

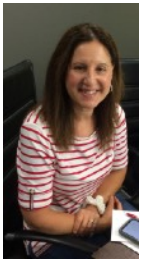
WE VOTER

League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh

Volume 26, No. 4

December 2019-January 2020

PROGRAM by Cris Beuger



The year 2020 is a monumental year for the League of Women Voters, 100th Birthday, and the Women's Suffrage Movement, 100th Anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, Women's Right to Vote. The League of Women Voters was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt in 1920, just six months before the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, giving American women (except native Americans) the right to vote after a 72-year fight for women's suffrage. We are very proud of our rich history. In 2020, the League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh has a unique opportunity to share this history and to showcase the impact of our accomplishments! During our Centennial year, we will be holding various events that will focus on "Creating a More Perfect Democracy (League of Women Voters Anniversary Slogan)" by reaching out to all residents of Greater Pittsburgh to engage, empower, educate and inform them of the importance of our history and the importance of the fight for a women's right to vote.

To accomplish this, we will be starting the year by promoting all of the Women's Suffrage Movement events, lectures, and activities going on next year in Pittsburgh through a "Pittsburgh's Women's Suffrage Centennial Calendar." The calendar will list, by month, the events organized throughout the year by Pittsburgh organizations, such as Historical Societies, the Heinz History Center, City of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Black Legacy, Carlow College, Pennsylvania Center for Women and Politics at Chatham University, and the Western Pennsylvania Juneteenth Celebration. This commemorative project, a color, trifold brochure, will be distributed throughout Allegheny County by the featured organizations and by the League at all Carnegie Libraries, YMCA's, universities, colleges, and schools throughout the county. If you are aware of any events going on next year, please let the Centennial Committee know!

In addition, in February the League of Women Voters celebrates its 100th Birthday! To celebrate and honor our 100th birthday, we have partnered with the Heinz History Center to share with the city the history of our beginning, our birth, as an organization fighting for women's rights. This free, educational event, "Women Forging the Way: The Life of Susan B. Anthony & The Story of Pittsburgh Suffragists," will be held on February 15, 1-3pm, at the Heinz History Center. We have invited a "living" Susan B. Anthony, the pioneer of the women's suffrage movement, to present "IS IT A CRIME TO VOTE?." The 60-minute dramatization, presented by living history actress, Christina Rausa, features Susan B. Anthony voting in the 1872 Presidential Election, being arrested, and standing trial. Also depicted in the play is Anthony's life-long affiliation with Elizabeth Cady Stanton. The audience will hear two of Anthony's most famous speeches: "The Stump Speech" and "The True Woman Speech."



The Heinz History Center will also be unveiling its new "Women's History Gallery Guide," an interactive digital experience filled with challenges and puzzles. Attendees will be encouraged to explore the museum galleries and make connections with important women's stories in Pittsburgh history, explore our archives, and to make civic-minded buttons and posters. This afternoon, dedicated to celebrating the stories and successes of women who fought for the right to vote, has the historical significance of being Susan B. Anthony's birthday

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HOLIDAYS AND A NEW YEAR



Happy Holidays to all! We have many to celebrate at this time of the year. I hope yours involves family and friends, and a relaxing time together. We are anticipating our daughter coming for a visit for a week – the best gift of all!

The upcoming new year of 2020 is a momentous one for all of us. We will be celebrating 100 years of most women having the right to vote in every state. Stay tuned for events happening throughout the year here in Pittsburgh. We will be sponsoring and participating in these events – some will be on our calendar and some will be on a county and city wide calendar.

This year also marks a once in a decade happening – the Census. Everyone in the United States is to be counted, as we do every ten years. The results from the census will help to determine where our tax dollars are spent, where we need more infrastructure, what supports local communities may need, etc. (The census records, by the way, are sealed for 72 years after the census as far as personally identifiable information. Only the individual can request information about themselves during that period, not any government agencies, etc.) The census records are also very helpful for those of us who enjoy genealogy – showing us where and when our ancestors were born, where they lived, what kind

of an education they had, and so much more. I had a good laugh at one census record from the 1850s that listed one ancestor's occupation as "old lady" – she was only a few years older than I am now!

The third event next year will be federal and state elections. We will elect members of the Pennsylvania legislature and the U.S. House of Representatives, and we will choose a president. This election will take place on new machines in Allegheny County. Keep an eye out for the opportunity to learn more about the new machines and perhaps sign up with Allegheny County to work at the polls on election day. It is a long day, but always rewarding – great to see and congratulate first time voters and also those that have been voting each and every time.

A big year ahead of us – a celebration of the 100th anniversary of women voting across our nation, a national enumeration of everyone, and the election of the representatives that speak for us in Harrisburg and Washington and the election of a president. A busy year ahead!

Maureen Mamula

Continued from page 1

And, we would like everyone attending this program, especially the youth, to leave with this knowledge.

"No country ever has had or will have peace until every citizen has a voice in their government" and "It is our duty to discuss, agitate and petition... [until equality is recognized for all humankind]"

– Susan B. Anthony.

By bringing her story to life, the League of Women Voters Greater Pittsburgh hopes to ignite a passion for active civic engagement and to foster a desire to become the leaders of tomorrow in our local youth. The goal of this event, as with all of the League's services, events, programs, activities over the last 100 years, is to educate, inspire, and empower people to become active participants in our democracy. That is the only way to work towards "Creating a More Perfect Democracy." To make this event a success, we need all League members to participate and market this event to their communities! So, mark your calendars and plan to attend our birthday celebration!

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Facebook	www.facebook.com	Search: League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh	

NEW MEMBERS

Pittsburgh Central

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NON-FICTION BOOK CLUB

The subject of our November book club was to read a book on immigration. That's what we all did, but the subject is so compelling, and not everyone got a chance to report on their book. We decided to extend it to the December meeting. So...

Friday, December 20 – book subject "Immigration" – there are many in the library system. Pick one, read it, and join us for discussion.

Standing Meetings

Board Meetings

- ✓ **Second Monday** of the month.
Lunch at 11:30 a.m., at Einstein Bagels in the Koppers Building.
Meeting: 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the LWVGP CIC (office) conference room at 436 Seventh Ave., Suite 350

Local Area Unit Meetings

- ✓ **Pittsburgh Central:** 2nd Friday, 1:30 p.m. at the Squirrel Hill Public Library, 5801 Forbes Ave., Pgh. PA 15217. Contact Martha Raak at 412-802-7266 or marbiker1@gmail.com
- ✓ **North Hills:** 3rd Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. at St Paul's Methodist Church at 1965 Ferguson Road in Hampton. Contact Shirley McIlvried at 412-364-7329 or howardmciii@comcast.net
- ✓ **South Hills:** 1st Thursday, 12:30 p.m. at the Mt. Lebanon Public Library, 16 Castle Shannon Blvd., Pgh, PA 15228 (unless otherwise announced). Contact Maureen Mamula at 412-760-9642 or mamula159@hotmail.com

Other Ongoing Meetings

- ✓ **Education Committee**
4th Wednesday, 1 pm. Contact Evelyn Murrin at 412-661-3306 or evelynmurrin@aol.com.
- ✓ **Voter Service Committee**
1st Tuesday, 12:30 pm. Contact Judy Clack at 512-731-0280 or jblack@yahoo.com.
- ✓ **Gun Safety Committee**
Dates TBD. Contact Nancy Naragon at 412-366-2446 or nancynaragon@msn.com
- ✓ **Non-fiction Book Club**
3rd Friday, 10:15 am. Contact Judy Donohue at 412-373-8697 or jrdono71@gmail.com

DECEMBER-JANUARY-FEBRUARY CALENDAR

December – No unit meetings in December

03 Tue	Voter Service Committee, 12:30 pm, CIC office
04 Wed	Naturalization & Voter Reg., U.S.C.I.S. Penn Center, 12:30, 2:15 pm
09 Mon	Board Meeting
20 Fri	Naturalization & voter registration, Federal Courthouse, 9:00 am
20 Fri	Non-Fiction Book Club, Squirrel Hill Library, 10:15 am
25 Wed	Christmas Day, office closed

January

01 Wed	New Year's Day, Office closed
02 Thur	South Hills Unit Meeting
07 Tue	Voter Service Committee, 12:30 pm, CIC office
08 Wed	Naturalization & Voter Reg., U.S.C.I.S. Penn Center, 12:30, 2:15 pm
10 Fri	Pittsburgh Central Meeting
12 Sun	Holiday Party, See page 5
13 Mon	Board Meeting
17 Fri	Naturalization & voter registration, Federal Courthouse, 9:00 am
17 Fri	Non-Fiction Book Club, Squirrel Hill Library, 10:15 am
20 Mon	Martin Luther King Day, Office closed
21 Tue	North Hills Unit Meeting
22 Wed	Education Advocacy Com. Meeting, Squirrel Hill Library, 1:00 pm

February

04 Tue	Voter Service Committee, 12:30 pm, CIC office
06 Thur	South Hills Unit Meeting
10 Mon	Board Meeting
14 Fri	Pittsburgh Central Meeting
14 Fri	LWV Birthday – 100!
18 Tue	North Hills Unit Meeting
21 Fri	Naturalization & voter registration, Federal Courthouse, 9:00 am
21 Fri	Non-Fiction Book Club, Squirrel Hill Library, 10:15 am
26 Wed	Education Advocacy Com. Meeting, Squirrel Hill Library, 1:00 pm



League Member Michelle Knoll will be speaking to us about her new non-profit, Progress Through Pages. Progress Through Pages gets books into the hands of children to read with their caregivers. These are new and gently used books that the children select and own. She accepts all donations of gently used or new books and will get them to children to promote reading and literacy. If you would like to donate, bring a new or gently used book to the Holiday Party.

One on one with your local legislator—

Members, LWVPA is giving us an opportunity, as they do every year, to sit and interview a legislator. They send us a list of questions. We go, alone or with another member and ask the questions. Then we send the answers back to the State League. Most members who have participated in the past find it interesting and rewarding and helpful to League.

Any of you in any of our units who would like to do this, please contact me. If you have done these in the past, I will be contacting you. But we always need more members.

The interviews are usually held in January and into early February. Most of the legislators are very cordial and willing to accommodate us. As we have found, however, there are a few that are reluctant to meet with us. Always a challenge.

Thank you,
Judy Donohue
412-373-8697; 412-576-7849
jrdono71@gmail.com

Information You May Want

Did you miss the well-received 2019 Shale & Public Health Conference? You can find conference videos and the program book at <https://www.shalepalwv.org/2019-shale-public-health-conference/>.



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LWVGP CIVIC EDUCATION- HIGH SCHOOL VISITS UPDATE FOR DECEMBER 2019

by Amy Kleissas

For the past two years we have been incorporating teacher and student feedback and our own experiences to refine our classroom presentation and voter registration process for high school students. Now in our third year, we are ready to hit the ground running. Presenters Susan Duncan, Susan Fair, Amy Kleissas, Michele Knoll, and Joanne Moore met on October 23rd to practice the “Voting Made Easy” PowerPoint presentation and to resolve questions about the scope of this project. Agreement was reached that the presenters would make every effort to be available for as many school visits as are scheduled in the 2020 school year.



We had a very successful visit to Elizabeth Forward Middle School on November 14th with four presenters. Staff was enthusiastic about our visit and students were very positive on the student “post-tests.” Additionally, the assistant superintendent dropped in to one of our presentations and tweeted about it!

Two new slides showing the Voter Registration ID card and envelope were added to the presentation. It was suggested that students would be more aware of receiving the card in the mail if they knew what to look for. An application for a LWVEF grant was completed and submitted.

We have compiled a list of 21 “Key Volunteers.” These members have indicated a special interest in volunteering for this project. If you would like to be included in emails to “Key Volunteers” for high school visits being scheduled from February through June, 2020, please email Amy Kleissas at amy.kleissas@gmail.com.

Scheduling Update: From a list of 19 Allegheny County High Schools with highest “Free and Reduced Lunch” populations, plus a few other schools:

These schools are firm commitments; still working on dates where not bolded

- 1. Brentwood HS (2/7/20)**
- 2. Chartiers Valley HS (2/21/20)**
- 3. Elizabeth Forward HS (2/18/20)**
- 4. Elizabeth Forward Middle School (Visited 11/14/19)**
- 5. McKeesport HS (2/12/20)**
6. “My Place” — Affordable Housing for Aged-out Foster Children
7. Penn Hills HS (Need School Board approval before scheduling)
- 8. Plum Borough HS (3/20/20)**
9. Propel Braddock HS
- 10. South Allegheny HS (2/5/20)**
- 11. Clairton City (3/24/20)**

Probable:

12. Avonworth HS
13. Propel High Schools (2)
14. Woodland Hills (Collaboration with Calleigh Lynn McDowell – classroom presentations only, no voter registration.

Possible:

15. Gateway HS
16. North Allegheny HS
17. Pittsburgh Public High Schools (10); had one meeting with administration

VOTER SERVICE by Judy Clack, Voter Service Chair



High School Voter Registration

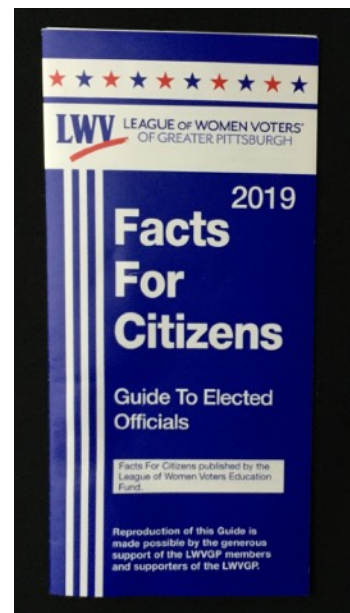
Amy Kleissas, Chair of the LWVGP High School Civic Education and Voter Registration Project, has been arranging opportunities in 2020 for the LWVGP to present civics lessons at area high schools and register seniors to vote (see previous page). Contact Amy (amy.kleissas@gmail.com) if you are interested in being trained as a presenter or serving as a volunteer.

Return Facts for Citizens

We are in urgent need of copies of the *2019 Facts for Citizens* until the 2020 edition is prepared and printed. Community members still request them, and we need 50 for each naturalization ceremony of which we volunteer in two per month. If you have extra *2019 Facts for Citizens*, contact one of us to arrange for drop off/pick up: Barb Simpson in the LWV Office (info@pgh.lwv.org), Judy Clack (jbcclack@yahoo.com) or Judy Diorio (jad2386@gmail.com).

Who Is Running for Office?

Some State Senators, all State Representatives and all members of the U.S. House of Representatives will be on the ballot in the Spring Primary, Tuesday, April 28, 2020. Whenever **YOU** learn the identity of **ANY** candidate for **ANY** race in the Allegheny County spring primary, please email that information to both Annette Shimer (arshimer@gmail.com) and Judy Clack (jbcclack@yahoo.com). They need it to build a candidate data base for VOTE411.org and to determine where we might hold a candidate forum – either for the primary or general election. Please list the candidate's full name, party, office being sought, and ANY contact information you can determine (email, phone, web page, Facebook page). We must find an email address for every candidate. Please keep these messages coming. Thank you.



Judy Diorio, the LWVGP main Team Leader at Penn Center naturalization ceremonies, addresses new citizens about the expansion of the franchise, the non-partisan nature of the LWV, and the importance of registering to vote.