

VOTER

League of Women Voters of Clarion County

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Clarion, Pennsylvania

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CALENDAR



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

June 1 to 4-- **LWVPA Convention** at the Inn in Pocono Manor.

May 16 [Tuesday] Municipal Primary **Election Day**. See the LWVPA [Voters Guide](#) on our website.

June 3 [Saturday]-- **Clarion County Recycling Day**. Clarion County Park, 9 am-1 pm. Info at 814-226-4000, EXT. 2801, or see the [flyer](#) on our website for a list of recyclables. Electronics and hazardous materials must be pre-registered.

May 23 [Tuesday] Clarion LWV Pot Luck Dinner and **Annual Meeting**, 5:30 pm, Grace Lutheran Church, Clarion. BRING April VOTER budget page. More info inside.

June 27 [Tuesday] **Board meeting**, Janice Horn's other house, 5 pm.

Vice-President's Message

The 2016/2017 League year is near its end as is Brenda Haws' term as President. Over the last two years she has been generous with her printer, the use of her office as a meeting space and very generous in providing food. I expect she didn't know how much work being President of a League involved when she agreed to do it. I didn't. But we made it through. On behalf of Brenda and myself, I thank everyone for their contributions over the last two years.

June 2 –4, three of us; Donna Poljanec, Katha Griebel, and I will go to the Pocono's as voting delegates for the biennial LWVPA Convention. They have a packed schedule planned – criminal justice reform, watershed issues, the Shell ethane cracker, green jobs, campaign finance reform, voting modernization, voting technology needs, the role of propaganda in public discourse, the elimination of discrimination against women, and more as well as three plenary sessions. It's not too late to register as a non-delegate if you want to go.

Unless a mystery candidate shows up to contest the slate of officers to be presented at our annual meeting, I will serve the next two years as

President. I will welcome everyone's help in whatever way to make this League a viable and active one during my tenure as your President. The last election stirred things up and we have a number of ideas percolating – alternative election methods, fair districting, single-payer health care, and education funding. It should be interesting.

Catherine

Voters Guide Posted

LWVPA has provided a Voters Guide for Pennsylvania judicial candidates in the May 16 primary election. You can find it on our [website](#).

Locally only one county-wide race is contested, the Republican nomination for coroner. The candidates are former coroner Rollie Burns and current chief deputy coroner Randall Stom.

You can see sample ballots for all Clarion County areas [and more] at <http://www.co.clarion.pa.us/>



Annual Meeting
and Pot Luck Dinner
Tuesday, May 23, 5:30p.m.
Grace Lutheran Church
(in Clarion, near courthouse)



Bring a dish of your choice and join us to hear about plans for the 2017-2018 League year; vote on the 2017-2018 Budget and participate in the election of officers. League plays an important role in educating our citizens. We cannot do it without you. Come to the annual meeting and reacquaint yourself with the Board and other members. All, including guests, are welcome!

Please bring the proposed budget page from last month's Voter, which you can find at

<http://clarion.palwv.org/publications.htm>

Table service and beverages will be provided.

Catherine reports on conference:
Sustainability Is Possible

On April 21, our sister League in Indiana was a cosponsor for a one day conference on sustainability. They had a well-choreographed parade of speakers and presenters on topics ranging from residential wind power to green chemistry.

What is sustainability? There are number of definitions. This seemed to be the one preferred at this conference: *"Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."* Bruntland Report for the World Commission on Environment and Development (1992)

I found three of the presentations particularly interesting. Dr. John Stolz on the Energy Innovators Panel talked about biodigesters. He said if all the solids from wastewater treatment plants and the manure from large farms were digested, this would produce as much natural gas as 1/3 of the gas we are getting from fracking. These digesters are available commercially already. The Quasar energy group web site <http://quasareg.com/> touts their digester as "an effective way to capture hidden energy, manage

nutrients and reduce operating expenses.”

Sharon Pillar told us the sustainable economy is here. She flashed graphs at us showing that in 19 states, electricity from solar is already cheaper than electricity from coal. Another showed that in Pennsylvania, solar is just slightly more expensive. A handout claimed that “there were twice as many energy efficiency and renewable energy jobs in Pennsylvania (69,568) as fossil fuel jobs (34,231) in 2016.” She also talked about how policy affects the growth of green jobs. Massachusetts with half of our

population has twice the number of green jobs.

Dr. Patricia DeMarco did the wrap-up for this summit. She talked about community empowerment and SWOT (Strengths /Weaknesses/ Opportunities/Threats) analysis. She advised that we should reject the notion that we need to choose between a good job and a clean environment. We need to build a positive vision of the future. If we start building a bridge and don’t know or can’t envision the destination, it’s just a gangplank. She concluded, think long range, encourage efficiency, and share the joy.



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First Class