

WE **League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh** **VOTER**

Volume 26, No. 2

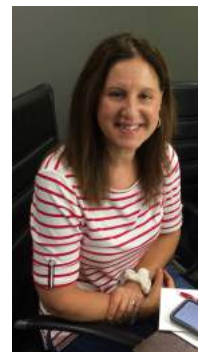
October 2019

PROGRAM FOR OCTOBER by Cris Beuger, VP Programs

The League of Women Voters has been fighting to improve our government and to engage all citizens in the democratic process since 1920. As we prepare to celebrate our first centennial and the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment in 2020, we want to begin thinking about how we, the Greater Pittsburgh League, would like to honor and celebrate this monumental milestone!

At our October meetings, we will discuss how we can share our history and showcase our current role as leaders in democracy using the Anniversary Slogan: "Creating a More Perfect Democracy" as our guide. Please come and share with us your thoughts and experiences with the League and the impact it has had on our communities. Please think about our rich history that is tied to the suffrage movement and how we can share that history with our communities through speakers, plays, art and social events.

From our unit meetings in October I would like to form a Centennial Celebration Sub-Committee that would meet in November to organize a calendar of events from January 2020 through August 2020. The upcoming year, 2020, and the Centennial Celebration gives us a unique opportunity to tell our stories and to showcase our accomplishments and the impact they have had at the local, state, and federal levels.

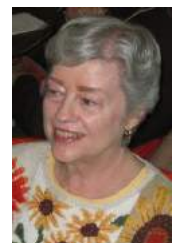


NEWS FROM STATE AND NATIONAL by Carol Walton

The LWVPA website provides some information on the push for new voting systems in Pennsylvania. In August, Pitt Cyber (Institute for Cyber Law, Policy and Security at the University of Pittsburgh) and Citizens for Better Elections released an analysis of Pennsylvania's new voting systems. The report shows that Ballot Marking Devices are nearly twice as expensive as Hand Marked Paper Ballots.

The Blue Ribbon Commission on Pennsylvania's Election Security (in which LWVPA participated) made a number of recommendations: Pennsylvania's vulnerable voting machines should be replaced with voter-marked paper ballots; the Pennsylvania General Assembly and federal government should provide funding for new machines; and cybersecurity assessments, awareness and training should be implemented.

LWVPA strongly encourages counties to purchase Hand Marked Paper Ballot systems – they are the most secure systems available. [Editor's note: Voting machines are being selected in Allegheny County the day that this VOTER is being produced – September 25 at 5 p.m. LWVGP has submitted testimony favoring the Hart Intercivic machines that we believe best fulfill the requirements for voter-marked ballots and ADA-compliant ballots. We should know the result soon.]



Continued on page 7

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**THE BEST DAYS OF THE YEAR**

We are coming to what is perhaps the best day each year for America – the General Election. It is preceded by the next-to-the-best day – National Voter Registration Day. We enjoy other special days through the year, but these two days are unique. These days are not “holidays” like Fourth of July or Thanksgiving but are days that people make a choice to participate in, even though it means making plans to go vote on a work day or to go online or fill out and mail a form to sign up to vote. No paid time off, but citizens participating in choosing their leaders, making their voices heard and shaping our future.

Thanks to those who step up and participate by voting, even though it may mean a delayed dinner, squeezing household chores into a shorter evening, or less time with children. Thanks too to volunteers like our League members and friends who were at CCAC and Carnegie Libraries this month helping people to sign up to vote, updating their registrations, and giving information about VOTE411.ORG. Thanks to our members who volunteer to help with voter forums and with VOTE411. And thanks to ALL who will vote on November 5th – those who know that their vote is important each and every time.

Maureen Mamula



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412-261-4284

The League is a nonpartisan organization whose purpose is to encourage the informed participation of citizens in government and to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

VOTER Editor: Sue Broughton

Email: info@pgh.lwv.org

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In Memoriam – Edith Stein

A founding member of the League of Women Voters of Mt. Lebanon. (1958), Edith Stein, passed away on August 13, in California. She was 98. She had emigrated from Austria in 1938.

Edith served as a vital board member and contributed to the strength and growth of the local League. She continued her membership after joining the faculty at the Mt. Lebanon High School as a German teacher. She will not be forgotten.

Mary Larsen

| LWVGP Officers / Executive Committee | | Local Area Meeting Chairs | |
|---|--|--|---------------------------------|
| President | Maureen Mamula | Pgh. Central 412-802-7266 | Martha Raak |
| V.P.1 Development, Gun safety | Nancy Naragon | North Hills 412-364-7329 | Shirley McIlvried |
| V.P.2 Program | Christina Beuger | South Hills 412-760-9642 | Maureen Mamula |
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| | | Legis. Interviews, Book Club | Judy Donohue |
| | | | |
| Staff | | | |
| Community Information Center | Manager: Barbara Simpson | Marcellus Shale Grant | Manager: Heather Harr |
| League Phone Numbers, Websites, and Social Media | | | |
| Greater Pittsburgh | 412-261-4284 | lwpgh.org | |
| Pennsylvania | 717-234-1576 | palwv.org | |
| National | 202-429-1965 | lww.org | |
| Facebook | www.facebook.com | Search: League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh | |

NEW MEMBERS

Pittsburgh Central

Janis Fink
J_w_fink@msn.com

Isabella Miller
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Lori Sobol
Isobol@aol.com

North Hills

Gloria Tagnosky
awtag@yahoo.com

Kylie Hayes
 Email – not available

Donna Aiello
donna.aiello@forecastdirect.com



At the Recovery Walk on September 14, the LWVGP crew (Marye Phillips, Clare Porac, Ellie Siegal, Cynthia Cominsky, and Judy Clack) focused on former felons who now have the right to vote in PA after they have served their sentence.

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 Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church, 311 Cumberland Rd., Pgh. PA 15237. Contact Shirley McIlvried at 412-364-7329 or howardmciiii@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 jyclack@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

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER CALENDAR

October

| | |
|---------|---|
| 01 Tue | Voter Service Committee, 12:30 pm, CIC office |
| 03 Thur | South Hills Unit Meeting - Preparing for our 100th Anniversary |
| 10 Thur | Disability Community Voting Event; Heinz History Center |
| 11 Fri | Naturalization & Voter Reg, 10:00 am, Heinz History Center |
| 11 Fri | Pittsburgh Central Meeting - Preparing for our 100th Anniversary |
| 14 Mon | Board Meeting |
| 17 Wed | North Hills Unit Meeting - Preparing for our 100th Anniversary |
| 18 Fri | Naturalization & voter registration, 9:00 am, Federal Courthouse |
| 18 Fri | Non-Fiction Book Club, Squirrel Hill Library, 10:15 am |
| 23 Wed | Education Advocacy Com. Meeting, Squirrel Hill Library, 1:00 pm |

November

| | |
|---------|--|
| 05 Tue | General Election, Polls open 7am - 8pm |
| 05 Tue | Voter Service Committee, 12:30 pm, CIC office |
| 06 Wed | Naturalization & Voter Reg., U.S.C.I.S. Penn Center, 12:30 pm |
| 07 Thur | South Hills Unit Meeting |
| 08 Fri | Pittsburgh Central Meeting |
| 11 Mon | Board Meeting |
| 15 Fri | Naturalization & voter registration, Federal Courthouse, 10:00 am |
| 15 Fri | Non-Fiction Book Club, Squirrel Hill Library, 10:15 am |
| 16 Sat | Shale Committee Conf. Call - 11 am - 12 pm |
| 19 Tue | Shale and Public Health Conference, University Club, see page 5 |
| 20 Wed | North Hills Unit Meeting |
| 27 Wed | Education Advocacy Com. Meeting, Squirrel Hill Library, 1:00 pm |
| 28 Thur | Thanksgiving Day - office closed |

LWV The Straight Scoop on Shale

A Project of the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen Education Fund

Seventh Annual Shale & Public Health Conference

Tuesday, November 19, 2019 from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM

University of Pittsburgh University Club

123 University Place

Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Presented by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania's "Straight Scoop on Shale" initiative and hosted by the University of Pittsburgh, Graduate School of Public Health. As in previous years, this year's conference will feature important new research on shale and public health impacts.

The event is free, but registration is requested. There is a buffet lunch available for \$14. (Buffet includes a vegan option.)

www.ShalePALWV.org

Featuring new research presented by national experts:

Published in July - Lisa McKenzie PhD MPH Congenital Heart Defects and intensity of oil and gas well site activity in early pregnancy

Published in April - Lee Ann Hill MPH presenting PSE Healthy Energy's examination of how Oil and Gas Waste Management in Pennsylvania has been handled from 1991-2017

Published in July - Joan A. Casey PhD of Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health on unconventional natural gas development, maternal anxiety and depression during pregnancy, and birth outcomes in Pennsylvania

..and more

If you are coming from out-of-town, a block of discounted hotel rooms is available at the Wyndham Pittsburgh University Center, (412) 682-6200.

<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/groups/hr/shale-and-public-health-conference>

League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania

Straight Scoop on Shale * 1-800-617-4253 * shalemarcella@gmail.com

VOTER SERVICE

by Judy Clack, Voter Service Chair

October Candidate Forums



The League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh is the lead organizer for eight candidate forums in October. We'll need up to 8 League volunteers each night. Tasks range from serving as a greeter, a runner, a timer, a question sorter, to a moderator. Detailed instructions will be sent to you. If you are available to help at one or more of these candidate forums, contact Judy Clack, jbclack@yahoo.com or 512-731-0280.

We need YOU!

1. **Wed. Oct. 2**, 7 – 9:30 pm, **North Allegheny School Board with Allegheny County Council District 2**, North Allegheny Senior High School Auditorium, 10375 Perry Highway, Wexford, 15090. Co-sponsor: North Allegheny Senior High School Student Council who will provide some volunteers.
2. **Tues. Oct. 8**, 7 – 8:30 pm, **Pittsburgh City Council District 1**, at Pittsburgh UNITED, 841 California Ave, Pittsburgh, 15212. Co-sponsors: Pittsburgh UNITED and Black Political Empowerment Project (B-PEP).
3. **Thurs. Oct. 10**, 7 – 8:30 pm, **Pittsburgh City Council District 9** at Carrone Baptist Church, 7119 Frankstown Ave., Pittsburgh, 15208. Co-sponsors: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Black Political Empowerment Project (B-PEP), and Voter Empowerment Education & Enrichment Movement (VEEEM).
4. **Mon. Oct. 14**, 7 – 9:30 pm, **Allegheny County Chief Executive, County Controller, County District Attorney**, at CCAC Allegheny, Foerster Student Services Center Auditorium, 808 Ridge Avenue, Pittsburgh, 15212. Co-sponsors: American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Black Political Empowerment Project (B-PEP), and Pittsburgh UNITED. CCAC Honor Students and Political Science Club will provide some volunteers.
5. **Thurs. Oct. 17**, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, **Plum School Board**, at Plum Community Center, 499 Center New Texas Road, Plum 15239.
6. **Tues. Oct. 22**, 7:00 – 9:30 pm, **Hampton Township School District and Hampton Township Council**, Hampton High School Auditorium, 2929 McCully Road, Allison Park, PA 15101. Co-sponsor: HAPPEN: Hampton Parents and Professional Education Network.
7. **Thurs. Oct. 24**, 6:00 – 8:30 pm, **Allegheny County Council District 5 and Upper St. Clair School Board**, at Bethel Park Community Center, 5151 Park Avenue, Bethel Park, 15102.
8. **Tues. Oct. 29**, 7 – 8:30 pm, **Bellevue Borough Council**, at Center of Bellevue, 2 N. Sprague Ave., Bellevue, 15202
9. No arrangements yet: **Magisterial District Judge Coraopolis**

NON-FICTION BOOK CLUB

October book is *Our Towns: A 100,000-Mile Journey into the Heart of America*, by James and Deborah Fellows. (This was the book for the September meeting that was cancelled.)

Book Club contact is Judy Donohue: 412-373-8697 or jrdono71@gmail.com.

News from State and National, continued from page 1

LWVUS urges you to contact your US Senators (Casey and Toomey) in support of the “For the People Act.” This is the companion legislation to HR1 which was introduced in the House of Representatives at the beginning of 2018. This legislation would make it easier to vote by improving access, removing barriers and modernizing the system; promote integrity by restoring the Voting Rights Act, prohibiting voter role purges and ending partisan gerrymandering; and bolstering election security. It would end the dominance of big money in politics through stricter disclosure rules, by empowering citizens (as opposed to corporations), and strengthening oversight by the Federal Election Commission. It would also ensure that public officials work for the public interest by strengthening ethics laws, slowing the revolving door and imposing greater ethics enforcement.

Both LWVUS and LWVPA are gearing up to focus on the 2020 Census which will “shape our nation’s government, public policy and budgets for an entire decade.” The important data collected will be used to make decisions about education, healthcare, infrastructure, and political representation. The Census is constitutionally required to count every person living in the United States. Adequate funding and person power is essential to getting a complete count; tell your legislators we must fully fund the Census and make sure everyone is counted.



Shaler Library may have won the prize for the best set up for League volunteers on National Voter Registration Day, September 24. Linda Schneider and Jane Butler surround librarian Beth Lawry.



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GREAT ISSUES: TWO PERSPECTIVES ON IMMIGRATION

Please join us for the first panel discussion in our 2019-2020 Great Issues series. The dialogue will take place from 7-8:30pm in the Redeemer parish hall, Thursday, October 3. We are excited to welcome two panelists to discuss the causes and the economic impact of immigration.

Brian Kovak is an Associate Professor of Economics and Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University's Heinz College. He received a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Michigan in 2010 and his research focuses on the labor market impacts of international trade, migration, and technological change. His research has been reported in media outlets ranging from the Atlantic and Slate to the Financial Times and the Wall Street Journal.

Javier Vazquez D'Elia has a degree in International Studies from ORT University of Uruguay, and a doctorate in Political Science from the University of Pittsburgh. He is currently a professor and researcher at the Pitt Center for Latin American Studies. He specializes in the comparative political economy of social policy reform, democratization, and problems of democratic governance.



No charge for admission, freewill donations graciously accepted.

GREAT ISSUES FORUM AT REDEEMER

**7-8:30pm October
3, 2019: Two
Perspectives on
Immigration**

**We seek to promote
understanding and
encourage action
around justice
issues.**

CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER, SQUIRREL HILL

5700 Forbes Avenue,
Pittsburgh, PA 15217
412.422.7100
redeemerpittsburgh.org

