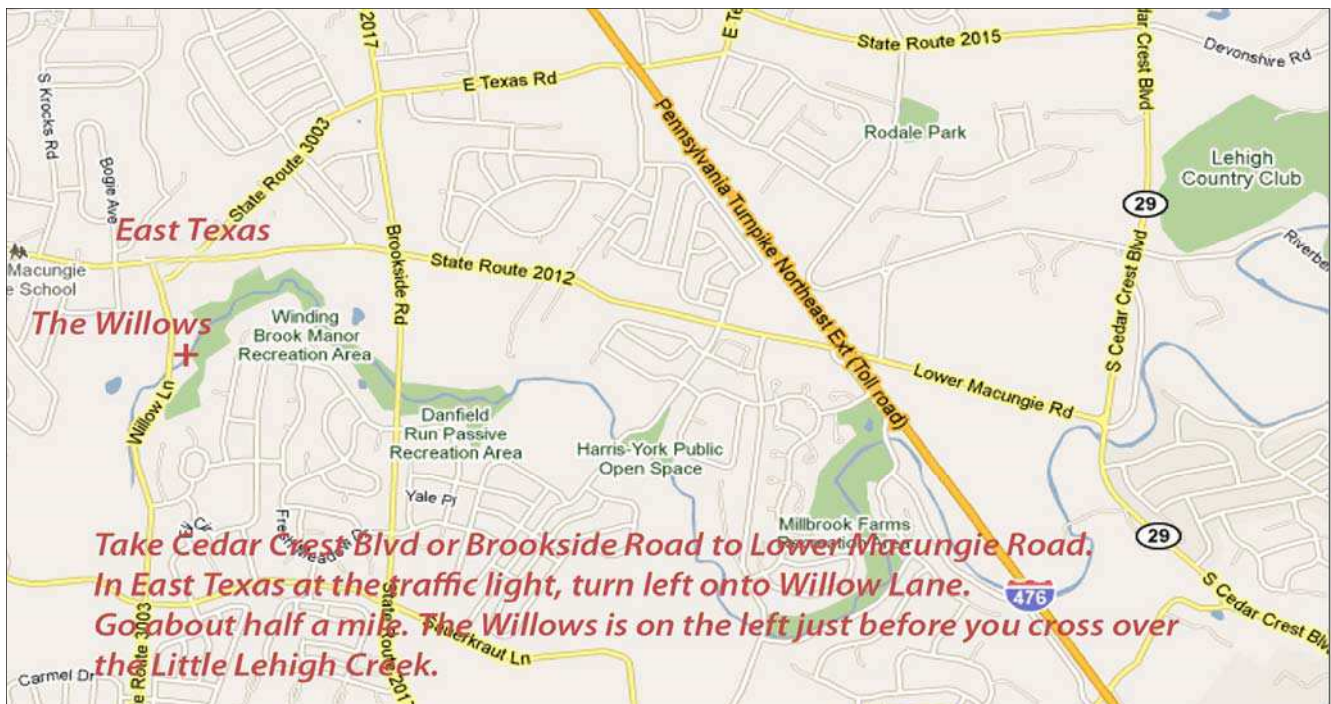
Location: The Willows, East Texas  
 Date: Monday, December 9  
 Reservation deadline: Thursday, December 5  
 Time: 11:45 to 1:15 p.m.  
 Cost: \$11.00

“Food With a Farmer’s Face: Community Supported Agriculture, Local Food, and Place.”

In recent years, Americans have become increasingly interested in where their food comes from, and growth in interest in locally produced food has grown dramatically as a result. One of the outgrowths of this has been the rise in Community Supported Agriculture, or CSA. In a CSA, members pay farmers an annual membership fee. In turn, they get a share of the harvest throughout the growing season. But, as this talk will discuss, members obtain much more than food in the process. Dr. Steven M. Schnell, a native of Norman, Oklahoma, is a professor in the Geography Department at Kutztown University where he has taught since 2002. After com-

pleting his PhD at the University of Kansas he was on the faculty at Northwest Missouri State University. At Kutztown University he teaches courses in cultural geography, globalization, the geography of the US and Canada and the geography of Sub-Saharan Africa. His published research includes a variety of cultural geography studies, with his current research interest focusing on the creation of local economies in an age of globalization, with an emphasis on sustainable, local agriculture.

Reservations: Contact Sue Phillips by phone at 610-821-1118 or email her at [suemph@verizon.net](mailto:suemph@verizon.net) to make a reservation for the lunch meeting.



## *REVISITING HOT TOPICS PRESENTATION ON COLUMBUS DAY*

On Monday, October 14, Darree Sicher, Founder of *United Sludge Free Alliance*, discussed "Agriculture, Communities and Rural Environments (ACRE)", known as Act 38 of 2005. The Act was to protect family protect family farms from municipal laws that would interfere with traditional farming practices. Darree touched base with me recently.

"I want to thank you again for having me speak with your League of Women Voters about the ACRE issue." Darree is interested in speaking to other LWV groups or any other organization who might be interested in the many twists and turns of the sewage sludge issue. "I used the outline of my program with you to pitch a presentation about the ACRE issue to the PA Progressive Summit - hopefully they will be interested in the issue."

Darree promised attendees on October 14 that she would be sending out information about this and related issues. Below, Darree mentions CSAs or Community Supported Agriculture.

COMMENT EXTENDED TO FRIDAY, NOV 22nd!  
Food Safety Modernization Act:  
Will FDA Close Your Farm Markets and CSA?

SHOCKER - The FDA has extended the comment period for the Food Safety Modernization Act until this Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> due to computer access problems! Comment today to protect the future of America's food supply. Below are 'talking points' prepared by United Sludge Free Alliance and direct links to the FDA. Please copy and paste or create your own comments! Why is this important to you? Who is in charge of your fresh food? Forward liberally. Email us for full article on this issue at [usfa@usludgefree.org](mailto:usfa@usludgefree.org) and sign-up for emails for future information at our website at [www.usludgefree.org](http://www.usludgefree.org).

Does the FDA think 48 million people in the US - 1 in 6 - are food poisoned by CSA's, farmers markets or the neighbor down the street selling eggs - but not by using the toxic waste and water from your city sewer plants and the corporate agribusiness industry? Please consider these relevant issues, tell the FDA to make changes to FSMA proposal and offer another opportunity for American citizens to evaluate the next FSMA proposal.

Article on the Food Safety pushback forward by one of our Texas sludge fighters (Thanks!):  
<http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2013/11/pushback-begins-against-fsma-on-the-farm-rules/#.UoIDZXB95SV>

IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY, SEND LETTERS TO THIS LINK!: <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=FDA-2011-N-0921>

The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) requirements as written will suffocate the 'little guy' and give the corporate agribusiness an 'affordable pass'. Small scale agricultural businesses, family farms, CSA's, co-op's and farmers' markets find the law creates difficulties for those who have been successfully creating local markets for their locally grown produce in community restaurants, co-ops, groceries and schools. As written, the FSMA promotes the corporate, industrial food and farming model that is a hazard to human health and the environment. Have you left the office and visited a farmers market or family farm? Certainly, if you care about the future of America's food supply and right to healthy and safe food supply, you will reconsider imposing these heavy-handed regulations on small farmers and markets.

Two major points concerning the FSMA: 1) the FDA's proposed new food safety rules unfairly burden family farmers, target sustainable and organic farming, and reduce the availability of fresh, local food in our communities, 2) FSMA proposals exempt contamination testing of soil, fertilizer or agricultural irrigation water if sewage sludge/biosolids or the 'recycled' agricultural water effluence from waste water treatment plants is used during the growing process of your fruits or vegetables: Rejecting a "one-size-fits-all" approach, by including options for small, mid-sized, and direct-market agricultural operations. FDA must not impose regulation that impacts small farmers, especially sustainable and organic, or make it harder for beginning farmers. FDA needs to base cost estimates and make compliance affordable. Acknowledging that organic production and food safety go hand-in-hand, new regulations must complement - not contradict - strict regulations for certified organic production.

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## ***REVISITING HOT TOPICS PRESENTATION ON COLUMBUS DAY***

(Continued from page 4)

- Minimize extra regulations for low-risk 'value-added' processing that is part of value-added production that helps farmers provide the variety consumers are looking for.
- Regulation must not impact communities by reducing local markets and choices.
- Must make use of agricultural water for irrigation based on peer-reviewed science; studies show antibiotic resistant genes in waste water effluence; no loop-holes for using municipal public water or municipal waste water effluence.
- Sewage sludge/biosolids is NOT a safe fertilizer option; peer-reviewed studies show re-growth of E.coli and Salmonella within 20 minutes of testing in 60% of samples. EPA only regulates 9 elements and 2 indicator bacteria in sewage sludge, yet finds 145 'elements of concern' nationally, including flame retardants. No loop-holes for sludge!

Testing of sewage sludge/biosolids does not include pharmaceuticals, viruses and chemicals known to contaminate soil and to have plant uptake within the body of the plant. FSMA regulations must create true safe food by discontinuing the use of sewage sludge as a fertilizer.

FDA suggestion to 'treat' irrigation waters with an antimicrobial agent is dangerous for the health of the soil, especially with agents like Triclosan which will destroy necessary soil bacteria.

Jan Little, Action Chair

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## ***ROW, ROW, ROW YOUR SHALE GAS WASTEWATER, GENTLY DOWN THE STREAM. SOUNDS LIKE A BAD IDEA, RIGHT?***

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) is considering allowing just that. They recently proposed a policy to allow companies to transport shale gas wastewater in bulk by barge on the Nation's rivers. You know, the same rivers we recreate on and are sources of our drinking water. Tell the USCG they are flirting with disaster and need to reject this proposed policy. Please go to <http://org.salsalabs.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=K8AP3Fwh5spNM%2FpHuBXt%2BkJyo6UjrOj>

Shale gas wastewater is highly toxic. It contains chemicals like benzene and arsenic, high levels of salt and radioactivity. If a spill on the river occurs it could contaminate drinking water supplies, kill fish and aquatic life and destroy ecosystems. This is too big a risk just so companies can save on transportation costs. Tell the USCG we need to protect our waterways not companies' bottom lines.

The USCG acknowledged that shale gas wastewater does not meet their usual definition of "listed cargo" because it contains multiple hazardous materials and the chemical composition varies from load to load. Yet they still claim there are no significant cumulative or environmental impacts expected. But you know differently.

We need your help defending our nation's rivers from this threat. Tell USCG that you oppose their proposal to allow shale gas wastewater to be transported on the nation's rivers.

From Steve Hvozovich  
Marcellus Campaign Coordinator  
Clean Water Action

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League of Women Voters  
of Lehigh County

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***LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!!***

The League of Women Voters of Lehigh County's Facebook page can be accessed at <http://www.facebook.com/LeagueofWomenVotersLehighCounty>, or from your own Facebook page if you have one. Please "Like" it and let your Facebook friends know about it.

Ann Bartholomew and Barb Williams are the administrators at present. You may e-mail either of us directly with suggestions at [annbart@rcn.com](mailto:annbart@rcn.com) or [wils48@ptd.net](mailto:wils48@ptd.net)

Ann Bartholomew  
Barbara Williams

***WHY DID YOU JOIN THE LEAGUE?***

Ask yourself that question. Why did you join the League of Women Voters? What were your expectations when you joined? If you have any suggestions for making our League more appealing to prospective members, please contact Mary Anne Rood at [richrood@earthlink.net](mailto:richrood@earthlink.net), or Margie Dunn at [mdunn75@hotmail.com](mailto:mdunn75@hotmail.com).

***CONDOLENCES***

We offer condolences to our President, Mary Anne Rood, on the recent loss of her mother. Mary Anne's loss was particularly difficult as it occurred during the festivities for her son's wedding.

***WANT TO GET MORE INVOLVED IN YOUR LEAGUE?***

We are looking for members who want to become more involved in our League. We need a Secretary and a Vice President for Program. Please think about volunteering to be a member of our board. If you are interested, contact any board member for more information.

***MEMBER INTEREST SURVEY***

Next month look for the Member Interest Survey. All members are being asked to complete this survey so that we can determine what our members' interests are, and in what ways we can best serve the membership. It is also a way to find out how our members would like to be involved in our League in order to make our League stronger and more interesting to all of our members.

***HAS THERE BEEN A CHANGE IN YOUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT?***

If there has been a change in your local government, please let Ann Bartholomew know by e-mailing her at [lwvlehigh@yahoo.com](mailto:lwvlehigh@yahoo.com). Ann updates the website when needed and would appreciate the updated information.





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# THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

League of Women Voters of Lehigh County  
P.O. Box 3275  
Allentown PA 18106



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEHIGH COUNTY

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone, E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Membership dues include membership in the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) and the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania (LWVPA) and a subscription to the local and state *Voter*.

League dues and contributions are not tax-deductible as a charitable donation.

Contributions to the LWV Education Fund (LWVEF) are tax-deductible.

Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to all citizens of voting age. Associate membership is available for non-citizens and for those under age eighteen.

ANNUAL DUES	\$70.00 individual
2013-2014	\$105.00 household
	\$25.00 full-time student

Contact membership secretary for details of pro-rated dues amounts.

Please make check payable to  
LWVLC and mail to:  
LWVLC  
c/o Margie Dunn  
8411 Carpet Road  
New Tripoli, PA 18066