

VOTER

League of Women Voters of Clarion County

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Clarion, Pennsylvania

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Calendar



December 10--Saturday Deadline
for Underwear Project Donations

December 13--Tuesday-- 6 pm
Holiday party At Cass Neely's
Clarion River Camp. Directions
inside.

December 15--Thursday
Bill of Rights Day-- 225th anniversary
of the adoption of the first ten
amendments to the US Constitution.

No Board Meeting in December

January 17---Tuesday--6 pm
LWVPA Election Positions Meeting.
Clarion Free Library, lower
level--Literacy Council room.

January 31 ---Tuesday--5 pm

Clarion LWV January Board meeting
and State Program Planning
discussion. Janice Horn's 2nd house.



WELCOME TO new member Ellen Foster of Clarion. She is on the faculty of the English Department at Clarion University and was inspired to join the League because of its reputation for promoting civil discussion of issues.

Vice-President's Message

The darkest day of the year is approaching. I mean the winter solstice not the day Electors confirm the results of a particularly divisive election. The amount of light from our sun affects us in many ways from food and warmth to emotional state. It's not surprising that we use light as a metaphor and a symbol. Around Stonehenge, the ancient people didn't draw a line in the sand, they erected giant rocks to mark the point where darkness is stopped and the sun starts returning to our lives. We can tell that this was very important at least symbolically because it was enormously difficult to cut, move, and erect those gigantic rocks.

We can tell that this election was very important in the League. Just after the election we had a program on Money in Politics. Janis Stamm painted us a picture of corporations, the winner in Citizens United, as immortal psychopaths. Kevan Yenerall pointed out that while the winner of this election was outspent in traditional ways, he had exceptional amounts of earned media or free press coverage and large expenditures on "digital messaging."

Voters' rights of course have always been important in the League. Our national League tells us to focus on recruiting

more voters and combating voter suppression. Personally I am not sure we should narrow our focus that much. Accurate information on issues has been a hallmark of League over the decades. Without accurate information and cool reasoning any of us could turn into a mob.

Our January and February program meeting will provide accurate information and allow us to update our state position on election law. The committee for this study still has open positions. If you are interested in presenting some of this material please let a board member know. Presenting material is the best way to become very familiar with it. Even if you have never done a presentation, the League is a safe place to practice this skill.

This won't be the first time the League has looked at election law. In 1970 a League study reached the conclusion the US President should be elected by popular vote instead of by the Electoral College. Read the position elsewhere in this newsletter.

In January, as well as starting the study on election law on January 17th, we will be squeezing a discussion about state and local programming into our board meeting on January 31st.

The League isn't all studies and voter



recruitment. We have fun too. Our December program is a party. If recent nominations for cabinet positions or agency heads have you concerned or even depressed, please plan on joining us to help chase the winter blues away. For everyone, may all your gatherings and celebrations be joyful and peaceful.

Let your light shine in League.

Catherine



Holiday Celebration!

The Holiday Celebration will take place at Cass Neely's

Clarion River cabin (directions follow) beginning at 6:00 pm on December 13th. If you want you may bring a dish to share which will be your choice of appetizer, salad, meat, dessert or bread. Beverages will be provided as will table settings. If you haven't been able to come to many program meetings, this is a good time to get to know your fellow Leaguers.

To spark conversation, member Joyce Gendler will talk about the symbols and traditions of Chanukkah and Vice

President Holt will present the history of Christmas Lights.

Directions to Cass' Camp

[For a photo-enhanced version, [click here.](#)]

- 1) From Clarion take 5th Avenue north through Clarion, down Toby Hill
- 2) Cross Clarion River via Toby Bridge
- 3) After crossing Toby Bridge, take the first road on right - PENNY LANE. Sign says "private road" and it looks like a gravel driveway. It is about 1.5 miles through the forest from here to Cass' camp. After a somewhat sharp right turn, the road is paved.
- 4) Follow Penny Lane to the bottom of hill, where it T's.
- 5) Turn right onto West Maple Lane
- 6) Follow West Maple Lane until it forks .
- 7) Bear left at fork- that's the parking lot
You can park anywhere back there.
- 8) Camp is on left
- 9) About 30 steps on the left side of the building lead down to the party room on the lower level.



State Program Planning at Board Meet

Clarion League will be discussing the LWVPA program items at the regular board meeting on Tuesday, January 31. This is our opportunity to discuss state program positions for relevance in today's political environment. All program positions are available on the LWVPA website, if you want to review them before the meeting. There are important issues at the state level that we should focus on, and input from all members is important in deciding which ones to emphasize.

The meeting will be held at 5 pm on January 31 at Janice Horn's 2nd house. A reminder and directions will be sent out closer to the date. These discussions can be very interesting and informative. Plan to attend! The board meeting will be held after the discussion. All members are always welcome at board meetings. EF

January 17th chapter meeting--

PA Election Laws Position Update

Apportionment and redistricting, election procedures, registration requirements, alternatives to closed primaries and alternatives to 'winner take all' election systems. Do

LWVPA's positions on these topics need to be updated?

We have scheduled a discussion on these topics and consensus at our January 17th and February 21st meetings. Please take the opportunity to review the resources prior to the meetings at

<https://www.palwv.org/election-laws-review-and-update/>. LWVPA has provided a study guide and consensus questions to guide our discussion.

Much of the Alternative Elections Systems portion of the study introduces complex concepts that may be entirely new to some people. In approaching this material, the committee hoped to provide not just information for discussion, but ideas for advocacy and engagement on the local level.

Implementation of LWV positions should be undertaken with awareness of essential League principles:

§ The League of Women Voters believes that voting is a fundamental citizen right that should be guaranteed.

§ Elections should be accessible, transparent, fair, and secure.

§ Voters should have meaningful choices when they go to the polls.

§ Election policies should aim to achieve universal voter participation.

§ Access to voting should be barrier-free.

§ Every vote should count, and every vote should matter.

§ Outcomes should reflect the values and opinions of all Americans.”

These position programs are a wonderful opportunity to talk about the issues that are so important to members of the League of Women Voters. Beat cabin fever! Come to a nice warm discussion. The first meeting on this topic will be held January 17 at 6 pm at the Clarion Free Library, downstairs in the Literacy Council room.

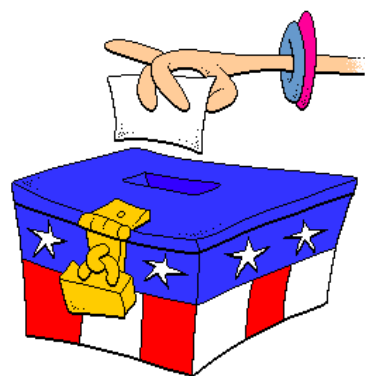
For your information----

The League’s Position on the Electoral College and the Popular Vote

Statement of Position on Selection of the President, as Announced by National Board, January 1970, Revised March 1982, Updated June 2004 and Revised by the 2010 Convention:

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice-President is

essential to representative government. The League of Women Voters believes, therefore, that the Electoral College should be abolished. We support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for election of the president until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished. The League also supports uniform voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. The League supports changes in the presidential election system – from the candidate selection process to the general election. We support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates and their positions, public policy issues and the selection process itself. The League supports action to ensure that the media, political parties, candidates, and all



levels of government achieve these goals and provide that information.



H o l i d a y P r o j e c t R e p o r t

We told you about this project last month, but here's a reminder.

Donate new children's socks and underwear to the Pennies From Heaven Underwear Project.

Please drop your underwear at Fulmer House Book Store no later than Saturday, December 10. Renee Vowinckel will be picking up our contributions early on Sunday, December 11. Thank you all in advance for helping with this very worthwhile project.



**Clarion League of Women Voters
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First Class