



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF GREATER PITTSBURGH**

# **ANNUAL MEETING WORKBOOK**

**MAY 16, 2019**

**KOPPERS BUILDING  
LOWER LEVEL CONFERENCE CENTER**



**League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh**  
**Annual Meeting Workbook**  
**May 16, 2019**

**Order of Business**

<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Registration</b>	
<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Dinner and Speaker</b> <b>Speaker: Mark Dixon – "The Unfinished Business of Pittsburgh's Air"</b>	
<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Business Meeting</b>	
	Call to Order	M. Mamula
	Introduction of Parliamentarian	
	Credentials report	
	Adoption of Rules of Procedure	
	Adoption of Order of Business	
	Appointment of Secretary for this Annual Meeting	
	Appointment of Committee to Review Annual Meeting Minutes	
	Treasurer's Report	P. Shimer
	Budget Committee Report, Discussion and Adoption	M. Grosheider
	Nominating Committee Report and Election	J. Hughes
	Local Program Approval	A. Shimer
	Local Program Directions	M. Mamula
	Directions to the Board	M. Mamula
	Adjournment	

# Proposed Rules of Procedure

1. Voting members are paid members of the League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh.
2. Only voting members may address the assembly. During debate on a motion, no person may speak more than once on that question until all others who wish to speak have done so. There will be a limit for each speaker of two minutes. If there are “pro” and “con” microphones, the speaker should go to the designated microphone to speak.
3. All motions except simple motions shall be put in writing and submitted to the Secretary.
4. No announcements shall be made which do not relate to the business of the meeting or the members’ welfare.
5. Conduct of the Annual Meeting shall be in accordance with the by-laws of the League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh and the current edition of *Robert’s Rules of Order*.
6. Counting of all votes shall be based on the number of paid members present and voting as reported by the Credentials Committee.
7. The procedure for program adoption will be:
  - a. Recommended subjects may be moved for consideration with a presentation of no more than five minutes by the mover. No second is required.
  - b. Non-recommended subjects may be moved for consideration with a presentation of no more than five minutes by the mover. A second is required.
  - c. At the time of the motion, no subject is debatable. Questions for clarification may be asked.
  - d. All subjects, recommended or non-recommended, will be taken up after all program motions have been presented. They will be debated in the order in which they are presented on the floor. All subjects will be voted on after all debate has closed on all items of the program.

**League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh**  
**Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**June 7, 2018**

**The meeting was called to order** at 5:54 P.M. at the Kopper's Building Conference Center by President Maureen Mamula.

Maureen Mamula started off the meeting with a video showcasing all the various websites that are available to us for information.

Break for dinner at 6:30, meeting resumed at 7:05 with presentation of the Civic Star Award to Judy Clack.

Business Meeting resumed at 7:11 P.M. Leagha Courtney was introduced as Secretary taking the minutes.

**Parliamentarian:** Sue Broughton was designated as the Parliamentarian for the meeting and explained the meeting format would be the same as last year.

**Credentials Report:** Barb Simpson announced that our membership grew from 237 in January to 270 and 42 members were in attendance and 1 guest. A quorum constitutes 10% of membership or 27 or more members, Maureen Mamula declared the quorum. All were in favor, to begin the meeting.

**Adoption of Rules of Procedure:** A **motion** to accept the rules as stated on page three in the Annual Meeting Workbook **was made** by Carol Emerson and **seconded** by Carol Walton. A vote was taken, all in favor, **motion passed.**

**Adoption of Order of Business:** No objections, all in favor.

**Appointment of Secretary:** Leagha Courtney was appointed as Secretary to record minutes of the meeting. Minutes from the 2017 Annual meeting were proposed with no corrections. No objections to the minutes. Committee members were appointed to review the 2018 Annual meeting minutes, the members are Carol Emerson, Laryn FINDER and Michelle Zmijanac for the review committee.

**Treasurer Report:** Preston Shimer presented the treasurer report and workbooks and discussed the process of transitioning from a 501C4 to a 501C3.

Maureen Grosheider, presented the budget as chair of the committee. The result from call to members for contributions was overwhelming. The February Voter detailed all who contributed. Eileen Olmsted received \$3,900 from grants we applied for. Sustainable budgeting was discussed where members would have the option for pledging funds.

Maureen Grosheider presented the budget committee report. Per member dues to remain \$60 and \$90 for family. Michelle Zmijanac **made a motion** to approve the budget. John Olmsted **seconded the motion,** all in favor, **budget adopted.**

**Nominating Committee:** Joyce Chalfont, chair, gave the nominating report stating that we are in need of a committee member from the South Hills to serve on the 2019 committee. The nominating committee for 2018; Carol Emerson, Judy Clack and Eileen Olmsted were thanked for serving. Judy Hughes was nominated to serve for South Hills along with Joyce Chalfont, North Hills and Marcia Bandes, Central. Hearing no objections, Maureen Mamula declared the three candidates elected for the 2019/2020 Nominating Committee

**Local program:** There are no changes local positions: Nancy Naragon **made a motion** to accept as presented. Sue Broughton **seconded the motion.** A vote was taken on adoption of local positions, approved by membership. Phyllis Dreyfus announced that the Education Committee would like to have a study on early childhood education. Eileen Olmsted stated that if State or National has a position we can use that for advocacy with no need for a study. Judy Clack proposed a position on auditable voting machines.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22.

*Leagha Courtney,*  
*Secretary*

## **LWVGP Budget for FY 2019-20**

The Budget Committee (Emily Ferri, Don Naragon, Preston Shimer, Maureen Grosheider) presents the attached budget for consideration and adoption by the membership at the Annual Meeting.

LWVGP is the largest and most active League in Pennsylvania with a myriad of programs, and more sub-groups (Education committee, Book Club, Regional Units, Naturalization and Voter Registration program) than any other League in Pennsylvania. We are able to do all of this and attract new members because of our dedicated and active volunteers supported by a central office and staff. This allows us to keep accurate and extensive records, do mailings, maintain an extensive calendar and provide the systematic and ongoing communication to both members and non-members that is critical to the mission of the League. Our budget reflects all of that. Our ability to do as much as we do with the limited resources that we have makes LWVGP the envy of other Leagues in Pennsylvania.

### **Highlights of the 2018-19 Projected Financial Results**

1. Membership has continued to grow and now stands at about 270+ members.
2. The LWVGP has received confirmation from the IRS that we are now officially a 501(c)3 organization. As such, dues payments made by members are tax deductible. In addition, contributions to LWVGP no longer have to flow through the Ed Funds of the state and/or national Leagues. This will greatly facilitate record keeping and our ability to operate in a timely manner.
3. Expenditures have been relatively consistent with what was projected.
4. Office expenses, including salary and rent, are partially offset by the Colcom grant for Shale and Public Health. This is a dedicated grant administered and directed through the League.
5. Grants previously applied for and received continue to provide a valuable source of income to balance the shortfall between income derived from dues/contributions and our expenses. We did receive a new grant for \$1970 from LWVUS for New Citizen Registration.

### **Highlights of the 2019-20 Proposed Budget**

1. Dues income is projected to remain at about its current level.
2. No increase in office rent is anticipated.
3. Receipt of the 501(c)3 designation should enable us to do some modest fundraising during the year.
4. The budget continues to support the funding of the printed Voters Guide for primary and general elections as well as the publication of Facts for Citizens and support for the online guide, Vote411, all of which we deem necessary and critical to support the League's mission.
5. Work has begun with a small group, organized by Jim Roddey, former County Executive, on a Good Government/Civil Discourse Award that could enhance LWVGP's outreach efforts.

### **Comments and Challenges for 2019-20 and Beyond**

The assumptions used in developing this budget have been relatively conservative. The Budget Committee believes this is appropriate for our organization given our dependence on grants, contributions and other methods of fund-raising. Given the nature of our organization, we believe best practices dictate that we should have approximately 2 years worth of operating expenses. This we do have, in a combination of deposits in our checking account, investments and funds currently in the Ed Fund at LWVUS. We believe this represents good financial management.

As noted in past years, our expenses are not fully covered by our membership fees. The basic \$60 membership fee only generates \$8.00 to be used locally. The rest of that fee goes to the state and national Leagues.

As part of the information we are providing this year, a new Source of Funds Report has been developed. This report demonstrates the ongoing challenges we face with Program Costs running at about \$36,000 while current funding for those programs is approximately \$16,000 meaning that the remainder of the funding must come from reserves or additional sources of income.

Last year, we discussed efforts to develop a more sustainable budgeting process. The Board believed that receipt of the 501(c)3 designation was a necessary preliminary step before we could address that. With that now in hand (Notification received February 19, 2019), we believe it is essential to reach out to individuals and corporations as well as Foundations to solicit contributions to help LWVGP continue its vital work. In addition, the Budget Committee believes there are other opportunities to solicit donations using social media outreach for specific projects and events. We strongly encourage investigation of such methodology. To be consistent with the Board's goal of using the Objectives and Key Results framework for operation, we would strongly suggest that the Board set an annual fund-raising objective for the upcoming fiscal year as one of the metrics.

The work of the League is more important and valued than ever as demonstrated by the increase in membership and the increase in the demand for services like voter registrations, candidate forums, Voters' Guides, Vote411 and Facts for Citizens. The budget as presented will allow LWVGP to continue and expand those services. We believe it should be approved by the membership.


Maureen Grosheider  
Chair



	Actual	Budget	Projected	Budget
	FY18	FY19	Full Year FY19	FY20
<b>Budget for Organizational Sustainability</b>				
<b>Membership Income</b>				
Dues Income	\$15,410	\$14,150	\$14,770	\$14,700
Member Contributions	\$8,005	\$8,200	\$4,613	\$5,000
LWVUS Ed Fund for PMP	\$2,968	\$3,312	\$3,288	\$3,920
Non-Member Contributions	\$2,751	\$2,000	\$1,035	\$2,000
Memorial Gifts (Legacies)	\$6,800	\$1,500	\$0	\$0
Investment Income	\$8	\$10	\$3	\$5
	\$35,934	\$29,172	\$23,709	\$25,625
<b>State and National Affiliation PMP</b>				
LWVUS PMP	\$5,936	\$6,624	\$6,576	\$7,840
LWVPA PMP	\$3,650	\$4,110	\$3,995	\$4,900
Total PMP	\$9,586	\$10,734	\$10,571	\$12,740
<b>Remaining Membership Income</b>	\$26,348	\$18,438	\$13,138	\$12,885
<b>Membership Activities</b>				
Member Events income	\$2,605	\$2,500	\$2,543	\$2,500
Voter Physical Subscriptions	\$40	\$50	\$20	\$20
Publications Fundraising	\$265	\$500	\$405	\$400
Revenue Sharing & Misc.	\$0	\$100	\$0	\$0
<b>Net Membership Income</b>	\$29,258	\$21,588	\$16,106	\$15,805
Member Events Expenses	\$1,788	\$2,000	\$2,402	\$2,725
Delegate Expenses	\$2,000	\$1,485	\$2,000	\$1,720
Voter Subscription Postage	\$12	\$20	\$10	\$20
Membership Supplies & Postage	\$1,186	\$1,400	\$1,422	\$1,500
Administrative Allocation (FY18- 33%) (FY19-30%)	\$8,821	\$8,883	\$8,247	\$8,460
Contingency Reserve	\$8,462	\$8,909	\$2,284	\$0
<b>Membership Income less expenses</b>	\$6,989	-\$1,109	-\$259	\$1,380
<b>Common Expenses Allocated to Cost Centers</b>				
Fin/Credit Card Fees	\$815	\$600	\$652	\$700
Postage	\$495	\$400	\$309	\$400
Office Supplies	\$976	\$750	\$933	\$1,000
Website	\$390	\$300	\$250	\$650
Computer Support & Office Equipment	\$1,112	\$600	\$276	\$600
Rent	\$5,670	\$6,237	\$5,684	\$5,670
Telephone/Internet	\$1,375	\$1,524	\$1,491	\$1,548
Payroll Processing	\$506	\$506	\$453	\$500
Salary & Benefits	\$13,267	\$15,000	\$16,346	\$15,932
Insurance	\$855	\$900	\$1,096	\$1,100
Comp. Equip/Consulting/Subscriptions	\$1,270	\$100	\$0	\$100
<b>Total Allocatable Expenses</b>	\$26,731	\$26,917	\$27,489	\$28,200
<b>Budget for Projects Supporting LWV Mission</b>				
<b>Shale and Public Health Project</b>				

<b>Income</b>					
Contribution from Colcom Grant via PA Ed Fund	3,020	\$3,000	\$3,134	\$3,000	
Colcom Reimbursement for direct expenses	113	\$1,000	\$0	\$313	
<b>Less Expenses specific to this project</b>					
Postage, supplies	175	\$300	\$417	\$313	
Administrative Allocation 10%	2,673	\$2,692	\$2,749	\$2,820	
<b>Income less Expenses</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>\$1,008</b>	<b>-\$31</b>	<b>\$180</b>	
<b>Good Government/Civil Discourse Award/&amp; Related Projects</b>					
<b>Income</b>					
Carryover: LWV HS Reg & Jewish Fed/Vibrant PGH	1,984	\$4,300	\$2,444	\$1,856	
Grants: Civil Discourse Project	3,900	\$2,692	\$725	\$500	
Funds provided by grants and donations	0		\$3,780	\$2,200	
<b>Project Expenses</b>					
Project Expenses	374		\$2,224	\$1,635	
Postage			\$100	\$100	
Administrative Allocation 10%	2,673	\$2,692	\$2,749	\$2,820	
<b>Income less Expenses</b>	<b>2,837</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>-\$568</b>	<b>\$0</b>	
<b>Voter Service - Facts for Citizens</b>					
<b>Income</b>					
Publication Donations	134	\$0	\$375	\$375	
Funds provided by grants and donations	5,519	\$7,930	\$9,340	\$9,855	
<b>Less Expenses specific to this project</b>					
Printing, postage, supplies, Streaming	4,522	\$4,800	\$5,563	\$6,000	
Administrative Allocation (FY18-12%) (FY19-15%)	3,208	\$3,230	\$4,123	\$4,230	
<b>Income less expenses</b>	<b>-2,077</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$29</b>	<b>\$0</b>	
<b>Voter Service - Voters Guide &amp; Vote 411</b>					
<b>Income</b>					
Funded Laurel FDN (FY18-\$5K) (FY19-\$15K)	6,142	\$10,476	\$11,378	\$3,622	
Contribution to Vote 411 & Voters Guide	360		\$419	\$8,272	
<b>Less Expenses specific to this project</b>					
Printing, postage, supplies	6,401	\$5,000	\$6,648	\$6,600	
Vote 411	900	\$900	\$600	\$500	
Administrative Allocation 12% (FY19=17%)	4,544	\$4,576	\$4,673	\$4,794	
<b>Income less Expenses</b>	<b>-5,343</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>-\$124</b>	<b>\$0</b>	
<b>Community Information Center: Public Education, Naturalization &amp; Services</b>					
<b>Income</b>					
Grants: Heinz Endowment for Admin	\$432	\$200	\$1,088	\$1,000	
Funds provided by grants and donations	\$0	\$5,270	\$3,829	\$4,016	
New Citizen voter registraton grant LWVUS EF				\$1,500	
<b>Less Expenses specific to this project</b>					
Naturalization Flags	\$228	\$125	\$135	\$130	
CIC Related Supplies		\$200	\$0		
Public Relations, Dues, Subs. Postage		\$100	\$0	\$1,310	

Allocated Administrative Expense 18%	\$4,812	\$4,845	\$4,948	\$5,076
<b>Income less Expenses</b>	<b>-\$5,040</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>-\$166</b>	<b>\$0</b>
Funded by Non-Ed Fund Dues & Donations	\$9,623		\$46,122	\$57,434
Total Ed Fund withdrawals by 6/30	\$13,989	\$19,848	\$3,288	\$3,920
Total LWVPA-CEF withdrawals by 6/30	\$0	\$9,832	\$10,000	
Total Income	\$62,364	\$67,190	\$59,410	\$61,354
Total Expenses	\$62,364	\$62,890	\$57,516	\$59,438
Annual net	\$0		\$1,894	\$1,916

		
1	<b>Sources of Funds</b>	
2		
3	<b>Membership income less membership expenses</b>	\$1,380
4		
5	<b>LWVGP Programs and Projects</b>	
6	<b>Program Costs</b>	
7	Colcom Smart Scoop on Shale	\$3,113
8	Good Government Projects	\$4,555
9	Voter Service & Facts for Citizens	\$10,230
10	Voter Service Activities including Voters Guides and Vote 411	\$11,894
11	Naturalization, Public Education and Citizen Services	\$6,516
12	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$36,308</b>
13		
14	<b>Funding for Programs</b>	
15	Payment of LWVUS PMP from Ed Fund Reserves	\$3,920
16	Colcom Smart Scoop on Shale Grant	\$3,000
17	Heinz Endowments Administrative Support Grant	\$1,000
18	Jewish Foundation Vibrant Pittsburgh Grant - balance	\$1,441
19	LWVUS High School Registration Project - balance	\$414
20	Jim Roddey Civil Discourse Grant for LWVGP service as Fiscal Agent	\$500
21	Contributions for copies of Facts for Citizens	\$375
22	Laurel FDN Grant for Voters Guide and Vote411 - Balance of \$15K	\$3,622
23	New Citizen Voter Registration Grant - LWVUS Ed Fund	\$1,500
24	<b>Total Funds from known sources</b>	<b>\$15,772</b>
25		
26	<b>Funds to be provided from new sources or from reserves</b>	<b>\$19,156</b>
27		

**Proposed Slate of Officers and Directors  
to be elected in May, 2019**

**NOMINATED OFFICERS FOR 2-YEAR TERM: 2019-2021**

Nancy Naragon 1st Vice President, Development, 2019-2021  
Preston Shimer Treasurer, 2019 – 2021

**NOMINATED DIRECTORS FOR 2-YEAR TERM: 2019-2021**

Ron Bandes, NEW, 2019-2021 (Election Integrity, Election Security, Voting Machine Selection)  
Judy Clack, 2019 – 2021 (Voter Service)  
Judy Diorio, NEW, 2019-2021 (Naturalization and Membership Committee)  
Maureen Grosheider, 2019-2021 (Fair Districts, Development, Budget Committee)  
Amy Kleissas, NEW, 2019-2021 (High School Voter Registration, Framework/LWV Organization)

**CONTINUING OFFICERS FOR 2019**

Maureen Mamula, President 2018 - 2020  
Cristina Beuger, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Program, 2018 - 2020  
Leagha Courtney, Secretary 2018 - 2020

**CONTINUING DIRECTORS FOR 2019**

Emily Ferri, Director, 2018 - 2020 (Will co-do Communications with Eileen Olmsted)  
Joan Franklin, Director, 2018 – 2020 (Liaison to Education Committee)  
Terrie Griffin, Director, 2018 – 2020 (Membership)  
Eileen Olmsted, Director, 2018 – 2020 (Blast, Communications, Public Relations)  
Annette Shimer, Director, 2018 – 2020 (Vote411, Voters Guide, Assist with Program)

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2019-2020**

***NEED NON-BOARD CHAIR (NH)***

Marcia Bandes (CN)  
Judy Hughes (SH)

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Judy Diorio, (CN)  
Judy Hughes, (SH)  
Nancy Mott, (NH)

# **Adoption of LWVGP Program**

## **League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh: Public Policy Positions**

### ***Representative Government***

#### **County Government (1969, last updated 1999)**

Support for the County Home Rule Charter. Support of a change to reduce the number of row offices. Support of an operating budget drawn upon the basis of program planning. Support of continuing the practices of an internal pre audit, a post-audit by an elected controller with additional regular post-audits by an outside agency, and an annual capital development program plan based on long-range goals. Election of the Controller and District Attorney should be continued. Most, if not all, other offices should be appointed with possible redefinition and consolidation of some of these positions. Printed copies of the proposed budget should be available to the public before budget hearings. Copies of the adopted budget should be available to the public. Maintain a continuing evaluation and monitoring of the county government for effectiveness and efficiency

#### **Merger of City and County Governments (2005)**

Support of the merger of the governments of the City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County. Such a merger should include impartial apportionment of legislative districts, equitable, representation of minority populations, consideration of employee rights and benefits, a fair and balanced tax burden, provisions for other municipalities to join the merged government, and a responsible plan to address legacy costs (debts and other obligations) of the City of Pittsburgh.

#### **Transportation (1965, last updated 1986)**

Support of the development of an efficient, economical and comprehensive transit system designed to encourage wide public use and lessen the dependence on the private automobile. Transportation should be considered a public service whose operating costs are subsidized as are the operating costs of all public services. A special county tax earmarked for transit should be levied.

Amplification:

1. There should be a commitment to a comprehensive plan including provisions for both mass and rapid transit.
2. Continuous contact should be made with citizens' groups and municipalities in order to inform, involve and educate the public, the business community, and elected officials about the need for and use of public transit.
3. Citizens and municipalities should be involved in the planning stages for public transportation to include, but not be limited to: development of air rights; aesthetic standards; consideration of zoning ordinances; implementation of feeder bus systems; elimination of vehicle, air and noise pollution.
4. Taxes resulting from the use of the private automobile should be shared with transit systems.
5. A special county tax earmarked for transportation should be levied.
6. Sidewalks and bikeways should be integrated into the transit system, and there should be adequate parking at major stations.

### **Intergovernmental Cooperation (1963, last updated 1971)**

Encouragement of cooperation among municipalities and the county government as a means of solving area-wide problems.

Amplification: To facilitate the solution of area-wide problems within Allegheny County, the LWVGP favors cooperation among the municipalities and the county government. We encourage the use of local inter-jurisdictional agreements, expanding use of present county powers, and the work of voluntary groups. The expanded area of agreement on this position, which could be applied not only to solid waste but also to transit planning or any other area of intergovernmental cooperation, enables us to make recommendations relating to traffic problems, financial responsibility and consulting timetables

### **Property Tax Assessment Practices (2004)**

Support for legislation and policies based on standards and criteria that provide for equitable, fair, timely and transparent property tax assessment practices in Allegheny County, as guided by the standards of the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO). These include:

1. Chief Assessment Officer: Support for an independent Chief Assessment Officer, with an IAAO Certified Assessment Evaluator (CAE) designation, who has full responsibility for organizing and managing the property assessment appraisal process and who certifies the validity of the assessment roll following confirmation by an independent IAAO performance standard review.
2. Selection process: Support for a selection process that promotes independence for the Chief Assessment Officer, preferably through appointment by the Chief Executive with approval by a majority of the County Council for a specified term, such as six years. Whether appointed or elected, candidate eligibility must require IAAO Certified Assessment Evaluator qualifications.
3. Annual property reassessment: Support for an annual property assessment that assures stability, uniformity and fairness according to the performance standards of IAAO ration studies that facilitates the notification of taxpayers' assessment and the completion of appeals in the year prior to the issuance of tax bills.
4. STEB report: Support for a timely and complete report to the State Tax Equalization Board (STEB) which uses a transparent formula for types of sales appropriately included and excluded in the County's report used to compare sale prices and assessed values of properties that were sold in the previous year.
5. Adequate budget: Support for an adequate budget for all assessment and appeals operations, including trained and certified staff and resources required to provide and maintain an accurate and accessible computer assisted mass assessment system (CAMA) property inventory database supported by documented procedures that are available for inspection by concerned parties.
6. Appeals Board: Support for an independent Appeals Board whose members are not elected, who are competent in property assessment and appraisal matters and laws, and who have collective responsibility for appeals decisions.
7. Public Relations: Support for an open, understandable and transparent assessment process, supported by a public relations officer that will enable taxpayers to easily obtain clarifying information, ask questions, correct factual errors, lodge appeals, and make payments.
8. Conduct and Ethics Code: Support for all persons related to the Property Assessment process being bound by the County's Accountability, Conduct and Ethics Code

## *Natural Resources*

**Stormwater and Wastewater:** A study of stormwater and wastewater problems in Southwestern Pennsylvania with identification of opportunities for improvement including through collaboration and the use of green infrastructure and source reduction. (Committee has gathered information. No position was reached.)

### **Air Quality: (1971, last updated 1986)**

Action in support of effective air pollution control and stronger enforcement capabilities in Allegheny County through 24-hour enforcement of existing laws by adequately staffed and funded county agencies free from political pressures and conflicts of interest. Action in support of the participation of the county in regional air pollution control arrangements and solutions provided there is no dilution of the enforcement program within the county.

Amplification:

1. Effective air pollution control should be attained by: impartial enforcement of existing laws; continuous 24-hour monitoring of air quality levels; 24-hour capability to receive and act on complaints.
2. In order to ensure stronger enforcement capabilities, LWVGP supports: competitive salaries for better qualified personnel; improved physical working conditions, including more work space; provision for and use of state-of-the-art inspection equipment and techniques; sufficient funding for improved standardized training of inspectors, including in-service training as appropriate; and continual cooperation and interaction with other agencies working on air quality matters.
3. To inform the public about true air quality, the Air Pollution Index would consist of separate readings of all automatic monitoring units.
4. Recourse to the courts should be effective through: knowledgeable and unbiased judicial officials; stiff fines for violators; and the ability of citizens to bring suits against violators without crippling expenses. Governmental bodies in regional air pollution control arrangements would be free to enforce stricter regulations while promoting a uniform basic level of control throughout the region.
5. The use of mass transit should be encouraged. Municipal governments should contribute to effective air pollution controls by passing and enforcing local anti-pollution ordinances and by providing services which enable their residents to avoid the use of pollution sources.

### **Parks, Recreation and Conservation (1997) Part of Planning, Zoning & Land Use Position :**

The LWVGP supports the development of local and regional parks and planned recreational facilities to meet the needs of current and future residents. This includes:

1. Development of a master plan for parks, land acquisition and provision of recreational facilities;
2. Development, in conjunction with school officials, of a plan to expand use and shared maintenance of school facilities by municipalities to provide increased opportunities for public recreation;
3. Establishment of parks and recreation administration that provides for long-range planning, professional director, qualified staff, job descriptions, personnel and program evaluation, enforcement of park and recreation rules, and a scheduled process of communication between the administration and the community, including mail registration;
4. Reliance on some user fees as a method of supplementing municipal allocations;

Cooperation among municipalities and school districts to provide enhanced recreational opportunities for citizens, perhaps for lowered costs. This includes:

1. Development of a master plan for parks, land acquisition and provision of recreational facilities;
2. Development, in conjunction with school officials, of a plan to expand use and shared maintenance of school facilities by municipalities to provide increased opportunities for public recreation;
3. Establishment of parks and recreation administration that provides for long-range planning, professional director, qualified staff, job descriptions, personnel and program evaluation, enforcement of park and recreation rules, and a scheduled process of communication between the administration and the community, including mail registration;
4. Reliance on some user fees as a method of supplementing municipal allocations;
5. Cooperation among municipalities and school districts to provide enhanced recreational opportunities for citizens, perhaps for lowered costs.

**Planning, Zoning, and Land Use (1997, merged area positions)**

Action in support of policies and practices that will protect and preserve natural resources and the health and safety of the people, that will encourage cooperation among municipalities and regional planning agencies, and maximize opportunities for citizen participation in land use decisions

**Comprehensive Plans:** We support the development of a comprehensive plan by each municipality to guide elected and appointed officials in their decisions. Such plans should be administered by a community planner, reviewed on a periodic basis, and revised if needed.

1. We support, in particular, the following criteria as provided in the Pennsylvania enabling legislation:
  - a. Balanced development (including commercial, industrial, and all types of residential development) to achieve a sound economic base and to encourage social diversity
  - b. Protection of the quality of the environment with regard for aesthetic standards
  - c. Provision for community services and community facilities
  - d. Provision for efficient, safe traffic flow, including pedestrian traffic, roads, access roads, walkways, bikeways, adequate parking and public transportation
2. We support zoning and subdivision ordinances that will achieve these goals.
3. We support strict enforcement of zoning and subdivision ordinances, and believe a zoning officer whose sole responsibility is zoning enforcement must be retained.
4. We support the following operating procedures for municipal Planning and Zoning Commissions:
  - a. Official written administrative policies and procedures, including duties and responsibilities;
  - b. An established process of communication, coordination and liaison representation between the Planning and Zoning Commission and other governmental bodies and citizens;
  - c. Membership that reflects a broad representation of the community;
  - d. An orientation program and workshops provided for its members.

## ***Social Policy***

### **Libraries (GP) (1978, last updated 1997)**

Support for a countywide federated library system.

Amplification: We believe that the library service in Allegheny County should be improved. As a whole, library service in the county is substandard. Although service is good in some areas, many others are poorly served. A federated system should offer the following services:

1. Reciprocal borrowing
2. Return to any unit
3. Centralized purchasing
4. Catalogue of system holdings
5. Inter-library loan delivery service
6. Resource sharing, with remote browsing and printout as possibilities for the future if practical
7. Computerization of library processes and services, including the catalogue of member library holdings
8. Access by the public to computer terminals for use in research and to access the Internet and World Wide Web
9. A fair method of assessing municipalities for funding needs, including long-range planning and capital needs
10. Support for local library boards to serve in budget development and in an advisory capacity

### **Housing (GP) (1973, last updated 1996)**

Support of a county housing code enforcement program that enforces minimum health and safety standards and promotes methods by which standards can be met.

Amplification: A county housing code should be developed that would require the inspection of housing units in the county on a periodic basis. Funding should be made available to aid those who are financially unable to correct violations of codes. Tax credits, loans, grants and use of revenue-sharing funds were suggested methods of financing. Information concerning code enforcement and alternatives for financing and upgrading of under-code properties should be made available to the public.

The LWVGP supports policies and regulations that would provide for:

1. Standardized inspections throughout the county;
2. Training and/or certification of all inspectors;
3. Inspection of all sale properties before transfer of ownership;
4. Periodic inspection of all rental properties, at least once every 3-5 years, to verify that the dwelling is safe and in compliance with the housing code;
5. Assistance to low-income people in obtaining housing, and monitoring and assistance provided to help maintain that housing.

The LWVGP believes it is the responsibility of all levels of government to promote programs that provide adequate housing to people with limited income and special needs, including partnerships with business and nonprofit groups. Minimum federal standards and a process of accountability should be determined. All levels of government should support local initiatives, including appropriate oversight.

### **Schools (GP) (1997, merged area positions)**

Action in support of:

1. Integration in any school district from the elementary level onward with equitable opportunities to supplement the process of integration but not substitute for it;
2. A capital performance budget as well as a full accounting of all funds, including federal and other grants;
3. Policies that couple sound fiscal responsibility with the highest quality of education;
4. Policies that encourage curriculum review and coordination;
5. Policies that include extensive teacher training, staff development and use of volunteers in the schools;
6. Hiring practices that consider creativity, enthusiasm, dedication, diversity and specific subject skills;
7. Early detection of all children who need remedial attention, and support of adequate funding for remediation of all students needing it at all grade levels. A systematic evaluation process should be part of the program;
8. Guidelines on the use of surplus school space, including defining the term “surplus”, and setting priorities for alternative uses and establishing rules and conditions for use;
9. Cooperation between school districts and municipalities in the use of recreational facilities and planning of recreational programs;
10. Policies that promote ongoing communication between teachers and administrators and parents and the community at large.

### **Cable Television (broadcast of public meetings) (GP) (1997, merged unit positions)**

The League recognizes the importance and influence of television in our lives and supports televising the proceedings and discussions of school board and municipal public meetings. These should be advertised widely and broadcast on local public access channels. This access should be part of all franchise agreements between municipalities and the cable companies. In addition, cable companies should provide adequate assistance and technical help and training to citizens involved in producing such programs and make studio space available when possible.

## ***Unit Positions***

### **Mt. Lebanon Home Rule Charter (c. 1985)**

Support of the Home Rule Charter for Mt. Lebanon as approved by the voters in 1974 except for its provisions for an elected Treasurer and Section 1201 regarding initiative and referendum. Mt. Lebanon proposes modifications in the provision of the Home Rule Charter for initiative and referendum for the purpose of allowing adequate citizen access to decision making without preventing the municipal government from functioning effectively.

Historical background: Since its approval in 1974, four amendments to the Home Rule Charter have been adopted by referendum, all of which have been opposed by the LWV:

1. Restriction of non-electoral and lease rental debtor limitation from 250% to 25% of the Municipality's borrowing base;
2. Limitation to a 2-mill increase over previous year's tax levy;
3. Removal of the requirement of adoption of a Redevelopment Code; and
4. Removal of the requirement for adoption of a Property Maintenance Code.

### **Mt. Lebanon Municipal Budget (1981)**

Support of the popularized Municipal Budget as being clear, concise, detailed and informative, but with certain suggested additions: substantial advance publicity of what is proposed and how this may affect the taxpayer; continued inclusion of the capital improvement program summary with the popularized budget; inclusions of job titles with salary scales and the cost of contracting services; continued graphic explanations. Support of careful scrutiny of expenditures even in top priority areas; assignment of top priority to those services which only the municipal government can provide; cooperation with other municipalities whenever Mt. Lebanon can affect a cost savings without sacrificing quality of services. Outreach Teen and Family Services is a high priority item, and we support the pursuit of all funding options.

### **Mt. Lebanon Treasurer's Office (1985)**

Support of the following changes in the financial system of Mt. Lebanon: combination of the functions of the financial office and the Treasurer's office to be carried out by an appointed official with a system of checks and balances.

Support for setting penalty rates on delinquencies and liens high enough to discourage deliberate non-payment of taxes.

### **Mt. Lebanon Community Relations Board (1979, updated 1986)**

Support of Community Relations Board in its responsibilities to provide education regarding the law on equal access to housing and in respect to the rights of citizens with special needs, to provide conciliation wherever necessary, and to act as a catalyst and help to develop strategies to meet the needs of various groups.

### **Pittsburgh Housing**

1. Support of an open housing market and an effective Commission on Human Relations for the City of Pittsburgh.
2. Support legislation, at local or state level, to deal with problem of group homes and to define group homes as a residential use of property and permitted in all residential zones for mentally ill adults, mentally ill children, retarded adults, retarded children, physically handicapped people, adult offenders, delinquent children,

### **Upper St. Clair Comprehensive Plan (1987)**

Upper St. Clair members recognize the desirability of continuing to broaden the tax base in Upper St. Clair by encouraging the development of the land already zoned for light industrial and commercial development. Increasing the tax base should be one criterion used to measure the need for additional development through rezoning; however the quality of life and the services needed by the residents must be given primary consideration. The aesthetic aspects of the development of land in Upper St. Clair must be continuously monitored. Priority should be given to the preservation of existing open space on steep slopes, in floodways, along major roadways and other sensitive land areas.

There is a need for a more balanced residential development to include persons of diverse ages and incomes. Additional areas should be zoned for multi-family development. Special incentives to developers may be needed to encourage opportunities for residential diversity to accommodate the changing needs of our population.

Consideration of regional needs is also of major importance to Upper St. Clair. We actively seek closer cooperation between communities for planning and housing needs, public safety and ambulance services, transportation and the recycling of solid waste.

Amplification: The Unit stresses the importance of providing community services and facilities for the needs of all age groups. Therefore, the Unit endorses continued exploration and implementation of alternate methods of transportation within the community (e.g. bike paths, foot paths, sidewalks, buses, etc.).

**Upper St. Clair – Recreation (1970, last updated 2012)**

Upper St. Clair members support long range planning with reference to recreation facilities for both sexes and all ages and interest groups. We believe our recreation facilities and programs are basically adequate and that recreation should be a combination of tax-supported and self-supporting programs. We support part and recreation facilities that take land use into consideration. Any development of the Boyce and Mayview properties should be pursued with utmost care and special attention to environmental as well as financial issues, with full community involvement, and with public disclosure that is completely open and well-publicized.

**Upper St. Clair Township Library (1986, updated 1990)**

Support of the Township Library as a community resource open daily with a Library Board acting as an advocate for citizen interest, adequate funding, and the enhancement of the visibility of the library in the community.

**Upper St. Clair Emergency Medical Services (1981)**

Upper St. Clair believes that local government has an obligation to see that there is an emergency medical service available to the citizenry and that there be minimum standards set. It is not necessarily the role of government to run the service. We support increasing revenue from the General Fund if the Upper St. Clair subscriptions and user fee income is not sufficient to cover its portion of Tri-Community South Emergency Medical Services expenses.

Amplification:

1. Subscriptions to EMS should be more strongly encouraged;
2. Vagueness of most insurance coverage should be stressed in EMS literature;
3. Subscription forms should be sent earlier to avoid the holiday season rush;
4. A second reminder should be sent to residents who have not subscribed within a month;
5. Effort should be exerted to enroll new residents.

## President's Report – 2019

Our Annual Meeting is always a time to look back and a time to look forward.

Looking back, we have accomplished a lot this year – more naturalization ceremonies attended and voter registrations taken in than before. Over 12,000 business cards with [VOTE411.ORG](http://VOTE411.ORG) as the primary message distributed throughout the area. More Voter Forums held – and both on TV and livestreamed. Larger audiences coming to the forums. Some of the forums are done alone, and a growing number are done in collaboration with other community groups throughout the county. Civic education sessions held in more high school districts, and voter registration done with students. A larger group of volunteers for our efforts – and a growing number of members of the League. Records sent to the Heinz History Center for storage. A growing demand for our Voters Guide (published by the New Pittsburgh Courier and distributed to Allegheny County public libraries through the Allegheny County Library Association). Increasing numbers of candidates participating in [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) and increasing use of [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) by the public. Grants received after application and some unsolicited grants received.

Looking forward, we will have an intern from Carnegie Mellon University this summer who will be helping us to collect and analyze data about our community outreach. The data we will be looking to collect will include databases of community partners and leaders, of places available throughout the County that can be used for forums, of schools and best contacts for first time voter registrations, of senior living communities where we can furnish printed information from [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) for those who don't have computers, and more. And looking forward, using the information we gather this summer to make our outreach efforts even more productive and widespread. Hopefully, this will give us the ability to use a searchable source of information to help us move forward and be even more effective in our community. To help gather data, we will be forwarding a short survey to members this summer to gather some information we don't have right now – things such as what community do you live in? A lot of us have Pittsburgh as our mailing address, but don't actually live in the city. If you do live in the city of Pittsburgh, what local community do you live in? We find that we can sometimes get free or reduced fee access if a resident sponsors the League in a specific community location. I am hoping our intern will be able to join us tonight.

Thank you for being a part of the League and for all that you do for our community. Just think, we can celebrate our 100th birthday of voting rights for women next year – hard to believe it's already 99 years!

Maureen Mamula

## Treasurer's Report

On February 15, 2019, the journey of our League to become a 501(c)3 non-profit organization came to an end when we received the coveted letter from the Internal Revenue Service recognizing our status. The journey began in Washington, DC when I attended a 501(c)3 informational session at the LWVUS convention in 2016. The session discussed the differences between the various tax-exempt status' and strongly suggested that Leagues pursue gaining non-profit, tax-exempt status. I left with a pathway to follow and a few success stories from Leagues that had made the change already. This gave us confidence to proceed. Annual meeting attendees may remember that we made changes to our By-Laws in 2017. In 2018, I reported on the rejection by the IRS of our initial application and the need to complete the "Long Form." It took the IRS more than 13 months to rule on our application. Since the IRS policy is to make the effective date of their ruling, the date the application is received by the IRS, we effectively became a 501(c)3 on January 29, 2018.

Our new tax-exempt status changed the way that we are presenting the budget for FY2020 because we now are managing all of our funds within our own checking and savings accounts. For the moment, we have chosen to leave funds in the LWVUS Education Fund because we can use these funds in the future to cover 50% of our LWVUS per member payments until these funds are exhausted.

Shortly after the end of this fiscal year, I will prepare an Annual Financial Report for our members.

During this Fiscal Year, our League began to serve as the fiscal agent for two related initiatives that our Board voted to support. Vote Allegheny, under the leadership of member Ron Bandes, received a \$15,000 grant for projects on voting machines and election reform, and we serve as the fiscal agent for this grant. The Moe Colman Award for Civil Discourse, a project being led by former County Executive Jim Roddey, asked the League to serve as its fiscal agent. As fiscal agent, our League receives and accounts for funds, serving in effect as the Treasurer. These funds are deposited in our savings account until disbursed on behalf of these organizations. The League is compensated for this service.

As you know, our League is the largest in Pennsylvania and has a significant volume of financial transactions. We could not function without the daily involvement of our office manager, Barbara Simpson. Barbara is on the front line of receiving and recording funds. My job is disbursing funds and preparing financial statements. These processes are inter-twined as required by good internal controls. Together we make Quickbooks work. And I appreciate her efforts every day!

Preston Shimer, Treasurer

## Voter Service Report

The League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh can be justifiably proud of its Voter Service efforts in the past year. Thanks to the many LWV members who volunteered once or many, many times in support of these projects.

### Candidate Forums

**Fall:** In October 2018, LWVGP organized forums for ten General Election races on seven dates with three canceled when candidates refused to participate and a fourth which followed the Tree of Life Synagogue massacre: 17th Congressional District, 38th Senate District with 28th Legislative District, 23rd Legislative District, 25th Legislative District, 30th Legislative with 33rd Legislative Districts, 39th Legislative District with 40th Legislative District, and 44th Legislative District. High school students from Allerdice and Fox Chapel, Honors students from CCAC, and RMU Political Science Club members were energized and adept volunteers. We look forward to having students join our volunteer crews at future forums.

**Special:** The only candidate forum prior to the Special Election of the 37th Senate District Special Election was held by the LWVGP in conjunction with Robert Morris University on March 20 with 243 in attendance and the use of 29 student and LWV member volunteers.

**Spring:** In April and May 2019, LWVGP organized or co-sponsored nine Primary Candidate Forums: Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas Judge with Allegheny County Council Member At Large, Pittsburgh City Council Districts 1 and 3, Pittsburgh City Council District 9, Pittsburgh City Council Districts 7 and 9, Bethel Park Board of School Directors, Fox Chapel Area Board of School Directors, Pittsburgh City Schools Board of Directors, Plum Board of School Directors, and Munhall Borough Council.

### Voter Registration

72 voter registration events were completed from June 2018 - April 2019 including naturalization ceremonies, outdoor tabling events, and those at senior living centers. 1470 individuals were registered to vote. The two largest events occurred in September: National Voter Registration Day with 70 volunteers at 34 libraries and Constitution Day with 30 volunteers at 8 CCAC campuses. The collaborations with the Allegheny County Library Association and the Community College of Allegheny County were very successful and will continue.

Many thanks go to **Judy Diorio** who took over as Team Leader at Penn Center, twice a month, at most naturalization ceremonies since late September. Similarly, thanks to **Julie Gatti** who has served as Team Leader for most of the monthly Federal Courthouse naturalization ceremonies.

The Civic Education Committee, led by **Eileen Olmsted**, revised an educational slide presentation. Then **Amy Kleissas**, High School Voter Registration Chair, combined voter registration with a civic education lesson at four area high schools: Avonworth, Chartiers Valley, Elizabeth Forward and Plum. Eileen and Amy also met with Pittsburgh Public Schools administrators and gave a presentation to PPS civic education teachers.

### Thank You Notes

Thanks to **Barbara Simpson**, the LWVGP and Allegheny County now has a *2019 Facts for Citizens* listing contact information for federal, state, county and city elected officials.

Thanks to **Maria Magone**'s research, the LWVGP is now the proud owner of two LWVGP navy table covers to be used at candidate forums and tabling events.

Thanks to **Barbara Simpson** and **Annette Shimer**, the LWVGP and Allegheny County has a hard-copy Voters Guide for the General Election and Primary Election published by *The Pittsburgh Courier* with extra copies going to libraries.

Thanks to **Annette Shimer**, the LWVGP and Allegheny County has the largest number of candidate names and entries in the **Vote411.org** online Voters Guide.

Thanks to **Judy Clack** a \$1,500 LWVUS New Citizens Registration Project grant was awarded to LWVGP to support our voter registration efforts at naturalization ceremonies.

Judy Clack, Voter Service Chair

## Program Report

Last June at our Annual meeting, members were surveyed on their top 3 "hot-button issues." Programming for the past year was centered on the results of that survey. Among the top concerns were Criminal Justice Reform, Election Integrity, Access to Affordable Housing and Transportation.

In September, our Annual Kick-Off meeting hosted a panel on Criminal Justice Reform. Allegheny County Councilmen DeWitt Walton and Paul Klien informed us on the proposed County Civilian Review Board. District Justice Richard King discussed the role of the District Magistrate in reforming the justice system. And, Terrell Thomas introduced us to the ACLU's "Campaign for Smart Justice."

The month before the General Election, Ron Bandes, security analyst, President of Vote Allegheny and fellow League member, discussed voting security, election integrity, and the many issues/concerns with voting machines.

The League has long held a position that it is the responsibility of all levels of government to promote programs that provide adequate housing to people with limited income and special needs, including partnerships with business and nonprofit organizations, as well as monitoring and assistance provided to help maintain housing. Access to Affordable Housing was our program for November and March. We began to learn the complexity of this issue during our November Unit meetings when Valerie Fleisher, Director of Operations of Lawrenceville Pittsburgh, educated us on Land Trusts and Dan Sullivan, ACTION-Housing, brought us up to date on ACTION's work. We began to realize that it is multifaceted with various organizations that use various models to providing housing and that there are multiple funding sources from all levels of government, banks and non-profits.

Because of the complexity, further education of the models and funding state, county, and local organizations utilize to provide adequate housing was needed. Therefore, in March, several stakeholders from our area were asked to be part of a Housing Panel, asking them for their expertise and knowledge on this subject in order to educate the LWVGP. Frank Aggazio, Executive Director of the Allegheny County Housing Authority, Jessica Smith-Perry, Director of the Housing Opportunity Fund(HOF) at The Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh (URA), and Kate Giamarrise, Post-Gazette Reporter who covers poverty, social services, and housing provided us with a brief overview of their organization's goals/mission, the services/programs they provide, funding sources, legislation and policies they support/utilize that promote affordable and adequate housing, and actions the League can take to advocate for such. Unfortunately, this meeting was not well attended but the wealth of knowledge and information gathered from the panel was live-streamed. Therefore, I encourage all members to watch the recorded event on our Facebook page.

However, in February, 46 members from all Units across Allegheny County attended our meeting at the Squirrel Hill Library with Katarine Kelleman, CEO- Allegheny County Port Authority! It was a dynamic, educational, and informative talk by our speaker, which was also live-streamed to our page! Since joining the Port Authority a year ago, Ms. Kelleman has made strides in settling issues that existed before coming to Pittsburgh and in strategic long-term planning, positioning the Allegheny Port Authority for the future.

Our final program for the year focused on the environment since Earth Day is celebrated in April. As many of you have heard, a fire at the Clariton Coke Works earlier this year caused damage to the plant as well as increased pollution to the air forcing Clariton residents to remain in their homes. Matt Mehalik, the Executive Director of the BREATHE Project and Debra Smit, Communications Director of the BREATHE Project updated us on the air quality in Clariton and the surrounding Pittsburgh Area, discussed how citizens can be involved in air monitoring, and spoke on how the League can advocate for improved air quality.

Cristina Beuger, VP Program

## **Education Advocacy Committee Report**

The Education Advocacy Committee has been studying and working on the issues of Early Childhood Education in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County during this year. Several leaders in the field have attended our monthly meetings, partly to inform us about what are the options for parents in our area, what are the needs, and how could the League be effective in solving the problems surrounding getting pre-school experiences for the children who need it.

Carole Barone-Martin, Executive Director of Early Childhood Education programs for the Pgh. Public Schools gave us statistics about the number of children in the program and the number in the area who are not served, as well as how parents can qualify for this service. Lynda Wrenn, President of the Pittsburgh Public School Board, discussed the need for more pre-schools, as there are about 18% of pre-K children in Pgh. who do not have access to early childhood schools.

We are aware that these children enter Kindergarten with a deficit.

We have researched the funding streams at the federal, state, local and county level. There is increasing recognition of the importance of 0-3 education and parental involvement. Governor Wolf's new budget has increased the funding for early intervention, subsidized childcare, home visiting and family support services, Nurse Family Partnership, and for Keystone STARS to assist in upgrading facilities and staff training. Funding from the state is divided between the Dept. of Human Services and Dept. of Education. The city of Pittsburgh has a new Early Childhood Department which has been funded with \$2 million. The Allegheny County Executive, Rich Fitzgerald, has established a working group of 26 people to work on the feasibility of initiating further programs for early childhood.

We continue to ask the question: why are some 5 yr. olds not prepared for Kindergarten, and what could the League do to alleviate this issue?

Joan H. Franklin, Chair  
Phyllis Dreyfuss, Co-chair

## Civic Education - High School Project Report

The High School Project has two goals. First, we want to share our 32-slide, “Voting Made Easy” powerpoint presentation with seniors in the classroom. Civics in Pennsylvania is required and delivered in 9th grade. We feel that it is crucial to provide supplementary education to high school seniors about our democracy and their right and responsibility to participate as citizens. Our second goal is to provide the opportunity for eligible students to register to vote. Our original grant targets underserved populations. We have tried to schedule schools with this in mind, but it has not been easy to reach these schools, including the Pittsburgh Public School District. We feel, however, that we are establishing relationships that will build our program in the future in this area. Schools we have visited last year wanted us back and schools we visited this year have already invited us for a return next year!

We had a very successful kick-off with our return visit to Charters Valley High School on March 15th. We had terrific support from LWVGP volunteers, from the host teacher and even from their principal and superintendent. We presented to about 100 seniors and collected 65 new voter registrations.

Our next visit to Elizabeth Forward High School was also well-received. Despite the long drive (an hour or more for two teams of our dedicated LWVGP volunteers), the enthusiasm of the host teacher and her Student Government seniors made it worth the effort. At Elizabeth Forward, we had time to really interact with students as we presented to eight classrooms of about 150 seniors.

These students were trained remotely by Alexa at INSPIRE and while wearing their INSPIRE tee-shirts, they produced a video shown during morning announcements. In the video, students reviewed eligibility requirements and necessary ID for the voter drive that was coordinated by these students, with the help of one LWVGP volunteer, on April 15th. Unfortunately, Easter break seemed to negatively impact the cafeteria voter drive as many students were absent that day. We received 28 new voter registrations; still a plus.

We visited Plum Borough High School on April 18th. Two teams of LWVGP volunteers presented to ten classrooms and reached about 200 seniors. The teachers were very enthusiastic and complimentary about our non-partisan, professionalism in presenting to their students. We received 103 new voter registrations with 15-20 additional registration forms that will be sent in after they are completed.

We have a visit to Avonworth High School scheduled for the mornings of May 23rd and ~~SEP~~ May 24th. This is a return visit for us with an enthusiastic principal. Details will be coming, but please contact me (amy.kleissas@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping at Avonworth.

Thank you for your continued interest and support of this project. So far this year, we have presented to about 450 seniors and received a little over 200 new voter registrations. Helping students to understand the awesome right and responsibility of voting in every election is worth every one of our volunteer hours.

Amy Kleissas

## **Public Relations and Publicity Report**

Our increased activity in candidate forums and regular use of press releases was reflected in greater visibility in Pittsburgh as evidenced by 20 stories and announcements which appeared in local media during the last year.

The weekly eBlast and monthly *Voter* continue to inform our members and notices of our events are regularly listed on the web page and League's Facebook page which has over 1,000 followers and has become a go to site for local voters as all candidate forums are broadcast by live screening and archived for viewers to access at their convenience. The Fox Chapel school board forum received over 1,900 views within a week of its being held.

Our Twitter account has 472 followers and we will soon have an Instagram account. Board members have distributed many thousands of Vote411 business cards and the Allegheny Vote411 page has received more "hits" than Philadelphia's!

Eileen Olmsted

## **A Review of Fair Districts PA Activities**

As of the publication date of our last Annual Meeting Workbook, the chair of the House State Government Committee, Rep. Daryl Metcalfe, had introduced amendments to House Bill 722 eliminating the independent citizens commission. The House State Government Committee passed them on party-line votes without any public input or even discussion among committee members. He did the same for a successor House Bill 563. The amended bills were not released from the committee for a vote on the House floor.

Amendments to Senate Bill 22 that strengthened it and addressed a few concerns of legislators were introduced in the Senate State Government Committee. FDPAs supported the bill with these amendments. Two public hearings were held on the bill and amendments by the Committee. The amendments to the bill were considered on the Senate floor and passed with a vote of 48 to 1. Senator Aument of Lancaster then introduced an amendment that would create regional elections of appellate judges introducing districting problems into the judiciary. The amended bill was opposed by FDPAs, but it was passed by the Senate with that amendment and returned to the House for concurrence.

In the House, the bill was referred to the Rules Committee, which released it to the floor. Members introduced over 600 amendments largely to stall progress and run out the clock before the summer recess. To overcome this strategy, Rep. Samuelson introduced an amendment that eliminated all the language the other amendments addressed and restored the Senate's language without the Aument amendment. Speaker Mike Turzai adjourned the House for summer recess before this action could be taken.

In mid-July, Senate leaders Corman and Scarnati published a letter to House leadership asking them reconvene the House to finish the work of redistricting reform. Speaker Turzai ignored it. Many of his constituents in the North Hills have tried unsuccessfully to speak with him both by requesting appointments and by showing up at his office without an appointment.

FDPA took a break in the fall to rethink strategy and to see what changes the fall elections would make in the legislature. FDPA's current approach consists of two parts:

- Adopt a new two-bill strategy in the PA legislature that keeps redistricting for Congress separate from redistricting for the state legislature.
- Demand that the rules of procedure in the PA House of Representatives be revised to remove the roadblocks the rules presented for getting bills considered.

**The two-bill strategy:**

- **House Bill 23:** Statute to change the Congressional redistricting process. If passed in 2019-2020 session, commission is selected, trained and in place by start of 2021. This is a simple legislative process. It does not require amending the PA Constitution.
- **House Bill 22:** Pennsylvania Constitutional amendment to change the state legislative (PA House and Senate) redistricting process. If passed in the 2019-2020, then early in 2021, it would go to referendum on the May primary ballot in 2021.
- This sequence would permit the commission put in place in 2020 for Congressional redistricting to also do the PA legislative districts, so all districts are drawn in time for the 2022 elections.

**Rules changes:** The 11 changes to the House rules that FDPA supports include:

- Bills with bipartisan support must be given a vote in committee.
- Bills that are reported favorably from committee must be guaranteed debate and a vote on the House floor.
- Mechanisms must be put in place to remove committee chairs who are unable to moderate fairly.

Sue Broughton

# **LWVGP BYLAWS (Revised May 16, 2012, Amended May 18, 2017)**

Adopted at the First Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh, Inc., held at the County Convention on May 14, 2003. These Bylaws were amended to reflect the incorporation of the League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh, Inc. as a Pennsylvania non-profit corporation and on May 9, 2007 were amended to conform to bylaws of the League of Women Voters of the United States

## **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER PITTSBURGH**

### **ARTICLE I**

Sec. 1. **Name**. The name of this organization shall be the League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh, Inc. (referred to in these Bylaws as "LWVGP" or as the "League"). This League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States and of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania.

### **ARTICLE II**

#### **PURPOSE AND POLICY**

Sec. 1. **Purposes**. The purposes of the LWVGP shall be to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected government issues.

Sec. 2. **Political Policy**. The LWVGP shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidates.

Sec. 3. **Charitable Policy**. The LWVGP is organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these Articles, the LWVGP shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from Federal Income Tax under such provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. No substantial part, as defined by the IRS regulations, of the expenditures of the LWVGP shall be incurred to influence legislation.

### **ARTICLE III**

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

Sec. 1. **Eligibility**. Any person who subscribes to the purpose and policies of the League shall be eligible for Membership.

Sec. 2. **Types of Membership**. The Membership of the League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh shall be composed of voting Members and associate Members:

- a) Voting Members: Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues and of the LWVUS; (1) Citizens

who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League; (2) Those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be a state member-at-large; (3) Those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be honorary life members excused from payment of dues. All privileges as a voting member will be retained.

- b) Associate Members shall be all other Members.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **OFFICERS**

Sec. 1. **Enumeration and Election of Officers**. The officers of the LWVGP shall be a President or Co-Presidents, two Vice Presidents, a Secretary and a Treasurer. They shall be elected for terms of two years by the delegates at the Annual Meeting and take office immediately. The President, 2nd Vice President and Secretary shall be elected in even numbered years; the 1st Vice President and Treasurer shall be elected in odd numbered years.

Sec. 2. **The President**. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Membership, the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee. The President may, in the absence or disability of the Treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes. The President shall be, ex-officio, a Member of all committees except the Nominating Committee. The President shall have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of the President and perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board.

Sec. 3. **The Vice Presidents**. The Vice Presidents shall, in order of precedence, in the event of absence, disability, resignation or death of the President, possess all the powers and perform all the duties of that office. In the event that neither of the Vice Presidents is able to serve in this capacity, the Board of Directors shall appoint one of their elected directors to fill the vacancy until the next Annual Meeting. The Vice Presidents shall perform such other duties as the President and Board may designate.

Sec. 4. **The Secretary**. The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee. The Secretary shall notify all Officers and Directors of their election. The Secretary shall sign, with the President, all contract and other instruments when so authorized by the Board and shall perform such other function as may be incident to the office.

Sec. 5. **The Treasurer**. The Treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of these monies, shall deposit them in an authorized financial institution designated by the Board of Directors, and shall disburse the same in accordance with an approved budget or upon order of the Board. The Treasurer shall present statements to the Board at its regular meetings and a report to the Annual Meeting. The Treasurer shall deliver the books for a financial review to a qualified accountant or two (2) or three (3) members appointed by the President no later than three months after the close of each fiscal year.

## ARTICLE V

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sec. 1. **Number, Manner of Selection and Term of Office.** The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers of the LWVGP, six to eight elected directors and not more than eight appointed directors. Three or four directors shall be elected at the Annual Meeting each year, and they shall serve until the conclusion of their two year terms or until their successors have been qualified and elected. The officers and elected directors shall appoint directors, not exceeding eight, as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the LWVGP. The term of office of the appointed directors shall be one year or until the next Annual Meeting.

Sec. 2. **Qualifications.** All elected or appointed officers and directors of this Board must be voting Members of the League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh.

Sec. 3. **Vacancies.** Any vacancy other than President occurring in the Board of Directors may be filled, until the next Annual Meeting, by majority vote of the remaining Members of the Board of Directors. Three consecutive absences from a Board meeting of any Member without a valid reason may be deemed a resignation.

Sec. 4. **Powers and Duties.** The Board of Directors shall have full charge of the property and business of the organization with full power and authority to manage and conduct the same, subject to the instructions of the Annual Meeting. The Board shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program as adopted by the Annual Meeting. The Board shall create and designate such standing and special committees as it may deem necessary.

Sec. 5. **Regular Meetings.** There shall be at least six regular meetings of the Board of Directors annually. While meetings may be conducted in person or, if necessary, electronically, any decisions made electronically must be ratified at the next general Board Meeting. The President shall notify each Member of the Board of Directors not less than one week before the date of the meeting.

Sec. 6. **Special Meetings.** The President may call special meetings of the Board of Directors, and shall call a special meeting upon the written request of three Members of the Board. Members of the Board shall be notified of the time, place and purpose of special meetings.

Sec. 7. **Quorum.** A majority of the Members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

Sec. 8. **Voting Procedure.** A majority of those present or attending via remote access, and voting is required for adoption of all motions.

Sec. 9. **Executive Committee.** The Officers shall constitute the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall transact all necessary business that arises between meetings of the Board of Directors. All action taken by the Executive Committee shall be presented to the Board of Directors for approval at the next regular meeting. Three Members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum except that co-Presidents shall count as one for this purpose.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **Area UNIT Meetings**

Sec. 1. The Board shall establish local area unit meetings for the convenience of LWVGP members and to promote actions specific to those localities.

Sec 2.. The Board shall appoint a Chair for each such unit, and cover the responsibilities of the Chair in its Board policy manual.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION**

Sec. 1. **Fiscal Year**. The fiscal year of the LWVGP shall commence on July 1, coincident with the fiscal year of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

Sec. 2. **Dues**. . The annual dues amount shall be recommended to the Membership by the Board of Directors subject to the approval by majority vote at the Annual Meeting. Notwithstanding the discretion of the membership to authorize different dues payable by students or second members of the household, all such are entitled to one vote if they meet the requirements of Article III Section 2a. The Board shall set policies for when the dues are payable and when the memberships lapse.

Sec. 3. **Budget**. The Board of Directors shall submit to the Annual Meeting for approval a budget for the ensuing year. A copy of the proposed budget shall be sent to each Member by mail or electronically at least three weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.

Sec. 4. **Budget Committee**. A Budget Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors at least two months prior to the Annual Meeting to prepare a budget for the ensuing year. The Treasurer shall not be eligible to serve as chairman of the Budget Committee.

Sec. 5. **Distribution of Funds Upon Dissolution**. In the event of dissolution of the LWVGP for any cause, all monies and securities which may at the time be owned by or under the absolute control of the LWVGP shall be paid to the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania, Citizens Education Fund, which is exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code. All other property of whatsoever nature, whether real, personal, or mixed, which may at the time be owned by or under the control of the League shall be disposed of by any officer of the organization for such public, charitable, or educational uses and purposes as may be designated by the then Board of Directors of the LWVGP.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **MEETINGS**

Sec. 1. **Membership Meetings.** There shall be at least two meetings, one of which may be the Annual Meeting, for the total Membership each year. The time and place of these meetings shall be determined by the Board of Directors. The Board shall call a special general Membership meeting upon a written request signed by 20% of the voting Members.

Sec. 2. **Annual Meeting.** An Annual Meeting shall be held no later than July first, with the exact date to be determined by the Board of Directors. At the Annual Meeting the Membership shall:

1. adopt a Program for the ensuing year, elect officers, directors and three non-board Members of the Nominating Committee,
2. adopt a budget,
3. set the amount of dues, and
4. transact such other business as may properly come before it.

Sec. 3. **Quorum.** Thirty five Members or ten percent of the paid Membership, which ever is less, shall constitute a quorum at all Membership meetings of the League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

Sec. 1. **Nominating Committee.** The Nominating Committee shall consist of five Members, two of whom shall be Members of the Board of Directors. Three Members who shall not be Members of the Board, shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. Nominations for these offices shall be made by the current Nominating Committee. The two Board Members shall be appointed by the Board of Directors promptly following the Annual Meeting. The Chair shall be chosen by the Committee from the non-board Members of the Committee. Any vacancy on the Nominating Committee shall be filled by the Board of Directors. Suggestions for nominations for Officers and Directors may be sent to this committee by any voting Member.

Sec. 2. **Report of Nominating Committee and Nominations from the Floor.** The report of the Nominating Committee of its nominations for Officers, Directors, and the Members of the Nominating Committee shall be sent to all Members three weeks before the date of the Annual Meeting either in the Voter or electronically. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be presented at the Annual Meeting. Immediately following the presentation of this report, nominations may be made from the floor by any voting Member provided the prior consent of the nominee shall have been secured.

Sec. 3. **Elections.** The election shall be by ballot, except when there is but one nominee for each office, it shall be in order to move that the Secretary cast a ballot for every candidate. A majority shall be required for the election of any office. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted.

## ARTICLE X

### PRINCIPLES AND PROGRAM

Sec. 1. **Principles**. The Principles are concepts of government adopted by the national convention and supported by the League as a whole. They are the authorization for the adoption of national, state, and local program.

Sec. 2. **Program**. The LWVGP Program shall consist of: a) action to implement the principles of the League of Women Voters of the United States, and b) those governmental issues chosen for concerted study and action

Sec. 3. **Program Selection**. The Membership at the Annual Meeting shall select the Program, using the following procedures:

- 1) The Board of Directors shall consider recommendations for the Program submitted by each local unit as well as individual voting Members two months prior to the Annual Meeting and shall formulate a Proposed Program. This should include any recommendations to drop currently held positions, retain currently held positions and recommendations for any new study items or updates of existing positions;
- 2) The Proposed Program shall be sent to all Members at least three weeks before the Annual Meeting either in the Voter or electronically. The Board shall present the Proposed Program either as a Recommended Program or as a Not Recommended Program.
- 3) Each Proposed Program item may be adopted for a period of one or two years;
- 4) A majority vote shall be required for adoption of items in the Proposed Program as presented to the Annual Meeting by the Board of Directors;
- 5) Recommendations for a Program item not recommended by the Board of Directors may be considered and adopted by the Membership at the Annual Meeting provided that: 1) the Membership shall order consideration by majority vote; 2) the Membership shall adopt the Program by a majority vote; and 3) there occurs a reasonable period of time between the vote for consideration and the vote for adoption;
- 6) In the case of unforeseen events of a serious and urgent nature, changes may be made in the Program between Annual Meetings provided that:
  - a) information concerning the proposed Program change is sent to all Members at least two weeks prior to Member consideration;

- b) the Membership consideration results in a response of at least ten percent of the Membership;
- c) the proposed change is approved by a majority of those responding; and
- d) the method of obtaining Member consideration is to be determined by the Board of Directors.

Sec.3. **Program by Concurrence.**

- a) The Board of Directors may vote to adopt all or part of any state or national program position as a Greater Pittsburgh Program, within 60 days of its having been dropped at a state or national convention, if there has been LWVGP study of the Program
- b) The method of obtaining approval from the Membership shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

Sec. 4. **Action.** A Member of the League may speak or act in the name of the League only when authorized by the Board of Directors or Executive Committee.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

Sec. 1. **Parliamentary Authority.** The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the LWVGP in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE XII**

### **CONVENTION AND COUNCIL**

Sec. 1. **State Convention.** The LWVGP Board of Directors, at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the state office, may select delegates to that Convention under the provisions of the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania.

Sec.2. **National Convention or Council.** The LWVGP Board at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the national office may select delegates to that Convention under the provisions of the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

## **ARTICLE XIII**

### **PERSONAL USE OF CORPORATE FUNDS PROHIBITED**

Section 1. **Personal Use of League Funds**. No League funds shall be used for the personal use by any Member, Director, Officer, Employee, or other person or entity associated therewith, and similarly no League asset will inure to personal benefit of any such person or entity.

## **ARTICLE XIV**

### **LIABILITY**

Sec. 1. **Contracts, Liability**. No officer or committee of the LWVGP, or any other person, shall contract or incur any debt on behalf of the LWVGP, pledge the LWVGP 's credit, or in any way render it liable, in any amount more than \$500 unless authorized by the Board of Directors.

## **ARTICLE XV**

### **INDEMNIFICATION**

Sec. 1. **General**. The LWVGP shall indemnify each of its Directors, each of its Officers, each of its employees designated for indemnification by the LWVGP Board of Directors, and each member of a committee, for the defense of civil proceedings as hereinafter provided in this Article.

Sec. 2. **Non-Derivative Action**. In case of action other than one by or on behalf of the LWVGP to procure a judgment in its favor, the LWVGP shall indemnify each of its Directors, Officers, employees, or committee members, as aforesaid, from and against all judgments, fines, amounts paid in settlement, and reasonable expenses, including attorney's fees, actually and necessarily incurred as a result of such action imposed or asserted against such Director, Officer, employee or committee member, as aforesaid, by reason of his or her being or having been a Director, Officer, employee, or committee member, as aforesaid, but only in the event that a determination shall have been made, either judicially or in the manner hereinafter provided, that such Director, Officer, employee, or committee member, as aforesaid, acted in good faith for a purpose which he or she reasonably believed to be in the best interest of the League. This indemnification shall be made only if the LWVGP shall be advised by its Board that the Director, Officer, employee, or committee member, as aforesaid, has met the afore stated standard of conduct. In rendering such advice, the Board shall act either (1) by a quorum consisting of Directors who are not parties to such action, or (2) if such a quorum is not attainable with due diligence, upon the opinion in writing of independent legal counsel. If the foregoing determination is to be made by the Board, it may rely, as to all questions of law, on the advice of independent legal counsel.

Sec. 3. **Derivative Action**. In the case of an action by or on behalf of the League to procure a judgment in its favor, the League shall indemnify each of its Directors, Officers, employees, or committee members, as aforesaid, from and against the reasonable expenses, including

attorney's fees actually and necessarily incurred by any such Director, Officer, employee, or committee member, as aforesaid, in connection with such action or an appeal therefrom, except with respect to matters as to which such Director, Officer, employee, or committee member, as aforesaid, is adjudged, pursuant to the method described in Section 2, immediately above, to have breached his or her duty to the LWVGP by not discharging his or her obligation to the LWVGP in good faith and with reasonable degree of diligence, care, and skill which ordinarily prudent men or women would exercise under similar circumstances in like positions.

Sec. 4. **Applicability**. Every reference in this Article to a Director of the LWVGP shall include every Director, Officer, employee, or committee member, as aforesaid, thereof or former Director, Officer, employee, or committee member, as aforesaid, thereof. The right of indemnification herein provided shall be in addition to any and all rights to which any Director, Officer, employee, or committee member, as aforesaid, of the LWVGP otherwise might be entitled, and the provision hereof shall neither impair nor adversely effect such rights.

## **ARTICLE XVI**

### **AMENDMENTS**

Sec. 1. **Amendments**. These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting Members present and voting at the Annual Meeting, provided the amendments were submitted to the Membership in writing at least one month in advance of the meeting. Proposals for amendments shall be submitted by any League Member to the Board of Directors at least two months before the Annual Meeting. The Board of Directors shall forward those proposals to the Membership at least one month before the Annual Meeting with any explanations or recommendations it deems appropriate.