



League of Women Voters of Mercer County

November 2021

PROGRAM CALENDAR BEGINS

The first program took place as both a virtual and in-person presentation on October 16 at the Community Library of the Shenango Valley. Thad Hall, Mercer County Director of Voter Registration and Elections informed attendees of the county's election process for the coming November election. It is an election that focuses on local municipal officials for the forty-eight municipalities in Mercer County as well as its fourteen school districts. Also included are Pennsylvania judicial elections. Mr. Hall spoke on BallotTrax which is available for use by the voter. It allows voters to track online the progress of their mail-in ballot by accessing <https://mercerpaelections.com>.

Chapter member, Dr. Kelly Bonomo, who is Professor of Mathematics at Grove City College, spoke on ranked choice voting. She demonstrated how one ranks all the candidates running for an office, noting that the one having the most first place ranks is not always the winner. Maine and Alaska use this method, and New York City does for all but presidential elections.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM TO FEATURE FAIR DISTRICTS PA SPEAKER

The Mercer County League of Women Voters is hosting a public education program on Pennsylvania's redistricting process. Fair Districts PA speaker Jim Highland will explain PA's current redistricting process, and he will demonstrate how it has undermined democracy in the past. Fair Districts PA is a non-partisan coalition of citizens and organizations seeking to reform PA redistricting rules by ensuring that the process is impartial, transparent, and accountable.

The program will take place on Saturday, November 13 at 2:00 P.M. at the Community Library of the Shenango Valley. The library is located at 11 North Sharpsville Avenue, Sharon Pennsylvania. Seating will be socially distanced. For those wishing to participate virtually, access the library's website, www.cisv.net. One can also use the following link to access the program: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86813504330> or join using the Webinar I.D.: 868 1350 4330

PROGRAM CALENDAR COMMITTEE – REPORT

Hannah Moses, Chair

Kelly Bonomo, Maria Farrell, Connie McGinnis, Jane McKnight, and Lorna Slater

The Program Calendar Committee met twice via virtual meetings. The first meeting involved the selection of programs for the coming year, and the second meeting determined the book title for the annual book discussion program.

With the exceptions of the September, February, and May events, all other programs will be held in partnership with the Community Library of the Shenango Valley. The programs will take place in the library's meeting room with a virtual option for those who wish to attend, but do not wish to attend at the library.

PROGRAM CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2021

ELECTION UPDATE WITH THAD HALL – 16 October at 2:00 p.m.

Thad Hall, Director of Mercer County Voter Registration and Elections will present an update before the November 2021 election. Kelly Bonomo will present information on ranked choice voting protocols. It is used in elections in Vermont and recently was used in the New York City mayoral primary.

NOVEMBER 2021

REDISTRICTING: AN UPDATE FROM FAIR DISTRICTS PA – 13 November at 2:00 p.m. Because of Pennsylvania's redistricting of districts in January, a speaker from Fair Districts PA will provide current information on the redistricting process and procedures. James Hightower of Fair Districts PA will be the speaker.

JANUARY 2022

LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEWS – 28 January at Noon

*Hannah may have sent this information for website,
but just in case she didn't!*

FEBRUARY 2022

AN INTERVIEW WITH JEFF GERRITT, EDITOR OF THE ALLIED NEWS, THE HERALD, AND THE NEW CASTLE NEWS - Kelly Bonomo, Michael Coulter and Hannah Moses are working on this project. Our chapter has partnered twice with the Grove City College's Political Science Department to present programs at the college. Kelly Bonomo contacted the chair of the department, Dr. Michael Coulter, who wishes to partner again with our chapter for the presentation of this program.

MARCH 2022

BOOK DISCUSSION PROGRAM – 12 March at 2:00 p.m.

Former Mercer County District Attorney, James Epstein will again moderate the discussion. *Just Mercy* by Brian Stevenson has been chosen as this year's title.

APRIL 2022

IMPACT OF FRACKING IN MERCER COUNTY – 9 April at 2:00 p.m.

April is the month that Earth Day is celebrated, and we would like the following to participate in this forum: Mercer County Commissioners, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, CESRA*, and TriCounty Industries.

*CESRA is the organization that opposes the landfill operation in the Grove City area.

MAY 2022

2022 ANNUAL MEETING

Details are forthcoming. Members and their guests will learn of food insecurity and the homeless and the housing insecure in Mercer County from agencies working with this population.



League of Women Voters of Mercer County

January 2022

Legislative Interviews Update

The League of Women Voters of Mercer County has been asking questions of the legislators, who represent our county in the Pennsylvania General Assembly, at its annual Legislative Interviews program for more than forty years. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's event will be a virtual one. It will take place on Friday, January 28, 2022 at noon in partnership with the Community Library of the Shenango Valley. The library will provide the video conferencing technology for the program. Invitations have been extended to State Senator Michele Brooks, and Representatives Tim Bonner, Mark Longietti, and Parke Wentling.

Questions to the legislators include those on environmental policy (climate change and clean water), social policy (gun safety and school funding), and government and election policy (security of voting and voting by mail). If you have a question for the legislators, please call Lyn Weidner at 724-588-4775.

WELCOME...

We wish to welcome Brenda Jewell and Melody Wilson to our chapter. Please update your membership booklet with their contact information.

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