

LWW[®] Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CLARION COUNTY

Volume 54, No. 7, February 2020

CALENDAR

Friday, February 14

League's [100th Birthday: Day of Action](#)

Tuesday, February 18

Celebration, with speaker Carole Briggs,
6 pm, Michelle's Café, Main Street, Clarion

Please RSVP by Friday, February 14!
(Details in the article!)

Tuesday, February 25

Board Meeting, 5:15 pm,
Literacy Council Room,
Clarion Free Library

Creating
★ A MORE PERFECT ★
Democracy

CONTENTS

[MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT](#)

[FEBRUARY PROGRAM: CELEBRATING 100 YEARS](#)

[THANKS TO COMMISSIONERS FOR THEIR VOTING MACHINE DECISION](#)

[MEETING WITH DONNA OBERLANDER](#)

[NATIONWIDE DAY OF ACTION: FEBRUARY 14](#)

[WOMEN'S LIBERTY BELL TOURS PENNSYLVANIA in 1915](#)

[EXPANDED BALLOT ACCESS](#)

[RECYCLING UPDATE](#)

[EMERGENCY SHELTERS, HOUSING, and UTILITY ASSISTANCE](#)

[SAVE THE DATE: MARCH 11 "LINE IN THE STREETS" FILM](#)

[SAVE THE DATE: MARCH 23, RALLY TO END GERRYMANDERING](#)

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This month we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters. That the League has survived and thrived for 100 years is a remarkable achievement. Today only 0.0173% of Americans live to be 100 years old.

Only a handful of companies are 100 years old. We don't know what percent of nonprofits have survived 100 years. The statistics are sketchy at best. Many last only a few years, fading away silently with nothing to mark their passing.

This month we will reflect on history. The League was born during a time of massive change in immigration, urbanization, and industrialization. The labor shortages created by World War I and the Spanish Flu of 1918 allowed unprecedented numbers of women to take jobs outside of the home. With greater economic participation, women had more leverage to get various women's issues, including suffrage, acted on. We will hear more of the interesting history of suffrage on February 18th at our celebration of the League's centennial. We hope to see you there!

This month we will note recent changes in directions that the League approves. Read the body of our Thank You letter to the County Commissioners on the selection of new voting machines. Skim a summary of Act 77 on election code changes. Peruse an article about a meeting with Representative Oberlander.

League members have never been silent. It is not likely that the League will fade away as it enters its second century. With the help of dedicated members, more achievements in redistricting reform, environmental protection, and the many other areas that League members consider important will mark its future.

In League,
Catherine



FEBRUARY PROGRAM: CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

The League of Women Voters of Clarion County is pleased to extend an invitation to you to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters. The celebration is at Michelle's Cafe on Tuesday, February 18th at 6:00 pm with light refreshments and a speaker. If you would like to join us, **please RSVP to lwvcco@gmail.com before Friday, February 14th**. Donations will be accepted to help defray the cost.

Carole Briggs, a noted historian and educator from Brookville, will provide us with a presentation entitled, "Sufferin' Suffrage," which will include both national and local information about women earning the right to vote.



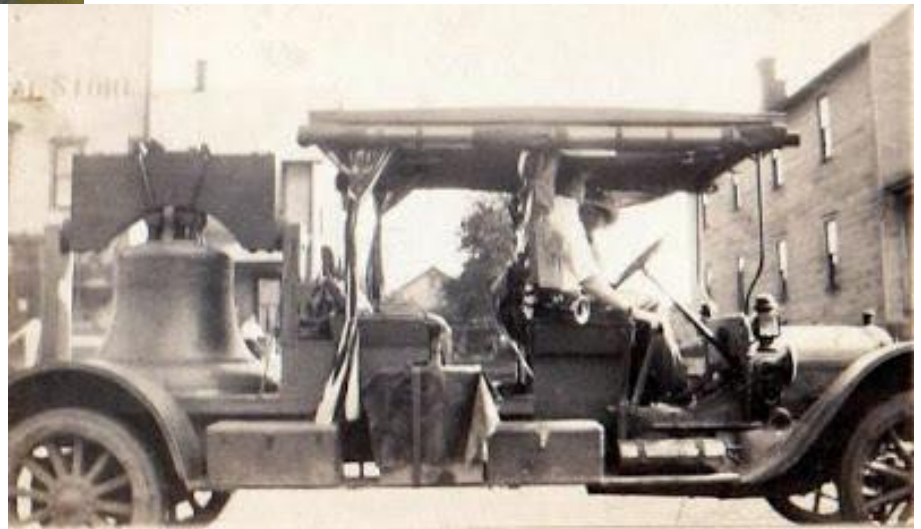
Carole is an educator and historian who works tirelessly as a volunteer at the Jefferson County Historical Society. She is an author of numerous books, articles, and walking tour scripts and has presented more than 16 workshops on educational and historical topics.

She was recognized by the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* and Highmark with the Jefferson Award in 2018 and has received other awards for her work.

We hope you can join us for this landmark event as we celebrate 100 years of voting rights for women and the founding of the League of Women Voters.

Please feel free to invite others and be sure to let us know if you plan to attend!

Visit the [blog](#) from which this 1915 photo is taken: The Woman's Liberty Bell in Cranberry, Venango County!



THANKS TO COMMISSIONERS FOR THEIR VOTING MACHINE DECISION

The League of Women Voters of Clarion County commends the Clarion County Commissioners for choosing a voting system that meets the criteria that the LWV of the United States supports, a system that is “secure, accurate, recountable, accessible, and transparent”.

Our thanks also goes to the interim Board of Elections for recommending the Dominion Voting Systems, Inc., the one which was chosen.

We look forward to using the new paper ballot system in the Primary Election in April.

-- Submitted by Janice Horn

MEETING WITH DONNA OBERLANDER

Members of the League of Women Voters of Clarion County met with Representative Donna Oberlander on Tuesday, December 3rd, 2019, at her Clarion Office. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss various concerns and information regarding redistricting bills, community solar, and exercise and diet-related health issues for rural areas. Catherine Holt, Janice Horn, Donna Poljanec, Judy Gerzina, and our intern Moniqua Bumoskey had the honor of meeting with Representative Oberlander to discuss these important matters.

We were appreciative of the time Representative Oberlander and her staff spent on reviewing the information from Fair Districts PA. First, we discussed Fair Districts PA and the two redistricting bills, HB22 and HB23. Representative Oberlander seemed open to careful consideration of the redistricting bills when the House is back in session.

The second topic that was discussed with Representative Oberlander was Community Solar. The League supports passage of either Community Solar House Bill 531 or Senate Bill 705, so we brought this legislation to Representative Oberlander’s attention. We were pleased that Representative Oberlander offered to do a follow up on HB 531 and SB 705 regarding the information we provided.

Finally, we discussed exercise and diet-related health issues for rural areas. This discussion focused on solutions that would potentially help rural areas, such as educating and bringing awareness to the issues. Representative Oberlander is the prime sponsor of House Bill 410 for anti-obesity drugs as well as House Resolution 557 which designated November 10th through the 16th as Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease Awareness Week in Pennsylvania.

---Submitted by Donna Poljanec

NATIONWIDE DAY OF ACTION: FEBRUARY 14

The League of Women Voters turns 100 years old on February 14, 2020, and to celebrate, local and state Leagues around the country are engaging in a nationwide day of action called “Women Power the Vote.”

“The League was founded by suffrage leaders 100 years ago to help American women exercise their new right to vote,” said Catherine Holt, president of Clarion's local League. “So today we’re celebrating by joining Leagues across the country in demonstrating the power of women to achieve a more perfect democracy.”

“Women Power the Vote” celebrates the League’s 100-year milestone by bringing together Leagues in over 750 communities across the country with one unified day of action.

“For 100 years, Leagues have registered voters, informed their communities on the issues, advocated in their legislatures, and helped shape their communities and this country,” said Chris Carson, president of the Board of the League of Women Voters of the United States. “We only saw it fitting that we should celebrate this milestone with a coordinated day of the kind of grassroots activism our members and supporters have embraced for an entire century.”

The Clarion County League of Women Voters plans to donate \$100 to the Clarion Free Library on February 14th to enable them to purchase books about women gaining the right to vote. In addition, we will host a celebration on Tuesday, February 18th at Michelle's Café in Clarion. Carole Briggs will speak about the history of voting rights for women, “Sufferin' Suffrage.”

“We’re celebrating our history by taking action for our future,” said Catherine Holt. “Our founders achieved the impossible by getting the 19th Amendment passed 100 years ago, so today we honor their fight by continuing to push our democracy forward so that every voter can play a critical role in shaping our country.”



WOMEN'S LIBERTY BELL TOURS PENNSYLVANIA, 1915

Don't miss the story of the Woman's Liberty Bell visiting all 67 of Pennsylvania's counties!

[Justice Bell Comes to Cranberry, Venango County, in 1915](#) includes images as well as a story.

Gloria Forouzan of Pittsburgh Mayor Peduto's office shared this (electronic) news clipping noting the Bell's visit to Clarion County.



EXPANDED BALLOT ACCESS

By Judy Clack, Voter Service Chair, LWV of Great Pittsburgh Voter • February 2020 • Vol. 25, No. 5, Page 5 jbclack@yahoo.com

In November 2019, Governor Wolf signed Act 77 into law. The League of Women Voters had lobbied for many of these ways to expand ballot access. Here are some of the modifications:

- (1) Deadline for voter registration is 15 days prior to the election, rather than 30 days.
- (2) Creation of No-Excuse Mail-in Voting
- (3) Extension of time for return of absentee or mail-in ballots from the Friday before the election to 8 pm on Election Day.
- (4) Implementation of online absentee or mail-in ballot application
- (5) Creation of permanent absentee voting for those with a permanent disability
- (6) Elimination of straight party voting. [Voters will have to make a choice for each race.]
- (7) Circulators of nomination petitions no longer need to be residents of the election district where they circulate petitions.

For details on all of these and others, go to VotesPA.com at this link:
<https://www.votespa.com/AboutElections/Pages/Voting-Reforms.aspx>

RECYCLING UPDATE

Advanced Disposal has an updated list of items that may be placed in curbside recycle bins in Clarion Borough. Plastics #3, #4, and #5 are now accepted in addition to #1 and #2. For the complete list, go to page 2 of [the Clarion Borough Recycling Calendar](#).

Save the dates! Clarion County Recycling Days will be held on **June 6 and October 17, 2020**, at the Clarion County Park. This provides an opportunity to recycle hazardous waste, large appliances, cathode-ray TVs and monitors, and much more. Fees are charged for some items. More information will be available as the dates draw near. Many electronics can be recycled free of charge at Staples stores: [More info!](#) CFL light bulbs and rechargeable batteries may also be recycled free of charge at Lowe's and Home Depot, and batteries can be recycled at The Battery Warehouse.

---Submitted by Pam Hufnagel

INFO TO USE AND SHARE: EMERGENCY SHELTERS, HOUSING, & UTILITY ASSISTANCE

In Clarion County

- Adult Services through Clarion County Mental Health [Intellectual Disability Services]- Funding for rental assistance, etc. 814-226-280
- Center for Community Resource- Transitional Housing and Funding to obtain permanent housing or avoid eviction for Clarion County Residents with Diagnoses Mental Illness 814-226-1080
- Charitable Deeds- Funding of up to \$200 for housing and utility assistance 814-797-0286
- Clarion County Children & Youth Services- Housing Assistance for families with minor children 814-226-9280
- Clarion County Housing Authority- Housing Subsidy, rental assistance based on 30% of income 814-226-8910
- Clarion County Ministerium- This is for transient individuals "stuck" in Clarion County and just passing through. Funding approved through First United Methodist church 226-6660; Can help with one night hotel, bus/taxi (possibly) to return to home area, food, or gas to get back)
- Community Action of Clarion & Jefferson County- Hotline number 1-800-648-3381 (Will assist with finding shelters) (Assistance is available over the weekend)
- Domestic Violence Shelter Located in Punxsutawney through Communit Action- (women/children only) 814-938-3580
- Community Action Men's Shelter in Clarion- (Men only, No sex offenders) 814-226-4785 Ex: 203, must speak with Sheryl Craft or Amanda
- Community Action- (help during business hours) 814-938-3302 ex: 239 or 215, (after hours) 814-9383580 (will page staff to help)
- Punxsutawney 30 day Emergency Shelter (men only)- off the street shelter 814-938-3580
- SSVF (Supportive Services for Veteran Families)
- SAFE: 814-782-3048 Domestic Violence Shelter and Bridge House- Transitional housing ridge house, application process involved, do not have to be abused, must be homeless 5 days) & 814-226-8481 (main office, Donna Keller, SAFE: battered and abused shelter open anytime)
- Salvation Army- Has assistance for shelter & utilities, 814-226-2672
- United Way- Funding assistance for utilities, rent, etc. for working individuals and families 814-226-8160
- Veterans Administration- SSVF (Supportive Services for Veteran Families through Community Action) & HUD VASH (Housing & Urban Development VA Supportive Housing) through Clarion County Housing Authority

Outside of Clarion County

- Bethlehem Haven- Women's shelter at 905 Washington St, Pittsburgh 412-391-1348, will take out of county info@bethlehemhaven.org
- Fair Housing Law Center- legal support for housing discrimination 877-725-4472
- Just for Jesus- Emergency Shelter in Brockway, rural area. Will take off the street, will pick up 814-265-0243
- Salvation Army- Has assistance for shelter & utilities.
 - Dubois 814-371-5320 or 814-371-3720
 - Franklin 814-432-5919
 - Kittanning 724-543-6622
 - Punxsutawney 814-938-5530 or 814-938-4401
- Self-Determination Housing Project- Accessible Housing resources/ information (610) 873-9595

SAVE THE DATE: "LINE IN THE STREET" SCREENING, MARCH 11

On Wednesday, March 11, the film [Line in the Street](#) will be screened on the Clarion University campus, endorsed by the LWVCC), is co-sponsored by the campus student organizations [All In Campus Democracy Challenge](#) and the Clarion University College Democrats (and other co-sponsors pending).



SAVE THE DATE: 2020 RALLY TO END GERRYMANDERING, MARCH 23

On Monday, March 23, Fair Districts PA will host the [2020 Rally to End Gerrymandering](#) at the State Capitol in Harrisburg. Fair Districts PA is organizing a bus to make transportation easier, so please check out their events page to make a reservation or to make a donation to help others make the trip. Car-pools, etc. may also be available.