

League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh

THE VOTER

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October 2015

UPCOMING PROGRAM by Maureen Mamula



Unit meetings in October will be focused on the LWVUS study of the process of Amending the Constitution. Kathie Breckenridge and the committee have been doing a lot of research for us, and are working to prepare the information s for the October meetings.

We have our meetings in three convenient locations, but members and guests are welcome to attend any meeting – you are not restricted to the one you are "assigned" to in your area. The locations in the South Hills and North Hills both have free parking available. The Squirrel Hill location has lots of shopping locations very close to the library (my husband sometimes requests baked goods from the French bakery). You are also welcome to attend more than one meeting a month. The topic covered each month is the same, but we have found the discussion is not the same! We have members (and guests) who bring a wide variety of life experiences to the meetings, and the discussions reflect this. If you would like to attend a meeting you don't usually go to and are interested in a ride or carpooling, feel free to contact me (text or email are best) and we will see if we can link you up with someone else.

DEBATE SCHEDULED FOR SUPREME COURT CANDIDATES

The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizens Education Fund, Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts, the Pennsylvania Women's Forum, NAACP Pennsylvania State Conference, Widener University School of Law, Common Cause of Pennsylvania and the Committee of Seventy are holding a televised debate among the candidates for the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

The 90-minute debate to be taped on October 14 will be held at the Widener University School of Law Harrisburg Campus and will be televised on the PA Cable Network (PCN) at times to be determined by the network. The schedule for PCN can be found at <https://pcntv.com/schedule/>.

The Democratic candidates – Kevin M. Dougherty, Christine Donohue and David Wecht – and the Republican Candidates – Anne Covey, Mike George, and Judy Olson – will be joined by Paul P. Panepinto, running as a third-party candidate for the Independent Judicial Alliance. The panel of questioners will be Kate Giammarise of the Post-Gazette and Arturo Varela of Al Día (Philadelphia) and possibly a third person. The debate will be moderated by Lynn A. Marks of Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts.

As of this writing, your editor is aware of planning for a debate among the candidates for Superior Court and Commonwealth Court and of the possibility of an additional Supreme Court debate in Pittsburgh, but has no details. Watch your future blasts.



Correction: Your editor misunderstood the action to provide online voter registration in her rush to get the good news into the September *Voter*. We now know it was an executive action announcement, not a bill signing that LWVPA president Susan Carty attended on August 27. Here she is speaking with Governor Wolf at that event.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

IT'S A PRIVILEGE BEING PRESIDENT



You meet great people - Perhaps it was four years ago that I first met Elsie Hillman – perhaps longer. I was on a committee with her but certainly did not know her well enough to call her Elsie – except that was what she expected. Last Saturday I attended the service of thanksgiving for the life of Elsie. Former Pitt president, Mark Nordenberg, called her a convener. Conveners make things happen.

You come to know politicians - I'm not so excited to meet a well-known musician or actor but I like meeting politicians or perhaps I should say I enjoy seeing them at work. Years ago I remember watching then Senator D. Michael Fisher work a room. He walked in, acknowledged people individually, asked questions, listened. Interested in what individuals had to say. His comments to the group concerned the proposed state-wide recycling program. Well aware of some of the possibilities and limitations. A professional politician I thought at the time. Today it can be hard for a person to give and be given the time to meet and greet. Personal contact makes a difference. I appreciate it when an elected official takes the time to thoughtfully answer a question – not just the sound bite.

You see government in action - One of the meetings of the Allegheny County Charter Review Commission involved the first, the second and the current County

Executive sharing their ideas for a better Home Rule Charter. Jim Roddey suggested the elimination of the two at-large seats based on the fact that both parties are represented in Council. He also feels that appointments to boards and commissions by the County Executive be undertaken with the consent of or in consultation with the County Council. Dan Onorato suggested that the \$90,000 pay was too low for the County Exec and that the Sheriff and County police offices should be consolidated. Rich Fitzgerald focused on economic development activities in the county. The County Exec needs to be free to make a “sale” or a TIF. He feels County Council pay should be tied to the CPI.

You learn what is important -The remembrance card for Elsie Hillman quoted her as follows: “Be gentle, friends, and kind. Respect each other’s difference. Leave bigotry behind!”

You get to write the President’s Column

– Annette Shimer

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412-261-4284

The League is a nonpartisan organization whose purpose is to encourage the informed participation of citizens in government and to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

VOTER Editor: Sue Broughton

Email: info@pgh.lwv.org

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Eileen Olmsted and Louise Cannon “wo-manning” the League table at Citizenship Day on Sept. 19, providing information on voting and being an active, informed citizen.

This event at Goodwill of Southwestern PA was presented by Welcoming Pittsburgh, an initiative of the City of Pittsburgh, for immigrants who need information about becoming a citizen, legal assistance, or resources such as local banks, libraries, and ESL classes. A preparation class for the naturalization interview was also offered.

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Pennsylvania Interfaith Impact Network
 A diverse coalition of over 50 congregations and faith-based organizations acting together on our values in the community



- Public safety
- Worker organizing table
- Rate payer justice
- Education
- Civil rights for immigrants

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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, 10:00 a.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church, 311 Cumberland Rd., Pgh. PA 15237. Contact Shirley McIvried 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. Contact Billie Girard at 412-531-6859 or billiegirard202@verizon.net
- ✓ **Money in Politics Committee**
2nd Thursday. Contact Kathie Breckenridge at 412-343-0953 or jxb17@aol.com
- ✓ **Gun Safety Committee**
Dates TBD. Contact Nancy Naragon at 412-366-2446 or nancynaragon@msn.com
- ✓ **Non-fiction Book Club**
3rd Friday. Contact Judy Donohue at 412-373-8697 or jtdono71@gmail.com

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2015 CALENDAR

S 29 Tue	Government Review Commission - Full Commission, 5:30 p.m.
October 2015	
01 Thu	South Hills Unit Meeting: Topic: Amending the Constitution
07 Wed	Getting a Great Superintendent. See page 8
08 Thu	Money in Politics Committee, Mt. Lebanon Library, 12:30 p.m.
09 Fri	Pittsburgh Central Unit Meeting: Topic: Amending the Constitution
12 Mon	Board meeting
14 Wed	PA Supreme Court Debate – See page 1
15 Thu	Government Review Commission - Internal and External Review Subcommittee, 8:30 a.m.
16 Fri	Non-Fiction Book Club, Squirrel Hill Library, 10:15 a.m.
16 Fri	Naturalization, Federal Courthouse, 10 a.m.
21 Wed	North Hills Unit Meeting: Topic: Amending the Constitution
27 Tue	Government Review Commission - Full Commission, 3 p.m.
28 Wed	Education Committee, Squirrel Hill Library, 1-3 p.m.
November 2015	
03 Tue	General Election
01 Thu	South Hills Unit Meeting: Topic: Money in Politics
09 Mon	Board meeting
11 Wed	Veterans' Day
12 Thu	Money in Politics Committee, Mt. Lebanon Library, 12:30 p.m.
09 Fri	Pittsburgh Central Unit Meeting: Topic: Money in Politics
12 Thu	Government Review Commission - Internal and External Review Subcommittee, 5:30 p.m.
17 Tue	Government Review Commission - Full Commission, 8:30 a.m.
18 Wed	North Hills Unit Meeting: Topic: Money in Politics
18 Wed	Shale and Public Health Conference – See page 10
20 Fri	Naturalization, Federal Courthouse, 10 a.m.
20 Fri	Non-Fiction Book Club, Squirrel Hill Library, 10:15 a.m.
25 Wed	Education Committee, Squirrel Hill Library, 1-3 p.m.
26 Thu	Thanksgiving – office closed

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT CONSENSUS QUESTIONS AND ANALYSIS

from Kathie Breckenridge

This study is in three parts. The questions in Part I are to develop guidelines for evaluating constitutional amendment proposals. Part II asks about aspects of an Article V Constitutional Convention that may be important in conducting such a convention. Part III asks two overall balancing questions between process and positions. Unit meetings should answer each question, regardless of their answers to other questions.

Part I - Considerations for Evaluating Constitutional Amendment Proposals

1. Which of these should or should not be a consideration in identifying an appropriate and well-crafted amendment?

- a) Whether the public policy objective addresses matters of such acute and abiding importance that the fundamental charter of our nation must be changed.

PRO: Amendments are changes to a document that provides stability to our system and should be undertaken to address extreme problems or long-term needs.

CON: When public sentiment is overwhelmingly in favor of change, restraint based on veneration of the document is misplaced.

Should Should not No consensus

- b) Whether the amendment as written would be effective in achieving its policy objective.

PRO: Amendments that may be unenforceable, miss the objective or have unintended consequences will not work to achieve the policy objective.

CON: It's all right to deliberately put something in the Constitution that will need to be interpreted by courts and legislatures over time.

Should Should not No consensus

- c) Whether the amendment would either make our political system more democratic or protect individual rights.

PRO: Most amendments have sought to make our system more democratic by extending voting rights, for example, or to protect the rights of minorities from powerful interests.

CON: What has been typical in the past is not a good measure of what's appropriate or necessary today or in the future, especially since there have been relatively few amendments.

Should Should not No consensus

- (d) Whether the policy objective can be achieved by a legislative or political approach that is less difficult than a constitutional amendment.

PRO: Due to the difficulty of amending the Constitution, it is important to consider whether legislation or political action is more likely to succeed than an amendment, in order to achieve the objective and to expend resources wisely.

CON: Important policy objectives should sometimes be pursued through a constitutional amendment even though it may be difficult for it to be enacted and even when other options are available.

Should Should not No consensus

e) Whether the public policy objective is more suited to a constitutional and general approach than to a statutory and detailed approach.

PRO: *It is important to consider whether the goal can best be achieved by an overall value statement, which will be interpreted by the courts, or with specific statutory detail to resolve important issues and reduce ambiguity.*

CON: *Getting action on an issue is more important than how a policy objective can best be achieved.*

Should Should not No consensus

Part II - Aspects of an Article V Constitutional Convention

2. What conditions should or should not be in place for an Article V Constitutional Convention initiated by the states?

a) The Convention must be transparent and not conducted in secret.

PRO: *The public has a right to know what is being debated and voted on.*

CON: *The lack of public scrutiny and the ability to negotiate in private may enable delegates to more easily reach agreement.*

Agree Disagree No consensus

b) Representation at the Convention must be based on population rather than one state, one vote.

PRO: *The delegates represent citizens and should be distributed by U.S. population.*

CON: *The U.S. is really a federation of states that must agree by state to any change in the Constitution.*

Agree Disagree No consensus

c) State delegates must be elected rather than appointed.

PRO: *Delegates represent citizens and therefore need to be elected by them.*

CON: *Appointment allows for experts who wouldn't run in an election.*

Agree Disagree No consensus

d) Voting at the Convention must be by delegate, not by state.

PRO: *As at the Articles of Confederation Convention, delegates from one state can have varying views and should be able to express them by individual votes.*

CON: *Because any amendment proposal will go to the states for ratification, voting by state blocs—however the delegates are originally chosen—reflects the probability of eventual ratification.*

Agree Disagree No consensus

e) The Convention must be limited to a specific topic.

PRO: *It is important to guard against a “runaway convention”.*

CON: *The convention alternative was provided for a time when Congress was not listening, so the delegates should not be constrained.*

Agree Disagree No consensus

f) Only state resolutions on a single topic count when determining if a Convention must be called.

PRO: *Counting state requests by topic ensures that there is sufficient interest in a particular subject to call a convention, and enhances citizen interest and participation in the process.*

CON: *There is no requirement for Congress to count state requests by topic and when enough states are unhappy enough to ask for a convention, it should happen.*

Agree Disagree No consensus

g) The validity of state “calls” for an Article V Constitutional Convention must be determined by the most recent action of the state. If a state has enacted a rescission of its call, that rescission should be respected by Congress.

PRO: *A state legislature should be free to determine its position in regard to an Article V Constitutional Convention. A rescission should be equally acceptable to Congress as a state’s call for a convention.*

CON: *A state legislature’s call for a Convention can not be overturned because the process may never end.*

Agree Disagree No consensus

3. Should the League oppose an Article V Constitutional Convention to propose amendments to the U.S. Constitution because of unresolved questions about the powers and processes of such a convention?

PRO: *The Constitution is too important to trust an unknown or uncontrollable process. It is unclear whether conditions or safeguards regarding powers and processes for a convention can be successfully put in place.*

CON: *A convention is intended to be an unrestrained process to propose amendments to the Constitution.*

Should Should not No consensus

Part III – Balancing Questions

4. Should the League consider supporting a Constitutional amendment that will advance a League position even if:

a) There are significant problems with the actual amendment as proposed?

PRO: *Our positions have been studied and agreed to. If other organizations are supporting an amendment in a policy area we also support, we might participate even though it is inconsistent with the evaluation guidelines we support under Part I.*

CON: *If the League has a consensus on the evaluation guidelines outlined in Part I, then the League should not campaign on an amendment when it is inconsistent with those standards, even though the League supports the policy outcome.*

Should consider Should not consider No consensus

b) It is being put forward by a procedural process the League would otherwise oppose?

PRO: *Our positions have been studied and agreed to. If other organizations are supporting an amendment in a policy area we also support, we might participate even though it is inconsistent with the process criteria we support under Part II.*

CON: *If the League has a consensus on the process criteria outlined in Part II, then the League should not campaign for an amendment when the process being proposed is inconsistent with those standards, even though the League supports the policy outcome.*

Should consider Should not consider No consensus

Getting a Great Superintendent

October 7, 2015 5:30 pm

At the September meeting of the Education Committee, Carey Harris of A+ Schools spoke about the search for the new Pittsburgh Public Schools Superintendent. A+ Schools is planning panel discussion and community conversation about lessons learned from prior search processes for new leaders of key public institutions in Pittsburgh. Attendees will:

- Hear how deliberative democracy practices helped gather community input and informed the search for a new Police Chief,
- Learn about how prior school boards structured their searches,
- Contribute to the conversation through in seat polling and small group discussions.

[Editor's note: This sounds like a sort-of deliberative democracy process to get community input as to whether they want to use a deliberative democracy process in the search.]

The panelists are:

- Robert Cavalier, Program for Deliberative Democracy, CMU
- Valerie Dixon, PACT Initiative
- Patrick Dowd, Allies for Children
- Leigh Halverson, Heinz Endowments
- Alex Matthews, Former School Board Member

LWVGP is joining the fairly extensive list of co-sponsors of this meeting.

The location is Hillman Auditorium at the Kaufmann Center.
1825 Centre Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

There is parking in the lot behind the auditorium on Heldman St. and street parking is available.

Doors open: 5:30 pm
Program: 6 – 7:45 pm

Light dinner and childcare provided.

To attend, you can RSVP at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/getting-a-great-superintendent-tickets-18577388469>

There is also an opportunity at the RSVP link to make a donation to support the meeting if you wish to do so.

Co-sponsors currently include Allies for Children, Amachi Pittsburgh, Lawrenceville United, Black Political Empowerment Project, Northside Leadership Conference, Education Committee, Bloomfield Garfield Corporation, PennCAN, Environmental Charter School, The Pittsburgh Project, The Heinz Endowments, and The Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh.



NEW MEMBERS

Emily Ferri – PC
121 S. Highland Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
emily.m.ferri@gmail.com
412-849-9398

Daniel M. Campbell – SH
121 Chevalier Ct. W.
Eighty Four, PA 15330
oduibhne@alumni.cmu.edu
412-303-8539

September Kick-off Meeting by Sue Broughton

The LWVGP September Kick-off meeting was graciously hosted by Eileen and John Olmsted. It began with a delicious pot-luck dinner.

Kick-off speaker Marshall Dayan (standing in photo below right) very succinctly but powerfully described what he considers the five most serious flaws in the criminal justice system: They are:



1. Inadequate funding for indigent defense. Pennsylvania is the only state where there is no state funding. Counties must provide all funding resulting in very uneven resources across the state. Inadequately compensated defenders are uninterested in becoming better lawyers. Funding should be at parity with expenditures on prosecution, but is nowhere close.

2. Fines and penalties are used to fund mass incarceration. Once arrested, a person is trapped in a never-ending cycle of inability to pay a fine or a fee or to get to a court appearance resulting in additional fines and fees, which cannot be paid, which eventually result in a prison term.



3. Civil asset forfeiture laws that allow “police to seize — and then keep or sell — any property they allege is involved in a crime. Owners need not ever be arrested or convicted of a crime for their cash, cars, or even real estate to be taken away permanently by the government. Forfeiture was originally presented as a way to cripple large-scale criminal enterprises by diverting their resources. But today, aided by deeply flawed federal and state laws, many police departments use forfeiture to benefit their bottom lines, making seizures motivated by profit rather than crime-fighting.” The quotes in this paragraph are not directly from Mr. Dayan. My notes were not detailed enough. The quotes parallel what he said but are from the ACLU website:

<https://www.aclu.org/issues/criminal-law-reform/reforming-police-practices/asset-forfeiture-abuse>



4. Militarization of the police: Military equipment no longer needed by the federal government has been distributed to police departments, resulting in a more militarized culture in policing.

5. Forensic evidence is increasingly being proven unreliable; there is mounting evidence of many false convictions. Forensic scientists verify that a bullet came from a specific gun when there is not enough testing of other possibilities. Fingerprints are actually not unique.

Mr. Dayan urged the League to seriously consider these five topics in our study of the criminal justice system.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT by Billie Girard

The Education Committee met on August 26. We discussed the Powerpoint presentation that the Pennsylvania Department of Education is using to explain the scores on the 2014-15 PSSA (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment) test. It gives an overview of the process, the outcomes and the impact of the test. Due to the fact that this is a new assessment it was necessary to align it to the new Pennsylvania Core Standards.

An evaluation committee was chosen to set the standards for the new PSSA. The qualifications were: Pennsylvania educators with a minimum of five years of teaching experience; subject matter experts; representation from urban, rural and suburban areas; geographic diversity and Special Education and ESL (English as a Second Language) teachers. There are currently 380 approved Math and 479 approved ELA (English Language Arts) committee members. Meeting notices are sent to all committee members who respond according to their availability. The PDE (Pennsylvania Department of Education) chooses participants so that there is a balance of representation and diversity.

Due to the fact that this a new assessment, is expected that there will be a drop in the scores. We will not be able to compare the results to previous years because: the content is different and more rigorous; some content is taught a grade level earlier; standards require deeper knowledge; and the test requires stronger problem solving and critical thinking skills. According to the PDE the 2014-15 scores should be looked at as a "new baseline" and that as districts become more familiar with new standards scores should improve. It is important to remember that it is only one of measures used to monitor a child's progress.

The PSSA results are also used for the Pennsylvania Value Added Assessment System (PVAAS). This is a statistical analysis of Pennsylvania state assessment data, which provides districts and schools with data to measure student growth from one year to the next. In addition, the scores are used to compute the School Performance Profile that gives school buildings in the state a rating of 0-107 and are also used in part for teacher evaluation.

The test results will be given to parents in September. The PDE has provided a number of resources to school districts to help parents and other stakeholders understand the differences in the scores from previous years. They have also offered a variety of instructional resources for the districts and schools.

Recently, the U.S. Department of Education has given the state a year's pause in how it uses the PSSA results. According to Secretary of Education Pedro Rivera, schools and educators should be held accountable for student success but we should be sure that the measures are fair and accurate. The results from the 2014-2015 PSSA are establishing a new baseline.

SAVE THE DATE! SHALE & PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE

November 18, 2015 – 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

University of Pittsburgh University Club, 123 University Place

The conference itself is free. There will be a \$12 charge for lunch.

Presented by the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania's "Straight Scoop on Shale" initiative and hosted by the Pitt Graduate School of Public Health. Featuring important new research on shale and public health impacts. Including a roundtable brainstorming session, where attendees will have the opportunity to discuss specific aspects of shale & public health in small groups, with one or more experts at each table.

The conference provides 8 hours of social work continuing education. Credit hours satisfy requirements for LSW/LCSW, LPC and LMFT, and nursing CE and CHPCEU license renewal. Registration is now open. For more information and to register, visit <http://shale.palwv.org>.

PITTSBURGHERS FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

by Marcia Bandes, LWVGP member, WILPF member

New Voices Pittsburgh, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and Women and Girl's Foundation Coalition

The UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is the only international human rights treaty to focus exclusively on the rights of women. The United States is one of the seven member states, and the only industrialized nation, that has failed to ratify CEDAW. In 1998, San Francisco became the first city in the world to adopt an ordinance reflecting the principles of CEDAW.

The purpose of the Cities for CEDAW campaign is to "make the global local" by harnessing the power of cities and promoting the adoption of CEDAW as a municipal ordinance in cities large and small in order to create a framework for improving the status of women and girls.

A look at what San Francisco has achieved by leveraging these principles can give us all hope. Let's make Pittsburgh a CEDAW City!

TOP 10 ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SAN FRANCISCO CEDAW ORDINANCE

1. **44 Months Without Domestic Violence Homicide** –Cross-agency approach to domestic violence response led to a record 44 months without a single domestic violence homicide (2011-2014).
2. **Gender Equality Principles Initiative** –Seven gender equality principles ranging from employment and compensation to supply chain practices support more productive workplaces for both women and men.
3. **Developed Proper Police Codes** –Collaboration between the Department on the Status of Women and law enforcement agencies to adopt new codes for domestic violence, stalking, child abuse, and elder abuse.
4. **Expanded Language Access** –Trained 150 emergency personnel in basic Chinese and Spanish phrases for responding to domestic violence and partnered with local foundations to provide cell phones to access 170 different languages at crime scenes.
5. **Family Violence Council** –Addresses family violence across the lifespan by bringing together advocates working against child abuse, domestic violence, and proposes policy reforms to improve the criminal justice and social service responses to family violence.
6. **San Francisco Collaborative Against Human Trafficking** –A coalition of community-based organizations and government agencies to eliminate modern slavery.
7. **Mayor's Task Force on Human Trafficking** –A holistic effort, staffed by the Department on the Status of Women, with participation from law enforcement, public health, child welfare, the school district, and community-based organizations that work with trafficking survivors.
8. **Gender Analysis of City Agencies** –Government agencies examined their workforce, programs, and budgets to ensure that they are non-discriminatory and fully serve all communities of women and girls. Ten city agencies have undergone such analysis.
9. **Violence Against Women Prevention and Intervention Grants Program** –The Department on the Status of Women distributes anti-violence grants totaling \$4.6 million to 31 community-based programs.
10. **Family Friendly Workplace Ordinance** –Working parents and caregivers have the right to request a flexible or predictable work schedule without fear of retaliation.

You can join our coalition or simply offer your moral support by going to our Facebook page and clicking on "Petition: City for CEDAW – Pittsburgh."

The Non-Fiction Book Club selection for October 18 is *The Burglary: The Discovery of J. Edgar Hoover's Secret FBI* by Betty Medsger. The book club meets the third Friday of the month. Meetings are lively, informative and stimulating. Contact Judy Donohue at 412-373-8697 or jrdono71@gmail.com.

SEPTEMBER'S NATURALIZATION CEREMONY by Karen Boujoukos

The September 18th Naturalization Ceremony was held at the Heinz History museum rather than its usual courthouse location in recognition of Constitution Day which was also that week. There were 52 people being sworn in as new American citizens representing countries as diverse as Ecuador, Bhutan, Ukraine, Bosnia and Indonesia. It was clearly a day and event of great import to the new citizens and their families and many were dressed in beautiful, traditional clothing from their countries.

It was truly an honor to be there representing the League of Women Voters, to be included on the stage with the presiding judges and other distinguished speakers, and to speak to the new citizens about our organization's historical and ongoing fight for voting rights for all Americans.

Prior to the ceremony, as people were being signed in, Barb Simpson and I offered all of the attendees a voter registration form and the League's "Facts for Citizens" booklet, and every one of the attendees was very happy to receive them. It was a very satisfying morning, and I look forward to the next time I can participate in the ceremony.





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HAPPY HOUR Monday - Friday 5:00pm - 7:00pm

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