

# League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh

# WV VOTER

Volume 26, No. 1

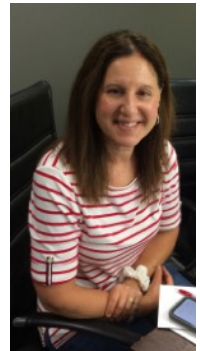
September 2019

## LWVGP KICK-OFF MEETING by Cris Beuger, VP Programs

**Fall Kick-off, Dinner, Wednesday Sept 18, 2019, 5:30 - 8:30pm,  
Koppers Building Conference Center, Mellon Room**

**Catered dinner will be served. Price \$24.00. For reservations call or email Barbara at the League office, 412-261-4284 or [info@pgh.lwv.org](mailto:info@pgh.lwv.org) or pay on line through our website <http://lwvpgh.org>. RSVP by Sept 11.**

Earlier this year, I nominated two motivated teachers, Joelle Keats, Social Studies Dept. Chair, North Allegheny School District, and Karina Montgomery, Mount Lebanon High School Social Studies, to attend The Harvard Case Method Project, a professional development program, in Boston this August. I first learned of this project, a 2-year collaboration between the League of Women Voters of Greenwich and the award-winning Harvard Business School Professor David Moss, during the LWVUS Convention in Chicago last Summer where they presented their incredibly popular and successful 2017 Community Pilot Case Discussion. The case discussion replicated Professor Moss' popular class at Harvard and was based on his book, "Democracy: A Case Study."



From the drafting of the Constitution to the recent Citizens United Supreme Court decision, the book applies the Harvard case study teaching method to nineteen pivotal episodes in American political history. The Harvard Case Study method fosters critical thinking and a deep understanding of defining moments in American democracy by assigning participants, high school students and their parents, homework, reading the short case in advance and assigned roles. Then, the participants "become" the important historical figures in the case study and take part in a cross-party debate and learning experience, encouraging enthusiasm around political engagement. The program's goal is to encourage voter commitment to the process of an informed and reasoned debate, something League members see as the cornerstone of a well-functioning democracy.

The Greenwich League surveyed its community pilot project participants, students, parents, and teachers, and found that taking part in the case study had a discernible and positive impact on civic behavior with 70% of their participants saying they would be much more likely to engage in constructive political dialogue; 50% of their participants saying they would be much more likely to vote; and 45% of their participants saying they would be much more likely to get involved in politics. Because of its impact and success, the Greenwich League decided to make the Community Case Discussion an annual event. Therefore, teachers who attend the professional development program commit to moderate a community case discussion with their local Leagues annually, resulting in these case discussions happening in communities all around the country.

I was one of 300 League members who attended the Greenwich League's presentation of this project, and the LWVGP was one of 150 Leagues nation-wide that expressed interest in nominating teachers for an August 2019 workshop. From the 150 Leagues, one third were successful in having their teachers go through a competitive

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Maureen is taking a break from writing this column this month. Please enjoy these photos that Judy Clack has supplied.



League members distribute American flags and presidential letters to new citizens at the Aug. 16 naturalization: Judge Nora Barry Fischer, new citizen, Administrator Michael Palus, Kathy Scheuble, Joan Cucinotta, Maria Magone, and Deb Simak.



Five Leaguers tabled at the Out of Darkness Walk sponsored by the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention on Aug. 17 to register participants to vote and distribute [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org) business cards: Jan Harrison, Judy Clack, Cynthia Cominsky, Clare Porac, and Amy Kleissas.

<— Smiling after registering new citizens to vote on Aug. 16 at the Federal Courthouse are Deb Simak, Maria Magone, Joan Cucinotta, Judy Clack, Jessica Lynch (speaker), and Kathie Scheuble.



Leagha Courtney (center back) served as LWVGP secretary for many years but recently moved to Texas for her job. The LWVGP Board wishes her well. Back row: Preston Shimer, Maureen Mamula, Louise Cannon, Leagha Courtney, Ron Bandes, Annette Shimer, Cris Beuger. Front row: Nancy Naragon, Eileen Olmsted, and Sue Broughton.

Volume 26 No 1

September 2019

Published monthly except January, June and August by

League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh  
436 Seventh Ave., Suite 350  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
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.

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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	<a href="http://lwvpgh.org">lwvpgh.org</a>	
Pennsylvania	717-234-1576	<a href="http://palwv.org">palwv.org</a>	
National	202-429-1965	<a href="http://lwv.org">lwv.org</a>	
Facebook	<a href="http://www.facebook.com">www.facebook.com</a>	Search: League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh	

## NEW MEMBERS

### Pittsburgh Central

Nancy Bryant

[Nancyw.bryant@icloud.com](mailto:Nancyw.bryant@icloud.com)

Corrine Day

[Cors36@gmail.com](mailto:Cors36@gmail.com)

Susan Segal

[beemje@gmail.com](mailto:beemje@gmail.com)

### North Hills

Linda Jean Philpott

[lindajeannruss@gmail.com](mailto:lindajeannruss@gmail.com)

### South Hills

Candace Sullivan

[lintort@comcast.net](mailto:lintort@comcast.net)

Kathryn Schwaba

[kschwaba@aol.com](mailto:kschwaba@aol.com)



Waiting in the jury box prior to registering new citizens at the the July 19 Federal Courthouse naturalization ceremony are Christine Peters (speaker), Jan Harrison, Deb Simak, Maria Magone, Ellie Siegal, and Nancy Bryant.



## 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](mailto: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 [howardmciii@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:mamula159@hotmail.com)

### Other Ongoing Meetings

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

## SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER CALENDAR

### September – No Unit meetings in September.

03 Tue	Voter Service Committee, 12:30 pm, CIC office
09 Mon	Board Meeting
11 Wed	Naturalization & Voter Reg., U.S.C.I.S. Penn Center, 12:30 pm
11 Wed	MVPC and CCAC South, Community Connections Fair, 12:30 pm
14 Sat	Pittsburgh Recovery Walk, Alco Parking Lot 11 <sup>th</sup> Street/ Waterfront Place, 8:00 am
14 Sat	McCandless Community Day, Voter registration
17 Tue	Constitution Day; CCAC – 8 campuses and centers
18 Wed	<b>Kick-Off meeting, E.P. Mellon Room, Koppers Building, 5:30 pm</b>
19 Thur	Shale Public Health Committee Meeting: CIC office, 12:30 pm
20 Fri	Naturalization & voter registration, Federal Courthouse, 10:00 am
20 Fri	Non-Fiction Book Club, Squirrel Hill Library, 10:15 am
24 Tue	National Voter Registration Day – Allegheny County Libraries
25 Wed	Education Advocacy Com. Meeting, Squirrel Hill Library, 1:00 pm
<b>October</b>	
01 Tue	Voter Service Committee, 12:30 pm, CIC office
03 Thur	<b>South Hills Unit Meeting</b>
10 Thur	Disability Community Voting Event; Heinz History Center
11 Fri	<b>Pittsburgh Central Unit Meeting</b>
14 Mon	Board Meeting
17 Wed	<b>North Hills Unit Meeting</b>
18 Fri	Naturalization & voter registration, 9:00 am, Federal Courthouse
18 Fri	Non-Fiction Book Club, Squirrel Hill Library, 10:15 am
23 Wed	Naturalization & Voter Reg., U.S.C.I.S. Penn Center, 12:30 & 2:15 pm
23 Wed	Education Advocacy Com. Meeting, Squirrel Hill Library, 1:00 pm

*Program, continued from Page 1*

process and ultimately be selected to travel to Harvard University for training with Professor David Moss. Both of our nominees, Joelle Keats and Karina Montgomery, were accepted to the training program and have both returned from the training enthusiastic about incorporating the cases into their classes.

From the League of Women Voters of Greenwich Press Release, July 2109: *"The League of Women Voters of Greenwich is pleased to announce that its 2-year collaboration with the Harvard Case Method Project has culminated in nearly 80 outstanding high school teachers from 21 states being selected to attend a cutting-edge professional development program in Boston this August. Improving the content and delivery of civics education has long been a focus of League chapters around the country, and this workshop will be a major step forward in achieving that goal. The training will be led by award-winning Harvard Business School Professor, David Moss, who pioneered the use of the case study method to teach US history, government and civics. Selected teachers were all nominated by their local League chapters in a competitive process held this spring. Their immersion in the case method over 2½ days this summer will enable them to return to their schools and communities where they can engage both students and adults in lively discussions about pivotal moments in American democracy."* To learn more about this exciting case method project, I encourage you to visit [www.hbs.edu/case-method-project](http://www.hbs.edu/case-method-project).

Joelle Keats and Karina Montgomery had graciously taken time out of their Summer break to attend the 2½ day training in Boston, and they have also graciously agreed to take time out of their busy, beginning of the school year activities to speak about their training and their experience at our Kick-off Dinner. I wanted to share Karina's kind words with all of you, "I wanted to extend a big 'thank you' to you and the Pittsburgh chapter of the LWV for helping to provide me with the opportunity to attend the Case Method Project Community Workshop. It was a truly unforgettable experience and I learned so much from both the Case Method team and the other teachers I had the opportunity to speak and work with over the two and a half days. I am excited for the start of the the new school year and to implement these cases into my lessons. I think they will be extremely beneficial for students and will hopefully succeed in encouraging them to become more active and engaged citizens in the community...it was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience and opportunity."

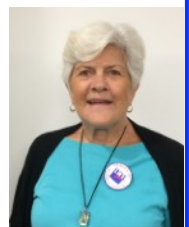
The Kick-Off Dinner will not be just the teachers speaking to us. It will also be an open discussion of the LWV-Greater Pittsburgh's collaboration with the teachers for the "Community Case Discussion Event" that we are required to coordinate for 2020. So, please come to share your thoughts and ideas!

## **EDUCATION ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT** by Joan Franklin

The Education Advocacy Committee will meet Wednesday Sept. 25 from 1.00 to 3.00pm, in the Squirrel Hill Library. The committee will be planning activities for the coming year.

Some activities that are already scheduled are:

- Great Issues Forum at Church of the Redeemer, 5700 Forbes Ave, Squirrel Hill, October 3, 7-8:30 pm: Two Perspectives on Immigration. Panel discussion with Brian Kovak, Associate Professor of Economics and Public Policy, CMU, and Javier Vazquez D'Elia, Professor and research at Pitt Center for Latin American Studies: Causes and the economic impact of immigration.
- October committee meeting, Wednesday October 23, 1:00 pm. Pam Harbison, newly elected PPS Board Member will be our speaker.



## VOTER SERVICE by Judy Clack, Voter Service Chair



'Tis the season for Voter Service. September is a big month for voter registration. October will be a big month for candidate forums. Announcements of all events will be made in the weekly **Blast**. But you can be sure to be notified if you tell me you're interested in helping with either voter registration or candidate forums. I'll add you to my own announcement list. Just email me, Judy Clack, [jbclack@yahoo.com](mailto:jbclack@yahoo.com).

LWVGP is already committed to seven voter registration events in September, including two large ones. The first large one is on Constitution Day, Tues. Sept. 17, when we'll be registering students at all eight CCAC campuses and centers, requiring 32 LWV volunteers. The second, our largest, is on National Voter Registration Day, Tues. Sept. 24, when we'll be registering patrons at 44 of Allegheny County's libraries. We'll need 88 LWV volunteers – that includes you! It's easy to sign up. Just go to this link, scroll down to find all the libraries and times, and then slide the bottom bar across to enter your name, email, and cell number. If you have trouble completing the form, just email me the information ([jbclack@yahoo.com](mailto:jbclack@yahoo.com)) and I'll be able to add you. Here's the link:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Blk\\_uYzclcXrZf4E1bWQu6Vfq8Npva0A/edit#gid=1258871018](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Blk_uYzclcXrZf4E1bWQu6Vfq8Npva0A/edit#gid=1258871018)

October will be candidate forum month for our League. Here's a list of the forums that the Voter Service Committee is planning to organize.

- 1) A triple-header county-wide forum featuring all official candidates for County Executive, County Controller, and County District Attorney.
- 2) A double-header featuring County Council District 2 and the North Allegheny School Board. This one is set with wonderful collaboration from the North Allegheny High School Student Council. It will be held in their auditorium on Wed., Oct. 2, 7 – 9:30 pm.
- 3) County Council District 5 (perhaps with an area school board)
- 4) Pittsburgh City Council District 1
- 5) Pittsburgh City Council District 9
- 6) Bellevue Borough Council
- 7) Plum School Board

Two others are under consideration:

- 8) Magisterial District Judge 05-02-25 in Coraopolis
- 9) North Hills School Board

If you know anything about any of these races (what the issues are, any of the candidates' email addresses), please email this information to me: [jbclack@yahoo.com](mailto:jbclack@yahoo.com). We will need 8 – 10 LWV volunteers at each one of these forums. Let me know if you might be interested – pending what date is confirmed. Thank you.

Voter Service needs YOU in September and October. Thanks for informing me you might be able to help.

### NON-FICTION BOOK CLUB

September book is *Our Towns: A 100,000-Mile Journey into the Heart of America*, by James and Deborah Fellows.

Book Club contact is Judy Donohue: 412-373-8697 or [jrdono71@gmail.com](mailto:jrdono71@gmail.com).

# **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 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (registration/sign-in at 8:30 a.m.)

The conference is presented by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania and hosted by the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health at the University of Pittsburgh University Club, 123 University Place, Pittsburgh 15260.

For conference details and to register, visit

<https://www.shalepalwv.org/2019-shale-public-health-conference/>



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