**PROGRAM REPORT – MAY** by Annette Shimer

**Why We Should Abolish the Electoral College and How to Do It**

The League of Women Voters believes strongly that the Electoral College should be abolished and not merely “reformed.” In 2010, we chose to 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.

Now leading up to the national LWV convention in Chicago in June, there is a proposal to make the abolition of the Electoral College a primary goal for all 700 Leagues across the U.S. This is the focus of our meetings in May. Come to one of the three meetings to learn more.

The following background information would be good reading in advance of the meeting.

**Summary Handout for Audience** - 1 page • LWVUS pamphlet explaining Electoral College • Resource List

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**Also in May: Where Plastic Ends Up: An International Perspective on Plastics**

International Plastic Delegation Tour featuring: **Jed Alegado** - Break Free from Plastic, Manila

**Lakshmi Narayan** - Waste Pickers Union, India;

**Myrna Dominguez** - PANGISDA (Fishing organization), Philippines

**Tuesday, May 22** Sewickley Public Library, 7 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.
500 Thorn St. Sewickley PA 15143 • 2nd floor conference room • Light refreshments

**Wednesday, May 23** Energy Innovation Center, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
1435 Bedford Avenue, Pittsburgh 15219 • Floor 1 in the BrightSpace (former Connelley vocational school building) • Free parking on site • 5:30 p.m. Reception 6:00 Program, followed by small group break-out discussions with the speakers

Both events are free and open to the public. • Registration in advance is preferred.
You can register by calling the LWVGP office: (412) 261-4284 (Walk-Ins also welcome)
Summer — Not Too Early to Think about Fall Elections and Absentee Ballots

The end of the school year is a time I always looked forward to when our daughter was young. Yes she is still "young" since she is in her mid 20s, but the rhythm of our lives used to be defined by the school year. Final report card for the year, a vacation period to look forward to for the three of us, and one of my favorite things in August — shopping for school supplies!

We have a rhythm in the League too. Right now, we are wrapping up the primary season. Lots of forums, the Voters Guide to print and distribute, League members working on election day at the polls. These are getting us ready for the next phase – forums and a Voters Guide with fewer candidates, livestreaming the forums, passing out business cards with the Vote411.org address (and ours) to voters.

The end of the school year also brings high school graduation get-togethers. This is an occasion to give the young person who will be leaving home for school or the military an important gift package that is inexpensive but worth so much.

1. Facts for Citizens
2. Business card with Vote411.org (and our) address
3. Go to VotesPA.com and print out the absentee ballot application.
4. An envelope addressed to the Allegheny County Elections Department
5. Put a stamp on the envelope, and include a stamp to put on the return envelope for the absentee ballot.

Remembering Caryl Beal

Caryl Beal will be remembered as a gracious lady, a 50+ year member of the League of Women Voters and leader at many levels, who was respected for her strong opinions and intelligent arguments. Some might say she was the ultimate Leaguer and advocate for League Positions and the process for reaching consensus. Most recently she was an active participant in the Privatization Study for our League. She was active on the Education Advocacy Committee until her dying day. She was passionate about making our world a better place and not afraid to speak up so that we kept our focus on the core of the issues. She will be sorely missed.

Maureen Mamula
## LWVGP Officers / Executive Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Contact Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Maureen Mamula</td>
<td>Pgh. Central</td>
<td>412-802-7266</td>
<td>Martha Raak</td>
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<tr>
<td>V. P. Development, Gun safety</td>
<td>Nancy Naragon</td>
<td>North Hills</td>
<td>412-364-7329</td>
<td>Shirley McIlvried</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V. Pres. Program</td>
<td>Annette Shimer</td>
<td>South Hills</td>
<td>412-760-9642</td>
<td>Maureen Mamula</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Leagha Courtney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer, Funding, Gun Safety</td>
<td>Preston Shimer</td>
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## Local Area Meeting Chairs

- **President**
  - Maureen Mamula
  - Pgh. Central 412-802-7266
  - Martha Raak

- **V. P. Development, Gun safety**
  - Nancy Naragon
  - North Hills 412-364-7329
  - Shirley McIlvried

- **V. Pres. Program**
  - Annette Shimer
  - South Hills 412-760-9642
  - Maureen Mamula

## Interest & Service Area Specialists

### Directors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Specialist</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Redistricting</td>
<td>Cristine Beuger</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cpn. Finance, Criminal Justice</td>
<td>Kathie Breckenridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voter Service, Civics 101</td>
<td>Louise Cannon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gov. relations, Outreach</td>
<td>Jackie Dixon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership, Leg. Interviews</td>
<td>Judy Donohue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dev’ment, Gun Safety, Redist.</td>
<td>Maureen Grosheider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civic Salon</td>
<td>Brianna Horan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Care, Water, Shale</td>
<td>Shirley McIlvried</td>
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### Staff

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<tr>
<th>Area</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PR, Communications</td>
<td>Eileen Olmsted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education, Election Law</td>
<td>Michelle Zmijanac</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Information Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marcellus Shale Grant</td>
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## League Phone Numbers, Websites, and Social Media

- **Greater Pittsburgh**
  - 412-261-4284
  - lwvpgh.org

- **Pennsylvania**
  - 717-234-1576
  - palwv.org

- **National**
  - 202-429-1965
  - lwv.org

- **Facebook**
  - www.facebook.com
  - Search: League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh

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### NEW MEMBERS

**Pittsburgh Central**
- Michelle Diamond
  - yogalady41@gmail.com

- Nora Johnson
  - crjndj@gmail.com

- Sue Meyers
  - suemey304@gmail.com

**North Hills**
- J.C. Kasten
  - jckasten@earthlink.net

**South Hills**
- Deborah Larson
  - Household with David Larson
  - drmclarson@live.com

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### NON-FICTION BOOK CLUB

The May book is *The Death and Life of the Great Lakes* by Dan Egan.

No Book Club meetings in June, July and August.

Book Club contact is Judy Donohue:
- 412-373-8697 or jrdono71@gmail.com.
# Standing Meetings

### Board Meetings
- **✓ Second** Monday of the month. Lunch at 11:30 a.m., at Einstein Bagels in the Koppers Building. Meeting: 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the LWVGP CIC (office) conference room at 436 Seventh Ave., Suite 350.

### Local Area Unit Meetings
- **✓ Pittsburgh Central:** 2nd Friday, 1:30 p.m. at the Squirrel Hill Public Library, 5801 Forbes Ave., Pgh. PA 15217. Contact Martha Raak at 412-802-7266 or marbiker1@gmail.com.
- **✓ North Hills:** 3rd Wednesday, 12:30 p.m. at St. John’s Lutheran Church, 311 Cumberland Rd., Pgh. PA 15237. Contact Shirley McIlvried at 412-364-7329 or howardmciii@comcast.net.
- **✓ South Hills:** 1st Thursday, 12:30 p.m. at the Mt. Lebanon Public Library, 16 Castle Shannon Blvd., Pgh, PA 15228 (unless otherwise announced). Contact Maureen Mamula at 412-760-9642 or mamula159@hotmail.com.

### Other Ongoing Meetings
- **✓ Education Committee**
  4th Wednesday, 1 pm. Contact Evelyn Murrin at 412-661-3306 or evelynmurrin@aol.com.

- **✓ Voter Service Committee**
  1st Tuesday, 12:30 pm. Contact Judy Clack at 512-731-0280 or jbclack@yahoo.com.

- **✓ Gun Safety Committee**
  Dates TBD. Contact Nancy Naragon at 412-366-2446 or nancynaragon@msn.com.

- **✓ Non-fiction Book Club**
  3rd Friday, 10:15 am. Contact Judy Donohue at 412-373-8697 or jrdono71@gmail.com.

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## May-June Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01 Tue</td>
<td>Voter Service Committee, 12:30 pm, CIC office</td>
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<tr>
<td>03 Thur</td>
<td><strong>South Hills Unit Meeting:</strong> Program: Electoral College</td>
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<tr>
<td>03 Thur</td>
<td>Primary Forum for 17th Congressional District - CANCELLED, one candidate has withdrawn</td>
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<tr>
<td>04 Fri</td>
<td>Naturalization &amp; voter registration, Heinz History Center, 10:15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Fri</td>
<td><strong>Pittsburgh Central Unit Meeting:</strong> Program: Electoral College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Sat</td>
<td>Primary Forum for Candidates for 19th and 20th Legislative Districts</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 Mon</td>
<td>Board meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 Tue</td>
<td>Primary election, polls open 7 am - 8 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Wed</td>
<td><strong>North Hills Unit Meeting:</strong> Program: Electoral College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Fri</td>
<td>Naturalization &amp; voter registration, Federal Courthouse, 9 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Fri</td>
<td>Non-Fiction Book Club, Squirrel Hill Library, 10:15 a.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 Wed</td>
<td>Education Committee meeting, Squirrel Hill Library, 1-3 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 Mon</td>
<td>Memorial Day, office closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 Wed</td>
<td>Naturalization &amp; voter registration, 12:30-3:45 pm, Penn Ctr. Blvd.</td>
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### June - No unit meetings or book club in June

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>05 Tue</td>
<td>Voter Service Committee, 12:30 pm, CIC office</td>
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<tr>
<td>07 Thur</td>
<td><strong>Annual Meeting</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Mon</td>
<td>Board meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 Fri</td>
<td>Naturalization &amp; voter registration, Federal Courthouse, 9 am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 Wed</td>
<td>Education Committee meeting, Squirrel Hill Library, 1-3 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 Thur - Jul 1 Sun</td>
<td>LWVUS Convention</td>
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Scenes from the April 16 Fair Districts PA Rally in Harrisburg
Thanks to Martha Raak

LWVPA president Susan Carty speaking (middle left), Fair Districts PA founder and leader Carol Kuniholm (middle right), Martha Raak with “gerrymander” (bottom right). The balconies were full up to the dome.
VOTER SERVICE by Judy Clack, Voter Service Chair

Online LWV Voters Guide

LWV Pennsylvania with the help of LWV Greater Pittsburgh has asked every candidate in the primary to participate in the LWV online Voters Guide at Vote411.org. All PA Congressional, legislative and statewide elections are covered. Go to this web address: Vote411.org. Type in your home address, and every race and every candidate on your ballot will appear. If candidates have answered the LWV call, their photo, bio, and answer to three LWV questions will be there. You can compare candidates' positions side-by-side, and even print out a "ballot" indicating your preferences. You may take it with you to the polls on Election Day, Tues., May 15. We thank Annette Shimer who led our League’s efforts to gather Allegheny County candidate information.


Primary Candidate Forums

It takes a village, and the LWVGP membership came through. Many members and several non-members volunteered for roles at our 5 out of 7 originally scheduled primary candidate forums. Thanks to all the volunteers, listed below, who made (and are still making) this all happen. Audience turnout was heartening, but the number of constituents, who took advantage of viewing our live stream broadcast, either during or after the forum, was even more impressive. (See below).

To view any or all of the live-streamed forums, go to our Facebook page, League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh, and click on Videos.

1. Thurs., April 12, 7 – 8:30 pm, Primary Forum for Candidates for 44th Legislative District. Robert Morris University, Hopwood Hall, 6001 University Blvd, Moon, PA 15108. Candidates: David Bachman (R), Robert Doddato (R), Valerie Gaydos (R), Scott LaRue (R). Co-Sponsor: Robert Morris University and Prof. Philip Harold. Volunteers: Cris Beuger, Moderator; Joyce Chalfant, Judy Clack, Julie Holm, Amy Kleissas, Linda Schneider, Annette Shimer. Attendance: 50. Livestream: 136 views; 2 shares.

2. Thurs. April 19, 6:30 – 8:30 pm, Primary Forum for Candidates for the 38th Senate District and the 30th Legislative District. La Roche College, 9000 Babcock Blvd., 15237 in the Zappala College Center in College Center Square. Candidates: 38th: Stephanie Walsh (D), Lindsey Williams (D); Jeremy Shaffer (R), Rudolph Vulakovich (R) 30th: Kareem Kandil (D) Betsy Monroe (D), Jacob Pavlicic (D). Co-Sponsors: AAUW - Fox Chapel and AAUW - North Hills. Volunteers: Phyllis Bianculli, Judy Clack, Linda Clauuti, Phyllis Dreyfuss, Julie Holm, Becky Kretschmann, Lynn Miller (AAUW), Nancy Neal (AAUW), Eileen Olmsted, Moderator; Kathy Scheuble, Peggy Schmiedecke (AAUW), Annette Shimer, Doug Spindler, Laura Staniland, Linda Tozier (AAUW). Note: Sen. Randy Vulakovich did not attend, so his opponent, Jeremy Shaffer, could not speak per LWV rules. Attendance: 90. Livestream: 699 views; 11 shares.

3. Thurs., Apr. 26, 6:30 -8:00 pm, Primary Forum for Candidates for the 24th Legislative District. St. James A. M. E. Church, 444 Lincoln Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206. Candidates: Will Anderson (D), Edward Gainey (D), and Todd Elliott Koger (D). Moderator: Harold Hayes, Retired KDKA Reporter. Co-sponsors: B-PEP (Black Political
Empowerment Project), NAACP Pittsburgh Unit, Talk Minority Action Group, and Western Pennsylvania Black Political Assembly. **Volunteers:** Cris Beuger, Judy Clack, Phyllis Dreyfuss, Jenny Frenchek, Terrie Griffin, Barbara Grover, Maureen Mamula, Eileen Olmsted, Barb Simpson. **Attendance:** 50. **Livestream:** 521 views; 14 shares.

4. **Sat., Apr. 28, 1 – 3 pm,** Primary Forum for Candidates for the **34th Legislative District:** Unity Baptist Church, 420 Fifth St., Braddock, PA, 15104. **Candidates:** Paul Costa (D), Summer Lee (D); **Moderator:** Chris Moore, Longtime Pittsburgh Talk Show Host. **Co-sponsors:** Six. See below. * **Volunteers:** Marcia Bandes, Judy Clack, Jackie Dixon, Judy Donohue, Jenny Frenchek, Barbara Grover, Jessica Lynch, Eileen Olmsted, Tina Zins. **Attendance:** 90. **Livestream:** 1,270 views; 34 shares.

5. **Thurs., May 3, 7 – 8:30 pm,** Primary Forum for **17th Congressional District:** St. Brendan’s Church Social Hall, 2365 McAleer Rd, Sewickley, PA 15143. **Candidates:** Conor Lamb (D), Ray Linsenmayer (D), Beth Tarasi (D). **Note:** Forum canceled since Lamb’s opponents withdrew.

6. **Tues., May 8, 7–8:30 pm,** Primary Forum for **21st Legislative District,** Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 608 Faragut Street, Millvale, 15209. **Candidates:** Dominic Costa (D) and Sara Innamorato (D). **Volunteers:** Judy Clack, Jessica Lynch, Linda Schneider. **Note:** Forum canceled since Representative Dom Costa would not commit to May 5, 7, 8, 9, or 10.

7. **Sat., May 12, 1 – 3 pm,** Primary Forum for **19th and 20th Legislative Districts**, Bidwell Street United Presbyterian Church, 1025 Liverpool Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15233. **Candidates:** 19th: Aerion Abney (D), Ebony Taylor (D), Jake Wheatley (D); 20th: Michael Devine (D), Adam Ravenstahl (D). **Moderator**, Tony Norman, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Columnist. **Co-sponsors:** Black Political Empowerment Project, NAACP Pittsburgh Unit, Talk Minority Action Group, and Western Pennsylvania Black Political Assembly. **Volunteers:** Judy Clack, Phyllis Dreyfuss, Jenny Frenchek, Maureen Grosheider, Mary Molloy, Annette Shimer, Barb Simpson, Tina Zins.

**Continued next page**
**Naturalization Voter Registration**

April was a small month for naturalization ceremonies. We participated in two events but registered 70 new citizens to vote! Thanks go out to Julie Gatti (Team Leader), Julie Holm, (Speaker), Maria Magone (Team Leader), Lora Medwid, Christine Peters (Speaker), Kathy Scheuble, Linda Schneider, and Angeles Stiteler. May will have three ceremonies and gratefully we are fully staffed for those.

**FIVE ceremonies have just been announced for June**, and we’ll need lots of you to step up to help at those – up to six volunteers are needed for each event. Complete informational details and driving directions will be sent to you as soon as you volunteer, with a full reminder a week ahead of time.

**Here’s the June naturalization ceremony schedule.**

**Four Wednesdays:** June 6, June 13, June 20, June 27, Penn Center near Monroeville Mall: 12:30 – 2:15 and/or 2:15 – 3:45 pm, Penn Center East, Bldg. 7, 777 Penn Center Blvd., 15235. 25 are naturalized at each of two ceremonies each day.

**One Friday:** June 15, Federal Courthouse, Downtown Pittsburgh 9:00 – 11:30 am, Federal Courthouse, 700 Grant St., Pittsburgh, 15219. 50 are naturalized in one ceremony.

Please email or call Judy Clack at jbc1ack@yahoo.com, 512-731-0280 to volunteer for these voting registration opportunities. The naturalization ceremonies are both serious and heartwarming. Detailed instructions will be emailed to you.

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**Fair Districts PA News**

**Are you confused about the results of the redistricting lawsuit and the new map?**

The lawsuit and the new map resolved half of the gerrymandering problem only **temporarily**.

*Half* – because only the districts for representatives in Congress are changed. We will still use the current, gerrymandered districts for the Pennsylvania Senate and House of Representatives in 2018 and 2020.

**Temporarily** – because in 2021, after the 2020 census, both Congress and the state legislature will be redistricted again by the same processes that created the old congressional districts and the state districts that we still have. **Unless we change the system!**

**Latest Legislative News**

Amendments to HB722 and its successor HB563 **eliminating the independent citizens commission** were introduced by Rep. Metcalfe in the House State Government Committee and passed on a party-line vote without any public input or even discussion among committee members. The amended bills have not been released from the committee.

On May 2, House Majority Leader Dave Reed posted a memo about a package of bills he will introduce that:

✓ Limit committee chairs to three legislative sessions
✓ Allow registered independents to vote in primaries
✓ Replace current redistricting process by an independent citizens commission selected differently than the way Fair Districts PA proposes

You can read the details at [http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/Legis/CSM/showMemoPublic.cfm?](http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/Legis/CSM/showMemoPublic.cfm?)

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An Advertisement

**For a Special Trip....**

My grandson is the, new, proud owner of the DUCK INN, a 15-room hotel in Whitefish, Montana (pop. 7,000).

It’s a small town nestled in the Rockies next to Glacier National Park. Easy access from Pittsburgh: By plane to Minneapolis, which connects to another plane to Whitefish. By rail from Chicago. Leaguers, Skiers, Fishermen and Vacationers are all welcome. Reservations 406-862-3825, [www.duckinn.com](http://www.duckinn.com).

Mary Larsen
Technology Update at the Citizens Information Center (CIC) by Preston Shimer

In various ways over the years, the League has included the concepts of advance planning, pro-active rather than re-active decision making, and thoughtful efficiency when it comes to spending money. As Treasurer, my portfolio includes care and feeding of the office. In 2012, former Treasurer Pam Saunders updated our office computing equipment. The operating system was Windows 7. This system served us well. We had successfully updated the operating system to Windows 10. However, having experienced the sudden failures of computer systems, I didn’t want to live through this with our League. The Directors were briefed and agreed with my recommendation to replace the computer and monitor.

I began to watch for good sales on good equipment and in March found a special deal on a Lenovo system. For the techies in our readership, our new computer is a Lenovo ThinkCentre M900-SFF. It has an Intel i5-6500 Processor; Windows 10 Professional operating system; 12 GB of RAM; and a 256GB Solid State Hard Drive. This last feature is particularly useful. A solid state hard drive does not have any moving parts, it is extremely fast and very likely will never break down. Hard drive failures happen more than we like and require many hours restoring backup and related tasks to make everyone work again. The cost: $520. The monitor is a Samsung 27” Widescreen model ($171) with a great deal more display space than we had before. Using a software program called PCMover, I was able to migrate the entire contents of the former computer (software and data) so that Barbara Simpson was able to work up to the day before conversion on the old machine and come in the next working day with almost everything working as she had left it. We did have to install updated drivers for the scanner, but that was about it.

As far as I am concerned, the good news is that Barbara was able to update Facts for Citizens and get it printed on the old computer and almost immediately put together the Spring Primary Voters Guide (which is 8 pages larger than last year) on the new computer. Both jobs required starting with prior versions and editing/adding new material to produce the next version. Hopefully good planning will pay off with an event-free future.