

# LWW Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CLARION COUNTY

Volume 54, No. 6, December 2019

## CALENDAR

**Sunday, December 15**

[Bill of Rights Day](#)

**Tuesday, December 17**

**Holiday Program, 5 pm**

Bill and Judy Miller's home, 77 South 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Clarion

Speaker: Erin Wallace, Center for Community Resources

Please bring a dish to share.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's the end of the year. It's the time for celebrations, lights, and gifts. The wise men arrived bearing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Today we show up bearing gifts of food. While we like to think of our holiday meals as traditions passed down through the centuries, most of the dishes we eat today are the results of agricultural policy and marketing tools like General Mills' fictional Betty Crocker.

Sugar was rare and expensive through the end of the Medieval Period. Today, it is one of the cheapest ingredients available to the commodity food industry. And we really load up on it. The latest USDA data shows the US using more than 18,000,000 metric tons per year. (I double-checked. The USDA table *is* using *metric* tons.) This along with policies promoting the use of refined carbs and cheap fats is damaging our health.

Our Rep Oberlander is the Co-chair of the House Diabetes Caucus. She recently sponsored [HR 557](#), "A Resolution designating the week of November 10 through 16, 2019, as "Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease Awareness Week" in Pennsylvania." Two facts from the resolution really highlight the scope of the problem: 1.5 million Pennsylvanians with diabetes and 3.2 million with prediabetes. That's almost 37% of friends, family, neighbors, and members. On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, we had a legislative visit with Rep. Oberlander. We talk about redistricting and community solar. We had leave-behinds for both of those topics. We also talked about exercise and diet-related health issues for rural areas. We had a wide-ranging conversation. If Rep Oberlander has an elevator speech on the topic, we didn't hear it.

What can we do? When we review League national positions in January, we might want to pay particular attention to our ag position. Our Board can consider if some kind of program might be appropriate. And those cookies and your deservedly famous holiday treats: please don't hesitate to make them and bring them to our holiday party. But perhaps you could please micro-size them?

One celebration in December that we don't hear much about is National Roof Over Your Head Day. The speaker for our party will tell us about homelessness in Clarion County. I am thankful I have a roof over my head, but I am even more thankful that the League exists and provides positions, procedures, and connections to help do something about the many things that aren't right in our society.

In League,  
Catherine

## DECEMBER HOLIDAY PROGRAM

This December 17<sup>th</sup> on Tuesday at 5pm, Bill and Judy Miller are inviting us to their lovely home on the corner of South Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue (the former Clarion House Bed and Breakfast) for our holiday program.

Our guest speaker for this event is Erin Wallace. She is the Base Service Unit Supervisor/Housing Coordinator with the Center for Community Resources. She is part of the Clarion County Shelter Task Force (STF), a community group at the forefront of homelessness and housing issues in Clarion County.

We often picture a homeless person as living in a tent city, a box, an abandoned building, or maybe under a bridge. This isn't usually the situation in our county. Erin will discuss what homelessness looks like in our area, Pennsylvania, and the US. This will include area agency efforts and government initiatives currently being used to combat homelessness.



Please feel free to bring food and drink to share with members and guests in honor of the many holidays that this month features.

## HOT OFF THE PRESS: VOTING MACHINE DECISION MADE!

The County Commissioners announced at their meeting on Dec. 10 that the voting machines of Dominion have been chosen for Clarion County.

Dominion provides paper ballots to be completed by pen. After voters complete the ballots, they will put them through a scanner after which they will put them in a box. This system returns us to the old system with the addition of the scanning. The scanning will tabulate the results which can be verified by counting the ballots if a recount is necessary.

This is a good decision which adheres to the League recommendation of voter-verifiable paper ballots which are "secure, accurate, recountable and accessible."



-- Submitted by Janice Horn

## JANUARY PROGRAM PLANNING

This January on January 14<sup>th</sup> (weather permitting) at 5:30 at the Literacy Council Room in the lower level of the Clarion Free Library at 644 Main Street we will be reviewing national and local program. The [Leaders' Guide](#) is available now. It asks us to do four things.

1. **Do you support the proposed program focus, continuing the Campaign for Making Democracy Work®? (Yes/No).**
2. **Would you like to recommend another program item, in addition to or instead of the Campaign for Making Democracy Work®? (Yes/No)** *(I have not yet seen memos from any other Leagues proposing other program.)*
3. **Which areas of the 2018-2020 national program priorities (Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Money in Politics/Campaign Finance, Redistricting, Other) within the Campaign for Making Democracy Work® has your League worked on during the current biennium?** *Please share details of your work in the comment section (300 words or less).*

4. **Which LWVUS Positions does your League use to act at the state and local level?** *Check all that apply. (Comment section 300 words)* **For more detail on LWVUS positions, see Resources section.**

As we work on number 4, we will review the positions to remind us of the tools that we have in our toolbox. It should be as much fun as going through the Sears Catalog when we were kids. Learn more: [Impact on Issues 2018-2020](#)



## THE PROBLEMS WITH CLOTHING

Do you have old clothing, towels, etc. that are good enough for cleaning cloths, but you have too many of them? There is a solution!

Off the parking lot at the Methodist Church (the parking lot is off Wood St. just beyond 6 th Ave.) in Clarion, there are two big blue metal bins where you can put them.

Cotton is the most useful, but other fibers are also accepted. They will be sorted and shredded for insulation.



Some links that you might find interesting:  
[10 Unexpected Ways Your Old Clothing Is Repurposed](#)

A New York Times opinion piece: [Wear Clothes? Then You're Part of the Problem](#)

Who knew that what we wear can be responsible for a significant amount of greenhouse gas emissions?

--Submitted by Janice Horn