



# Democratic Club of Willow Valley

General Meeting  
January 28, 2025

# **Agenda**

**State of our Club**

**Advocacy**

**Website**

**Speakers/Topics**

**Updates to Bylaws**

**Candidates for Office**

**Coming Events**

# State of our Club

## Overview

- We supported candidates nationally as well as on the state level.
- We continued our outreach efforts to increase voter turnout.
- We have made great progress in educating our Willow Valley Residents.
- 2024 also saw the separation of Willow Valley Democrats Plus from the Lampeter-Strasburg Democratic Committee.

Willow Valley Democrats Plus has reason to celebrate some successes, but 2025 is showing that we have some challenging work ahead.

# State of our Club

## Membership

- Our membership as of December 2024 was 284.
- Our membership at the close of 2023 was 181.
- That increase of 103 members is due to the excellent work of Julia Powers.
- She encouraged the completion of a project to call all Democrats in Willow Valley, asking them to consider club membership.
- Julia and volunteers in the club made around 600 phone calls.

# State of our Club

## Treasury

- Our beginning balance for 2024 was \$3,373.51.
- Our ending balance was \$4,934.67 (\$ 1,500 difference).
- Our 2024 expenses were \$13,481.18.
- Our members were very generous with donations of \$ 8,035.07 which facilitated our outreach efforts and candidate support.
- Donation highlights:
  - May 27<sup>th</sup>: \$1000 each to our three local L-S candidates Bob Rudy State House, Trex Proffitt State Senate, Jim Atkinson US Congress.
  - July 9<sup>th</sup>: \$1000 Scholarship to Bethany Helms.
  - August 29<sup>th</sup>: \$500 to Water Street Mission.
  - October 7<sup>th</sup>: \$2,000 Jim Atkinson, \$1,000 Trex Proffitt, \$1,000 Bob Rudy
  - November 24<sup>th</sup>: Bob Rudy returned \$350 of our donation.

# State of our Club

## Communications

- Lucy's excellent minutes of club meetings made the task of writing this address easier.
- Ross has published and distributed 11 electronic monthly club newsletters. She has also produced our slide presentations for our monthly club meetings and is currently developing our club website.
- Jerry hosted his monthly *Understanding Our Democracy Series*.

# State of our Club

## Communications (cont'd)

- Barbara coordinated postcard efforts for getting out the vote.
  - Seniors Taking Action
  - Moms Rising GOTV
  - Grandmothers for a Brighter Future
  - Fair Funding PA Schools.
  - We also mailed postcards to L-S voters who had not returned their mail-in ballots or had not requested their mail-in ballots.
- ***202 volunteers completed 5,371 postcards.***
- Julia surveyed club members in May asking for suggestions. 95 questionnaires were returned and tabulated by Julia which was quite a task. This compilation has given our club guidelines for 2025 and beyond.

# State of our Club

## Greeters

Greeters make a huge difference at the polls. Democrats at our tables hand out sample ballots, answer questions and SMILE, giving a positive lift to voters.

- LOCUST: 28 at the Primary Election, 14 at the General Election.
- LAKES: There were 28 greeters at both our Primary Election and our General Election.
- In November, Lakes and Locust greeters were sent to four precincts outside of Willow Valley (Lyndon, Lampeter, Willow Street, and Strasburg).



# State of our Club

## Political Involvement

- We collected petition signatures to support Trex Proffitt, our write-in candidate for our State Senate seat.
- We collected signatures for our Democratic candidates on the Primary 2024 ballot.
- We mailed postcards to encourage L-S voter turnout and to support Bob Casey.
- We had members who canvassed throughout the Lampeter-Strasburg district.
- ***Kamala Harris won the Lakes precinct by 169 votes. Harris won Locust by 31 votes.***

# State of our Club

## Guest Speakers

- Chris Wakeley, Pennsylvania House Education Committee
- Lauren Kuntz, Willow Street Precinct
- Eugene DePasquale, Candidate for PA Attorney General
- Keith Shetter, Water Street Mission
- Mary Lou Alsentzer, Lampeter-Strasburg District Leader
- Danene Sorace, Mayor Lancaster City

# State of our Club

## Guest Speakers (cont'd)

- Alice Yoder, Lancaster County Commissioner
- Izzy Smith-Wade-El, Candidate for PA State House 49<sup>th</sup> District
- Bob Rudy, Candidate for PA State House 97<sup>th</sup> District
- Trex Proffitt, Candidate for PA State Senate 13<sup>th</sup> District
- Jim Atkinson, Candidate for US Congress 11<sup>th</sup> District

# State of our Club

## Education Topics

- January - America's Working Class
- February - CAP of Lancaster County
- March - Discrimination in Healthcare
- April - Christian Nationalism
- May - K-12 Public Education Funding in PA
- June - Lead Poisoning

# State of our Club

## Education Topics (cont'd)

- August - Project 2025: A View From The States
- August - Project 2025: The Far-Reaching Consequences
- September - Project 2025: Overall Themes and Key Elements
- September - How Trauma Shapes How We Handle Divisive Subjects  
With Others
- October - *God & Country*: A Film On Christian Nationalism
- October - Character and Fitness for Office Matter!
- November - 2024 Election: Preliminary Review

# State of our Club

## Community Outreach

- Our L-SHS Scholarship for Community Service was awarded in May for the 15th year in a row.
- Our club scheduled a field trip in July 2024 to Water Street Mission; sign-ups were so good we had to book a second trip in August.
- Annabelle Simpson coordinated 29 volunteers for the West Lampeter Community Fair.

# State of our Club

## Reorganization & Rebranding

- New name and logo, mission and vision statements, business cards, stationery and banners (three horizontal, one retractable). Materials were first used at the 2025 Club Expo.
- A membership chair will be added in 2025, offloading the Treasurer.

Our board deserves our support, and we thank them for their hard work.

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| • President       | Jen Porter       |
| • Vice President  | Ross Fairweather |
| • Secretary       | Lucy Painter     |
| • Treasurer       | Julia Powers     |
| • Advocacy Chair  | Barbara Bonanno  |
| • Education Chair | Jerry Henige     |

# For the Record ...

- The IRS is holding up the official change of our name due to staffing shortages.
- This means we can't change banks (to one more affordable).
- Our membership campaign efforts will be on hold.
- But we can and will proceed with using our new name moving forward.

*end of State of Our Club section*



# Advocacy

- Announcing **“Jimmy Carter 2025”**
  - Monthly focus on a Jimmy Carter accomplishment, inspired by his efforts
- Monthly projects will be announced suggesting concrete actions that members can complete to strengthen our democracy by contacting officials using written correspondence, phone messages or in-person visits.
- Contact information for like-minded organizations will be available.



*end of Advocacy section*

# Our New Website is Emerging

DEMO

[HOME](#)

[ABOUT](#)

[OFFERINGS](#)



[MEMBERSHIP](#)

[EDUCATION](#)

[MO](#)

Learn about our movement now!

Democratic Club of Willow Valley

The website provides info about our Club, meeting schedules, published newsletters, and will support the ability to register, donate and pay online.

# Website Membership Views

```
graph TD; A[Indicate registration type: Individual Couple] --> B[Enter Name First Name Last Name eMail address]; A --> C[Enter Names Primary First Name Primary Last Name Primary eMail address Secondary First Name Secondary Last Name Secondary eMail address optional Dues is $45. Do you want to make a donation? YES NO Go to Form of Payment]; B --> D[Dues is $25. Do you want to make a donation? YES NO Go to Form of Payment]; D --> E[Identify category and enter appropriate amount. Advocacy Candidates General Fund Scholarship Fund]; E --> F[Form of payment: Check Debit /Credit Card]; C --> E; C --> F;
```

Indicate registration type:

Enter Name

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

eMail address \_\_\_\_\_

Enter Names

Primary First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Primary eMail address \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary eMail address (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Dues is \$45. Do you want to make a donation?

Go to Form of Payment

Dues is \$25. Do you want to make a donation?

Go to Form of Payment

Identify category and enter appropriate amount.

Advocacy .....

Candidates .....

General Fund.....

Scholarship Fund .....

Form of payment:

Go to 3.5      Go to Checkout

# Website Expenses

We need GoDaddy's comprehensive programming support as follows:

- \$ 275.88 Premium Store Design Service on Managed Woo- Hosting - 1 year(s)
- \$ 2,799.99 Premium Store Design Service - Build Fee package for unlimited programming services for 12 months
- \$ 1,115.88 Marketing Services Basic - 1 year
- \$ 4,191.75 retail cost of GoDaddy programming with unlimited updates for a year; builds base for adding merchandise.



# Website Expenses

**VOTE**

We need GoDaddy's comprehensive programming support which is currently priced at **\$ 3,028.17**.

\$ 275.88 Premium Store Design Service on Managed Woo- Hosting (1 yr)

\$ 2,799.99 Premium Store Design Service - Build Fee package for unlimited programming services for 12 months

\$ 1,115.88 Marketing Services Basic - 1 year

\$ 4,191.75 cost of GoDaddy programming with unlimited updates for a year; builds base for adding merchandise.

\$ -1,334.97 pro-rated credit from October 30<sup>th</sup> purchase of DemsWVC website and coverage

\$ 2,856.76 Total cost in 2025

\$ 141.71 PA sales tax

**\$ 3,028.17 Total amount due in 2025**



In 2026: \$ 125 for a month or \$1015 for a year = annual fee for programming changes.

*end of Website section*

Prices include a 25% non-profit discount.

# Speakers/Topics

- In July 2024, we collected your feedback regarding speakers and topics you'd like to have.
- The following slides are a summary of that feedback overlaid with our forthcoming plans.
- The categories are Education, Politics and Other.

# Speakers/Topics -- Education

1. What ways can we help secure election wins?
2. Regulations on/for PA voters [April Rep. Ismail Smith-Wade-EI](#)
3. Independent voters in primaries – Good or Bad?
4. Discussion on “Electoral College” (2) [March - Understanding Our Democracy](#)
5. Listing of accomplishments of National, State & Local Democrats [April Rep. Ismail Smith-Wade-EI](#)
6. Lancaster County Government [Responsibilities / Elected Officials / Candidates]; Understanding the positions in PA / County/ City [John Trescot – to be assigned](#)
7. Supreme Court abuse [March - Understanding Our Democracy](#)
8. Role of Congress in governing

# Speakers/Topics -- Education

9. Role of Senate verses Executive Branch    [March - Understanding Our Democracy](#)
10. Democratic Policies & Strategies // How to Strengthen our Democracy  
    [January - Understanding Our Democracy](#)
11. How to have conversations with people who believe differently. How to be peacemakers? Non-compete agreements    [Braver Angels .. Stay tuned](#)
12. What is “Democracy?” How do we not lose it?    [January - Understanding Our Democracy](#)
13. What happens if Trump wins? Losses? Civil War?    [January - Understanding Our Democracy](#)
14. Official speaking on bills and current issues; especially crime
15. How to improve our State Government
16. How can constituents work to bring ideas to fruition in a practical way.



# Speakers/Topics -- Political

1. National Issues (1), Presidential Election matters (2)
2. Election issues for PA & Nation
3. Background & viewpoints on State & Local candidates
4. Candidates View – building a stronger Democracy // ideologies
5. Candidates running for office (3) [March Jamie Arroyo](#)
6. State Elected Officials & Candidates (5)
7. City & County Candidates (3) [March Jamie Arroyo](#)
8. State Issues (2) [April Rep. Ismail Smith-Wade-El](#)

# Speakers/Topics -- Political

9. Local Candidates (9) [March Jamie Arroyo](#)
10. Local issues (3) [March Jamie Arroyo](#), [April Rep. Ismail Smith-Wade-EI](#)
11. Local politics (2) [March Jamie Arroyo](#), [April Rep. Ismail Smith-Wade-EI](#)
12. Representative from National Democratic Party
13. Future for Democrats in Lancaster County [April Rep. Ismail Smith-Wade-EI](#)
14. Republican elected official – if brave enough to face us.
15. Opportunities to be involved in the next election
16. More discussion on candidate positions

# Speakers/Topics -- Other

1. Public Library February - General Meeting
2. School Board issues February - Understanding Our Democracy
3. Women's reproductive health
4. Climate Change new WV Club: Environmental Interest Group
5. Demographic analysis of local & State registered voters – Dems/Rep/Ind.  
1H2025 Jerry Henige
6. Ability to attend meetings by Zoom (unable to do this in the Education Room or Ballroom)
7. LNP / WGAL News

*end of Speakers/Topic section*

# Updates to Bylaws

## Bylaws of the Democratic Club of Willow Valley

### ARTICLE I: Name

The name of the club shall be: The Democratic Club of Willow Valley; it is herein after referred to as “Club.”

**See your handout**

# Updates to Bylaws

## ARTICLE II: Mission

Our mission is to tackle bread-and-butter issues while protecting and lifting up our vulnerable populations via:

- Offering educational programs aimed at widespread issues;
- Providing guest speakers who can keep us informed;
- Endorsing local Democratic candidates and providing financial support;
- Offering a scholarship to local high-school students;
- Keeping our constituents informed through monthly newsletters;
- Promoting more progressive legislation and government at all levels.

# Updates to Bylaws

## ARTICLE III: Membership

All eligible voters, regardless of party affiliation, who support the purpose of the Club, [who are Residents of Willow Valley or SmartLife members](#), and who reside in the [Lakes or Locust precincts](#) are qualified for membership. Interested parties may request membership in the Club to any of its officers. All members are requested to show their commitment to the Club by making an annual, voluntary financial contribution. Any contribution is welcome, but a suggested amount will be determined by the Executive Board. Membership in the Club entitles [paid-up](#) members to vote on officers and vote on changes to these bylaws.

# Updates to Bylaws

## ARTICLE IV: Officers/Executive Board

The Club shall be led by an Executive Board that is empowered to take such actions as are necessary to carry out the purpose of the Club.

The Executive Board shall consist of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. All officers shall be elected by members and will serve for a term of two years.

- The Vice President shall assist the President in program planning **and execution** and fulfilling the duties of the President when the President is unavailable. The Vice President may approve expenditures.

Committees and their leaders are appointed by the President. The committee leaders **may** become part of the Executive Board upon approval by the Officers; they shall then participate and vote in meetings.

# Updates to Bylaws

## ARTICLE V: Elections

Officers shall be members of the Club **serving two-year terms**. They are normally elected at the first meeting of the calendar year. The President and Secretary shall be elected in even-numbered years; the Vice President and Treasurer shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The Executive Board will nominate a slate of candidates that will be distributed by email to the membership at least two weeks prior to the election meeting. At the meeting at which any election takes place nominations from the floor will be entertained. Officers may serve multiple terms. In the event that a vacancy does occur, the officer chosen to fill that position shall **be appointed by the President and will** serve for the remainder of that term.

*end of Bylaws section*



# Candidates for Office

**Treasurer**

**Steve Wright**

**Vice President**

**Ross Fairweather**

**Note: voting on revised Bylaws and elections will be held at the February General Meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup>.**

*end of Candidates section*

# Upcoming Events

**Tues., Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> @ 10am**

Panel Discussion: Joint “Understanding Our Democracy” session co-sponsored by “Racism Awareness Group” (RAG) and LGBTQ+ group.

Join Public Education Advocates of Lancaster (PEAL) as they moderate a discussion with panelists from Etown Common Sense, Support Hempfield Schools, and Warwick United about the impact the Independence Law Center and PA Family Institute have had on districts across the county. They'll talk about who the ILC is, what they do, and the divisions caused by their policies on LGBTQ+ students, library materials, and more.

# Upcoming Events

**Tues., Mar. 18<sup>th</sup> @ 10am**

Minority Rule:

How Our Constitution Imperils Our Democracy

We will look at what scholars of democracy say about how our constitution enables minority rule, allowing partisan minorities to consistently thwart & even rule over popular majorities.

And what can be done to address this.

# Upcoming Events

February 25<sup>th</sup>

General Meeting

- Lissa Holland
- Executive Director, Lancaster Public Library
- She will discuss current issues relating to censorship and acquisition of publications



Thank you for  
coming!



See you on

Tuesday,

February 25<sup>th</sup> !