

VOTER

League of Women Voters of Clarion County

April 2017

Clarion, Pennsylvania

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Calendar



April 17 [Monday] Last day to register before the primary.

April 21 [Friday] THRIVE Conference in Indiana PA. Details inside.

April 22 [Saturday]---Earth Day Celebration, Clarion Free Library, 10:30 to 12:30.

April 25 [Tuesday] Board Meeting at office of Brenda Haws, 5 pm.

May 9 [Tuesday] Last day to apply for a civilian **absentee ballot.**

May 16 [Tuesday]
Municipal Primary Election Day

May 23 [Tuesday]-- LWV of Clarion County Annual Meeting and pot luck dinner, 5:30 pm
Clarion Lutheran church.
BRING COPY OF BUDGET, PAGE 3 OF THIS VOTER.

June 1-4 [Thursday-Sunday]
LWVPA CONVENTION 2017 at the Inn at Pocono Manor

Vice President's Message

As I write this, we are just short of the middle of April - a time traditionally associated with life-giving rain, preparation for primary elections, and tax returns. As a VITA volunteer I have been busy helping people with tax issues – too busy. Fortunately for my schedule, the Board decided to forgo a candidates' debate this April. Locally the only contested countywide election this year is for coroner. That is an under-appreciated position and probably deserves more attention. Please take the time to research the candidates and the issues before heading to the voting booth this primary season.

Instead of a candidates' debate, the Board decided to support the Earth Day celebration at the Clarion Free Library that Indivisible We Rise is organizing. Hope to see you there with someone important - a child, a spouse, or a friend.

Another environmental program is Thrive: Sustainable Economy Summit being cosponsored by the state League and the Indiana county League. I am looking for someone with whom to carpool to that program on April 21.

As well as these environmental programs, the coming state Convention will take time and resources. Two of our local League members, Donna Poljanec and myself, have already agreed to go. The Board has also agreed to reimburse the registration fee of two more people. It is impossible for just two people to get to all the engaging programs at conventions. If you are interested in going please contact a Board member.

Thanks go to Elisabeth Fulmer for hosting March's viewing of the movie Suffragette. Her movie snacks exceeded expectations. The movie contained several

disturbing sequences. One showed a leader concocting explosives in her pharmacy shop. We need to preserve safe effective methods of protest. National League President, Chris Carson suggests we could do that by writing letters to the editor about Congress's threat to shut down the Election Assistance Commission.

Finally our annual meeting is scheduled for May 23. In preparation for that event, this issue of the Voter has the proposed budget and nominated officers and Board members. Please spend a little time thinking about this budget and the nominations before our annual meeting. Choices matter.

Catherine

Family Fun at Earth Day Celebration April 22

Clarion LWV encourages its members and friends to participate in the Earth Day Celebration to be held Saturday April 22 at the Clarion Free Library, 10:30 am-12:30 pm.

All ages are invited to attend this child-friendly event. Planned activities include Trace-a-Track, Bird Skull Identification, Freshwater Fish Printing, Displays on Climate, Bubbles, Storytelling, and Fossil Rubbings. A great place to take photos.

The program was organized by Indivisible We Rise.

SAVE THIS INFO FOR MAY 23 ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for 5:30 pm Tuesday May 23, at the Lutheran Church in Clarion. More details will be published in next month's Voter. Please plan to attend this meeting and bring a friend.

Here's information you'll need at the annual meeting Our Bylaws require that we

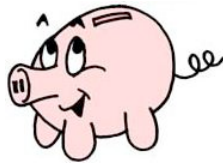
give you **nomination and budget information** in the month before the meeting. Bring page 3 of this Voter so you can vote intelligently.

Nominating Committee Report

The nominating committee submitted recommendations for new officers and board members for Clarion County LWV. The board accepted these recommendations and will present them at the annual meeting for approval.

Catherine Holt has been nominated for a two year term as President, and Donna Poljanec for Vice President. The nominee for Secretary is Ellen Foster. Janis Stamm, Janice Horn and Elisabeth Fulmer have been nominated for the three regular two-year board appointments and Kiera Vinson for a one-year board position.

Report from the Budget Committee 2017-2018 Proposed Budget



I. GENERAL INCOME	
A. DUES	\$2200
B. CONTRIBUTIONS	
1. MEMBERS	\$150
2. NONMEMBERS	\$0

LWVPA CONVENTION 2017

June 1-4, 2017

at the Inn at Pocono Manor

Come join League members from across the state at the beautiful [Inn at Pocono Manor](#) to share ideas, make new friends, hear exciting speakers, and get an in-depth look at the issues we are all working on.

Our local League is entitled to 3 voting delegates. We are looking for the third one.

C. OTHER	\$0
III. INCOME (profit)	
FROM FINANCE PROJECTS	\$1359
TOTAL	\$3709

I. EXPENDITURES FROM GENERAL ACCOUNT

A. OPERATING COSTS	
1. GENERAL SUPPLIES	\$10
2. POST OFFICE BOX	\$20
B. BOARD & ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES	
1. PRESIDENT	\$10
2. SECRETARY	\$10
3. TREASURER	\$10
4 A. LEGISLATIVE ACTION	\$10
5. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES	
A) FINANCE	\$5
B) MEMBERSHIP	
1) MEMBERSHIP BOOK	\$15
2) PUBLIC MEETINGS	\$100
3) OTHER	\$50
C) PUBLIC RELATIONS	\$10
C. DELEGATES, TRAVEL, WORKSHOPS	
1. NATIONAL CONVENTION	\$1000
2. STATE CONVENTION	\$0
3. WORKSHOPS	\$0
D. FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR LWV	
1. PMP - LWVUS	\$1264
2. PMP - LWVPA	\$790
E. CLARION VOTER	\$15
F. EDUCATION	
1. PUBLICATIONS	\$0
2. PROGRAM	
A) NATIONAL	\$20
B) STATE	\$20
C) LOCAL	\$20
3. VOTERS SERVICE	
A) VOTERS GUIDE	\$20
B) CANDIDATES MEETING	\$50
C) TO SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES	\$0
4. PUBLIC INFORMATION	\$250
G. POSITION SUPPORT	\$10
II. EXPENSES FROM EDUCATION FUND	\$0
III EXPENSES FOR FINANCE PROJECT	\$0
TOTAL	\$3709

The Board would also like to encourage the attendance of a fourth nonvoting attendee. The state League points out that there are plenty of other activities for family members while member days will be jam-packed with meetings, workshops, and caucuses as well as the banquet.

State League is already planning sessions on:

- Criminal justice

- Redistricting
- Voting modernization
- Environmental protection
- Education policy
- And More!

Registration deadline is May 15. Reduced rate registration at the Pocono Manor needs to be done before May 1. To register <https://www.palwv.org/state-convention-2017/>

THRIVE: Sustainable Economy Summit--Friday, April 21, 2017

Rustic Lodge, Indiana PA Cost \$10

This conference will host more than 7 speakers talking about renewable energy and related infrastructure, the economic potential of sustainable agriculture, eco-tourism, and energy efficiency, and the emerging field of green chemistry with its potential to transform manufacturing.

Also hear about tools to measure the economic benefits of sustainable development, and strategies for marketing those benefits to attract funding and new businesses to your community.

The THRIVE Summit is specifically designed for municipal officials and staff of local and county governments in rural Southwestern PA, as well as community members and students who want to become involved by serving on community boards and task forces.

Email [Catherine Holt](mailto:Catherine.Holt) for carpooling. [Registration](#)

Redistricting and Reapportionment

by Janice Horn

Pennsylvania is the poster child for the greatest gerrymandering in any state in the country. Fair Districts PA (FairDistrictsPA.com) is working throughout the state to improve our elections. In its literature it states "Fair Districts PA is a

coalition of citizens and organizations who believe that in our democracy, elections should represent the will of all the people, not just the politicians, and should provide citizens with meaningful choices in electing representatives." The organization was formed by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania and Common Cause Pennsylvania.

On April 5 Judy and Bill Miller and I went to Slippery Rock to hear Carol Kuniholm, LWVPA's election reform specialist, speak about the need to reform our redistricting process. Pennsylvania is one of the states still using a state legislative committee to determine the district boundaries. That is like having the fox guarding the henhouse. Other states are using independent commissions to establish the lines for the districts. We need to amend our constitution to establish such a commission and we have no time to lose. There is a three-step process: approve the amendment in two successive sessions of the legislature, then the voters need to approve it in a public referendum.

Approval in this 2017-18 session is a must. That would still allow time to have a citizens commission in place for the 2020 redistricting cycle. We need to contact our state senator and representatives and urge them to support, even co-sponsor, Senate Bill 22 and House Bill 722.

In addition we need to spread the word that this is necessary for good government in Pennsylvania. There will be a meeting with a Fair Districts PA speaker coming to Clarion County in the upcoming weeks. Watch for information on that.

"Politicians are choosing their voters, rather than voters choosing their politicians."
- Fair Districts PA